

Monthly Update

May 2022

www.ve3osh.com

Club Executive

President – **Derek VE3TKE**
Vice President: **John SWL**
Secretary: **Jackie VA3BTQ**
Treasurer: **Bob VE3HIX**
Membership Secretary: **Thomas VE3PDK**
Past President: **Laird VE3LKS**

Committee's

Repeater & Technical -Trustee: **Lex VE3LEX**
Website: **Laird VE3LKS**
Club Examiner: **Aldo VA3AG**
Newsletter: **Steve VA3TPS**
Net Manager: **Steve VA3TPS**
Presentation Coordinator: **John VE3KZT**
RAC Representative: **Ken VE3RMK**

May Meeting

When: Wednesday May 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Now that the mandatory Covid 19 restrictions are over, we as a club have still requested to not meet in-person and to continue with Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future. The President will continue to ask at each member meeting if & when we will resume in-person meetings.

As before, we will be still holding meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. These are also the nights of our weekly Virtual parking lot zoom meeting. On the third Wednesday of the month, we will start our member meeting with a presentation which usually will take about 45 to 60 minutes.

After the presentation, we will start our official club meetings to deal with club business and then if it's not too late will carry on with the Virtual Parking lot.

This month **John VE3KZT** has arranged a presentation on the Smith Chart by **Ken VE3RMK**.

April Club Meeting

At our April meeting, Dennis K4PU provided a presentation on "Acquiring, restoring, and operating Boat Anchors (Vacuum tube amateur radio equipment). This was very informative presentation with lots of information and links where you can find information on old Boat Anchors. Derek VE3TKE has received a copy of this presentation. If you would like a copy, send Derek an email at VE3TKE@gmail.com.

Tuesday Night Rag Chew

This is not a formal net but rather a lively roundtable. Some can only stick around for a few minutes while others are there from start to finish. We never know what the topic de jour will be but someone always comes up with something interesting. So, if you are available between 1900 and 2000 hrs on Tuesday's pop onto VE3OSH and join the conversation. As well, since this is a rag chew, and not a net. We are looking for volunteers to step up and help by

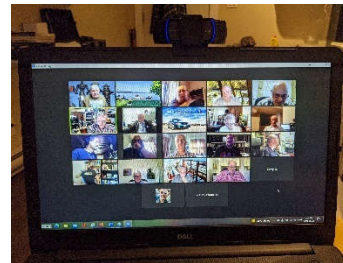


Website – ve3osh.com

being a Net Control Operator. This is not a hard task and is good practice in case you are ever required to run a control situation in an emergency, so whoever is there just needs to write down call signs and rotate through the list twice. You can email **Derek VE3TKE** the list afterwards and he will put the names in the log that we keep. So, make sure your computer is working and you have an Excel or equivalent program to enter data in the supplied spreadsheet. You can also use a pad of paper and a pen or pencil instead of the computer. Pen and paper is also a good backup. It's also a good test of your 2m radio equipment. Be prepared to have some fun. To see who will be the net control operator for any given Tuesday night you can check the club calendar on VE3OSH.com website

Latest Update is that in recent weeks, **Grant VA3KJL**, **Aldo VA3AG**, **John VE3KZT**, **Laird VE3LKS** and myself, **Steve VA3TPS**, have taken turns at Net Control. I have been selected to try and keep a list of volunteers and dates who are willing to take a turn at Net Control. So, check your calendars for Tuesday nights and if you're interested send me an email and I will pencil you in. If we have enough volunteers, you only have to do it once every 6-8 weeks or so and no one person gets stuck doing it all the time...so come on everyone let's help out our club and the members! My email is va3tps@outlook.com

Wednesday Night Virtual Parking Lot



Our Wednesday night is a Virtual Parking Lot meeting over zoom so make sure **Derek VE3TKE** has your email address. **Laird VE3LKS** will be sending out the zoom invites every Wednesday morning or afternoon to gain access to this meeting. It is not uncommon to have 20 to 25 participants but we can easily handle more. So, quit complaining about being bored and hop on the Virtual Parking Lot.

At our zoom meetings we have Amateurs from around the globe, Hawaii, Labrador, Sudbury and Kapuskasing and Australia.

So, try to remember Wednesday nights and drop by our Zoom VPL and say hello and see who is visiting from around the globe. It starts around 7:00 pm and last until the last die-hard leaves but you can pop in anytime and say hello and stay as long or short as you want.

Email – info@ve3osh.com



RAC

Well, you could have knocked me over with a feather. It has never happened to me before until this week. I got the email from RAC saying the e-publication of the May-June TCA was now available AND on the very same day the paper copy of the magazine was waiting in the mailbox. Talk about a surprise!

