

# NORTH SHORE ARC



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## Ham Radio and Scanners

By Dave VA3DBJ

What do Realistic, channel 19, Farah Fawcett, 142.185 and VE3OSH have in common?

Back in the 1970's three major events happened and they were not directly linked to amateur radio, but they did raise the profile of radio communications. Not in an entirely good way, as some had predicted.

At this time, the CB radios became very popular and the scanner was just coming on the scene. The first scanners were the crystal or the keyed control, of which, you most certainly saw in the movies of the day. Do you remember the flashing red LED's?

The first of the popular scanners were the Realistic brand. Realistic, basically, was the first to bring the scanner to household status. First, came the crystal controlled 10 channel units, then the key controlled units, then finally the programmable versions.

So where does Realistic, channel 19 and Farah Fawcett comes into the picture? A certain movie, showing Farah talking on a CB, channel 19 to be exact, and then later, listening to a Realistic 10 channel scanner, with the rolling LED's, all the while doing what Farah did best. Hence, the Realistic line of scanners and CB radios were being sold by the millions, and posters of Farah Fawcett, were flying out the doors of K-Mart and Towers stores.



The last two items (142.185 and VE3OSH) is where I come in. My first scanner was the 20 channel scanner, that my father got from a friend of his. At that time, the scanners were very plain units, No PL tones, no bandwidth control, no trunking. So my weekends were spent talking to people in the south US on the CB and listening to CFB Trenton and the locals on the scanner.

After moving back to Bowmanville, I was able to get one of the new Realistic PRO-2004 scanners. Wow, that was a step forward. From 20 channels to 400 channels, with bandwidth control, step control, priority scan, and search functions. I went from punching in frequencies from books and paper notes, to finding my own.

142.185 MHz was the frequency most people in Durham had programmed in their scanners. Listening to Durham Region Police, doing their thing, in downtown Oshawa, made the time pass by. But it was the O.P.P., that where parked on the old 42.06 MHz channel, that made things exciting. Car 5103, this is North Bay. On the good days, hearing the Michigan State police and others come in on top of the O.P.P. also made it very interesting listening.

It wasn't till I attended a science class at Bowmanville High School, where my radio monitoring, had shifted again. There, my Science teacher, had mentioned amateur radio and later that day, I went home and found the frequencies for the 2m band and started searching. Well, that is where VE3OSH came in and yes VE3BHQ, I was paying attention.

Today's scanners are more sophisticated, with thousands of channels, Motorola trunking, LTR, EDACS and now P25 APCO digital. All the old favorites' have moved to more complex communications systems, but the makers of scanners, like Uniden, try to keep up with the new technology, and, so far, are doing a good job.



New on the scene, are the DMA scanners. Dynamic Memory Architecture. Gone are the 4,000 channels, stored in banks, and in are the 20,000 – 50,000 channels that also track trunk systems.

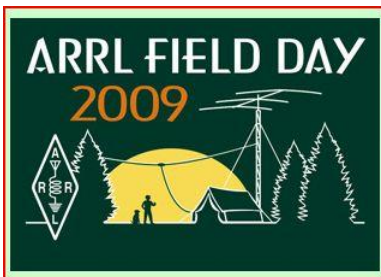
Durham Region has a wide range of communications that can be monitored. Ranging from conventional systems, to Motorola 800, VHF and UHF systems, to the new Motorola P25 systems.

The next time, we'll cover the communications in and around Durham Region.

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## From the Chair in the Shack

Folks we have a job ahead of us. We have voted to have Field Day this year. Now Camp X was one thing but this is another entirely. At Camp X we were the extra icing on the cake of the Historical Society. If there were only a few operators manning the shack and meeting the public, so what? We were there just to show the state of HF radio today.



Field Day is something altogether different. It is designed to show that we are prepared to [provide communication when all else fails. It is designed to show that amateur radio is far from dead and that the club is an active source of communicators. It is designed to explain the nature of amateur radio to the public.

We really, really need to have a sizable group on hand to operate and to offer that impression and information to visitors. We need to have an opportunity for members to spend time talking radio and trying experiments on the side when not operating. Please let Martha know well in advance what you will be doing at Field Day. Setup and take down are as important as they were for Camp X but we'll need lots of members during the daylight hours when visitors are likely. Night operators are warmly welcomed as always and their contacts are very important.

For the sake of the club, please plan to contribute.

73 de Pete

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I'm looking forward to Field Day. Work around the house and in the garden is being accelerated so that I can have time at Purple Woods. I hope to see you all there.

Your humble scribe,

Ken  
VE3RMK

## Amateur Radio

### Yaesu VX8R Accessories Now in Stock



The Yaesu VX-8R is one of the hottest portables on the market today. We now have many of the accessories you need to get the most out of your VX8R. Scroll down to the bottom of the VX8R page to see the list of accessories.

[More info](#)

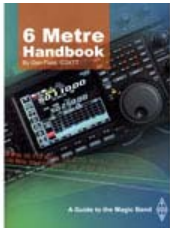
### RigRunner DC Power Distribution with USB

The RigRunner RR4004USBC features four always on PowerPole outlets (40 amps total) plus two USB Ports for charging MP3 Players, iPods & any device that charges from a USB port.



