

Monthly Update

September 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: **Daren VE3NMD**
Website: **Laird VE3LKS**
Club Examiner: **Aldo VA3AG**
Newsletter: **Steve VA3TPS**
Net Manager: **Steve VA3TPS**
Presentation Coordinator: **John VE3KZT**
RAC Representative: **Ken VE3RMK**

September Meeting



Our September meeting is bringing back the Sermon on the Mount Corn Roast (first one since 2019). The date is Wednesday September 21, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm (approximately) up at our repeater site.

Our President **Derek VE3TKE** and his executive will be coming out with more information in the near future.

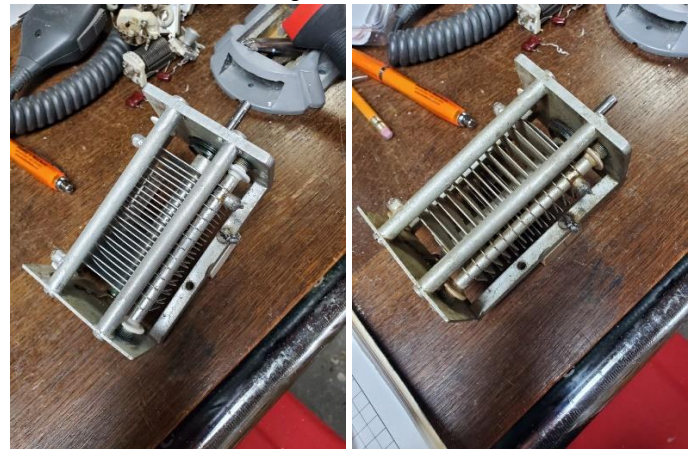
Better signals with a dishwasher



I had the opportunity to stop by Electronic Surplus Industries on the weekend while doing some running around. Sid Lipkowitz VE3ZXS who many will know from our Hamfests is the owner. I was on the hunt for bits and pieces I could use for matching networks. Variable capacitors, coils and so on were on the top of my list.

This place is an absolute treasure trove for HAMS. In addition to parts, even New Old Stock there are complete radios, power supplies, test equipment and so on. One thing that caught the corner of my eye were some REALLY beefy tripods. I suspect they are for audio or camera equipment, but at a glance they look promising as antenna holders. This just one reason I have to go back for another visit.

I could have been lost there for hours looking at all of the goodies had it not been for a to-do list waiting for me at home.



I got my capacitors and some coils at what I thought were very fair prices.

What I saw would fill my car 2 or 3 times over. One beauty in particular seemed to defy testing.... the pictures Variable-Cap-1 & 2 show it in its, fresh home from the store.... Variable-Cap-3 & 4 show the improvements after it was run through the dishwasher. A ton

of dust and grime was removed. I'm in a better place to see if this is the one to replace the coax capacitor for my 2M array.

Yes, I did ask my wife if I could use the dishwasher. She agreed.

de Ken VE3RMK

The no-holes radio mount



Well, I finally got the time and the energy to contort myself in the car to figure out a way to get my FT8800r into our Subaru Outback. I waited until it was quite warm to reduce the chance of doing something muscular that I'd regret later. It is much easier to start already warmed up as opposed to having to warm up. It seems these days the warm up is almost as hazardous as the exercise itself.

The nice thing about the FT8800r is that the YSK-8900 kits are readily available. The one I got was used and was missing the speaker extension cable, but as I was planning to see how the front facing speaker would work I wasn't all the concerned.

The first surprise for me was the fiddling I had to do to get good SWR on my SBB15. To make sure I didn't lose the antenna I purchased the MFJ 5-inch SO239 mag-mount, the mighty sticky MFJ-335BS. Getting it on the car was easy. Getting it off the car was tough. The summary is that I had to measure and figure out the center point of the roof. SWR is great on 2M and 6M, on 70CM... not so much.... So once the weather is 'cold enough' I guess I'll have to work on the antenna.

This first picture shows the roof of the car with the SSB15 and a little $\frac{1}{4}$ wave for my APRS.



