

Monthly Update

March 2023

www.ve3osh.com

Club Executive

President – **Derek VE3TKE**
Vice President: **Vacant**
Secretary: **Vacant**
Treasurer: **Bob VE3HIX**
Membership Secretary: **Thomas VE3PDK**

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**

February Meeting

At our February meeting we had a zoom presentation by **Allan Boyd VE3AJB** on the D-Star Digital mode and different D-Star radios and options, this was very informative and interesting presentation.

March Meeting

Our monthly meeting on Zoom will be on Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

John VE3KZT informs us that he is having a very difficult time finding people to present topics at our meetings. People who were at home due to the pandemic were abundant and happy to present their topics on zoom. Now that people are getting out and meeting in person there are less people wanting to present.

We may need to start looking inside our club to have member's present topics of interest. If anyone would like to present a topic at one of our member meeting's, contact **John VE3KZT** at VE3KZT@hotmail.com.

Luckily, John has reached out to **Allan Boyd VE3AJB** who has presented a few times for our club as he has offered to present again on a new topic for this meeting. This month's topic will be **Ham Shack Hotline**. If you are interested as we are to find out what this is all about plan to join our March members meeting.

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



Website – VE3OSH.com

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. 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. 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.

Saturday Morning Meet-Up's!

We now have two (2) locations where you can meet-up with club members on Saturday morning's.

Coffee Time – 2727 Courtice Road in Courtice. Just south of Hwy 2 on Courtice Road. If you like a warm location you can come to Coffee Time about 8:30 am to sit inside on those colder days and have a hot coffee with many snack options to choose from. Friends and guests are also welcome to attend. There are a number of club members showing up at this location who are not able to attend the White Feather location due to the weather. Yes, Coffee Time also has the Apple Fritter's.

White Feather Country Store – 15 Raglan Road East, Oshawa. Just east of Simcoe Street in north Oshawa. This has been our traditional Saturday morning meeting location for the club. **This meeting location is outside regardless of the weather** Cold, Heat, Rain, Snow, Sunshine or Cloud. If you are prepared for the weather, especially now that it is colder outside come and meet the group of club members that meet at this location. Friends and guests are also welcome as well. A few members arrive about 7:30 am with others arriving between 8:00 am and 9:00 am. Lots of interesting discussion with the occasional show and tell. There is the odd

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give-a-way's at this location. The restaurant open's up at 8:30 am for coffee and the famous Apple Fritters as shown here. We meet at the back or side of the building on the east side depending on wind direction. This is a great location during the warmer months to meet-up with friends and club members. There is usually a discussion on the club VHF repeater VE3OSH while the members travel up to the White Feather location.



So now you have a choice where to meet-up with friends and members on Saturday morning.



The next Youth on the Air Camp for the Americas has been scheduled for July 16-21, 2023 at Carleton University in Ottawa. This is an excellent opportunity for Amateur Radio clubs to help build the leadership of tomorrow.

A team of RAC volunteers will serve as the local host for this event. The main organizers are Roger Egan, VA3EGY, and Harrie Jones, VE3HYS, at yota2023@rac.ca.

Youth On The Air (YOTA) is a program for and by young Amateur Radio operators in the Americas, closely modelled after the Youngsters On The Air program in Region 1 (Europe, Africa and Middle East) of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). The goal of the program is to build skills and foster lasting friendships and mentors with younger Amateurs.

Youth On The Air Camp is for Amateur Radio operators between the ages of 15 to 25. A total of 30 campers will be accepted.

Come to YOTA camp and we'll teach you all kinds of cutting-edge technology that can be used with Amateur Radio and connect you to other young Amateurs and mentors in North, Central and South America.

Already an expert? We're looking for young Amateurs to take their knowledge to the next level and share their previous knowledge with other young Amateurs. The camp will focus on building strong relationships with peers and mentors, and developing new radio skills.

Campers will operate a special event station, featuring cutting-edge HF and VHF/UHF radios that many only dream of having a chance to use – and a wide array of antennas.

