

# NORTH SHORE ARC



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



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## The Hamfest Edition

From Walter VA3WYC

Hello Everyone!



I would like to share this update regarding Hamfest 2011 as I am sure you all would like to know how we did this year. Before I get to the nitty gritty, I would like to say thank you to all who assisted this year. The Team Leaders and their members did a phenomenal job and I doff my hat off to you all.

I trust you all had a great time assisting others and buying or selling stuff. The preliminary report I received shows we almost made 50% better than last year! That is very good news and it tells me



we're on the right track. Because we were operating in a new location, we came up with new procedures on how we were going to manage the event. Some worked and some needed more tuning. Some ideas took off while some unforeseen issues were discovered and will need to be addressed next year. With the sobering trend in our performance over the years, I was hoping to reverse this so doing so with more revenue was a bonus. Now it is important for us to tweak this further and hopefully do even better next year.



This year I managed to collect emails from participating vendors for my file. My intention was to thank them for joining our event and allow them to provide us feedback from their perspective. Their emails will likewise be used next year when we organize Hamfest and send out invitations and registration forms electronically. I received about half a dozen replies, all with positive feedback and reiterating some of the minor issues we have already identified. Many were thrilled at how easy and fast it was for them to move from the curb to their table. Everyone loved the location and was happy with the event as a whole. They asked me to relay their congratulations to the members of both clubs for a job well done. One vendor was happy to point out that he reversed a downward trend in revenue this year! Sound familiar? No doubt the committee will go through these findings next time and see where we can improve.



The increase in profits this year could be a direct result of a reduction in operating expenses (no chair and table rentals). Our revenue from tables and entrance this year was close to last year's figures. Did I expect it to be higher? I HOPED but I didn't expect it. I believe behavioral changes do not happen overnight so any benefit we get from the new location may not be seen right away in terms of

sales. The snack counter with free coffee and tea was a big hit. Plenty of people took advantage of this and utilized our social area to chat and shoot the breeze. Many noticed the crowd didn't thin out as fast as in previous years. Our venture broke even but we learned many things that will help us make this a revenue generator next year. Our club table did very well too. We didn't have as much stuff as the other 2 clubs but I think for just 1 table we did very well. Remember the folks from Whitby who booked 2 tables last year? Well they had 5 this year and from the looks of it, they went home happy.



On the whole, this year's event was damn good! We just need to stay on track with our effort to cut cost and increase participation for next year. Before I wrap up my report, I would like specially thank Steve VA3TPS, and his group who not only had to hunker down in their rain gear, but had to deal with parking issues and short tempers as well. Peter VA3PWH, as always was very relaxed and calm even when everything (table rearrangement, impatient vendors, non-stop request for directives) seemed to be happening at once. And if that wasn't enough, one point in the morning, Peter had to run out to buy supplies for our snack counter. A dynamic duo, Martha VA3SBD and Tom VA3TVK were great behind the snack counter and at the end of our event, I am sure they could operate the percolator with their eyes closed. To every one of you, and other whose name I may not have mentioned, congratulations for a successful 2011 Hamfest! I most certainly look forward to your valuable support next year.

73.  
Walter

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## The New Home of Our Club Meeting

From Martha VA3SBD

Hello everyone!!!!

Well you could say its official. After some searching done by Joe, VE3VJG and I VA3SBD, we have found a new home. Yeah it was a quick search but this place we have found it's going to be difficult to not say no to. For our May meeting the North Shore Amateur Radio Club will be meeting at

## **White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence**

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The White Cliffe Terrace has a multi-purpose room available Tuesday nights and can have a capacity of up to 80 people. Included is a projector, a projector screen, access to a kitchen equipped with two coffee perks, a stove and oven, microwave, and fridge for us to use as well as tables and chairs which they will set up for us in advanced. We have booked the room for May 17<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, from 7pm to 10pm and tentatively booked for June 21<sup>st</sup> from 7pm to 10pm. If the club decides they would prefer to keep looking for a new location we are able to cancel the booking for June 21<sup>st</sup>.

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## **Distracted Driving Update**

From Bill Unger, VE3XT – RAC Director, Ontario North/East Region (ve3xt@rac.ca)

After January 2013, Amateurs in Ontario will not be allowed to operate while mobile unless they have a hands free set up. Ontario Amateurs want to know about RAC's efforts to obtain a permanent exemption for Amateurs from Bill 118, the Distracted Driving Law.

We need to get Amateur Radio on the Legislators' and Bureaucrats' radar. To date, we have not made a case as to why we should be allowed to have this exemption. They are not aware of all the public service we do across Ontario and our contribution of countless hours to ensure that various events are held successfully and, most importantly, safely. In an event of an emergency, we are ready to provide backup communications. No one likes to think of tragedies but I am sure Japan is glad to have a large Amateur population that is probably taking some of the strain off a very busy communications infrastructure.

I have asked several groups and organizations here in Thunder Bay, Ontario that are assisted in communications by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club to write letters of support. I realize it's difficult to ask people for favours, but when asked to write a letter of support the comments I receive are amazing. Right after I asked for a letter, the organizer for a cross-country ski race said "we couldn't do it without the Lakehead ARC". Our liaison person at our hospital was also pleased to send a letter of support. In his email he stated, "I am in total support of your organization and willingness to support us in times of difficulty."

We need to be our own advocates and, at present, as providers of communications for various events in our communities we simply do not do it enough. We need to start now if we want to obtain that exemption.

As mentioned earlier I have several letters from local groups, but we need them from all regions of Ontario. If you are in Ontario and your club assists an organization to stage an event would you please consider contacting them and asking for support? When we get endorsements from across the province we will be prepared to press our case to allow Amateurs to obtain a permanent exemption. If you obtain a letter please send me a copy and I will forward it with all the other letters of support that are received. They will be sent to Kathleen Wynn, Minister of Transportation.

As the Director for North East Ontario I cannot do this alone. I need your assistance from across the province. Will you help?

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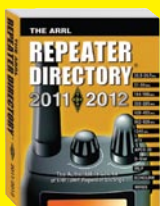
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