

Monthly Update

February 2019

February Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, Feb 19, 7:00pm
Where: White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence



Since we are Amateurs, and part of being an Amateur is to be ready to provide communication in emergency situations, this evening's presentation will be a show-and-tell format where you can bring in your emergency kits and explain to the members what you have in your kit and why you chose those items. Your kit may be as simple as a 2m handheld and a roll-up J-Pole or extensive as a self-contained unit with a radio, power supply, solar cells and battery along with other needed provisions. The intent is not to show off how extravagant your kit is but to give others ideas as to what they can include in their kits that they may not have thought of. When I was Googling emergency radio kit it was interesting to see that a lot of people who participate in prepper activities also encourage their followers to become Amateurs as they realize the value of not only communicating but knowing the theory behind it when it comes to an emergency situation.

Distracted Driving Presentation

Laird Solomon VE3LKS gave a presentation on the distracted driving guidelines in Ontario and how they affect Amateur Radio operators. As of January 1, 2019 you can receive a fine of \$1,000 and lose 3 points for the first offence. Amateurs have been given an exception until 2021 and there is a section in the regulations just about Amateurs. The RAC website has some great information and lots of links to pertinent information. <https://wp.rac.ca/distracted-driving/>



Yearly Membership

Our membership drive for 2019 has come to a close. However, if you have not renewed your membership, or have decided to become a member of the North Shore ARC, you will be happy to know that we will not charge you a premium for late registration. ☺ If you are a member of RAC, Radio Amateurs of Canada, membership is \$30. If you are not a member of RAC then membership is \$40. The difference is due to our club insurance policy that we have through RAC. **If you are paying by cheque it MUST be made out to "North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc"** as the bank may not take it otherwise. With proper ID we will also accept cash. Please bring a completed membership form to the next meeting or email it to **Clint VA3KDK**. You can find contact info on our website at www.ve3osh.com. Thank you.

Volunteers Needed – Scout Presentation

Scouter **Thomas VE3PDK** has informed us that due to some scheduling conflicts with the Scouts that the Scout presentation is being postponed for a few months. We appreciate those who had volunteered, and those that had been voluntold, for stepping up and offering your assistance. We will let everyone know when the new date has been set and we will once again organize the Amateur Radio troops.



Field Day Co-ordinator Needed



We are in need of someone to fill the position of Field Day Co-ordinator this June 22-23. **Martha VA3SBD** has worked hard in the past and turned this into a well-organized event but, unfortunately, is not able to lead out this year. The co-ordinators role will entail the following:

- **Food** - organizing, but not necessarily cooking, lunch and supper on the Saturday, breakfast on the Sunday and having snacks and beverages available
- **ARRL Liaison** – making sure all documentation is submitted to the ARRL for scoring
- **Stations** – solicit members to setup and run up to four stations

With regards to the food it does not need to be extravagant. Sandwiches, burgers, dogs, coffee, water, chips, cookies, etc are fine. If people want more than they are welcome to bring what they like. Operators or other members on-site are capable of sharing the culinary duties.

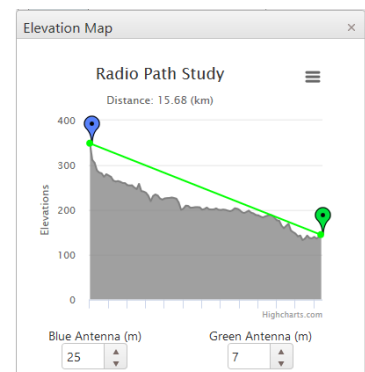
The teams of operators look after the installation and take-down of their equipment with the help of volunteers who come to help out during those times. Last year we had two stations inside the CLOCA building (see pic above) and two outside in tents. I think this year we should put all four inside as it is a large enough area that I don't think we will interfere with each other and each corner has a door to the outside.

I will get a more detailed description of duties from Martha and present it at the February meeting. Other members are always willing to help out so the organizer does not usually have to do all this by themselves. Hopefully it is more of a managing type role.

Elevation Software

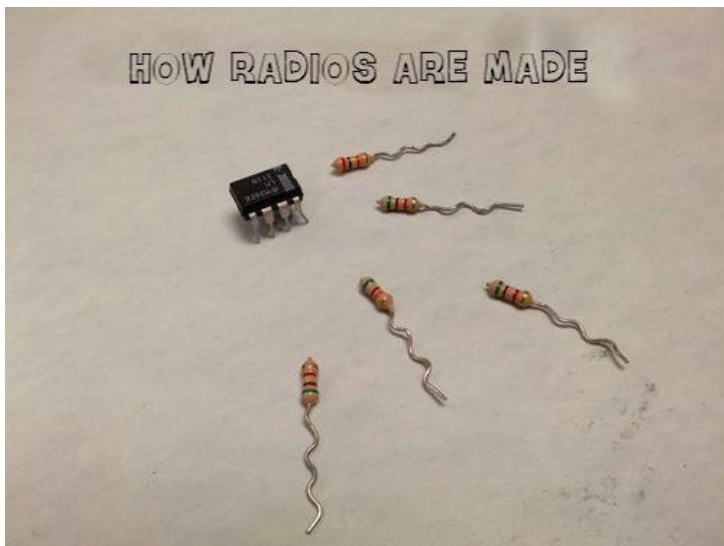
If you are needing to check out the elevation between two locations, and any potential natural obstructions, then you may want to take a peek at this free online option.