Applications schedule:

- Applications begin December 1, 2022.
- Applications completed by January 15,
- 2023- and first-time attendees will be given priority.
- We will accept applications through May 31, 2023.
- YOTA Camp 2023 – <https://youthontheair.org/ottawa2023/>

Applicants must be certified Amateur Radio operators residing in North, Central or South America between the ages of 15 and 25. We welcome all Amateurs in our region who meet these requirements.

Cost: The application process is free and the cost of the camp is \$100 USD plus transportation to and from the Carleton University. The \$100 USD fee will not be payable until after acceptance. Should a potential camper not be able to afford the fee, they may apply for a scholarship.

Sponsorship: This is an excellent opportunity for Amateur Radio clubs to help build the leadership of tomorrow.

Important: We know that changes in the COVID-19 pandemic status between now and July will have an impact on hosting the camp. Should we not be able to host the camp or if we need to reschedule, we will let everyone know with as much notice as possible.

For complete details about the camp and/or to sign up for updates by email, visit the camp webpage or contact Roger Egan, VA3EGY and Harrie Jones, VE3HYS, at yota2023@rac.ca

Changes to the RAC Email Alias/Forwarding System

<https://www.rac.ca/changes-to-the-rac-email-alias-forwarding-system/>

February 15, 2023 –

For immediate release:

As previously reported, in January many RAC members whose email addresses used the format "callsign@rac.ca" experienced problems sending and receiving emails.

Thankfully, our IT volunteers were able to resolve the issue, but we had to make significant changes to the system to be compatible with internet, web hosting and cloud service providers in order to prevent future outages.

The result is that we need to be able to separate the email addresses of RAC officials, staff and volunteers from those of our members. In order to achieve this:

- RAC members will switch to "callsign@myrac.ca"
- RAC officials and volunteers ("corporate users") will continue to use "callsign@rac.ca"

Both the "callsign@rac.ca" and the "callsign@myrac.ca" email addresses will work simultaneously until **Sunday, May 15** to give RAC members time to update their user information on any websites and subscriptions

We understand that this is a big change and it is definitely not one we take lightly, but it is a necessary step to ensure that we continue the important work in support of Amateur Radio in Canada and internationally. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

A Q&A which provides more information on the reasons for this change can be found on our website at: <https://www.rac.ca/cybersecurity/>

Phil McBride, VA3QR
RAC President



It's BACK

After 3 years of no Hamfest, the Durham Hamfest is back on for Saturday April 22, 2023 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. If you have equipment that you would like to sell and have enough to fill a table, tables are available for purchase. If you only have a few items, the club will have a table where your equipment can be shown for sale. Either case, contact **Ken VE3RMK** our Hamfest Vendor Co-Ordinator to discuss further.

At our first meeting of the Hamfest Committee, Laird **VE3LKS** graciously volunteered to be the Hamfest Chair this year with Derek VE3TKE signing up to be the Hamfest Vice-Chair. Other club members who participated in past Hamfest's also volunteered to remain in their previous positions. Thanks to all the members for volunteering to take on this task this year.

The Hamfest committee is also looking for other volunteers on the day of the event from around 7:00 am till 1:00 pm. We will need help with Security, snack bar, parking, admissions and a few other positions. So, check your calendars for Saturday April 22 and if you can help us out even if its only for an hour or two send **Laird VE3LKS** an email at ve3lks@yahoo.ca. The Hamfest is a major fund-raising event for our club and with our club expenses and repeater repair every little bit helps. And did I tell you that while there you get to wander around on your break, have a look at all the goodies, maybe do a little shopping.....and you get to do all of this and the Mrs. thinks you're just out volunteering! Also spread the word to your Amateur and non-amateur friends when ever you get the chance!

Accidental "Tripoles" and Taming Common Mode RF

by **Neil McAlister VA3NH**

Dipole antennas are balanced, so often they are constructed without a 1:1 balun at the center feed point where the coax lead connects to the two wire arms of the antenna. Often, we get away with this. But when the real world falls short of mathematical perfection, then a 20-meter half wave dipole -- which is theoretically useless for any other amateur band -- may also tune up on several non-resonant bands and yield quite satisfactory QSOs on those frequencies too. How can this happen?

