

Monthly Update

November 2023

www.ve3osh.com

Club Executive

President – **Derek VE3TKE**
Vice President: **Peter VA3PKM**
Secretary: **Neil VA3NH**
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**

November Meeting

Our monthly meeting on Zoom will be on Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm where **Allan Boyd VE3AJB** will do a presentation on the Yaesu Fusion system and the FTM-500DR.



Christmas Dinner

This years Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday December 20, 2023 at the Viva Retirement Centre in Whitby. This will replace our usual member meeting. We are limited to 30 people so at this time it will be open only to NSARC members and family.

Martha VA3SBD will be organizing this event, so you MUST contact her to advise if you are attending and how many? Also, what you will be bringing to the dinner.

Her email is: va3sbd@gmail.com , so please contact Martha and let her know.

Tuesday Night Rag Chew

Were Back!!



We have had some members step up and volunteer for our weekly Tuesday Night Rag Chew that starts at 7:00 pm and our Rag Chew net will resume on Tuesday October 31, 2023. Our crew of net controllers is: **Aldo VA3AG**, **Grant VA3KJI**, **Derek VE3TKE**, **Peter VA3PKM**, **Quinton VA3NLM** and **Neil VA3NH**. Also **Nick VA3NPW** has offered to be a spare and fill in once in a while. 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.

A big thank you to all our Net control operators for stepping up!!

If anyone would like to give Net control a try one week, let me know and we will fit you in as a guest net control.

Wednesday Night Virtual Parking Lot

Virtual Parking Lot meeting over zoom so make sure **Derek VE3TKE** has your email address. **Neil VA3NH** will be sending out the zoom invites 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 144MHz (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!

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 7:00pm 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.

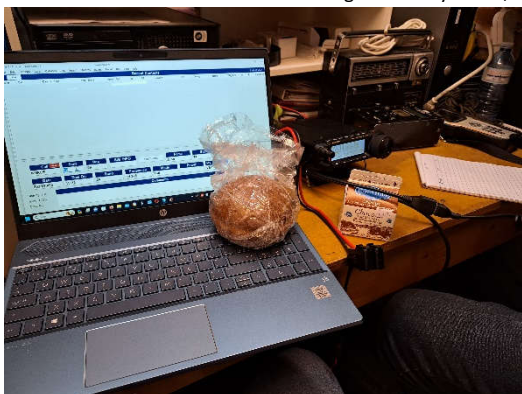
Fun With POTA

Well, Monday, October 23 was an absolutely beautiful day with moderate fall temps, blue skies and lovely colours in the trees. It was also a great day to do a POTA (Parks On The Air) activation and that is exactly what [Grant Butcher](#) **VA3KJI** and I did this particular morning.



Grant and I had been brainstorming about doing a POTA activation for quite some time but our calendars just never seemed to jive.

After many emails we finally settled on a time and date and started prepping our kits. Since this was, what we thought, Grant's first activation we decided on a venue that was familiar to both of us and that we knew how to get to easily. Well, one of us got there easily and we will just say the other took a more scenic route. Of course, since we were so close to White Feather we decided to meet there first to grab some necessities before heading up the hill. They actually had fresh baked fritters on that Monday morning.



Shortly thereafter we made the jaunt up the hill and arrived at Purple Woods VE-1390 and proceeded to set everything up. All the equipment we used was Grant's but I had some backup equipment just in case. We used a Wolf River Coil antenna and we set it up on what everyone now calls a Magic Carpet. This is just a piece of aluminum door screen but it works great as a ground plane and easier to set up than a bunch of radials. We did need to improvise on how to keep the ends from rolling up but found some bottles of condiments in the repeater shack, left over from the Sermon on the Mount corn roast and BBQ, and they worked great as weights. Tuning the antenna was really easy. Grant pulled out one of those amazingly fancy, and tremendously expensive, analyzers and within minutes we



had it all tuned up and ready to go. Having two sets of hands available to tune an antenna sure makes quick work.

