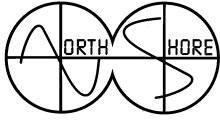


NORTH SHORE ARC



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Breaking News.

A reminder to the Club Members about the 2004 Spring Foxhunt coming up on March the 21st 09:00 to around 12:00. The location will be announced. And now for the big surprise. There is a new "fox" for the 2004 Spring foxhunt. The new fox is an expert at finding and hiding. The hunters will have their work cut out for them. Let's get as many hunters out as we can muster.

From our Club Members:

Special thanks to Howard VE3TYQ:

Standard Preamble for the North Shore Amateur Radio Net (NSARC)

Wednesday evening starting at 7:30 P.M.

1. Announce the start of the net promptly at the agreed net start time.

Example:

"Good evening to everyone calling the North Shore Amateur Club 2M net here on VE3OSH 147.120, positive offset in Oshawa Ontario.

My name is ?? and my call sign is ??
I will be your net controller for this evening.

2. Request items important traffic items. Item Order: Emergency, Priority then Welfare.

Example:

Before I start the net is there any emergency, priority, or welfare traffic to be passed?

If there is no response, indicate that you will proceed to the next item.

3. Request News or Announcement item.

Example:

Is there any news or announcement of any kind?

If there is no response, indicate that you will proceed to the next item.

4. Indicate the number of announcements you have.

Example:

Then read any announcements that you have.

If there are no announcements, indicate that you will proceed to the next item.

5. Open the net for check-ins: Check-in Information Order: Call sign (Phonetic), Name, QTH.

Station Check-in Order: Mobile stations first, then fixed stations.

Example:

I will take check-ins now. Come with your call sign using phonetics please.

If there are any mobiles they go first.”

Take a batch of check-ins, listing them on paper so that they can be called in one at a time

6. Conduct the net, exchange traffic and information as required.

If you don't know the call sign of the person checking in then you ask for their name & QTH & carry on with QSO.

After each batch of check-ins, ask for another round. Then call them in one at a time.

7. Announce the close the net. At the end of net when you have no more check-ins or traffic.

Example:

“Last call for check-ins to the net.”

If you hear nothing and there is no more traffic,

8. Close the net.

Example:

“Thank you to all those who checked in. Have a good evening. I hope we can do it again soon. Now I will return the repeater back to normal amateur radio use.

73 To one and all VE3??? will be clear.”

From The Chair in the Shack.

By Pete, VA3PWH

Once again North Shore has fielded a fantastic team to show Girl Guides what

makes amateur radio special to us and perhaps to them. This year saw the usual 2 hf stations and vhf/uhf station on the air plus our regular standby, APRS. Capping the event was the IRLP station that gave many of the girls a chance to talk to Germany and other locations. Our code and phonetics station taught the girls something about the way in which we make sure that our messages get through.

Although we still use the old name for the event, GOTA, the Guide movement now calls it “Thinking Day on the Air”. Participation is worldwide and there are several frequencies in each band devoted to letting Guides talk with each other.

Handling visiting groups of as many as 12 kids at each position got a little noisy at times but every ham came away at the end of the day feeling that it had been fun. Each and every ham there performed in a first class fashion and the girls left our company with a wonderful impression of professional operations. Several were heard to say that it would be tough to top this year’s team. Nevertheless, we’d love to see some new or out-of-practice faces next year.

Gota team 2004, congratulations on a job well done.

- Mike Cumming VE3MBA
- William Skuta, VA3WEW
- Gordon Acheson, VA3GAA
- Les Burgess, VA3LTB
- Howard Mugford, VE3TYQ
- Martha Dinsmore, VA3SBD
- Alan Jespersion, VA3ALN
- Ken Koronovitch, VE3RMK
- Jutte Richter, DL1HXB
- Heiko Sauber, waiting for IC to confirm call
- Ralph Day, VE3CRK
- Ray Zambonelli, VE3OUB
- Pete Henry, VA3PWH

73 de Pete

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The 2004 Bancroft Sled Dog Race



By Laird, VE3LKS

Once again several amateurs from the NSARC joined forces with other amateurs to provide emergency communications for the Bancroft Sled Dog Races. Joe Stratton, VE3VGJ, started organizing this event several years ago and has done a stellar job in getting amateurs from several different clubs to work together and provide a vital service for this race. This year the event took place on the weekend of February 21 and 22.