At the connection of the coax to the two legs of the antenna, some radio frequency (RF) may couple with the coax shield. This causes Common Mode (CM) RF to flow backwards along the shield towards the transmitter, even while that very same shield is simultaneously carrying RF in the desired, opposite direction to radiate away from the antenna. Because of CM traveling backwards down the coax shield, a dipole may therefore function as a weird sort of "tripole" with some RF radiating into space not only from the antenna, but also from the coax lead itself.

The peculiar characteristics of an accidental "tripole" can be used to advantage when it allows a monoband antenna to be tunable on some non-resonant bands. It can also give a more omnidirectional, if unpredictable, radiation pattern than a classic dipole.

But CM can also spell trouble. RF flowing back into the shack wastes some energy that could have been used to radiate from the antenna in a desired pattern on a desired band. CM can cause noise in a receiver, obscuring wanted, weak signals.

More ominously, radio frequency interference (RFI) in the shack may manifest as computer malfunctions when using digital modes. In severe cases a "hot mike" burns hands or lips. RFI can make LED lights flicker, and it may interfere with TV sets and other electrical gear in our own houses or in other people's homes. (The award that no ham ever wants to earn is WAN -- Worked All Neighbours!)

A simple and inexpensive solution to fairly mild CM problems could be a home-brew coiled coax choke to reduce the amount of CM energy that gets back to the transceiver.

To cover 3.5 through 30 MHz, an adequate reduction in CM might be achieved just by piling random, "scramble wound" loops of coax on the ground like a sailor's coil of rope.

For a slightly more sophisticated approach, a coil about 10 feet of the coax lead in 7 loops roughly 8 inches in diameter. (Exact numbers are not important). Electrical tape holds the loops together. Construct those loops somewhere between the feed point of the antenna and the transceiver. In any particular shack experimentation may prove beneficial. A looped coax choke is neither pretty nor efficient, but it is really cheap and it takes only five minutes to build one. (Fig. 1) This simple expedient often provides enough impedance to somewhat isolate the antenna from the outer surface of the feed line and eliminate symptoms of mild RFI in the shack.



FIGURE 1

The desired choke impedance is, at minimum, 200 ohms at the lowest frequency of interest. Note that a "noise choke" to lower the noise floor in a receiver by any measurable amount is a different animal altogether. A noise choke requires from 500 to 1,000 ohms impedance across the HF frequencies. It usually includes one or more ferrite toroid's.

A more efficient design for a coiled coax CM choke is a so-called "Ugly Balun" -- an unfair misnomer because it need not be ugly and it is not really a balun. It is a choke. Wind approximately 21 feet of coax around a short piece of PVC pipe (no precision measurement needed.) Far from being "ugly," the finished item can look quite professional, like VA7TSL Brad's masterpiece in Fig. 2.



FIGURE 2

When a simple coiled coax choke can't do the job, we can step up the game in complexity and cost. An even better way to fight CM is with a properly engineered toroid choke, where the coax winds several times through and around a ferrite ring. Or we can string several ferrite beads on the coax. We can research, design and build our own devices; or such pre-assembled chokes are available commercially. Some are designed for CM attenuation, and others are sold for serious noise reduction. Some stations may need both kinds.

Every shack is different; but the small cost and effort to try a simple, home-brew CM choke sometimes yields unexpectedly big benefits in our Amateur Radio communications.

Thanks to Brad Grigor VA7TSL for technical advice and for the photo of his (not so) "Ugly Balun."

Station of the Month

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

Editor's Note

Well spring is almost here and hopefully some warmer weather with lots of sun (great for antenna repairs and building), but we also have some club activities happening like our Hamfest in April, also Derek VE3TKE might need some volunteer's to help with Farny's equipment takedown and he is hoping for some Club Activities this spring and summer so I encourage everyone to try and step up and offer to help where ever possible and let's all have some fun this year!

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

CQ World-Wide WPX Contest

SSB: March 25-26, 2023, Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday

This is a great contest to test out all those new Radios and antenna's, lots of DX stations on the air and many qso's to be had. Good Luck! More information at www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm.

