

Monthly Update

November 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

At our September meeting we had a zoom presentation from **Allan Boyd VE3AJB** VP of RAC who gave us a very informative update on what is happening with RAC and ISED and possible changes to Call signs.

November Meeting

Our monthly meeting on Zoom will be on Wednesday November 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm and we will have a presentation by MATT N3NWW doing PARKS ON THE AIR Presentation.

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 hr 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 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 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 VE3TKE** has your email address. **Derek VE3TKE** will be sending out the zoom invites every Wednesday morning or afternoon.

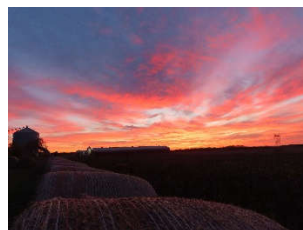
At our zoom meetings we have Amateurs from around the globe, Hawaii, Labrador, Sudbury and Kapuskasing and Australia. I thought being in Fenelon Falls I was DX but apparently, I am just another local ham. So come out and join us on Wednesday's!

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.

White Feather Fun!

Seventeen made it out to WFF this morning Sat November 5. Even had two possible young future hams pay us a visit. It was warm enough the slight south breeze didn't require us to find shelter next to the C-cans so we were able to setup next to the sunflower field. The early sun and clouds put on a beautiful show in the east sky. Amazing. Halloween ends and poof the Christmas decoration are out. Hundreds of starlings have been gathering for the last few weeks in the trees to the east of us.

You sure can hear them, will have get some photos next week.





Thank you to **Joe VE3VGJ** for the story and pictures.

The club has a Saturday morning meet up at the **White Feather Country Store**. 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 8:30 am, and then join the gang in the parking lot usually at the rear of the building. 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.



ON THE AIR, ON THE CHEAP



Ancient wisdom warns, "Good thing no cheap. Cheap thing no good."

However, a very capable, little VHF/UHF transceiver that sells for \$230 from a friendly Canadian supplier (tax and shipping included!) is an astonishing exception to this rule: the AnyTone 778UV (vox).

Newcomers to Amateur Radio may be surprised and delighted to learn that there is no need to break the bank to get on 2 meters and 70 cm (mobile or base) with a brand new rig.

The many features of the AnyTone 778UV are shown in videos that are easily found on the Internet. Have a look.

But there's one big catch. This is NOT a rig that works "out of the box." It is more like the digital age's equivalent of a Heathkit -- without the instruction book. Not documented at all, and not adequately demonstrated on YouTube either, is what users must do to make this little rig work -- programming it. The process is obscure and far from intuitive for many of us who are new to the world of programmable transceivers.

The Instruction Manual that comes with the AnyTone 778UV is no help. It is poorly written, inadequately illustrated and incomplete. While the rig can (in theory) be programmed via its keys, that process is so awkward and tedious as to be utterly impractical. The supplier packs a programming cable with the unit, but no software is included with the rig. The manual barely mentions programming software or how to get and use it.

Several hours of searching the Internet, some experimentation, and a few false starts revealed that, at this moment in ham radio history, the best software for programming this rig is Chirp, obtainable for free from that organization's home page. Chirp is a non-profit cooperative where volunteer developers share and constantly update their software creations for all models of programmable transceivers.

Using Chirp, type in your desired channel names, frequencies, offsets, tones etc. Get your computer and transceiver talking to each other via the data cable, then write your newly created .img file from Chirp to the Anytone transceiver. Sounds simple, but making the connection can prove to be a royal pain, depending on one's particular computer and antivirus program, which may scream about false positive "threats" in Chirp downloads.

However, the end result is well worth all your blood, sweat and tears. The only cheap things about this rig are its inadequate documentation and its unbelievably low cost. This little beauty is solid, sturdy and loaded with features way, way above its bargain basement price point. (It has a beautiful display, and its microphone has backlit keys for convenient mobile use after dark.)

Good luck! Unfortunately, the use of programming software -- without which the Anytone 778UV has almost no practical functionality -- is completely undocumented. So if you want me to clarify anything, let me know!

73

Neil, VA3NH

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.**

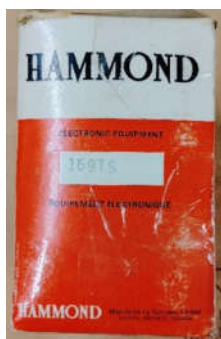


TigerTrak TM-1+ Trackin Module. APRS tracer. Untested and no GPS or cables but from what I have read you would need to make/buy one based on your radio. **\$15.**



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

For Sale:



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:



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.

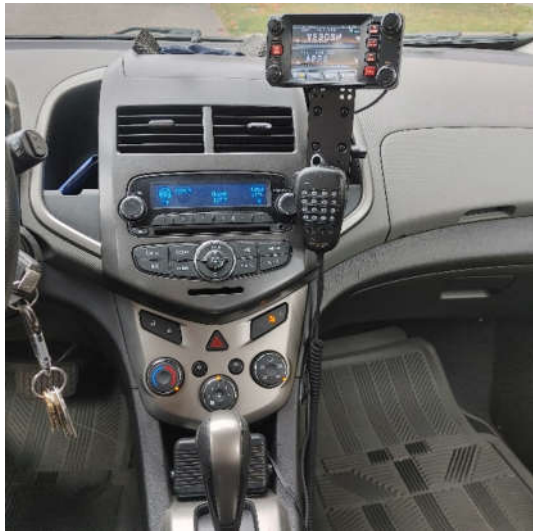
These are from a SK estate so if interested give Lois a shout.

