



Monthly Update

December 2019

December Club Meeting

Christmas Party!

When: Tuesday, Dec 17, 7:00pm
Where: White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence

If you have been a member of the North Shore for a few years, and do not know what the December meeting is, than all I can ask is "how did you ever get your licence?!" For those who are relatively new, our December meeting is one of our highlights of the year. We have tuned up Santa's HF rig, programmed all the repeater frequencies around the world into his handheld, made sure his APRS is beaconing properly, tuned all his antennas, charged all the batteries and the jolly old man is ready to go. Now we can relax and enjoy a beautiful evening of food, merriment, and socializing with great friends. **Martha VA3SBD** is organizing who is bringing what for the potluck so please email her at va3sbd@gmail.com to let her know what you would like to bring. (Editor's note: I am starting to think that **Martha** is really Mrs. Claus!) As of earlier this week all the categories had been filled so if you are coming you are more than welcome to bring whatever you would like. A crock pot of meatballs. A veggie platter. A yumilicious dessert. A hot vegetable dish. Let your mind run wild!



Check out the Santa Net every evening at 7:15 central time from now to Christmas!



Tuesday Night Rag Chew

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 interesting. 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.

November Meeting – DREMO



Bob VE3HIX brought in a frequency counter along with **Jimmy VE3SOI's** deviation meter (I think this is the only piece of equipment that **Jimmy** has that has a functioning antenna on it) and we spent the first half of the evening evaluating the performance of all the handhelds that our members brought in to test.

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 7:30pm every Wednesday. This is a great time to get together to chat about radio or anything else that is on your mind. 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.



Repeater News

- ✓ Repeaters are working well
- ✓ Other equipment in the repeater shack is working well
- ✓ Generator is working well
- ✓ Nothing troubling to report
- ✓ Still go to White Feather Farm for breakfast just in case!

Annual Membership Drive

Clint VA3KDK has been busy at the last two meetings taking in membership renewals and passing along cash and cheques to **Bob VE3HIX** our treasurer. If you do bring your dues to the Christmas party please make sure that you have legibly filled out the membership form and put it, with the correct amount of funds, into a sealed envelope with your name and callsign on it. We do not want **Clint** to have to spend what should be a relaxing, social evening taking in funds when we have had two months already to do so. This way you can just give him the envelope and he can deal with it at a later time. If paying by cheque it MUST be made payable to **North Shore Amateur Radio Club Inc.** Any other version of our name may not be accepted by the bank. Thank you for your consideration.

Website – ve3osh.com

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.



Email – info@ve3osh.com

QRM from the Shack

It's the most wonderful time of the year! I love Christmas. I have loved it since I was a child. The colourful lights. The beautiful decorations. The magical displays in the store windows. Spending hours looking through the Sears Christmas Wish Book catalog. The delicious treats. The near sleepless night before Christmas morning. Digging through the sock on Christmas morning finding a new plastic hockey blade, maybe a few packs of hockey cards, a large candy cane, along with a few tangerines, a book-like box of Lifesavers and chocolates. The aroma of turkey wafting from the kitchen. The excitement of getting that special toy (yes, singular) for Christmas. Popping the Christmas crackers open to see what tiny gem hid inside before devouring a scrumptious meal. Perhaps a trip to the Oshawa Golf Course, with the toboggan in tow, to spend a few hours zipping down the hills. Yes, many great memories which I would not trade for absolutely anything.

Sometimes I can relive those memories by venturing into our storage room and rummaging through boxes. I still have many of those cherished toys. Billy Blast Off and Robbie the Robot complete with the lunar vehicles. Best of the West with Johnny West, Colonel Custer and the Canadian version of Geronimo (his clothing is green not grey) and two horses. My Tommy Tractor that would bump into things and then turn and head off in a different direction. My Munro table hockey game that made many trips up and down Christie Ave to various friends' houses for endless Stanley Cup finals played every weekend. My Hot Wheels tracks with the loops, jumps, and cars. My white Tonka tow truck with a blue Tonka Jeep. These were

all memories gathered over many Christmases not just one or two. You see, I had no idea at the time that we were not that well off, by today's standards anyway. But, it didn't matter. When you are young you don't realize these things unless someone tells you differently. For me, I thought I had the world by the tail, and I probably did. Perhaps this is why I really despise the over commercialization of Christmas these days. To me it is not the "things" that matter. No, to me it is the friendships and enjoying good times together that make the season special for me now. Perhaps it is an age thing. I am quite content to sit around the table, with family, for a nice meal and conversation. I enjoy watching the wee ones open gifts that they have been wanting. The lights and decorations still play a special role too as they turn a dreary winter into an enchanted wonderland.

Even fellow members of the North Shore play a part as I get to have Christmas every time we meet at White Feather Farms or Tim Horton's for a cup of coffee and maybe a pastry or sandwich. I get to have Christmas whenever we do an event and we are all there providing a public service, for people that we do not even know, but have a fun time as a team doing it. I get to have Christmas every time we have an issue or need at the repeater and a bunch of us meet up there to look after it. I have also watched fellow members step up and help other members out when they are not doing well which, in my humble opinion, is the true meaning of Christmas. Even something as seemingly simple as a slice of fruit cake at our Christmas party brings many fond memories flooding back and a warm feeling that just cannot be described.



So, with all that in mind, I would like to thank every one of you for doing your part in making the season truly merry and bright. I look forward to seeing you all out on Tuesday evening for some great food and enjoyable conversations. Maybe I will even be able to sneak more than one piece of fruit cake too but don't tell Santa!

73 de Laird VE3LKS



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

