

Monthly Update

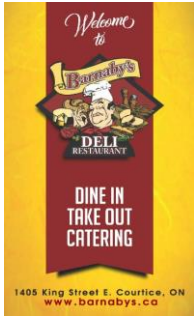
March 2020

March Club Meeting – NVIS and HF Antennas

When: Tuesday, Mar 17, 7:00pm

Where: Barnaby's Restaurant, 1405 King St. E., Courtice

NOTE – due to the Covid-19 outbreak the corporate headquarters of White Cliffe Terrace has closed their facilities to any outside groups. This is totally understandable in this situation.



Several members went to work to find an alternative location for us and **Jeffrey VA3RTV** was able to secure the following:

Barnaby's Restaurant, 1405 King St. E., Courtice.
(Townline & King St.)

Our meeting time is 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm with a 15 minute break at 8:00 pm. Coffee will be offered at this time at no charge. As this is a restaurant, some of us will be going early @ 6:00 pm for a meal or refreshments before the meeting. I would like to encourage as many as possible to join us for supper and patronize this business that is helping us out in a huge way.

As long as everyone is awake after enjoying a lovely meal, **Bob VE3HIX** will be making a presentation on either NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Skywave) or how to use HF antennas in bad locations. For an added bonus he may even throw in a show n tell on how to cure CW key contact bounce when using newer HF transceivers.

Meeting restrictions – unfortunately, we will need to restrict this month's meeting to paid members and spouses. I really don't like to do this but we may be limited for space and we could be liable for any incidents after closing time. As well, if you are showing any signs of Covid-19 (fever, cough, and shortness of breath) we would appreciate it if you would stay home. Many of our members are seniors, others may have compromised immune systems, and since we are all friends this is what friends do for other friends. It goes without saying that even if you are well but do not feel comfortable venturing out for a meeting that we will not be offended and completely understand.

New Name Badges

Our new name badges have arrived! A huge tip of the hat to **Lois** (the unfortunate soul that is the much better half to **Jeffrey VA3RTV**) for taking on this project and providing a very successful outcome. We will have the badges for any of the new members that ordered one, and for existing members that decided to order another one, at our meeting on Tuesday evening. If any of the existing members still need to pay please make sure you have a \$10 bill with you for each badge.



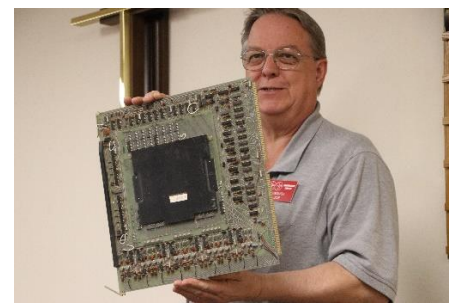
February Club Meeting

What an entertaining evening we had with various members presenting both old and new technologies used in Amateur Radio. **Bob VE3HIX** showed us some neat information on a contest that he had been in where you the operators gave out points to the other station based on the number of tubes their boat anchor radio had. If I remember correctly **Bob's** rig had 23 tubes so anyone making a contact with him would have scored big. **Joe VE3VGJ** displayed a memory card



from an old Telex machine that was larger than an old LP album cover. I believe it was a whopping 128k! **Laird VE3LKS** showed his home station setup and explained how he could operate FT8 remotely using a remote wifi power switch and the remote desktop function built into Chrome. **Lex, VE3LEX** had a

6m repeater with the lid removed showing us what will eventually be placed in the repeater shack. After the break **Farry VE3BHQ** presented a testing device that he had built many decades ago but still worked flawlessly and had more features than even some of the new equipment. **Farry** is trying to clean out some of his older equipment and offered it free to a good home. There were a few interested parties so, with **Farry's** permission, after a short auction the highest bidder claimed this gem and the club made a few dollars.



Hamfest Update

We met again the first Sunday of March and plans are coming along nicely. **Steve VA3TPS** indicated that we were slightly ahead of table sales as compared to last year at this time. **Ken VE3RMK**, who is looking after table sales this year, was off floating around the Caribbean trying hard not to catch the "Korono"virus. (Yes, I know, a very bad play on Ken's last name but I couldn't resist.) The good news is that his doctor just quarantined him to spend the next two weeks in isolation in his Ham Shack. I will forward the doctors name along to any who need a written letter like Ken bought, I mean got. ☺ I just received notice that Hamex has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 issue. We are monitoring the situation in Pickering and at this time all events have been cancelled up to April 5. The City of Pickering will be monitoring the situation and adjust the cancellation date as needed. So, if things get worse it could very easily mean that our event would be cancelled.





