

" S P A R K S "

THE NORTH SHORE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

MARCH EDITION 1980

EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS:

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Directors	Cy Hamilton	VE3LET	263-8157
	Gord MacDuff	VE3AMQ	263-8386
	John Pluister	VE3FGL	655-4269
	Steve Wotton	VE3CFG	725-4197
Treasurer	Hank Verwoerd	VE3FHV	686-1382
Secretary	Gord MacDuff	VE3AMQ	263-8386
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Editor	Gunter Bohlken	VE3LHM	263-2180
Assistant Editor	Mac McFarlane	VE3IKG	723-8484
Technical Editor	Gary Heagle	VE3EPY	723-9915

Club repeater: VE3OSH

Club station: VE3NSR

Thursday night net meets every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM on VE3OSH with Perce VE3AEX at net control.

Sunday morning net meets every Sunday morning on 28.200 Mhz. at 10:00 AM with George VE3GOU at net control.

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\* NOTICE OF THE NEXT MEETING \*

\* OF THE NORTH SHORE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. \*

\* DATE: MARCH 11 1980 \*

\* PLACE: O'NEILL COLLEGIATE \*

\* TIME: 8:00 P.M. \*

\* AGENDA: FLEAMARKET \*

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News:

- VE3 car license number application forms will be available at the next meeting.
- So far this year we have received \$42.00 in donations for VE3OSH. Anyone wishing to help with the expenses and up-keep for our repeater please send your donations to: N.S.A.R.C. INC. P.O. Box 171, Oshawa, Ont. L1H 7L1
- Here are the names of the first 9 winners of the N.S.A.R.C. 25 club members contact award:

1.	Dec. 8 1964	Colin Bell	VE3CEU
2.	Dec. 8 1964	Ralph Day	VE3CRK
3.	Feb. 21 1965	Farney LeGresley	VE3BHQ
4.	Feb. 9 1966	Jack Avis	VE3DTS
5.	Mar. 8 1966	Ken Aston	VE3FPP
6.	Apr. 1966	Bernie Sandbrook	VE3ATI
7.	Feb. 7 1977	Hank Verwoerd	VE3PHV
8.	Feb. 7 1977	R.J. "Bob" Miller	VE3HNH
9.	Apr. 1977	G. "Mac" McFarlane	VE3IKG

We understand that Bob VE3LLZ has also Contacted and QSLed 25 members and will have his award coming up shortly.

- John VE3FGL our Registrar, reports that we now have 139 members. This is the highest number of members since the club started, which should make it a lot easier to make those 25 contacts. A membership list prepared by Mac IKG appears elsewhere in this Bulletin.

THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT - North Shore Amateur Radio Club Members!  
Your beautiful crystal pedestal cake plate made my cake into a perfect Christmas table centre, which was admired by everyone. It is something I have always wanted and never got around to buying.

I enjoyed working with Glen in your newsletters because it kept me in touch with amateur radio. I hope in the near future, when my husband can spare a little time, we can renew our interest as members of your club.

Thank you again for your generosity and thoughtfulness.  
YOUR GIFT WAS BEAUTIFUL AND KNOWING THAT IT CAME FROM YOU  
MAKES IT EVEN MORE SPECIAL! THANK YOU!

I received a copy of your first issue for 1980 and if this is any indication of what will follow, I know that it will be a newsletter to be proud of.

Sincerely, Lillian Sharp

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE NORTH SHORE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TWO METRE NET

Net attendance for February was down somewhat, the average nightly number of 'check-ins' being 40.25, resulting from several conflicting activities, and most certainly resulting from the large number of people under the weather from colds, flu, and associated miseries. Your net controller had the miseries a couple of Thursday nights. And Bob, VE3HNN, has been suffering the miseries for some time. He has been running the CODE PRACTICE TAPES provided by Bernie, VE3ATI, for the MOD SQUAD, despite feeling low, and doing a bang-up job. I would like to have a few more comments made each night after the tapes for Bob's information. I am sure he would like to know: Who listens - How many - Do you feel that any changes are necessary - Etc. Bob and his merry helpers do go to considerable pains to provide this service, and even a friendly pooch likes a pat on the back for a job well done, and while Bob hasn't gone to the dogs yet, I'm sure you get my point!

The thanks of all are in order to the technical staff, who again at considerable personal inconvenience, and I realize, Harry, that's putting it mildly, are doing their best to clear up the gremlins and glitches that plague "Good Old O S H" from time to time. THANKS FELLOWS.

