



# Monthly Update

## November 2024

[www.ve3osh.com](http://www.ve3osh.com)

### Club Executive

President – **Derek VE3TKE**  
Vice President: **Peter VA3PKM**  
Secretary: **Neil VA3NH**  
Treasurer: **Nick VA3NPW**  
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

At our October meeting it was a Hybrid meeting with in person attendance and over Zoom. The meeting was held at the invitation of the startup members of the new Ontario Tech Ham Club from the Ontario Tech University.



Our presentation was from Ian VA3KCP from RAC on the new ACS (replacing ARES). Ian gave a great Talk and presentation and showed the members the emergency kit with radios, antenna's, tuners, etc that the government is now providing to the Regional EOC's.

**Nick VA3NPW** was our video technician and did a great job setting up the Zoom for the members at home watching the presentation.

## November Meeting

Our November meeting will be held on Wednesday November 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Presentation on Zoom: Students from the Ontario Tech University will present on "Ontario Tech Space & Rocketry: A Presentation of the Hobby, the Team, and the Competition" and will also discuss what they are looking for to setup their Ham Station at the university.

## 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**, 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 Wednesday night 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](mailto: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.



Some of the dedicated White Feather gang on a cool November 2 morning.

With the cooler weather now upon us, some of our members have started meeting Saturday morning at the Coffee Time in Courtice, Courtice Rd and Hwy 2 at 8:30 am.

Here are a couple of photos from November 2



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

According to **Thomas VE3PDK**, our membership secretary, and **Nick VA3NPW**, our treasurer, this is the most wonderful time of the year! Here is the membership renewal procedure. Step 1: go the membership section of our club page and submit the online form. Step 2: send the club an e-transfer to [treasurer@ve3osh.com](mailto:treasurer@ve3osh.com) or give either Nick 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. 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

### For Sale

1. Icom IC-92AD Dual Band D-Star Transceiver.
2. Icom HM-175 GPS Speaker Microphone
3. Icom BC-177 Charging dock with Icom BC-123 SA Charger
4. Icom IC\_92 AD Instruction Manual
5. RT Systems Windows Cloning Software with RT Systems USB-92 USB cable

All are in good working order. **\$350**

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### For Sale

**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](mailto:VE3LKS@yahoo.ca)



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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.

Email – [info@ve3osh.com](mailto:info@ve3osh.com)



Ken Fitzgerald, VA3KJF at [webhog@me.com](mailto:webhog@me.com)....905-435-6311

### 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](mailto:va3tps@outlook.com)

Website – [ve3osh.com](http://ve3osh.com)



## ANTENNA SWITCH IS NOT SO SIMPLE

by **Neil McAlister - VA3NH**

Many hams have more than one antenna to use with one transceiver. To save the repeated bother of detaching and reattaching coax feeds all the time, a simple antenna switch is often used.

We might logically assume that rotating a switch detaches one antenna and attaches a different one. If only! Most antenna switches do not produce the same unambiguous result as unplugging one antenna and plugging in another one would do. Why not? Because most switches usually select only the core wire, but not the braided coax shield. The shields of all antennas remain connected to each other and to the rig no matter which antenna you select! This is NOT a full disconnect. Thus, even when a switch is rotated, all unused antennas remain connected to the wanted, selected antenna via their shields.

Fortunately this doesn't matter much in many shacks. However, when Common Mode (CM) RF goes backwards from an antenna down the coax shield towards the transceiver, peculiar things can happen.

Case in point. I have two HF antennas: a 20/15 meter half wave fan dipole, and a home brew 40 meter, centre coil loaded "Shorty 40." Both are connected to an antenna switch (Fig. 1) which is connected to a ferrite ring coax line choke that runs to the transceiver.

(The line choke has nothing to do with the antenna switch. The choke ostensibly rejects signals outside the range of HF Amateur frequencies, suppressing noise that originates from non-ham sources -- 60 cycles, wall warts, LED lights, appliances, computers, the neighbour's Christmas lights, etc. In my shack the choke drops the noise floor by 1 or 2 S units.)

With both antennas plugged into the switch, when the 20/15 fan dipole is selected, all amateur bands from 160 through 10 meters are tune-able and usable. However, for reasons best known to the transceiver, 20m and longer crash Fldigi software when attempting to run "split" transmit and receive frequencies in FT4 and FT8 modes. It is unimaginable that this antenna system is equally efficient on all amateur bands -- 160 meters?! -- but it has enabled confirmed QSOs on all of them.

When the Shorty 40 is completely unplugged from the switch, 30m and longer cannot be used at all; but the workhorse 20m band functions perfectly on Fldigi, even in "split" operation.

Neither 17 nor 30 meters are harmonics of any other amateur bands. Clearly something odd is going on when both antennas are plugged into the switch, even though only one of them can be selected at a time. What is the mysterious interaction?

