



Monthly Update

October 2024

www.ve3osh.com

Club Executive

President – **Derek VE3TKE**
Vice President: **Peter VA3PKM**
Secretary: **Neil VA3NH**
Treasurer: **Bob VE3HIX**
Membership Secretary: **Thomas VE3PDK**

Committee's

Repeater & Technical -Trustee: **Daren VE3NMD**
Website: **Laird VE3LKS**
Club Examiner: **Aldo VA3AG**
Newsletter: **Steve VA3TPS**
Net Manager: **Steve VA3TPS**
Presentation Coordinator: **Vacant**
RAC Representative: **Ken VE3RMK**

Repeaters

2m VHF FM Repeater – **VE3OSH**

Frequency: 147.120 MHz
Input Tone: 156.7 Hz
Input Offset: +600 kHz

70cm UHF Fusion/FM Repeater – **VE3NAA**

Frequency: 443.000 MHz
Input Tone: 136.5
Input Offset: +5 MHz

70cm UHF DMR Repeater – **VE3LBN**

Frequency: 443.9875 MHz
Colour Code: 3
Input Offset: +5 MHz
DMR ID: 302340

APRS iGate – **VE3OSH**

Frequency: 144.390 MHz

October Meeting

The October Members Meeting will be held on October 16, 2024. See the changes to this meeting in the "From The President" later in this newsletter.

Tuesday Night Rag Chew



The club's weekly Tuesday Night Rag Chew starts at 7:00 pm. Our current net controllers are: **Aldo VA3AG**, **Grant VA3KJI**, **Derek VE3TKE**, **Quinton VA3NLM** and **Neil VA3NH**.

This is not a formal net but rather a lively round table. 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 2000 hrs on Tuesday's pop onto VE3OSH and join the conversation.

A big thank you to all our Net control operators for stepping up!!

If anyone would like to give Net control a try one week, let me know and we will fit you in as a guest net control.

Wednesday Night Virtual Parking Lot

The club has a weekly Virtual Parking Lot (VPL) meeting on zoom starting on the Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm for members and guests. Everyone is welcome to attend. On the third Wednesday night the club has it's member meeting on zoom first and after the meeting is finished we have our virtual parking lot for those who are still on-line.

If you would like to attend our weekly VPL send an email to **Derek VE3TKE** at VE3TKE@gmail.com. Our club Secretary **Neil VA3NH** will be sending out the zoom link prior to the Wednesday meeting time. It has actually has been quite a success as more people can show up, due to distance or schedules, and yet we can still do show & tells by simply sharing our screens. It is not uncommon to have 20 to 25 participants but we can easily handle more. So, quit complaining about being bored and hop on the Virtual Parking Lot also remember that you can also ask questions of the group as well.

At our zoom meetings we have Amateurs from around the globe.

So, try to remember Wednesday nights and drop by our Zoom VPL and say hello and see who is visiting from around the globe. It starts around 7:00 pm and lasts until the last die-hard leaves but you can pop in anytime and say hello and stay as long or short as you want.

White Feather Fun!



Some of the club members meet up on Saturday morning at **White Feather Country Store**. So, if you need your fix of a steamy hot beverage, as well as a hot fritter, pop up to **White Feather Country Store**, which opens at 8:30 am, and join the gang in the south east corner of the parking lot. Make sure to bring a lawn chair as we sit outside in the parking lot even when it's cold or raining. 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. **White Feather Country Store** is located at the corner of Simcoe St and Raglan Rd in Raglan, just south of our repeater site.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

According to Thomas VE3PDK, our membership secretary, and Bob VE3HIX, our treasurer, it's time to renew your club membership.

To renew your membership: Step 1: go the club web site www.VE3OSH.com then go to the membership section of our club web site and click on "click here to fill out membership form" then submit the online form. Step 2: send the club Treasurer an e-transfer from your bank to treasurer@ve3osh.com or give either Bob or Thomas your fees in cash.

NOTE – if you are claiming that you are a RAC member make sure you check with RAC to make sure your membership is paid up to date. We have to double check this for our RAC insurance policy so please do not try to claim this if you are not a current RAC.

The dues are staying the same for 2024 at \$30 for a RAC member and \$40 for Non-RAC member

Swap Shop

We are starting a new procedure for items being sold on the Swap Shop. If items have NOT sold within three (3) months they will be removed from this section. We want people to look at this section with interest to see what is being sold.

For Sale

RIGrunner 4012 Complete DC Distribution Panel 12 Outlets, includes Anderson Power Pole connectors, also extra pack of Anderson power Pole connectors 15 amp and 30 amp. **Brand New never used**

- Twelve always on outlets, 40 amps total.
- Includes our unambiguous precision overvoltage and under voltage indicators with audio alert. The audio alert is selectable for over or under voltage or may be disabled.