The good news continues even as we head into the summer months. On page 62 there are announcements of Special Event stations.

The Diefenbunker VE3CWM:

When I see anything related to the Diefenbunker my thoughts go to a favorite Canadian Band of mine, Stringband. One of their songs is "Dief will be the Chief again". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VM4y63Ekxz0> Take a listen and enjoy. Ponder the parallels between 1975 and today. But I digress.

The Cold War refuge for the Canadian Government in Carp operated from the early 60s to the mid-90s. I don't ever recall knowing the official name of the compound. I've always known it as the 'Diefenbunker'. The Cold War Museum opened its doors in 1997 and they celebrate 20 years of underground radio. Listen out for VE3CWM20 Wednesdays to Sundays during the month of June on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 metres.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee:

Regardless of your opinion on the Canadian Monarchy and its relevance, you have to admire Her Majesty's service for 70 years. It certainly demonstrates dedication to work and duty.

ISED Canada has approved the use of Special Call Signs for the period of May 15th to July 14th in honour of Queen Elizabeth's service.

This something we all get to participate in.

And in this case it gets even better. This Special Event Call sign window encompasses the following events.

- Field Day
- June VHF Contest
- RAC Canada Day Contest
- IARU World Radio Championship

I remember the clamour when I last used a special call sign. This is could really play well for Field day eh?

See the details below (Straight from the RAC TCA Magazine).

To use the special call sign, substitute the prefix normally assigned to your province or territory by the special prefix shown in the following table. For example, VE3 becomes VX3, VA7 becomes VG7, and YV2 becomes XK2, and so on.

Province and Territory Prefixes	Special Event Prefixes	Province and Territory Prefixes	Special Event Prefixes
VE1 (NS)	VX1	VE7 (BC)	VX7
VA1 (NS)	VG1	VA7 (BC)	VG7
VE2 (QC)	VX2	VE8 (NT)	VX8
VA2 (QC)	VG2	VE9 (NB)	VX9
VE3 (ON)	VX3	VO1 (NF)	XJ1
VA3 (ON)	VG3	VO2 (LAB)	XJ2
VE4 (MB)	VX4	VY0 (NU)	XK0
VA4 (MB)	VG4	VY1 (YT)	XK1
VE5 (SK)	VX5	VY2 (PEI)	XK2
VA5 (SK)	VG5	CY0 Sable Is	N/A
VE6 (AB)	VX6	CY9 St-Paul Is	N/A
VA6 (AB)	VG6		

For more information on the Platinum Jubilee visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/platinum-jubilee.html>

Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games VC3CG:

The Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club has received approval for the 2022 Summer Games in the Niagara Region. This Special Event will run for the duration of the Games, August 6th to 21st.

The information can be found at the following links:

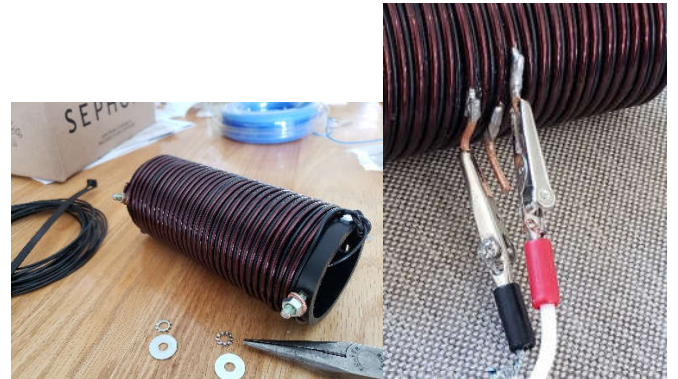
<https://nparc.ca/>

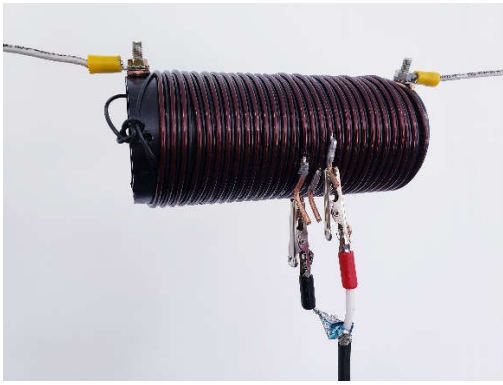
<https://www.canadagames.ca/future-games/niagara-2022>

de Ken VE3RMK

HOME BREW "SHORTY 40" INDOOR DIPOLE

Neil McAlister, VA3NH





VA3NH keeps a modest antenna farm inside his garage. The building is big enough to accommodate four cars -- so it's wide enough for a half wave dipole for 14 MHz that measures 33'5" end to end.

