

# NORTH SHORE ARC



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## The February Meeting

Plan to be at the meeting.

Peter VA3PWH has a presentation which includes a review of wave interference with simulations that we can freeze for study. Peter is preparing something that will allow us to walk around the room and hear the effects of constructive and destructive interference.

He also has a look into the performance of the windom antenna on its fundamental band and harmonics. Time permitting we can have a look at take off elevation versus antenna height.

See you at there.

## Trapped in Charleston by the Santa Claus Parade.

From Ken VE3RMK

It's not as bad as it sounds. Our recent trip to the south at the beginning of December reached the end-goal, Charleston, South Carolina. We followed the trip-tik into town along the freeway, past many interesting looking places. We saw a restaurant that had been featured on one of the cooking shows on the FOOD network. We saw an old cigar factory that was being converted into condos. That seemed like a much better idea than knocking it down just to build another building. The temperature was way warmer that we were used to on a sunny December Sunday morning. The only thing missing was people and cars. I mean there were cars on the roads, but it was like downtown Whitby at 2 in the morning. The roads and the sidewalks were empty. After driving for about 10 minutes we spotted a police officer in his high visibility vest standing on the corner at East Bay and Calhoun at the lights. My buddy rolled down his windows and inquired where we could find parking. The answer was short. Turn right here!, take the next left! and then right into the parking garage. All days parking in Charleston is \$5. That's not bad. We did ask the parking lot attendant what was going on and his answer was a bit of a surprise. He said, "Oh you're just in time. They're closing the streets for the Santa Claus parade". The car safely parked we wandered out the side entrance into the street to witness dozens of floats, bands, baton troupes and everything in between. The atmosphere and general feeling of joy and good-will was unmistakable. Talk about a treat. We trekked round most of the downtown. From the start of the parade we wandered west on Calhoun to Meeting Street and south into the downtown area. We got to the pier near the cruise port and then down to Battery Park where the city itself seems to be at or slightly below sea-level. The houses, home where mansions. It must be seen to be believed. We even got to tour Calhoun Mansion. That is worth the price of admission. Simply unbelievable! Check it out at <http://www.calhounmansion.net/>

So with the day almost as spent as we were after a day's walking we decided to look up one of the restaurants recommended by the Amateurs in the Charleston area. You had to have guessed it would come down to food. The good folks at the Clubs I contacted sent back a whole list of places that would be worth a visit. I guess that's one reason why we'll be going back. We decided on Sticky Fingers, <http://www.stickyfingers.com/> at the corner of Meeting and Hasell streets. There are 3 reasons, we were going to have to walk past it to get to the car, we were hungry and it was on the list of places we had to eat.

Let me tell you about the ribs. First we learned that these were 'Memphis style' ribs. They're dry rubbed and smoked. Then we learned about the portions. Heidi and I ordered the rib platter for 2. There was no way as hungry as we were that we could eat it. .And tasty!!! Let me tell you, you didn't even need sauce. They had umpteen different kinds. My favourite was the Carolina Mustard sauce. They had a Chipotle sauce that was amazing. I still just shake my head at the tenderness and the taste of those ribs. When we had done our level best to clean our plates and admitted defeat, we decided to stroll back to the car. The surprises were over yet though. As we were paying I mentioned we were from Toronto and that this particular restaurant had been recommended to us by local Amateur Radio Operators. Well, say no more, I got a tour of the smokers. There were 2 of them each about the size of a small car. These folks take their BBQ seriously.

Special thanks to Jeff AI4RV, Doug KU4OC and their colleagues at the Trident Amateur Radio Club and the Charleston Amateur Radio Society. These guys really know their restaurants.

Did I mention we'll be going back?

## From the Chair in the Shack

Now that we are approaching Spring (slowly, I'll agree), It might be well for us to review some thoughts about Field Day antenna systems and what we can expect from them.

I think that the idea of Field Day as a preparation for emergencies is one that we might do well to explore. Maybe some of our keener members would like to try ideas like opposed hamsticks as a dipole. This would be in addition to more traditional antennas that we erect to be more certain of contacts.

The topic for the February meeting is one which includes a review of wave interference with simulations that we can freeze for study. Following that we can look into the performance of the window antenna on its fundamental band and harmonics. If time permits we can have a look at take off elevation versus antenna height.

We can relate some of the findings to the presentation we had about the true meaning of dB and perhaps make some decisions about what we can actually expect at Field Day in terms of antenna performance.

All in all I hope that it will make for interesting and thought provoking viewing and discussion.

73 for now,

Pete

## From Our Friends at SPARC

From Walter VA3WYC

# VA3XPR

*SHIFT INTO DIGITAL*

## Digital Mobile Radio Demystified



Interested in learning about the latest in digital voice communications? Perhaps you've heard something about DMR and MOTOTRBO, but not quite sure what they're all about or how they compare to D-STAR? Then you need to attend the South Pickering Amateur Radio Club (SPARC) monthly meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, to learn all about exciting world of Digital Mobile Radio (DMR). Don Trynor, VA3XFT, will be providing an overview of DMR and how it's being adopted by hams all over the world, including a live demonstration of world wide communications using DMR.

### EVENT DETAILS

#### Date & Time

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 7:30pm

#### Location

Pickering Recreation Complex  
1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering  
O'Brien Meeting Room 'A (use rear entrance to complex)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the South Pickering ARC, please check out [www.ve3spc.org](http://www.ve3spc.org).