

NORTH SHORE ARC



Box 171, Oshawa, ON, Canada, L1H 7L1
<http://www.ve3osh.com/>



Volume 8 , Number 1

November 2008

Don't Forget the Wednesday Evening Net.

From Will VA3WEW.

Remember our Club net is on 147.120 + at 7:30PM local time every Wednesday. Plan to be there.

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If You Love Your Freedom Thank a Vet!

Some of you may or may not have heard of the "Vigil". It is a project to memorialize the 68,000 citizens of our country who made the greatest sacrifice for us in the First World War. Take a look at the website www.1914-1918.ca. Some of us have family members known only to us by name and the stories and remembrances of their brothers and sisters, our grandparents or parents. Equally great is the sacrifice made by Canadian families, Aunts and Uncles who in the Second World War who once again stood for country when called. In our own Club are members whose willingness to give all for country and to stand for what was right should humble those of us who enjoy our freedoms today. Nor should we overlook those veterans of more recent years and the brave citizens who serve in our armed forces today. There is no way to repay this debt we owe. We can acknowledge their service by saying "thank you" and pausing to reflect on what their service really means to us alive and well today.



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"The Sermon on the Mount"

Pictures from Martha VA3SBD

I saved these pictures for the November bulletin because I figured by now it would be cold and snowy. The memories of that fine fall evening at the repeater site would warm the hearts and remind us all of the accomplishments of the Club. Who knew that it would as warm if not slightly warmer the first week of November as it was in September. The Club get-together at the Purple Woods repeater site is a fine opportunity for everyone in the Club to see 'what makes VE3OSH tick'.

Hats off to the repeater committee and the organizers of the outing.

Enjoy the pictures.





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RAC-Bulletin] RAC-Bulletin: Signing of a MOU between the IARU and the IFRC.

From Larry VA3FHG

November 3, 2008

To: - All Canadian Radio Amateurs

Re: Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The International Amateur Radio Union, IARU and The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IFRC

As you know, the prime reason why we are able to justify keeping our frequencies and privileges' around the world is because of our ability to provide communications in cases of disaster. When situations arise that communications are either destroyed or inadequate, authorities know that they can call on Amateurs to support them at no cost and that they will be providing their own equipments. The same help is also offered to the World's major Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) providing humanitarian aid to populations in need.

This willingness and ability to help by the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service has also been recognized by the ratification of the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) Tempere (Finland) Convention.

Another step towards general global recognition of our offered abilities to serve came with the recent signing of a MOU between the IARU and the IFRC. On June 27th, 2008, Mr. Markku Niskala, the IFRC Secretary General and Mr. Timothy St. J. Ellam, VE6SH, Vice President of the International Amateur Radio Union, signed this very important document.

Thank you to the IARU international team of negotiators for this success.

73,

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA

- Vice President International Affairs,
Radio Amateurs of Canada

- Director Area A,
IARU Region 2

- Chair, Emergency Communications Committee (EMCOMM)
IARU Region 2

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From the Chair in the Shack.

As I write this, President-elect Obama is likely sleeping after a hard slog and huge celebration. Many hope that his election will bring out the best of the USA and justify its world preeminence. I would imagine that many of us are part of this hopeful group.

During the campaign and the Election Day I resorted to the many sources of information that we can access from newspaper to TV to the internet. The internet offers a huge variety of information, much of it little known to us normal people. There are live radio shows from all over the world available through such sources as reciva.com and live365.com. They now number in the tens of thousands. and can all be accessed from a home computer.

I listened to American radio, world services of a couple of countries and watched television from the west coast all from this shack. YouTube served up some highly charged video, attack videos, praise video of each candidate and video addressing the various trouble spots around the world. Some documentaries were the stuff that never makes it to TV.

All this is very exciting and informative. One wonders what the hams of other countries make of the new direction the world may take and we can find out by tuning in to QSO's on hf. Now outright political discussion may be off limits to hams but the exchanges still offer glimpses into the personal feelings of the operators. You and I can spot the prejudices of many of our colleagues even though they don't come right out and say them. This should be an interesting time on shortwave.

Our friend and advisor Lee, from Durham Radio will be at our next meeting to show us some new products and review the use of some that have been around for some time. Amongst other things, we will explore internet radio (which I've already touched on) and some novel USB ham gear that will offer the chance to work new modes without having to change soundcard settings. Come on out and be enlightened. As hams, one of our most universal qualities is the urge to explore. Here's a chance.

Our thanks should go out in large amounts to SPARC President Garth for his work in healing the rifts between clubs. Because of his efforts, the 3 local clubs have joined in offering a ham class with 21 candidates. The sparkplug driving this course is Whitby ARC President Eric. He has been tireless in gathering experienced instructors like myself and Ken, VE3FIT and some new talent, one of whom is an RF engineer. I think the candidates are lucky to have such a talent pool working to help them in their learning. Forget the past, today is looking very positive.

November is our election time. Although the December meeting is officially the election meeting, we have moved it forward in order to leave December free for the Club Party. Think very carefully since this year we need to consider our choice of executive very carefully. If you think someone should join the executive, be prepared to nominate that person. Change, as Obama says, can be good for a club or country. There is no earthly reason to expect that any executive member will be offended by nominations and some may very well welcome the relief of passing the torch.

Last, turnout at meetings has slowly shrunk and we would like to know what keeps some members away as well as what we can do to make the meetings more attractive (draw more members). I know from experience that missing meetings lessens the feeling of attachment and belonging. SPARC has not seen me for some time despite my enjoyment of their meetings and the company at them. I'm going to change that. I owe it to myself and to the club.

See you at this month's meeting (third Tuesday of the month).

73 de Pete

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Here we are once again standing on the edge of winter. Dreams of strong signals, no static crashes and the promise of no lightening strikes dance before us like a mirage. Cool clear nights with stars seemingly so close you can reach out to touch them. It's the time when a retreat to the shack in the warmth of the basement is seen as right and proper. You can be completely surrounded by NO YARDWORK!!! You can relax and chat with your fellow enthusiasts, near or far. The Oklahoma Ham who is envious of the mid-October snow flurries, or the Wyoming Ham who already has too much snow. The Arizona Ham that used to live in Pittsburgh, who understands the progression of the seasons, from winter, then to 'still winter', finally into blissful "not winter", followed all too quickly by 'almost winter'. I tell them all that with the taxes I have to pay I deserve 4 seasons.

Maybe just monitoring the repeater will give you a chance to brighten someone's day or night as they pass by on the highway. Who knows, you may be able to help someone. As good as cell phones are, if you don't know the area, how will you know the number to call. While I'm sure that "star OPP" (*677) will instantly get you in touch some who can assist, they may not be all that happy to pass on the directions to Pizza Hut. AND as tough as I know this is to believe there are actually people out there who do not like Tim Horton's. As one who plans trips based on proximity to "St. Timmys" at critical times, like bio-breaks I find it hard to imagine.

Remember that we are part of the 'Service' as defined in RBR-4 - Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service

Your scribe,

Ken
VE3RMK



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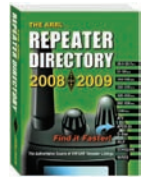

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