The sled dog race is a combined-time two day race that encompasses 70 miles of wilderness trail. The teams run a 45 mile course on the first day and 25 miles on the second. There are several checkpoints set up along the course that are manned with race officials and amateur radio operators. As the teams pass through the checkpoints

their number is radioed back to net control which is set up at the community centre. Net control logs the team number, approximate time, and then moves a team identification tag across a display board to the column representing the checkpoint that just reported in. This board not only allows us to see any position changes between teams in the race but also allows us to track each team and send out a search crew, in the event that a team did not pass a checkpoint within a reasonable amount of time. Fortunately, this year we did not have to send out a search party but we have had to in previous years. Joe, Kevin, and Alex had their quads with radios mounted.



Even though our main purpose for the weekend is to provide communications we always seem to manage to have a bit of fun. Ok, a LOT of FUN! Joe VE3VGJ graciously invited several of us, who were staying to help out on Sunday, to come and stay at his cottage just southwest of Bancroft. Joe's cottage is located just about 2k off the main road and due to the snow conditions it was impossible to get the

quads in there this year. So, we had to resort to hiking through the gorgeous, snow-covered forest. Upon arrival, both Friday and Saturday night, we were treated to some gourmet cooking. Kevin, VA3THB made a killer lasagna and salad for Friday night and Joe had his customary brontosaurus-sized steaks and baked potatoes on Saturday night. Needless to say Larry, VA3FHG, Alex, VA3AMP, and myself, VE3LKS, did not go hungry. Great conversation about anything and everything lasted late into the evening. On Saturday night the pranksters came out. It started when Larry had to answer the call of nature. A well placed firecracker to his blind spot really started to liven things up. We then proceeded to experiment with other pyrotechnics...all in the name of amateur radio of course :-)



Each morning we arose early and hit the trail by 5:30 in order to get out to our cars and into Bancroft in time for our 7:00am breakfast and organization meeting. We were a pretty much bleary-eyed group when we started the trek from Joe's cottage

each morning but by the time we got to our vehicles we were wide-eyed and raring to go. It is amazing what a good brisk walk and crisp winter air can do to energize you.



This years winner was Rhonda Ransome from Whitney, ON.

Other amateurs that helped out with communications were:

Bill VA3WOW,
Pete VA3PGB,
Gord VA3IWY,
Len VA3LGF,
Pete VE3AD,
Mike VE3VCY,
Ray VE3GRK, and
Joe VA3JAD.

You can find more pictures of the fun weekend on the NSARC web site just follow the "Public Service Events" link.

If you ever want to help out with a fun event then you will want to answer the call when Joe starts asking for volunteers.

Homebrew Alert:

By Ken, VE3RMK

I stopped in to our local "HAM" store last weekend to pick up some coax and was talking to Lee. I mentioned that I was getting ready to building a QRP transceiver and was dreading having to send to the US "again" to get parts. Lee mentioned that they are now a distributor for ferrites. I did a quick check of the stock and they seemed to have most of the torroids I would need. I didn't have my list with me, otherwise I would have bought them on the spot. The prices were favourable compared to the US when you consider shipping, exchange and so on.

From Keith at Durham Radio:

Here's an interesting project for those of you who are interested in antennas.

Check out:

<http://users.erols.com/k3mt/windom/windom.htm>

It's a windom antenna with a twist. The BALUN design is pretty neat. I wish I had the space to put something like this up. I think that 40M will be my longest antenna. I'll have to get a tuner for 80M.

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I have a sign-up form for net controllers for those of you who are interested, now that we our Standard Preamble for the North Shore Amateur Radio Net (NSARC) available for everyone.

I can say that I really had a great time helping out at GOTA. Driving was a bit slippery both on the way to the camp and back home, but the time spent was well worth it and it was good fun. I also gained a great deal of respect for our Club members who demonstrated technical knowledge and the ability to relate to younger folk in a way that was both

instructive and engaging. Something we can all aspire to.

As we move into spring it's a great time to get out and support the club. This is especially true with the HAM Fest coming up in April.

Your humble scribe.

Ken
VE3RMK