Ontario QSO Party

The Ontario QSO party runs on the third full weekend of April, this year that is Saturday April 15 1800z to April 16 0500z and then Sunday April 16 1200z to 1800z. This is a fun contest for us here in Ontario as everyone is chasing you to make a qso and also a great chance to say Hi to other local amateurs.

W9IMS Special Event Station



This special event is a lot of fun and if you only work one event you can get a nice QSL card but work all three and they send you a nice Certificate. For more information checkout www.qrz.com and put in their call sign W9IMS

2023 OPERATING SCHEDULE (you must work all three for the certificate):

May 7 - 13: [Grand Prix - Operator Schedule](#)

May 22 - 28: [Indianapolis 500 - Operator Schedule](#)

August 7 - 13: [NASCAR 200 at the Brickyard - Operator Schedule](#)

From the President.

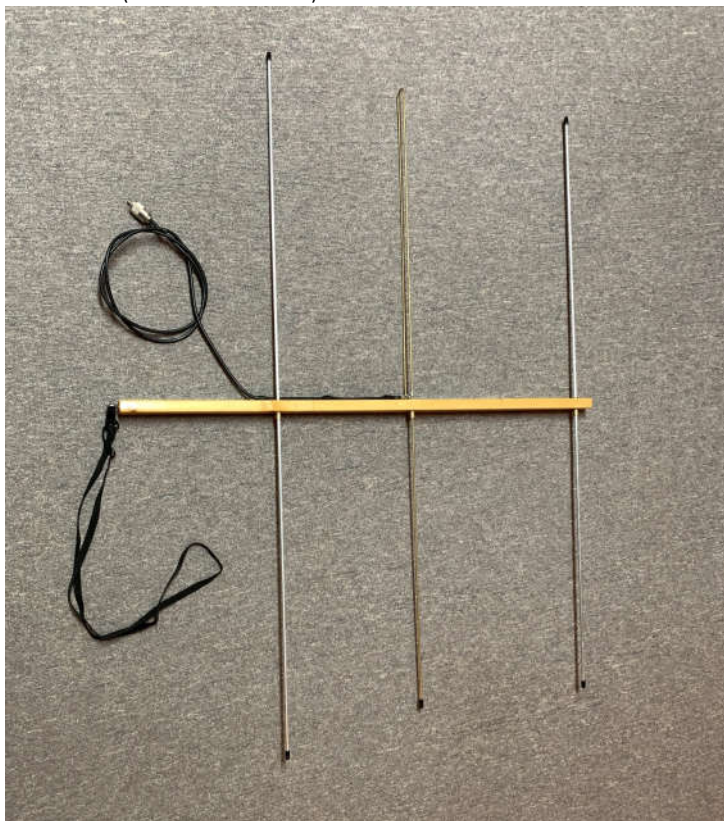
As you know we have two positions on our executive team that are open. I am looking to the membership to fill these positions. Hopefully soon. The positions are Vice-President and Secretary. Having these positions filled by an enthusiastic member would greatly assist our existing executive team by taking on some of the expanding tasks that our executive team is working on to make this a better club.

These positions are traditionally open to any current club member who has been a member for more than one year but at this point we will open it up to any current member to get the positions filled. This allows new club members to apply for these positions.

Email – info@ve3osh.com

If anyone would like to discuss the role, responsibilities and requirements of these positions and how they could assist the club can speak with me directly. I would be happy to review the details with you.

I am seeing some interest in Radio Directional Finding or Fox Hunting. A few members are even interested in building a three element handheld antenna that is used to find the hidden radio that is transmitting. They have purchased the required metal rod used for the elements of the beam. I have supplied them with a plan of the antenna that I have built and have shown to a number of people last week at WFF (White Feather Farms) as seen below.



It is a folded dipole three element handheld beam antenna. You don't have to build an antenna, there are a number of options available for purchase from the various ham radio suppliers that can be used.

I would like to gather the names of people who have Fox Hunting equipment or would like to get involved with Fox Hunting to see if we have enough people so that we can host our own Fox Hunting event when it gets warmer. So far I have the following people:

- Derek – VE3TKE
- Clint – VE3KDK
- Peter – VA3PKM
- Robert – VE3IRB
- Nick – VA3NPW
- Frank – VA3FGF
- Thomas – VE3PDK
- John – VE3KZT
- Cam – VE3IGX

If you would like to be added to this list, let me know. Our goal is to host our own event with a possible BBQ when this event is over for all of us to discuss how we did and what we can do better next time. If we cannot host our own event, there is a possibility of joining another ham club event.

