

NORTH SHORE ARC



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Adventures with Amateur Radio

From Laird VE3LKS

Being inspired by Ken's, VE3RMK, recent article about how amateur radio has played out life experiences beyond the electronics, antennas and 59 QRZs, I thought that I would share a few that I have had over the next few issues of our newsletter.

My earliest experience happened not long after getting my ticket about twenty years ago. My XYL and I were heading to Virginia to meet up with some relatives and happened to stop in at a Ponderosa for a quick lunch. Ponderosa's had long disappeared from Ontario so I jumped all over the chance to relive that culinary experience again. As we pulled into the parking lot I could see that there were many American amateur vanity plates on many of the cars. If that did not give it away that there may be some hams inside then the plethora of antennas on vehicles, some even coming close to that array that Lee, VA3LHM, has on his vehicle, surely did.

Upon entering the Ponderosa I could see a long table with close to twenty people around it and I knew that this must be where the radio enthusiasts were sitting. After going through the line I made sure that I sat at a table that was parallel to theirs with my back to them. The XYL sat across from me so she could get a good look at the group.

Now, being a recent graduate of Rick Gibson's, VE3ASH, and George Burn's, VE3INB, radio course I still remembered enough of my 5wpm Morse code to be dangerous, or at least a bit devious. Those days are long past now and I can barely remember how to tap out CQ let alone anything else. During lull's in the groups animated conversation I would tap out CQ CQ CQ with the butt end of my knife. After the second or third time one of the patrons at the long table asked who was tapping out CQ in Morse code. Of course none of them would admit to it as none of them had done it. A few minutes later I was at it again tapping out CQ. Again, the same guy questioned his group of fellow diners insisting that someone confess that they were tapping CQ. This time he had a witness or two that had heard it too but again no one admitted being the code originator. At the next lull in verbal activity I tapped out CQ CQ de VE3LKS. This time the fellow was quite animated and insisted on knowing who, of his dinner companions, was typing out CQ and apparently using a Canadian callsign. I could take it no longer as I was about to split open with laughter. I turned around, raised my hand, and confessed to the evil deeds that I had wrought.

As it turns out this dinner get-together was a quarterly event for the local ARRL designates and I ended up spending the next twenty minutes or so having an enjoyable QSO with people who I had never met before in my life but had an instant bond with. That is the nice thing about Amateur radio - no matter where you go the fraternity will almost always welcome you with open arms and make you feel like you have been friends forever.

73 de VE3LKS

Who have you been talking with?

Ralph VE3CRK sends these great QSL cards from recent QSOs.



Battleship NC. N14BK: Original radio equipment still in use on the ham bands. Worked April 14 2012



Special call, Titanic TM5MGY: 100 years. QSL Manager: F6KFW. Worked April 9 2012

The Club Meeting Schedule

Here is the schedule for the meetings this coming year. It's always great to see a good turn-out at the Club meetings. Some of the recent presentations have been quite interesting.

Remember, we meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Whitecliffe Terrace Retirement Residence at 1460 Hwy 2 in Courtice. They have a very nice activity room in the basement.

February 19th

March 19th

April 16th

May 21st

June 18th

September 17th

October 15th

November 19th

December 17th

Stick it on your fridge...

Thoughts on a chilly winters evening

Looking at the QSL cards from Ralph took me back. Not to the Titanic, I'm not that old, although some days I feel like it, but to the Battleship North Carolina. She's berthed in Wilmington NC, and to say she is spectacular is a gross understatement. In years past, my folks would spend November each year in Myrtle Beach. One of those Novembers when my boys were young and my Dad was still alive, we went down for a visit. Dad and I decided to take the hour and a bit of a drive up to Wilmington with the boys. Although, we all know the way things work and it might have been my Wife and my Mom who decided on the trip. No matter, it was a great day. The drive was unremarkable and the 'are we there yet', 'are we there yet', etc., started about half way and lasted right until we pulled into the parking lot. The boys didn't care that much about the history then.... The 'big boat', with a plane on it and 'big guns' was another thing altogether. You can probably picture 2 little guys standing beside the 16inch projectiles on display. They loved looking through the sites for the 16 inch guns to see the other side of the river....They were mesmerized by all of the 'things and stuff' in the ship itself. Now of course we're all older. Their appreciation for the history, the sacrifice and the grim determination of those who secured our freedom means a little bit more. We owe a great deal to the ordinary citizens who decided that what they had was worth fighting to preserve. Remember that when you are talking to those ordinary citizens. Remember to say 'Thank You'.

It's the same with Amateur Radio. There are quite few ordinary citizens who did a lot of things to bring us to where we are in the hobby today. Some of the things they did in terms of experimentation and radio craft, we take for granted. Remember that when you are talking to those ordinary citizens. Remember to say 'Thank You'. Remember that it is up to us to build up the hobby.

Thank You!

If you have the chance to see the Battleship North Carolina, Take it!!

Your humble scribe

Ken

Special 20th Anniversary Flash Deals from Durham Radio

Anniversary Deals will be offered on the 20th of every month for the rest of this year. Get in on these deals every month by subscribing to our flash deals at

<http://www.durhamradio.com/flash-deals.html>

Check out our offerings from the 20th of this month.

1 - Comet CN801HP3 -- Reg: \$199.95 Flash Deal Price \$174.97!!

<http://www.durhamradio.com/product.php?productid=48162&cat=1643>

2 - MFJ-934 Artificial Ground/Tuner Covers 1.8-30 MHZ HF -- Reg: \$169.95 -- Flash Deal Price \$138.98

Sorry, sold out!

3 - Galaxy 94 Mobile 10 Meter Transceiver -- Reg: \$469.95 -- Flash Deal Price \$398.97

<http://www.durhamradio.com/product.php?productid=48164&cat=1979>

4 - Icom R-20 Full Coverage Wideband Scanner -- Reg: \$649.95 -- Current Sale Price:\$619.97 -- Flash Deal Price \$599.97!!

<http://www.durhamradio.com/product.php?productid=48165&cat=1839>

All offers are subject to current stock on hand and No Rainchecks will be available.

Offers Expire at Midnight, Sunday January 27th,2013

Order Now As Stock is Limited -- Tell Your Friends!!!

Regards,
Jami (VA3HAB)