[More info](#)

### 6 METER HANDBOOK



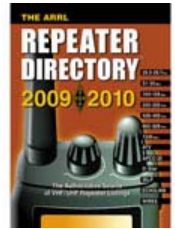
A precise introduction for operators who have yet to experience the band, and is the perfect reference for regulars eagerly awaiting the return of the sunspots.

[Product page](#)

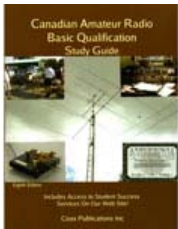
### ARRL Repeater Book 2010

The LDG IT-100 is the ideal tuner for your IC-7000. First, it matches up to 10:1 SWR (3:1 on 6 metres), so just about anything you can feed with coax is good to go.

[More info](#)



### Amateur Radio Basic Qualification Book



Goes far beyond providing the information required to pass the Industry Canada examination, with everything you will need to know about setting up a station and becoming an Amateur Radio Operator.

[Product Page](#)

### CTC50M Flat Coax Jumper

This exciting new product allows you to get your antenna coax into the radio room without drilling holes in the wall or leaving a window/door open. Great for temporary setups! **This item is coming soon. Order now to guarantee delivery from our first shipment.**



[Product page](#)

### Z100Plus Autotuner 1.8 to 54 MHz



Replaces the hugely popular LDG Z100. Improvements include reduced current draw, and a metal case. An internal frequency counter has been added so the

operating frequency is stored with the tuning parameters to make memory tunes a blazingly fast 0.1 seconds..

[More info](#)

### Power Supply with Battery Backup Feature

The JTPS14BCM is a lightweight 12A power supply featuring a set of terminals for connection to an external battery, thereby creating an uninterrupted power source should the power fail. Ideal for emergency stations or anywhere reliable DC power is needed.



[Product page](#)

### Icom IC7200 All Mode HF & 6m Transceiver



passband tuning.

A robustly-built 100W amateur transceiver providing coverage of HF amateur bands plus 6 meters. Built-in DSP and digital twin

[More info](#)

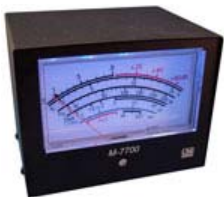
### LDG YT100 for Most Yaesu

The LDG YT100 interfaces with your FT857, FT897 and FT-100 (including all D models) with the included CAT cable. No extra power cables are needed. Tune directly from the tune button on the tuner!



[More info](#)

### 4.5" Meter for IC-7700

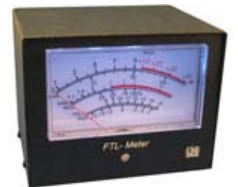


The LDG M7700 S-meter on receive, or power out, SWR, ALC level or supply voltages, all selectable from the rig's setup menu. The virtual meter on your radio can be set to display a different attribute than this external meter.

[More info](#)

### 4.5" Meter for the FT857 and FT897

The LDG FTL-METER is a highly readable 4.5 inch meter face with calibrated scales for signal strength and discriminator reading on receive, and power output, SWR, modulation, ALC action and supply voltage on transmit. Each function is selectable from the radio's menu.



[More info](#)

## GPS

### Garmin Nuvi 755T



This advanced navigator comes with premium features including 3-D building view, photo navigation, faster screen redraws, route planning, emergency and car locators and much more. Includes lifetime traffic subscription which allows you to avoid tie-ups and reduce travel times.

[More Info](#)

## Marine

### Inexpensive 8' VHF Marine Antenna

The MFV8 VHF fibreglass marine antenna includes the mount, coax and connector.

[More info](#)



## Scanners

### Two New Uniden/Bearcat Scanners

Uniden has upgraded two of its most popular handheld scanners and added a host of new features. The new BC346XT and BCD396XT replace the popular BC346 and 396. Click on the images below to visit the respective product page.

BC346XT



Trunking

BCD396XT



APCO25

### GRE New Scanner Lineup Now Available

GRE's new scanner lineup consists of the most basic scanners right up to advanced digital trunking units for the most demanding scanner enthusiast! Click on the images below to visit the respective product page.

PSR100 & 200



Basic Scanners

PSR300 & 400



Trunking Scanners

PSR500 & 600



Digital Trunking Scanners

## AM/FM

### AN200 Mediumwave Loop Antenna



The Kaito tuneable passive loop significantly improves mediumwave reception. Costs less than other loops with similar performance.

Use with direct wire connection or wirelessly for radios without AM antenna input.

[More Info](#)

## Digital TV

### Analog TV is Ending in the USA

On June 12, 2009 Analog TV will be phased out in the USA. If you use a TV antenna with an older TV set and live in a border town, you will lose your USA stations!

The new digital signals look great and if you have a new TV with a built-in ATSC tuner, your old TV antenna or even a set of "rabbit ears" will receive the new digital channels. You might be impressed enough to say goodbye to your cable or satellite provider!

If you have an older set, you'll need a [converter](#). For more info on these FREE digital over-the-air signals, and to see the other products we carry in this category, click [HERE](#).

## Specialty Radios

### BLACKBOX Passive Airband Receiver



This unique aircraft band near-field receiver is completely passive and can even be used on an airplane.

[More Info](#)

## Shortwave

### DE1123AM/FM/SW + MP3 Record/Play

This subcompact AM/FM/Shortwave radio features a built-in recorder/player yet weighs in at just 3 ounces! You can record directly from the radio or "live" via the integrated microphone.

[More info](#)