Again a reminder: Don't forget to keep the Dominion Store tapes coming in. In order to support any worthwhile project we require the efforts of all. To quote from the recent mail appeal for crippled children the cost of an electric wheel-chair, for example, is up to \$3200.00. This related to D. S. tapes totals becomes real box-car figures! So club members and friends keep them coming.

And speaking now for the entire net, I would like to extend best wishes to all of our members and listeners who are on the sick-list, and our hopes for a speedy recovery. And as always, a warm welcome to all to call in, with or without traffic, and good wishes to all of our listeners who are unable to take a more active part.

73 and 88, Perce, VE3AEX, Net Control.

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RETURN BY POPULAR DEMAND

I have had requests for the return of C.W. practice at 7:00 pm just before the regular meeting. So bring your writing equipment and come in good time. Bernie ATI has made terrific tapes for us, so let's use them. 7:00 pm SHARP.

MOD SQUAD Eric HMG

Gary EPY or technical editor was on holidays down in Florida for a few weeks and he reports that he will continue with his monthly column I.C.CORNER in the next newsletter.

## THE KERCHUNK

How many of us have sat around whiling away the time counting KERCHUNKS on our local repeaters? I certainly have, and find this a way to pass away many endless hours. It's truly amazing how many KERCHUNKS one will hear in a given period of time if one will only take the time and effort to count them. No sophisticated equipment is needed. Just check your watch and look at it later to see how much time has passed and how many KERCHUNKS you hear in that particular period of time.

A KERCHUNK is made, for those who don't know, by accessing the repeater. Assuming everyone knows what a repeater is, I won't go into detail along this line. At any rate, when a repeater is on the air and someone depresses his microphone button with his radio on and a suitable antenna attached to said radio, a signal is sent out on the crowded airways, picked up by the receiving antenna, and then retransmitted by the repeater. Being the ignorant soul that I am as to how all this works, I will leave that up to someone else.

One day recently, I decided to count the number of KERCHUNKS I would hear during a 15 minute period of time. To my utter astonishment, there were 17 of those rascals. So, I did some contemplating as to why there were so many of those dudes, and came up with some good answers, in my own mind that is.

Although his radio had been on all day and he had enjoyed signal sapping several good conversations, he hadn't said a word to anyone. But the time came when he had to hit the sandbox, so taking time out to do this, he returned and heard no one on. Huh, the repeater must be off the air. Hitting the mike button, he hears a familiar KERCHUNK. He hits it again. Nope, its working fine. Still he doesn't talk.

One good way of getting in some code practice is hearing repeaters I.D. By and large, most repeaters I.D. in Samuel's method of talking. Speeds vary from repeater to repeater as to how fast this stuff comes across, but most are in the range of 15 to 20 w.p.m. So, while cramming for that Advanced, it's good to take time off from the books and have a little code practice. Numbers are a problem though, for in this area, about the only number heard is a 3, so if something else crops up on the exam, you are out of luck. Since most repeaters only I.D. once every few minutes, one can jump from repeater to repeater in jackrabbit fashion and get in lots of good practice. Wouldn't want to miss hearing any of them I.D. I feel some don't take advantage of this opportunity, for now and then, I will hear a local want to use the autopach and have to ask someone the call of the repeater. Too bad.

Undoubtedly, some folks don't own a key or else it's stashed away in the junk box. Rather than find the old hunk of brass, they improve their fist using the KERCHUNK. Yep, one hears some

pretty nice fists. To the trained ear, one can distinguish dits from dahs. Most people have trouble with s'es and h'es. A good way to remember an "h" is to ask yourself who did it. DiDi Did it. That wasn't hard was it? Anyway, by hitting the mike button in rapid succession 3 times, you get an s, or 4 times, an h. To get a d, you go KERRRRRRRCHUNK, KERCHUNK, KERCHUNK.

KERCHUNKING the repeater is a good way to signal your friend that you are listening and if he or she wants to talk to you, you are available. Some of these codes get fairly complicated, but by listening enough, you can easily figure them out. Perhaps Mark wants to get hold of Kay, but he doesn't want to come on and call her, giving his call, so to signal her and see if perhaps she is around, he makes 3 KERCHUNKS in rapid succession. Upon hearing this, Kay is fairly sure Mark is signalling her, she KERCHUNKS back 2 times in rapid succession. Hearing this, Mark knows his loving mate got the signal so he calls her. Easy isn't it?

I hear tell there are many more signal sappers than talkers. You know, folks who won't talk to anyone but just listen in on others all the time. Well, just in case they ever do want to talk to someone, they have to keep the spring active which helps hold the mike button tight. Never can tell when that thing will stick, so to keep it working fine, a KERCHUNK is needed now and then to keep the old spring limbered up. I hear this will also keep out cobwebs. No need to give a call for something like this, for you don't plan to do any talking now anyway.