I use my car as a hauler. See the picture. Yup the wood was freshly milled, wet, heavy and the boards are 2 inches thick, the widest are right on the 24-inch mark, and they're 7 feet long (give or take).

I figure if I can clean it up with a vacuum cleaner, it's all good.

The outside of the car was easy. The inside is another matter. Gone are the days when you could sling something under the dash, or on the transmission – drive train 'hump'. The cup-holder was whoever the front-seat passenger was. Gone are the days when a console was a luxury item and heated seats were unheard of. Of course, the much to be admired floor mounted shifter was what 'everyone wanted'.... Now, it's just about all you can get unless you're driving one of those

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fancy new nuclear powered electric vehicles. Makes you wonder what folks who like standard transmissions are going to do eh?

So, there's not much room for a radio even when you've got one with a detachable head. You don't want it in the 'air-bag' zone. Having a radio come at you (or a passenger) at 200MPH could really ruin your day. I've been told the 'air-bag' experience isn't all the great by itself. You don't want to knee-cap yourself (or a passenger) by having the radio too low. The 'Goldie-locks' zone is filled with vents, HVAC controls and the OEM radio. My best solution was to put a cup-holder to use and rely on the surplus section in Princess Auto for the 'part' I needed. The Princess Auto cup holder turned out pretty well as you can see below. It is can be adjusted to fit the cup-holder nicely, it doesn't vibrate that much, even on the roads in the Durham Region and it is right handed. Ty-wrapping a mic-clip on the back to the carrier for the radio head works very nicely. If you look closely, you can see the power cord running into the armrest auxiliary power connection. I did set the radio to 10W output so I didn't blow the fuse. That's another wonderful feature of newer cars, the power distribution leaves a lot of be desired. 10 Amp bloody power points! Sheesh! I do plan to run lines in from the battery, probably 12 or 10 gauge so I can run 'high' power if needed.



This is what the setup looks like at the other end of the extension cable. I was contemplating getting an extension speaker, but trying to find a place to mount it is still a head scratcher. The speaker in the radio is more than loud enough. It fires between the seats and because it's close to my good ear, I hear it pretty well. My wife tells me my hearing is 'not as good as it used to be' or something like that. I have promised that when the restrictions are lifted, I will get a hearing check. It will be after I get home from BC and have met my grandson. I admit that the thought of hearing-aids isn't all that big a deal. I am a bit concerned that the hearing-aid sellers are the ones who administer the tests. It seems like a conflict of interest to me. It's much like a chiropractor who did a gait analysis for me. My gait was 'perfect' according to this guy, but I still needed orthotics. I told him I'd let him know..... It makes you wonder.....

Looking at the radio from the back seat things are nicely coiled and still easy to get at. Ty-wraps are a thing of beauty, eh?

Email – info@ve3osh.com

The other thing I wanted to do is make sure I had lots of air around this end of the radio. For now, it works. I do recognize that for folks who might sit in the back seat this is less than ideal, but then again, when there's more than one or two of us in the car the radio is very likely (almost assuredly) not going to be in the car.

For some scraps of wood from the shop, bits of wire and heat-shrink tubing it's working out well.

I'll be able to tell you how much it needs to be refined after my Wife sees it.

de **Ken VE3RMK**

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 2000hr 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 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 VE3KTE** 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 VA3KJI**, **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

Virtual Parking Lot meeting over zoom so make sure **Derek VE3KTE** has your email address so that he can send you the zoom invite every Wednesday morning or afternoon. Before COVID hit there was quite a crew that used to meet at the Tim Horton's at King and Wilson at about 7:30 pm every Wednesday. However, that pesky COVID thing has messed that up with not being able to get us all inside so we have adapted. This is what Amateurs do – we adapt. So, we moved our weekly meet-ups outdoors to a lonely parking lot, set up our lawn chairs, and safely distanced at 144 MHz (2m) apart and enjoyed some great conversation and shown tells. Then it got cold and dark too early so we adapted, once again, and took to a weekly zoom meeting. **TAKE THAT COVID!** It has actually been quite a success as more people can show up, due to distance or schedules, and yet we can still do shown tells by simply sharing our screens. 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. I thought being in Fenelon Falls I was DX but apparently, I am just another local ham. So come out and join us on Wednesday's!

