

NORTH SHORE ARC



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



Volume 8 , Number 1

March 2009

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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The Club Calendar

From Joe VE3VGJ.



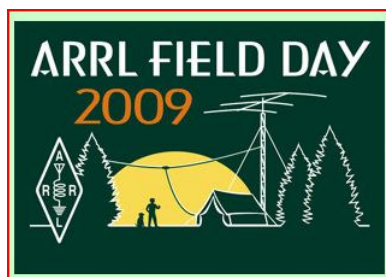
Saturday, Apr 18



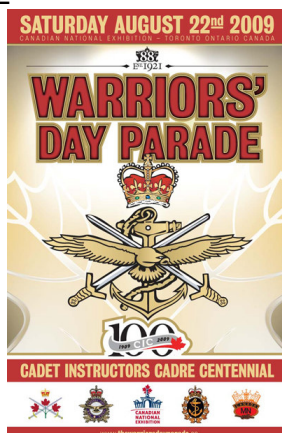
Saturday, May 2



Stay Tuned for Date



Saturday, Sunday June 27, 28



Saturday, Aug 22

Club BBQ
Stay Tuned for Date



Sunday, Aug 30



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The Terry Fox Foundation

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Sunday, Sept 13



Saturday, Sept 19



Walk-A-Dog-A-Thon Saturday, Oct 3



Sunday, Oct 4

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Have you renewed your Club Membership?

If you haven't renewed your Club membership for the coming year please consider doing so soon. When you do renew your membership, please take a moment or two to verify your contact information and your email address. This is very important for the membership secretary and the Club executive.

<http://www.ve3osh.com/08-Membership-Form.pdf>

Our Membership Secretary is looking forward to hearing from you.

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From the Chair in the Shack

I recently watched a documentary on the Cascadia fault that runs from Alaska to California and which may be linked to the San Andreas Fault. The Cascadia lies mainly undersea off the coast, where the pacific plate begins its descent under the North American plate.

As slow as that grinding movement is, it literally folds mountains and causes both severe earthquakes and volcanoes From Alaska to BC to Washington (Mount St. Helens) through to California. Scientists working on Tsunami research and prediction are quite certain that any earthquake destruction we have seen over the last 50 years will pale by comparison with a major slip event. Simple things that people take for granted will no longer exist, like a fire station built within reach of a Tsunami. Hence no fire protection when gas lines rupture and no way of getting to disaster scenes because the trucks will be "drowned".

What has this to do with us? There exist many natural disasters that can happen to us even here in "safe" Toronto. A large earthquake could cut power, water, hydro and transportation links and create a situation every bit as destructive as Hurricane Katrina did. Weather could create ever more destructive storms that could flood subways, bring down power networks and wash out highways. We have become quite relaxed about our safety even as global warming threatens to bring just such events. Perhaps we will be as lucky as we obviously believe.

Why am I bringing this up? For starters, I was worried by that documentary. Our infrastructure and our emergency measures are great for small events but, as we have seen many times in recent decades, these things have a habit of multiplying in their effects. Next, I began to think what I would do in a catastrophe like these. Obviously safety for the family is first, which might mean a local or more distant shelter. Then the question is how to be a help instead of a burden. I couldn't sit in a shelter picking my nose if I had the means to do something.

And I do have the means. Like all of you, I have radio and the knowledge to use it to help and to find out what exactly is happening. I realize, however, that unless I have kept in touch with some of the hams who will form

communications teams, my skills won't count for much.

Give it some thought.

73 de Pete 73 de Pete

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They say that "half the fun is getting there". These days I question that saying. The questions started for me as I was pulling together the 'things' that make up my Level A kit for ARES. First of all, I found myself questioning myself. This wasn't the 'situational alzheimers' type of questions, nor was it the "what am I here after" type of questions. It was the 'how could it have disappeared?' type of questions. At this point in my life my memory is still quite good, in spite of what my wife might say. Finding everything in the box I put it in except for one thing is annoying to say the least. My wife would say, "it could be that I have too many boxes of stuff". I don't think so. Finding one thing gone or more accurately not finding one thing with all the other things gives one cause to mutter.

I should have seen it coming back in January when I last saw my Durham Region map book. I saw it with the other stuff in the box in the garage while I was testing my little backup generator. They say that testing the generator should be a monthly task. I manage about every 6 weeks or so, especially in the colder weather. I test the generator loaded of course (the generator, not me). My 100 watt trouble light makes a good load after letting the little beast warm up for a few minutes. This time the little generator pattered along as one would expect for a good 20 to 30 minutes. THEN it fun started. At first I thought there might be water in the gas... Then as the misfires grew more frequent I feared that the ignition system was in the process of 'giving up the ghost'. My fears were confirmed about 5 minutes later when in spite of my best efforts it died. NO SPARK!! It was too cold to work on the generator in the garage and I knew better than to bring it into the house. Having had the battery I has used as a 12V supply reach the end of its useful life, I was feeling more vulnerable than usual.

Fast forward to mid-February when I was gathering what remained of my kit. I knew where the box with the stuff was. I found that no problem. The map book had obviously achieved invisibility. At almost the same time my 2M mobile started acting up. Those of you who have spotted a trend have probably been here before. I had intended to swing by our local HAM store on Saturday for the parts. I even called ahead and talked with Ralph who told me, they had more than one of what I needed. This way, I'd be at least on the road to recovery ARES kit-wise. However things around the house needed attention. Installation of closet doors turned from a couple of hours of careful work, into an all-day marathon of "how could be out by $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch, for heaven's sake!!!", knuckle scraping, 'don't mark the wall', 'oops', 'oh well', type of day.

So here I sit. I've got an invisible map book, deader than dead generator and battery, with a 2M mobile in need of surgery. After I finish this I think I'll retire to the garage. I need to retune my sense of 'stuff' and the garage is a good place to start. A garage can be a wonderful place. It holds a car, lawn and garden tools, a work bench, tools and the family stuff. Of course you need to be able to discern things that are stuff, from things that are not stuff. I have things that are stuff, things that might be stuff, things that are junk and garbage. It is safe to dispose of garbage. Junk might be garbage or it might be stuff so you have to be careful. I fear that some of my stuff may have accidently been identified as junk that is garbage and it's gone.

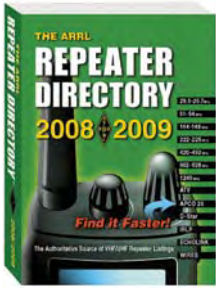
I'm trying to be careful when replacing stuff, because while having 2 of something is good, having more than 2 of something could be interpreted as having too much stuff and not knowing where everything is..... That's not a good sign. It will be interesting to see how much is missing from my level A kit when I get all the stuff together. Maybe I need a bigger box.

Your humble scribe,

Ken
VE3RMK

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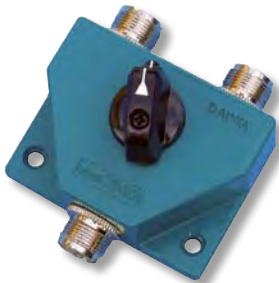
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