With the coax connected to the radio and an SWR of 1.3 to 1 it was time to find a frequency and start calling CQ POTA. Grant started lighting up the airwaves with his pleading calls and I went to the POTA site and posted a spot. Within seconds of the spot Grant was working a pileup and did so for the next hour and a bit. We operated as an activation with two operators so we kept passing the mic back and forth and hopefully entertained those who were listening to us carry on and making contacts with us.



After about an hour and a half the bands faded off to nothing and what signals we could hear did not last long enough to make a log entry so we decided to pull the plug and shut down. In all we made 59 contacts, which was quite good for a two operator setup, but the fun we had playing radio was priceless.

If you have never tried doing a POTA I would suggest giving it a go. Before you go out on your first activation familiarize yourself with how POTA works and do a lot of hunting for those out there activating. Listen to how activations are run and try to emulate the ones that are running a smooth operation.

Oh, I had mentioned earlier that we thought that this was going to be Grant's first activation. However, we discovered that he actually had one earlier in the year. Now, you may ask how could he have done an activation and not known about it? Well, when we did the Aquino Tank Weekend we were also operating as a POTA activation at VE-5535 Airmen's Park and we submitted all our logs to POTA. This year at Aquino we were not only logging each contact as VE3NSR but were also indicating the operators personal call when they were operating. This is within the POTA guidelines when doing a special event and so not only did each hunter get credit for VE3NSR but they also got credit for each operator that they worked. The same went for us activators. If you were behind the microphone at Aquino you got the credit for that contact. So, thanks to Grant's participation as an operator during Aquino he made enough contacts that it qualified him for an activation. If you operated at Aquino this year you need to stop by the POTA website and check to see if you got credit for an activation. You only needed 10 contacts during a particular day.



Tnx, Grant, for the great time this morning and hoping to do a few more in the future!



73 de [Laird VE3LKS](#)

White Feather Fun!

A few of the club members and friends meet at **White Feather Country Store** on Saturday morning to have a lively discussion on many topics while having a coffee and possibly a fritter. These members and friends meet rain or shine, cold or hot, it does not matter what the weather is. This is an outside gathering so dress for the weather.



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 south east corner of the parking lot. Make sure to bring a lawn chair. 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.

Here is who showed up last weekend:



What does it mean?

Recently one of our newer Hams was asking what some of the terms in Amateur Radio mean. So, we will run a short column with some Ham Radio terms and their meaning, for some of the old timers this is old hat but hopefully will help younger and newer Hams.

FT8 : FT8 is a popular form of digital weak signal communication used primarily by amateur radio operators to communicate on amateur radio bands with a majority of traffic occurring on the HF amateur bands. The mode offers operators the ability to communicate in unfavorable environments such as during low sun spot numbers, high RF noise, or during low power operations. With advances in signal processing technology FT8 is able to decode signals with a signal to noise ratio as low as -20 dB in a 2500 Hz bandwidth, which is significantly lower than CW or SSB transmissions.

Antenna analyzer : Device that measures antenna and feedline characteristics, such as impedance, SWR, and bandwidth

APRS: *Automatic Packet Reporting System* : digital communication protocol (packet radio) for exchanging information among a large number of ham radio stations covering a relatively large area

Cold Solder Joint: Poorly soldered union of two or more electrical conductors, often resulting in an unsound connection or intermittent contact, and can have a grainy appearance

Colpitts oscillator: Oscillator circuit that achieves its waveform generation by positive feedback supplied through a capacitive divider, and is one of (at least) three oscillator circuits used in amateur radio equipment, commonly in VFO applications

Lobe: Spatial signal pattern represented graphically by a balloon or raindrop shape, which shows the relative electromagnetic field directions and signal strengths logarithmically proportional to the distance from the source, typically an antenna.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