The 40 meter band is a bigger challenge. Literally. A half wave dipole for 7 MHz is nearly 67 feet long: too long to fit inside any residential garage.

W5VM has an ingenious solution for hams who can't have a vertical antenna but lack enough space for a half wave dipole for 40m. His "Shorty 40" is a shortened dipole with one loading coil in the middle. Its total length is only 37' 6".

To make the inductor coil, wind thirty turns of 10 AWG solid copper enameled wire ("magnet wire") around a 6 inch scrap of PVC pipe that is 2 1/2 inches in diameter. "Weed Eater" line of .065 guage is then wound between the wire turns to maintain spacing.

The arms of the dipole, each 18 feet 6 inches long, fasten to the ends of the inductor coil with a couple small bolts that make the connection and hold everything in place.

The lead from the transceiver is 50 ohm RG8X. The coax shield connects to the middle turn of wire in the inductor. The centre wire of the coax connects 2 or 3 turns away from the shield connection, depending on what gives lowest SWR for the segment of the band you prefer to work.

For convenience, two or three copper wire taps can be soldered to the inductor coil (see illustration). Alligator clips on the coax shield and centre wire complete the connection.

A loaded dipole has narrow tuning characteristics, and it is much less efficient than a longer, naturally resonant antenna. Depending on what frequency you are using, SWR will vary from bad to terrible, so a tuner is required. The automatic tuner of my 30 year old transceiver flattens SWR to nearly 1.1 throughout the 40m band.

A Canadian winter will be very unkind to this type of open coil antenna, but the Shorty 40 is an acceptable compromise for indoor installation. Mine has snagged North American and transatlantic DX on several digital modes, with the rig never running more than 50 watts.

73
Neil

Dr. Neil H. McAlister
Amateur Radio VA3NH
CA UA

White Feather Fun!





A beautiful morning at WFF to end April. It was a little cool to start, however it wasn't long and the sun had things warming up. Bob VE3HIX had a key and radio to show and John VE3KZT showed how his Wolf River coil is mounted to the box of his truck. Noticed a couple of white stakes in the field to the south of the east parking area. Its where we setup in the warmer weather. Asked Hubert what the white stakes were for, he told me they are marking the area where they are planting 2 acres of sunflowers. Going to be interesting to see them grow over the summer. Just wondering if we will only see the backs of them as the sun will be to the south of us.

(thanks to **Joe VE3VGJ** for picture and story)

If you are sitting at home wondering where all the excitement is you don't have to look any further. Heck, we even spotted cash changing hands, equipment being discretely shunted between vehicles. The other major attraction to WFF is of course, the WFF fritters. You do not need to be a member of the North Shore Club to join in the fun. If your club is struggling to do social events, we are more than happy to have you join us and promise we won't tell them. We won't even bug you about membership as we truly feel that if you enjoy our company and events that you will want to join anyway.



Our Saturday morning meet ups at **White Feather Country Store** starts at about 8:00 am typically in the east rear parking lot area (depends on the wind). So, if you need your fix of a steamy hot beverage, as well as a hot apple fritter, pop up to **White Feather Country Store**, which opens at 8:30 am. Make sure to bring a lawn chair as we sit outside in the parking lot. Just give a shout on the repeater between 8:00 and 8:20 to see if anyone is heading up that way and come and join us. **White Feather Country Store** is located at the corner of Simcoe St and Raglan Rd in Raglan, just south of our repeater site.

Swap Shop

I am looking for items for sale or wanted by anyone to put here in our Update. If your shack cleaning and trying to get rid of some stuff put it here in the update and also if you're looking for any items, cables, connectors, antenna's and so on we can put it in here and hopefully some one might have what you need. With the Hamfest's put on hold due to Covid , this is a good way to give away or sell some of those boxes of great stuff you don't need or use.

For Sale:

Ranger RCI-5054DX 6m transceiver. AM/FM/SSB/CW. 25W. Comes with mounting bracket, microphone and power cable with cigarette plug. \$160 OBO. Contact Laird VE3LKS @ VE3LKS@yahoo.ca



For Sale

A uniden handheld scanner BC75XLT asking \$80

An Alinco DJ-V17 2m 5w handheld, battery is weak, radio is awesome, asking \$35

If interested please call Grant VA3KJI 289-685-6875 email grabutcher2@gmail.com

For Sale

One Comet SBB7, VHF/UHF, mobile antenna in almost new condition looking for \$ 80.00 with NMO mount.

Aldo VA3AG

For Sale

Are you looking for some metal shelves to organize that basement, garage or storage unit, well I have exactly what you may need.