We occasionally have guests check-in, I wonder from what country our next guest will be from? 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.

Dishmop Lightening Prevention

If you have been on the weekly Virtual Parking Lot meetings the last few weeks you may have heard of a lightening protection system that is easy to build and install. This particular system is tagged as the Dish Mop. **Stan VE3ILU** has been using one on his tower for over 20 years and never had any issues when storms come through. Below are some pics that Stan took of his current setup with some info on what is needed to construct one.



This is a picture of Stan's current tower in his backyard. He has a 100ft guyed tower with antennas for over the air TV, wireless internet, VHF/UHF and an end fed half wave for HF. All of the coax is fed underground via a channel into his basement.



This picture is showing his OTA TV and the wireless internet antennas. The Dish Mop is located in the middle of the TV antenna.



This is a close-up of the mop-head showing the construction. The 'mop' is made of short lengths, 8 to 9 inches long, of stainless-steel wire - bought on a roll for MIG welding. A roll will make several dish mops. Cut the wires on an angle, so they have sharp points, and assemble them around a length of threaded stainless steel threaded rod inside the hose clamp. Keep them as even as possible while tightening the hose clamp. It is important that the cuts are on an angle to give them very sharp ends. Then, with needle nose pliers, bend them as shown in the photo. Be very careful when working with these so as not to injure yourself. A pair of gloves would definitely be advantageous and advised. You can see the construction from the photo.

It does NOT have to be at the top as it de-ionizes the air around the tower to prevent a strike. However, the closer to the top that you can get it the better. No need for separate grounding as it should be connected to your tower and your tower should be grounded.

Read the article at <https://www.mto.com.tr/lightning-protection-prevention-pro> for more information as to the theory behind it and performance.

It is NOT my original idea - I was given the info from a Ham on the west coast. He put one on his tower and shortly after there was a strike on a tree, at a neighbour's house over the road, that was about half the height of his tower.



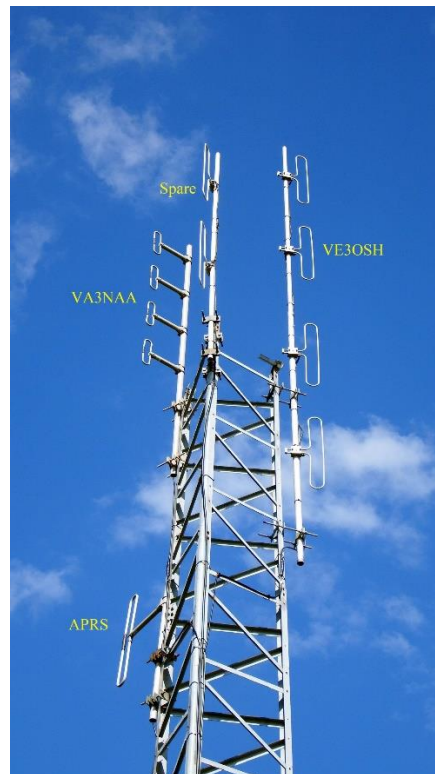
Hobart H522506-R19 ER308L
Stainless Steel Welding Wire,
0.030-Inch, 2-Pound

Nothing can guarantee total protection, but this has a good record and can be homemade so it is not too expensive.

The stainless-steel wire should be available anywhere you can get welding supplies such as Princess Auto, Amazon, etc.

73 de Stan VE3ILU (aka the brains behind this article) and Laird VE3LKS (the simple scribe).

White Feather Fun!