According to Thomas VE3PDK, our membership secretary, and Bob VE3HIX, our treasurer, this is the most wonderful time of the year! We are making your membership renewal even easier this year. Step 1: go to the membership section of our club page and submit the online form. Step 2: ****NEW**** Send the club an e-transfer to treasurer@ve3osh.com or give either Bob or Thomas your fees in cash. NOTE – if you are claiming that you are a RAC member make sure you check with RAC to make sure your membership is paid up. We have to double check this for our RAC insurance policy so please do not try to claim this if you are not a current RAC. The dues are staying the same for 2024 at \$30 for a RAC member and \$40 for Non-RAC member. The extra fee for non RAC members is to cover the additional insurance fee that the club receives.

Swap Shop

For Sale



Yaesu FT1000MP MK V Field 100 watt HF Transceiver 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 **\$1100 or BO**

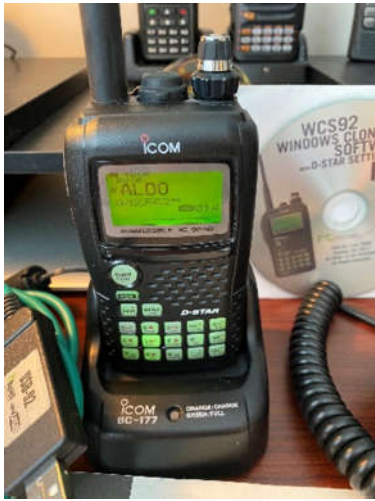
Contact **Steve VA3TPS** for more information on either item at va3tps@outlook.com

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 Systems USB-92 USB cable

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

Email – info@ve3osh.com



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**



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

Website – ve3osh.com

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.**



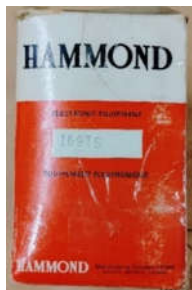
TigerTrak TM-1+ Trackin Module. APRS tracler. Untested and no GPS or cables but from what I have read you would need to make/buy one based on your radio. **\$15.**



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

Email – info@ve3osh.com

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

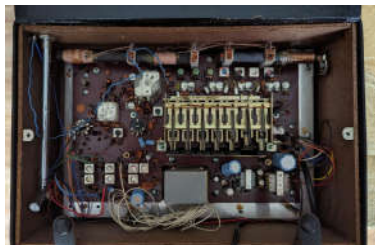
- 1) Yaesu FT5D hand held, VHF/UHF/C4FM/Wires-X in new condition comes with
Original box, all accessories that came with it and as extras:
CD-41 Rapid charger
MH-34 Speaker/Mic
SDD-13, 12 volts adapter to use ht in the car or charge battery in the car.
SCU-39 Kit, with the cables to run PDN mode
SCU-19 programming cable.
All for \$ 550.00 Or best offer.
- 2) Anytone AT-D878UV Plus (GPS/Bluetooth/APRS) Hand held.
Extra Battery, Charger and Bluetooth earpiece for hands free Operation.
Asking \$ 350.00 or best offer.

Contact Aldo: va3ag@sympatico.ca

73 Aldo VA3AG

For Sale

Ross 2311 World Master multi band, "solid state" receiver. Good cosmetic condition, clean inside. FM broadcast band works. Other bands (VHF, aircraft, LW, SW, AM, MB, etc.) untested. \$60 OBO. Contact Neil VA3NH at nhmcalistemd@protonmail.com



Station of the Month

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

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

RAC Winter Contest: The RAC Winter Contest is coming up on December 30 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

On November 15th, 2023 it will be my two year anniversary as the club President. I know that at this member meeting I will not have to resign, but that date is coming soon. I have been thinking on what have I done for the club during these two years. There have been a few things that I can recall accomplishing, but I would like to hear from the members on what they feel that I have done for the club. Receiving these comments from members will help me determine if I should continue for another term or let someone else take over.

Hope to see you all at our next member meeting on Zoom on Wednesday night at 7:00 pm.