Of course, one of the handiest times to KERCHUNK a repeater is while mobiling. We do have areas throughout the province where it is impossible to hit one of the stupid repeaters. To determine when you are close enough to put in a decent signal in the repeater, simply KERCHUNK the thing and see how strong the repeater comes back at you. If it's kinda noisy, undoubtedly you will be noisy into the repeater. Keep KERCHUNKING it until it's fairly quiet and more than likely you will be pretty good into the machine. I know of one local amateur who does do this and to remove the guilt from his mind and to disguise himself as the actual KERCHUNKER, he will "QRZ" the KERCHUNKER. Who's the KERCHUNKER? This is VE3--- calling the KERCHUNKER, when all the time he is actually the one doing the KERCHUNKING. Pretty sneaky, isn't it?

There are times though when it is hard to figure out the purpose of a KERCHUNK. It can get kinda scary too. This really bothers me late at night and sometimes makes the hair on the back of my neck stand straight out. During the wee hours of the morning, I might give a call to someone; he doesn't come back to my call, but I hear 2 or 3 different KERCHUNKS. Undoubtedly this person doesn't want to talk to me or he would have given his call. But what is he trying to tell me? I can't figure it out. Makes me wonder who is out there peeping over my shoulder.

You know, it would be very very interesting if all our radios had a little man in them that would I.D. us everytime we depressed the mike button. Seems like I saw something like this advertised in one of the ham publications. Something that you could attach to your radio and every time you squeezed the button, your call would come out in Morse. This is supposed to be a good way of identifying your radio in case it gets ripped off and some boot-legger starts using it. Not a bad idea is it? I bet if all radios had this feature, we would hear less and less KERCHUNKING.

These are some of the reasons I KERCHUNK repeaters. I know there are some of you who have better reasons, so let me know and we can all share our reasons. If we can get enough of them, we might print a book on KERCHUNKING. K5NK

The above is an article by Charles E. Whilhite K5NK as it appeared in the Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs Collector and Emitter. The only changes we made were to exchange a VE3 for a W5 in the original publication in order to prevent confusion and distraction. We also exchanged Advanced for Extra, Province for State, etc.--in other words we Ontariorized the article for which we apologize to Mr. Whilhite.-ed.

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The projected dates for this years D.O.C. examinations are: April 16, June 18 and October 15.

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March 31 is the expiry date for our radio station licenses. This is a reminder in case anyone is becoming concerned, the D.O.C. usually sends out notices to all license holders.

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#### FOR SALE OR WANTED

Members of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club may use this column to advertise their Ham oriented items, free of charge. All listings will appear in the first bulletin after they are turned in and will be reprinted in the next two bulletins unless deleted.

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FOR SALE: SB 104-A complete with - 500 Hz CW Filter  
- DC Power Supply (Plugs into AC)  
- Speaker  
- Microphone  
\$1200.00 or best offer. Phone 644-5336 between 8 am and  
4 pm or phone 655-4269 after 5 pm John Pluister VE3FGL.  
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**FOR SALE:** Wilson Mark II 6 chan. Handheld, high - low power,  
touchtone, two battery packs, charger, heavy carrying  
case. \$300.00  
Call Bill VE3KZL at 263-2969  
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Quart size dummy load, 100 watts output maximum in.  
Call Mac VE3IKG at 723-8484  
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A six-meter transverter - FTV 650, \$175.00  
An SSB-CW filter - SL55, \$50.00  
Also an MFJ CW filter, \$20.00  
Call Vic VE3LNX at 983-5831  
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A Johnson Viking Ranger I transmitter - 160 through  
10 meters, CW - AM, with antenna relay.  
A realistic DX-160 receiver.  
Call Gunter VE3LHM at 263-2180  
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**WANTED:** A schematic diagram for an Icom VTVM model 232  
Amphenol plugs # 26-4100 16P, # 26-4100 8P  
Anyone knowing a source for 6 to 8 fibre glass rods  
12 to 15 ft. long - suitable for a quad, please call  
Charlie VE3IBO at 668-7481  
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Canadian Motorola model CI43GGB-3100B service manual  
or schematic diagram or a copy of same. Please call  
Gunter VE3LHM at 263-2180  
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We have changed the format of SPARKS a little this month in a  
continuing effort to reduce cost. It is perhaps not quite as  
handy but it cuts the expense of the printing paper by one third.  
From a publishing point of view the work is about the same. Any  
comments pro or con should be expressed at the next club meeting.

73, Gunter LHM