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

Station of the Month

Radio Setup

This is my current setup for the mobile radio. I am using a Yaesu FTM-400xdr dual band rig with a Comet SBB5 dual band mobile antenna mounted to the rear hatch of my vehicle. When I first installed the radio in the car I was using a CD mount which is a device that gets inserted part way into the CD slot and then expands to hold the mount in place. It worked OK but it blocked the use of some of the AM/FM radio controls so it was a bit of a nuisance. So, the hunt was on for an alternative way of making this all work in a somewhat aesthetically pleasing format.



I ended up ordering an LM-500-ext heavy mount ram 1" ball mount from Lido Radio Mounts in the US. It was only \$30 and included a screw-in base, which I screwed onto the floor of the cubby hole in my dash, an arm that can be adjusted in many directions due to a ball mount on each end, and a plate for mounting the radio

including a microphone holder. The mounting plate for the radio can be mounted vertically, as I have done, or horizontally. Vertically worked the best for me as a horizontal install would have impeded the use of the top glove box.

It is a very solid setup, with only minor vibration, and is working out quite well. I also bought some black tie wrap self adhesive mounts from Home Depot and used black tie wraps to secure the cabling going from the head and the microphone back to the radio.



Lido Radio has many great options for mounting gear in your vehicle.

You can check out their website at www.lidoradio.com.

Laird VE3LKS

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.

Upcoming Events

The RAC Winter Contest is coming up on December 17 from 0000z to 2359z hours. This is a fun contest where all the American's and a few other countries chase us Canadians. It is a great opportunity to say hello to all of our fellow Canadian Amateur Radio operators and is very relaxed contest for most of us.

From the President.

During our last members meeting I took a poll of those attending on do we want to get together again to have member meetings. The poll showed the answer was yes. But during the discussion following the poll a number of people advised that they wanted to change their vote to NO. Considering what is now happening with our hospitals and the dramatic increase of kids now being admitted to our hospitals and the recent highly suggested request that all adults now wear masks again, I feel that we need to table this request and continue with our Zoom member meetings and virtual parking lot meetings until things get better. God only knows when that will happen.

On October 29, 2022 at 4:58 pm I sent out an email to all members asking if we should get involved with an event that United Way (UW) had asked us if we could provide communications for a proposed two day bike ride around Lake Simcoe sometime in 2023. UW advised that **if we are not able to provide communications for this event that they will not continue with planning this event.** So my email advised the members the information that I had to date and asked for a tentative commitment from our members. I received a number of emails asking questions from which I did not have any answers, remember I only had limited information at this point. There were some emails addressing concerns with some stating it was too far to attend. I also received an email advising that this would be too much for our club to handle and we should bring in some other clubs to assist. I already had plans to try and bring in some other clubs to assist.

So I contacted the Barrie Amateur Radio Club (BARC) to see if they would be able to assist us with people and radios. Their President Brian, asked their members at their recent members meeting that I also attended on Goggle Meet last Tuesday night. This is why I could only do a brief check-in to our Rag Chew event on at the same time. After answering a number of questions, Brian asked for a tentative commitment based on receiving additional information before making a full commitment. The BARC group voted YES. One of their members then advised that they have previously provided communications for a Motorcycle ride around Lake Simcoe and have the knowledge and experience for this type of event and advised that they also worked with the Orillia Amateur Radio Club (OARC) on the event and they may wish to participate as well. The member advised that he will contact the OARC President to see if they would like to be involved with this event in 2023.

The next day, I received a call from Bob who is the President of OARC who advised me that his club also has experience and would like to assist our club with this event and advised that they can also assist with the planning of the event if we can hold meetings over Zoom. I thanked Bob for his call and his tentative commitment to this event.

This bring me back to the NSARC tentative commitment. I have only received a few emails to date advising me of their tentative commitment to this event. Yes, there are many questions that I have as well but we cannot get the answers until we advise UW that we can tentatively do this type of event pending on getting our questions answered before making a full commitment to the event.

I have brought Ken VE3RMK, who is our UW event coordinator up to speed with the information that I have and advised him of the tentative commitments from both the BARC and OARC group have provided so that he is up-to-date.

At our November member meeting, in our event report section of the meeting Ken will be looking for your tentative commitment so that we know roughly how many members we will have for this event again based upon receiving further information before making a final commitment.

Hopefully, after reading this column and referring back to my previous October 31st email to obtain all of the limited information that has been provided to date to allow you to advise Ken at the next member meeting either yes you are in or you are out. If you are unable to attend the member meeting on Wednesday, please send an email to both Ken and myself to advise us either way. Ken's email is koronovichs@sympatico.ca and my email is VE3TKE@gmail.com

In my discussion with Ken, we both feel that this is a big opportunity for our club and yes it may take some work but is this not what we do for the community. And remember that United Way is a charity who benefits many people in the Durham Region.

We will also need some people who do not have mobile or handheld radios or do not have a vehicle for this event as well. This would be a great event for our Basic Ham course students as well. So feel free to assist the club. We will provide any training that you might need for this event.

I certainly hope that the NSARC says a tentative "YES" to proceed with the planning.

By the way – I am stating "Yes" to this event. How about you...

Derek Christian – VE3TKE

President NSARC