Derek VE3TKE

Swap Shop

For Sale

Yaesu FT8900R Quad-Band Mobile **FM** Transciever 2m, 440, 6m and 10m coverage, 50 watts and 800 channel memories. Good condition comes with YSK8900 separation kit and RT Systems programming software. In good working order, asking **\$350**



Yaesu FT1000MP MK V Field 100 watt HF Transciever 10m to 160m. The AC power supply is built-in. Or you may also operate this transceiver from 13.8 VDC. This radio also features a built-in high speed automatic [antenna tuner](#) capable of matching loads between 16.5 and 150 ohms to better than 1.2:1 SWR. There is an [access door](#) on top panel for adjustments. This radio includes the MH-31B8 hand mic. This radio is a Yaesu Classic and has the Inrad 1800hz Roofing Filter installed and also the DVS-2 (digital recorder). Comes with manual and original box. Also comes with Yaesu SP-6 speaker. Asking **\$1500**

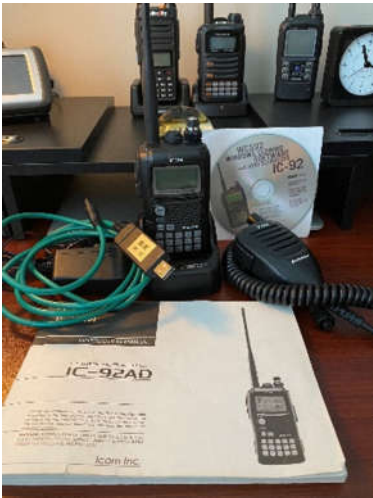


Contact **Steve VA3TPS** for more information on either item at va3tps@outlook.com

For Sale

1. Icom IC-92AD Dual Band D-Star Transceiver.
2. Icom HM-175 GPS Speaker Microphone
3. Icom BC-177 Charging dock with Icom BC-123 SA Charger
4. Icom IC_92 AD Instruction Manual
5. RT Systems Windows Cloning Software with RT Sytems USB-92 USB cable

All are in good working order. **\$350**



Ken Fitzgerald, VA3KJF at webhog@me.com....905-435-6311

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**



Website – VE3OSH.com

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

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

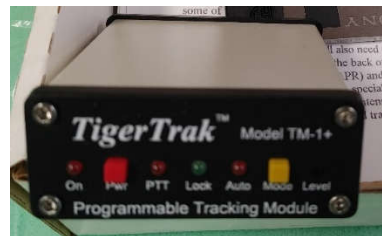
Kenwood TM-D700A dual band, APRS ready. Includes mic, display separation kit and display mounting bracket. No manual but it can be downloaded for free from the Kenwood site. Tested and working on VE3OSH. NOTE – does not have a GPS so one will need to be connected if you want to use it for sending out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



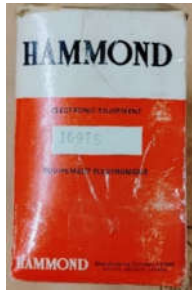
Email – info@ve3osh.com



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

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

Contact Aldo VA3AG at va3ag@sympatico.ca

For Sale:

Astron RS-10A Power Supply, Linear 10 amps. Never used at all.



Neil VA3NH, is asking \$100 for this item. 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.

Larsen NMO 2/70 VFH/UHF mobile antenna (closed coil, gasket and whip) for NMO mount. Height 34.5 inches. Two years old, great shape, used on a Mustang that was kept in a garage and not driven much during the winter. Asking CDN\$80, proceeds donated to the club. (New price is US\$120 + shipping at DX Engineering.)



Contact Neil VA3NH at NHMcAlisterMD@protonmail.com

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 \$275 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.

If you have equipment to sell, clear out or give-away don't forget to list it in our club Swap Shop. You may not want the equipment anymore but someone else may be interested.