Beautiful September morning (Sept 10) at WFF. The soybean field to the south is starting to brown. Have to ask Hubert when they plan on harvesting. John VE3KZT has made improvements to his HF mobile setup. Larry VE3LWJ came up in his Miata. It would look really good if it had a 2m mobile antenna on it. As usual a few went to the repeater site. Daren VE3NMD had some setup to do on the repeaters. Look closely the photo of the tower the antennas are labelled. (Thx for the pictures and story [Joe VE3VGJ](#))

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, and lately a variety of CW Keys for others to try in the CW training class that's now be offered. 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. Details about our White Feather weekly event is right below in the "Saturday Breakfast" section



Our Saturday morning meet ups at [White Feather Country Store](#) has morphed a bit thanks to this COVID annoyance. They had to close their dining area but you can still get take out from the counter. So, if you need your fix of a steamy hot beverage, as well as a hot fritter, pop up to [White Feather Country Store](#), which opens at 8:30am, and then join the gang in the south east corner of the parking lot. Make sure to bring a lawn chair as we now 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

For Sale

(from Larry VA3FHG SK Estate)

Alinco DJ-G5T/E dual band hand held. Includes manual, drop-in charger, cigarette power adapter, spare battery, mic and antenna. Was tested and working on VE3OSH. **\$150**



Wilson 1000 10/11 mag mount antenna. **\$50.**

Diamond SG-7200 dual band VHF/UHF mag mount antenna. **\$50.**

Daiwa CN-460M UHF/VHF SWR meter. Did not test the lamp but SWR is confirmed working. **\$80.**



Kenwood TM-D700A dual band, APRS ready. Includes mic, display separation kit and display mounting bracket. No manual but it can be downloaded for free from the Kenwood site. Tested and working on VE3OSH. NOTE – does not have a GPS so one will need to be connected if you want to use it for sending out beacons while mobile. **\$350.**



Garmin GPSMAP 60CSx gps. Includes manual, Trip and Waypoint CD, City Navigator North America CD, cigarette power adapter and USB cable for updating. Tested and working. **\$150.**



TigerTrak TM-1+ Trackin Module. APRS tracter. Untested and no GPS or cables but from what I have read you would need to make/buy one based on your radio. **\$15.**



Contact **Laird VE3LKS** at VE3LKS@yahoo.ca for info on these items

For Sale:

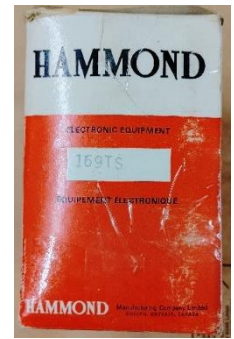
Ranger RCI-5054DX 6m transceiver. AM/FM/SSB/CW. 25W. Comes with mounting bracket, microphone and power cable with cigarette plug. \$160 OBO. Contact Laird VE3LKS @ VE3LKS@yahoo.ca



Big Mouth Speaker – includes mount and hardware. Asking **\$10**. Proceeds go to the club. Contact **Laird VE3LKS** at VE3LKS@yahoo.ca



Tenco HF SWR and Field Strength Meter – 1.5 to 150MHz. 1:1 to 1:3 SWR. Asking **\$20**. Proceeds go to the club. Contact **Laird VE3LKS** at VE3LKS@yahoo.ca



Hammond 169TS Transformer – never used. \$80 new at Hammond. Asking **\$25**. Proceeds go to the club. Contact **Laird VE3LKS** at 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

for sale a Comet SBB7 VHF/UHF mobile antenna in almost new condition Looking for \$ 80.00 with NMO mount.

73 Aldo VA3AG

For Sale:



1. Kenwood MC-50 desktop microphone. 4

pins, with an 8-pin adapter included. Barely used.

2. Astron RS-10A power supply. (Linear, 10 amps.) Never used at all.

Neil VA3NH, is asking \$100 each for these items. He is donating the money to the NSARC, so get hold of Neil VA3NH at NHMcAlisterMD@protonmail.com and make him an offer and help out the club at the same time.

For Sale



SWL Lois has two Grundig 800 Satellite Millennium Shortwave Receivers. These radios have great reviews and considered better than some of the new stuff for sale now. Lois is asking \$400 each but if you're interested give her a shout and work out a deal.