Asking \$ 150

Contact **Steve VA3TPS** at va3tps@outlook.com

For Sale

Tram WSP1400 2m Base Antenna – 135-174MHz, 6dB gain. See Mr. Google for complete specs. Club member price **\$60** – **Laird VE3LKS** – VE3LKS@yahoo.ca



Meijia Hard Case with Wheels and Handle – Heavy duty hard shell case for carrying sensitive equipment such as RADIOS, etc. Removable foam pieces to contour to item. Has wheels and extendable handle. Case is approx 22" x 18" x 10.5". Club member price **\$100** – **Laird VE3LKS** – VE3LKS@yahoo.ca





If you have items for sale or if you have items that are free for the pick-up, feel free to list them here in the club swap shop.

A HAM IN THE GUTTER

The easiest, stealthiest, cheapest multiband HF antenna ever!
by **Neil McAlister VA3NH**



Many of us Radio Amateurs live in situations where the sophisticated HF antennas of our dreams must remain just that -- dreams. The complexity and expense of cables, connectors, towers, beams, rotators, Lightning arrestors, remote tuners and other paraphernalia add up quickly and can soon get prohibitive.

Secondly, regardless of one's level of experience or budget, space restrictions are a practical impediment to setting up a long horizontal or tall vertical HF antenna on many small, urban lots.

A third problem is HOAs -- Home Owners Agreements that prohibit erecting towers, stays and cables, even where sufficient land exists for an 80 meter dipole or a long wire thrown into a tree or strung along a hypothetical (but prohibited) fence. It is true that Amateur Radio is licensed by the federal government and is therefore beyond the local jurisdiction of a mere HOA. But most of us like our neighbor's and want to remain in their good books regardless of the privileges granted to federally licensed Amateur Radio stations.

Finally, and all other consideration's aside, the wise Amateur must defer to an even higher authority than government: our non-ham spouses. They may not like the looks of towers and mysterious wires running like crazy, old-fashioned clotheslines all over the property.

When we were chewing the fat at the White Feather Farm one Saturday morning, someone said they used the eves troughs of their house as an antenna with quite satisfactory results.

My first thought was, "Huh? Really?"

Later on I emailed one of our club's gurus, Laird VE3LKS, to see if he could shed some light on this strange revelation, which sounded too good to be true. Would I need to buy an expensive, heavy-duty antenna tuner to tune the rain gutters of my house?

With the wisdom of Solomon the frugal Laird suggested a much cheaper idea for me to try first, and he steered me to a short YouTube video.

But the video is not even necessary. In summary: Take a piece of 50 ohm coax. Strip one end into its two constituent wires the Centre core, and the braided shield which you twist into a pigtail. Attach the pigtail to ground with a hose clamp. (A piece of copper pipe with one end bashed into a spade shape for easier pounding into the earth will do nicely as a ground spike.) Scrape a little paint off the nearest metal downspout, drill a pilot hole and attach the Centre wire of the coax to the downspout with a metal screw. (See Figs. 1, 2)

Attach the other end of the coax to the 50-ohm output of your transceiver.

That's it.

Now it was time to see if this (admittedly miniscule) investment of time and effort was worth the (minimal) bother. On 10m the SWR was 1.4:1. On 12m 1.5:1, increasing to unusable 3.5:1 on 20m and 7:1 on 40m. Of course, results will vary from house to house, but I was astonished that the eves troughs and downspouts at our place could be used on two different ham bands with no need for an antenna tuner. The built-in tuner of my ancient Kenwood TS850S flattened SWR to 1:1 on all ham bands from 80 through 10 meters.

I will not even attempt to address the efficiency of this ridiculous configuration, which I imagine is terrible. A trained electrical engineer would probably think that using downspouts and rain gutters as an antenna is amusing if not downright laughable.

However it seems to work at my QTH. On a day when a severe geomagnetic storm had all bands showing fair to poor propagation, there was no SSB to be heard anywhere. But my very first test with FT8 on 10m resulted in a QSO with a ham in Texas. Next was a station in France on 15m FT8. A 20m SSB contact with a station in Western Kansas came later in the day as conditions improved a little. And so on.

It appears that a rain gutter antenna could be cheapest multiband HF antenna that you will ever own -- assuming you use your house to live in, not just to serve as a clever disguise for this ultimate stealth antenna!