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.

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.



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.

Well, it used to be that we only went to **White Feather Farm** if there was work to be done at the repeater site on a Saturday morning. However, that has morphed into a permanent event and you will find a gathering there whether there is work to be done

or not. So, pop up to **White Feather Farm**, which opens at 8:30am, enjoy a hot beverage, 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.



Guest Articles with Pictures Go Here

This area here is going to be reserved for guest articles from club members. No, I don't mean web links that you send to other peoples articles, I mean articles that YOU contribute. We have over 40 members in our club so if each member contributed only ONE article every TWO years there would be two additional articles in each Update. I realize that a lot of people join a club to be entertained. However, those who do the entertaining grow weary of it over time and pretty soon no one is doing anything and the club disappears. If you don't believe me then take a look around the area. There are not too many clubs, Amateur Radio or otherwise, that are surviving and apathy and burnout plays a large part in that. Don't let this happen to YOUR club.

Articles do not have to be long and drawn out. In fact, a picture or two with a few paragraphs of wording is usually more than enough. So, fire off some pics from your phone and a few lines of explanation and have your masterpieces published here in the Update. Will you win a Pulitzer? Probably not but you will make YOUR club a more interesting place to belong.

NOBODY has **ANY** excuse this month. You can't go anywhere. You can't do anything. So sit down at your keyboard and send along a short article!

QRM from the Shack

What a crazy month we are having. As most of you are aware I work in healthcare, on the IT side of things, and this Covid-19 is starting to get really annoying. I survived SARS when I was at the hospital and I will probably survive this at the community health centre but let me tell you your world gets turned upside down really quickly when things like this come along.

For the longest time I would gently suggest to **Joe VE3VGI** that he needed to get into HF. Well, recently he took the bait - hook, line and sinker. Now the problem is he is getting me interested in various aspects of the hobby that compliments HF. **Joe** has been building his own antennas, as I have experimented too. He made his own ladder line that I can't wait to see pictures of squirrels running up and down. But most recently he purchased a NanoVNA analyzer. Now, this is only a \$70 CDN device on Amazon so I was not expecting it to be really accurate but close enough to use. **Daren VE3NMD** very generous and lent **Joe** his Rig Expert and **Joe** ran some comparisons. It was crazy how close they were. ie an SWR of say 1.45 on the Rig Expert would come up as 1.44 or 1.46 on the Nano which is well within any margin of error. Now, the Rig Expert does cover more frequency range than the Nano does but if all you need is HF, VHF and UHF then this is a serious contender for us frugal Amateurs. As well, if I can figure out how you use it then I am sure you will be able to as well. Rest assured, you do not need to be a **Joe** or **Daren** to use the basic functionality of the device.

Now, the fun part of doing the Update every month is being able to introduce new members to the club membership. This month I would like to introduce to you **Stan Phillips VE3ILU**. Many of you may not know **Stan** but I was privileged to make his acquaintance back in the fall. **Stan** was preparing for a move and needed some assistance with his radio equipment. At first he was toying with just getting rid of it but I was able to gently persuade him to at least give HF another try and to keep a UHF/VHF station and this spring will help him get it all connected again at his new QTH. **Stan** is quite an interesting fellow as he is big time into technology and inventing. On top of that one of **Stan's** relatives was one of the radio operators on the ill-fated Titanic. **Stan** has agreed to give a presentation at one of our upcoming club meetings. Welcome, **Stan**, and I look forward to hearing you on the air once the weather warms up a bit and we can put the finishing touches on your station.

When it was mentioned to the fellows at breakfast that Barnaby's was offering up their restaurant for us, and we were planning on having supper there on Tuesday evening and encouraging members to join us, a few of them jumped the gun and planned a lunch meeting there that day to patronize their business. That is the type of thing we need to do in difficult times. If a local business is helping us we should be willing to help them out too. I am sure restaurant visits will be taking a hit as

people are afraid to venture out. Now, as for the liver and onions that these guys were planning on having, well, I am not sure what to say. However, if anyone wants to wager against me that **Doug VA3DCE** will be having the Hot Hamburg sandwich with gravy, fries, water and black coffee I will be happy to take your money!

Anyway, that is it for now. Looking forward to seeing you all out at the meeting Tuesday evening and please, bring me a roll! ☺