Probably it is a coax shield connection, via the antenna switch, between the selected antenna and the unselected and supposedly "disconnected" one that allows CM to flow between the two antennas and work its mysterious mischief. (The constant short among any combination of threads on the SO-239 connectors with either position of the antenna switch was confirmed by continuity testing.)

I usually leave the switch selecting the 20/15 fan dipole. Even when 40 meters is wanted, the fan dipole often suffices. 30m and longer work best by selecting the Shorty 40. We note that the Shorty 40 is itself a compromise antenna used only because of length restrictions inside the garage where it is located.

In this situation it appears that the incomplete disconnect achieved by an ordinary antenna switch is turned to advantage when it allows Common Mode radio

frequency to get into both antennas. Exactly how this inefficiency turns my indoor dipoles into an all band HF antenna farm remains for a person smarter than me to figure out!

73 de **Neil - VA3NH**

Fig. 1. A switch for two antennas. In either position, only the centre core wire is selected by turning the switch. The three coax braids always remain connected to each other regardless of switch position.

## 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](mailto:va3tps@outlook.com)

## Editor's Note

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

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

## Upcoming Events

**November Meeting on Wednesday November 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.**

**RAC Winter Contest – Saturday December 28<sup>th</sup> 0000 hrs to 2359 hrs.**

This is a great short contest with lot's of fellow Canadians on the air.

## From the President

I would like to comment on the continued use of the Ontario Tech University as a monthly meeting location. As Dylan is leaving the university, he provided me his contacts at the university so that I would know who to contact and that he would provide my email address to those contacts. I then received an email from the university asking to book the November meeting using their on-line form. I completed this with the assistance of Dylan, to explain some of the verbiage that was used and submitted the completed form. A few minutes later, I was contacted by email again by another contact at the university. She explained in the email that since we are an external group we need to book each meeting using the on-line form and that there would be charges for the use of the room. There would also be a parking fee for each member attending. The club liability insurance certificate that was provided to the university was not acceptable as the university needs to be named insured. This would be another cost to the club to have this done.

I was hoping, since we had our first meeting on-site at the university at no cost with no parking fee that this would continue as we are a not-for profit club. After reviewing the additional work, effort and costs, I decided that we as a club would have to decline the use of the university room for our November meeting and all subsequent meetings.

It was certainly a nice state of the art facility that suited our group and was close for the university students to attend and be part of our group while we offered to assist them in getting their university Ham Radio Club up and running.

I would like to thank the Ontario Tech University for the one meeting that we did have with a number of the university students from the Rocketry Design Team who some are also going to be part of the university Ham Club.

It was very nice while it lasted...

### **Christmas Dinner**

On another topic, I would like to ask members about our December Christmas dinner. Since we do not have the option of using the VIVA location in Whitby any more and I was trying to obtain a room at the university but I don't believe that anything can be done now with the university since we have canceled.

I have looked at some other Ham Radio club websites and find that they are meeting at a local restaurant in a group or separate room with each member responsible for their own bill. Again, the purpose of getting together is to meet as a club and have lively discussion and the obvious getting some great food in place of having our December member meeting.

I will be asking if we would like to do this at our November member meeting. If this turns out not to be an option, do we revert to still having a December members meeting on zoom.

### **Rogers Tower Project**

Yes I thought that this project was on hold until this spring, as I was previously advised by the Rogers Tower Contractor. A few days ago I received an email from the contractor who advised that he has come back unexpectedly for personal reasons from working down south to assist communities that have been damaged by the Hurricane. Included in the email was an updated set of tower drawings that I requested. He then called me to confirm that I received the updated drawings and stated that he is still working installing towers until there is snow on the ground and/or ice on the ground. It would be nice if we can get approval to start the install. I replied that there are several additional steps required before approval to proceed one of which is having a three-party legal agreement executed.

Needless to say, I am again working on this project. Stay tuned for further news.

### **Presentation Co-coordinator**

As we still do not have a presentation coordinator, I have taken on the task of organizing our November member meeting presentation. I have asked Dylan if the university Rocketry Design Team would like to present. He replied that the team would be very happy to present. So look forward to the groups presentation at the meeting.

Going forward, I will not be able to continue looking for presentations for the members meeting due to my current club workload. I am hoping that a member or a group of members will step forward at the November meeting and take on this task. Yes it will take some time to get up to speed as John is not around to provide some pointers and a list of his previous presenters.

We all know how we all look forward to seeing these presentations at each meeting from some of our own members, other ham club members, manufacturers and industry people. We also may learn something new viewing these presentations, I know I have learned quite a lot.

So just think of the joy of organizing the next presentation for the club knowing that you or your group organized it.

I will bring up the request again for a presentation coordinator at our next members meeting.

Derek - VE3TKE