Scadacore (<https://www.scadacore.com/tools/rf-path/rf-line-of-sight/>) allows you to drag two pins around a map and include the height of the antenna at each end. It will display a line-of-sight chart along with distance elevations. This screen shot shows the path between the repeater and the VE3LKS QTH.



VE3Very Good Jokes

Joe VE3VGJ strikes again!



Tuesday Night Rag Chew



Our Tuesday night rag chews are still going strong. This is not a formal net but rather a lively roundtable. Some can only stick around for a few minutes while others are there from start to finish. We never know what the topic de jour will be but someone always comes up with something. So, if you are available between 1900 and

2000hr on Tuesdays pop onto OSH and join the conversation. As well, since this is a rag chew, and not a net, feel free to step in and moderate the group should one of the regulars not be there. All you have to do is jot down who is on and rotate through the list so that everyone gets a chance to participate.

Wednesday Night Face-to-Face

As well as the Tuesday night rag chew on the repeater there is quite a crew that meet at the Tim Horton's at King and Wilson at about 8pm every Wednesday. It actually gets quite crazy as we discuss all things radio, update our digital radios

with the latest code plugs, show any new gadgets that have been acquired and generally have a good time. If you are in the area on Wednesday night, and have a few minutes to spare, we would definitely enjoy your company. This is open to anyone whether you are a member of the North Shore ARC or not.



Saturday Breakfast

If you are not tired of chatting or meeting up with club members during the week then you will be interested to know that there is a small group that meets on Saturday morning for breakfast at Johnny's Original Eatery. The restaurant is located in the plaza on the northwest corner of King and Thornton. Members and families usually start to arrive at about 8:30am.



As well, if there is work to be done at the repeater site on a Saturday morning, you will quite often find a large crowd at White Feather Farm, which opens at 8:30am, enjoying coffee, breakfast and maybe even one of their amazing, freshly baked, apple fritters. Just give a shout on the repeater between 8:00 and 8:20 to see if anyone is heading up that way and come and join us if we are. White Feather Farm is located at the corner of Simcoe St and Raglan Rd in Raglan.

QRM from the Shack



First off, I need to apologize for not having an Update for January. Our oldest son Luke, his wife Jodie and our granddog Izzy were home for two weeks visiting from Alberta over the Christmas holiday and we were making the most of it.

My favorite part of the Update is when I can introduce and welcome new members to the North Shore ARC. **Darren Bachmeier VE3NMD** joined us at the Christmas potluck. I got a chance to chat with Darren a bit at the January meeting and found out that he likes to build things so we will have to store that information in the memory bank as I am sure we will have need to call upon his skills. At our January meeting we had three new members join. **William Cox SWL** has been bitten by the Amateur Radio bug and is working toward getting his ticket. **William**, I am sorry that I did not get a chance to chat at the meeting but hope to catch up with you at the February meeting. We have several members who are SWLs (Short Wave Listeners, non-licensed radio enthusiasts) but don't let that stop any of you from coming out to any events like Field Day or public service functions. At these events you are allowed to use our radios and callsigns as there are other licensed Amateurs supervising. The North Shore Amateurs are a great group to ask any questions to when studying for your ticket. If someone does not know the answer they can point you in the right direction to someone who does. Many of you already know **Alison Honsberger VE3GRL** as she is the chair for our Hamfest. **Alison** is also now a member of the North Shore and she brought along her friend **Steve Reid VE3SBQ** who is now a member too! I also missed getting to chat with **Alison** and **Steve** at the break. I work closely with **Alison** on the Hamfest so she probably wanted to get out of there as quickly as possible before I had a chance to rope her into another project! ☺ And, just sneaking in under the Update deadline, **Brian Hopkins VA3BAH** has rejoined North Shore. **Brian** is living down in the Kingston area but recently got back in touch with us and has decided to join our group again. Great having you aboard **Brian** and we look forward to hearing you on the Tuesday evening rag chews as soon as you get your phone set up. A warm welcome is extended to **Darren, William, Alison, Steve and Brian!**

Field Day is a long way off but I just want to put the bug in your ear about stations for this year. Ideally we will run four stations and I am thinking that they can all be located inside the CLOCA building so we do not have to fight with tents during inclement weather. We can have a discussion around this at our next club meeting. To be fair to those who have supported this event in the past first dibs will go to the operators who brought out equipment and set up stations last year. You know who you are so please let me know if you are interested in participating again this year. To new Amateurs and SWLs this is a great time to come out, jump on a microphone, and make contacts around the world. If all goes well we will have two stations setup for voice, one for CW and one for Digital. Lots of fun to go around!

Even though we have had some cold Arctic temperatures coupled with less than ideal precipitation we have made several treks to the repeater site to service some equipment. There was a power failure a few weeks ago that lasted up to 30 minutes. In that time our UPS batteries, that run several controllers and the DMR radios, died as they are only designed to run for 10 minutes or so. Normally this would not happen as the backup generator would kick on in less than two minutes but, as luck would have it, the starter motor on the propane generator fried so it never turned on. A new starter motor was ordered, has arrived and is awaiting installation. On a positive note, the heater that was installed in the repeater shack works perfectly and makes it enjoyable to work up there even when it is really cold.

Well, I better wrap this up and get it out in the email. Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday evening!

73 de Laird VE3LKS