73 de **Neil - VA3NH**

Email – info@ve3osh.com

Website – www.ve3osh.com

Ham Radio Gets Through

Thanks to **Neil VA3NH**, here is a link to a good article on how Ham Radio came through during the recent Hurricanes in Florida.

<https://www.wired.com/story/hurricane-helene-milton-north-carolina-florida-amateur-radio/>

Station of the Month

If you would like to share your setup send your pictures and info to Steve VA3TPS at VA3TPS@outlook.com

Editor's Note

Many thanks to **Neil VA3NH** for the articles.

Don't forget I am looking for articles for the bulletin or any special events or information Ham Radio related.

Upcoming Events

Walking Fox Hunt – October 26th starting at 1030 hrs at Long Sault Conservation Area.

Everyone is welcome to this event. No Ham license required as you will only be receiving signals. If you are interested in attending this event send Derek VE3TKE an email at VE3TKE@gmail.com for further details.

CQWW Contest (SSB) -October 26 0000hrs to 2359 hrs October 27, 2024

The CQ WW is the largest Amateur Radio competition in the world. Over 35,000 participants take to the airwaves on the last weekend of October (SSB)

From the President

Changes to the October 16th Members Meeting

I am happy to announce that a few of the startup members of the new Ontario Tech Ham Club from the Ontario Tech University will be joining our Oct 16th members meeting. The October meeting will be a Hybrid meeting. What does that mean, it means that we will have an in-person meeting as well as the Zoom meeting.

The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent out by email as it usually is by the club secretary a few days before the meeting.

Thanks to the Ontario Tech Ham Club and the Ontario Tech University we will be having an in-person meeting at the Ontario Tech University in North Oshawa in the Science building (UA) in classroom #1220. Start time will be 7:00 pm. We have room for about 50 people in this room.

If you need a Map of the Campus and the rooms in the Science building send me an email at VE3TKE@gmail.com and I will send them to you.

You are allowed to bring Coffee, water and snacks into the classroom. We need to be careful with spills so that we don't get any cleaning bills.

If you would like to attend and are unable to walk the distance from the parking lot to the building, let me know before the meeting and we can have someone meet you on the street (Founders Drive) and you can walk into the building while a person parks your vehicle. When leaving we can do the same. I need to know if you need assistance before the meeting.

This all started at the NSARC Field Day at Purple Woods in June of 2024. A few students from the university showed up to see what the club does for Field Day. They were very inquisitive and were asking a lot of questions about amateur radio. They also stated that they are involved with the Ontario Tech Space and Rocketry

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club as well. Their goal was to create Ontario Tech Ham Club and get their Basic Certificate of Proficiency in Amateur Radio and were looking for some assistance.

I am looking forward to this meeting with the Ontario Tech Ham Radio Club and I am very grateful to the Ontario Tech University for allowing this meeting to happen and to the students who organized the meeting with the University. There will not be any cost for this meeting space for either club.

Hope to see many of you there.

Status Update on the Tower Project

Believe it or not, I received a text from the tower contractor advising that Rogers has asked him to get the required Engineer Stamped Tower Drawings completed and provide me a copy to review and accept.

I was not asked for any information ahead of the tower contractor requesting the engineer start and complete the required Tower Drawings. After receiving the first draft it was noted that there were drawings missing and the NSARC antennas and brackets were missing from the stated Wind Load calculations. So the drawings were sent back to the engineer to add and update. A few days later I received the updated drawings. Unfortunately, the site drawing of where the tower is to be installed has an incorrect location. Also there is no Radio shack on the drawing and no listing on how the tower was to be installed close to the radio shack. So the drawings were sent back yet again to the engineer to correct.

I then received a call from the tower contractor requesting that I create the site drawing myself as the engineer has not been to the site. I replied that the engineer is required to create the Site Drawing as he is required to Stamp the drawings. He advised that he will get the engineer to use Google Earth to make the drawing.

A discussion was then had with the tower contractor and the contractor stated that he has run out of time and would not be able to complete the changes to the drawings this year. I was again very surprised to hear this and asked why nothing can be done now. The tower contractor stated that he will be traveling to the US next week to help with the Hurricane recovery. He did not know how long that he would be in the US and could not provide any date of when he will be returning. He advised that he will contact me when he returns. I mentioned that we could still get these drawings completed while he is gone but he advised that it will have to wait until he returns.

Therefore, there will be no further progress on the Tower Project this year.

I will be contacting CLOCA to provide them a status update and having a long discussion with them as this cannot continue. The tower came down on May 21, 2022 that's now 29 months without substantial progress in this project working with Rogers. But we cannot do anything without CLOCA's approval first.

Sorry members, I am trying...

Derek - VE3TKE

Email – info@ve3osh.com