The Nordmende Glovetraveller IV is an older classic shortwave receiver and you don't see these around for sale, asking \$200.

These are from a SK estate so if interested give Lois a shout.

Her email is goldegrove@rogers.com and her phone number is: 905-576-3468.

Station of the Month

I have run out of pictures of our members Shacks, so no Shack of the Month.

Over the summer if you haven't already, send me a few pictures of your Shacks, POTA Activations, or mobile setup. Here is your chance to show off your stations and ham shack.

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

Editor's Note

In the Swap Shop section, Neil's VA3NH is donating the money to our club so spread the word if you know some interested in these items and put them in touch with Neil.

Lois is an SWL member of our club and has lots of stuff to slowly get rid of so again spread the word and let's help her out.

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 .

CQWW Contest

The CQWW SSB contest is coming up on October 29-30 (From Friday evening till Sunday). This is one of the largest contests and there will be all kinds of good DX stations on the air, so fire up your rigs and have some fun!

From the President.

Well the summer is coming to a close and we should start to think about having monthly meetings again. As we have done in past, we will continue with Zoom meetings. As most businesses are returning to work and things are starting to return to normal we should also start to think about in-person meetings. If we start to have in-person meetings, we will still continue with Zoom for our out of town, out of province members. If you don't feel well, don't attend the meeting but attend on Zoom. We will call this a hybrid meeting. I will present a poll to ask the question again as to when or if we should get back to in-person meetings. Our first fall Zoom meeting is in October.

Following tradition, we will be having our fall BBQ and Corn Roast on Wednesday September 21, 2022 starting at 6:00 pm at the repeater site (Coates & Simcoe road). We will not need the portable toilet again for this event. CLOCA has graciously allowed us to use the washrooms only in the Heritage Hall. We cannot use the rest of the building. This year I have invited some of the CLOCA staff that we deal with to our BBQ. Maybe some of them may show up to meet us.

I am looking forward to meet everyone there and having some good food. I certainly hope that we have good weather for this event. At the time of writing this, we were not looking good. Possible rain & thunderstorms (70%). I hope things change for the better.

In our October meeting, I will be discussing the status of the on-going repeater site tower replacement project. Unfortunately, we do not have any good news as of yet. I certainly did not think that it would take this long to get our tower fixed or replaced. We are still waiting for Ruralwave to supply details on what they want to install on the tower so that we can determine what type of tower needs to be installed. Hopefully, I may have more details in October (hears hoping).

In the summer, Lex – VE3LEX advised me that he will need to give up the responsibility of being our Repeater Trustee and being on the repeater committee. Lex did advise that he would be available occasionally to assist but mostly to advise. I would like to take this time to thank Lex for all of his time and effort dealing with the club repeater and hope that he uses all of this extra time that he will now have and put to good use, hopefully Ham related projects and not climbing towers.

Good news Daren – VE3NMD has stepped up and is our new club Repeater Trustee and will now look after the repeater committee. Daren brings a lot of knowledge and experience to this task. In talking with Daren, he has a lot of good ideas for the repeater site. The first project is renovating the radio shack and cleaning up some of the wiring in the shack. If you attend the BBQ, check out what has been done to date.

The club will be hosting a Basic Amateur Radio license training course this fall on Zoom on Thursday nights starting September 22, 2022. I would like to thank Brian – VE3IK for being the primary instructor and Aldo – VE3AG for being the examiner for this course. We also will have a number of club members to assist Brian with the course. Thanks to Grant – VA3KJ, John – VE3KZT, Laird – VE3LKS, Daren – VE3NMD and Ken – VE3RMK. I will also be assisting Brian as well.

Currently, we have 13 students signed up for the course with a few more that we are waiting for the course fee. Hopefully, a few more sign up for this course. This course will generate some revenue for the club and hopefully generate some new members that may be new Hams in the New Year. We have offered a free one year club membership to all of the students.

Don't forget that we have an upcoming event called "Ride for United Way" A three course bike race located in Durham Region on September 25, 2022.

VE3TKE – Derek