- 28 – 48" x 15" galvanized steel shelves.
- 26 – 1-1/4" x 1-1/4" x 8' Dexion #140 Slotted Angle Iron.
- 2 - 1-1/4" x 1-1/4" x 6' 9" Dexion #140 Slotted Angle Iron.
- 4 - 1-1/2" x 1-1/2" x 8' Dexion Slotted Angle Iron.
- 1 – Box of nuts and bolts (approx. count 120+)

This quantity will make up to seven (7) sets of shelves based on 4 shelves and 4 supports per set. Can be fully customized in any configuration. Looking to sell as complete package. \$400.00 or best offer. Further details and pictures are available upon request. Pickup in Ajax with pick-up truck or car with trailer required due to total weight.

Derek VE3TKE email: VE3TKE@gmail.com

Aquino Tank Weekend



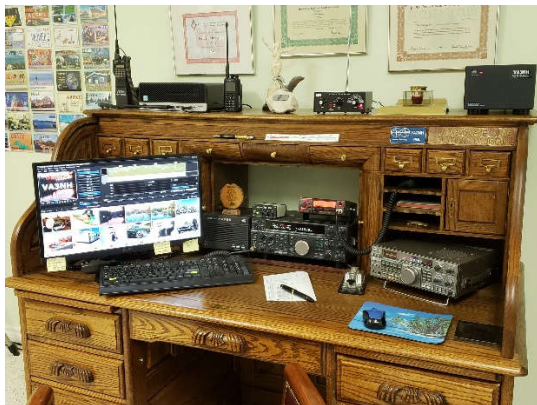
The second annual Aquino Tank weekend Special Event Station is coming up June 3 to June 5, 2022 and the NSARC will be there operating a Special Event station. **Laird VE3LKS** has sent out the emails about this event looking for volunteers and he attached a link for you to fill in if you wish to attend and operate or just help out in anyway. So please have a read and fill in the questionnaire, so that we can make this year's event bigger and better. It will definitely be a blast...



For almost three years we have not been able to have our annual summer BBQ due to Covid. Now that Covid restrictions have been cancelled, we have decided to have our summer BBQ event this year. We have obtained the required permit for our June BBQ at the Repeater Site on Wednesday June 22, 2022, starting around 6:00 pm. So, mark it on your calendars and come hungry. More information will be forthcoming soon. This will be the first one since 2019 and looking forward to seeing everyone again!

Station of the Month

May Shack of the month is from **Neil VA3NH**



Neil, VA3NH, keeps his station organized in a roll-top desk. Using his 30 year old Kenwood TS850S and a Signalink sound card, his main interests are brushing up on CW, and experimenting with lesser used analog and digital modes such as JS8, Olivia, BPSK31, SSTV and Hellschreiber.

While there might theoretically be lots of room for outdoor antennas, an HOA

covenant prohibits towers and such. So, Neil has gone stealthy. A Cushcraft dual band vertical, mounted on a broomstick on a workbench in the garage, works fine for regional VHF and UHF. A half-wave fan dipole (or "cat whiskers") for 15 and 20 meters is also located in the garage. This compromise antenna is immune to the weather, and it gets surprisingly decent results with the old Kenwood jogging along barefoot at 50 watts or less.

Don't forget I need some more pictures of your Radio Shacks so send the picture and info to **Steve VA3TPS** at va3tps@outlook.com



This year's Field Day is being held on June 25 and 26th.

For the first time in several years, due to that Covid thing, the club will be holding an in-person Field Day event at the Repeater site at Purple Woods. **Derek VE3TKE** has sent out an email with all the information so have a read click the link to advise if you will be attending or just coming up for a visit. Our organizer for this event will be **Darren VE3NMD**. So come out and have some fun!

Editor's Note

Thank you to **Ken VE3RMK**, **Neil VA3NH** and **Joe VE3VGJ** for their articles this month, keep them coming everyone.

Don't forget I am looking pictures of your Radio setups, home or mobile and also some articles or ham radio related stories, just send them along to me at va3tps@outlook.com.

73 de **Steve VA3TPS**



Special Event Stations

The IARU HF Championships are on the weekend of July 10, 2022, this is where Radio Amateur Teams from around the world attend and compete for the Championship and this year it is in Italy. To celebrate this competition 150 Italian Ham radio operators are operating special event stations from January to July 10, 2022. All you need is 50 points to get a certificate, which is between 10 to 20 contacts depending on which mode is used. They are operating SSB, CW RTTY, and FT8 on all bands from 10m to 160m.

You can get more info at www.qrz.com and enter callsign I18WRTC or at <https://www.wrtc2022.it> and click on the WRTC 2022 Award.