

Monthly Update

December 2024

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

November Meeting

At our November meeting over Zoom we had a Presentation from Dylan VE3KXY and other members of the Ontario Tech Ham Club from the Ontario Tech University on their Rocketry program and their plans for 2025. This was a very informative meeting and I for one did not realize how advanced this program and these Rockets were. Thank you, Dylan!



December Meeting



NSARC Members and Friends,

We have managed, thanks to Daren to book the Mandarin Restaurant on Wednesday December 18th at 6:00 pm at the 1319 Airport Blvd. Oshawa location for this year's Christmas Dinner. The Mandarin website states that this date is just before they invoke the Holiday pricing (Dec 24, 2024) which is good for us. If you need any further information about the Mandarin visit their website <https://www.mandarinrestaurant.com/dine-in/>

The Mandarin requires that we provide the total number of people that are attending this dinner as this is a very busy season for this restaurant. The dinner pricing, as per the website is:

Dinner Pricing

	Adults	Seniors Ages 65+ with valid photo I.D.	Kids (5-12)	Kids Ages 4 & Under
Monday - Thursday	\$35.99*	\$28.79*	\$17.99*	FREE
Fri, Sat & Sun	\$40.99*	\$32.79*	\$20.49*	FREE

*\$1 more for Mandarin Brampton, Kanata, Nepean & Orleans
Prices do not include beverages, tax or gratuities. Prices are subject to change.

This dinner is open to everyone including spouses. **Everyone attending will be responsible for their own bill.**

If you would like to attend this dinner, send Derek an email at (President@VE3OSH.com) indicating the number of people attending in your party. If after advising that you will attend and you find for any reason that you cannot attend, also send Derek an update email a.s.a.p. so that we can advise the restaurant.

We will not be having a member or Virtual Parking lot zoom meeting on this night due to this dinner. The club's next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and it will be held on zoom on January 15th, 2025.

Looking forward to meeting everyone at this dinner.

Derek VE3TKE – President

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 VA3KJ, 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.

Just a reminder to everyone that our Net Controllers are doing a great job volunteering and are there for us every Tuesday at 7:00 pm so that we have a Net, so how about dropping by and checking in and say hello. It only takes a few minutes and the Net Control operators will appreciate it.

NOTE: The Rag Chew Net for Tuesday December 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM is cancelled so our net controllers and members can spend Christmas Eve with friends and family.

Wednesday Night Virtual Parking Lot

NOTE: Due to Christmas Day and New Years Day falling on a Wednesday, the VPL on Wednesday December 25, 2024 and Wednesday January 1, 2025 will be cancelled.

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 president@ve3osh.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



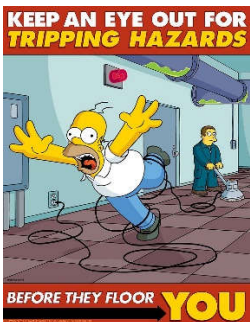
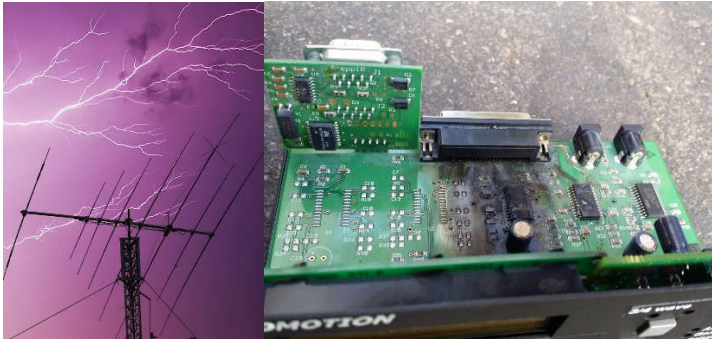
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

According to **Thomas VE3PDK**, our membership secretary, and **Nick VA3NPW**, our treasurer, this is the most wonderful time of the year! We are making your membership renewal even easier this year. Step 1: go the membership section of our club page and submit the online form. Step 2: send Thomas an e-transfer 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. 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

SAFE SHACKS

Playing it Safe in Amateur Radio

by **Neil McAlister – VA3NH**



Safe practice in Amateur Radio is a topic of great importance, but sadly it is one that is often taken for granted, and sometimes completely overlooked. This aspect of our hobby recently came up as the topic of conversation for one of the club's regu-

lar Tuesday night Rag Chews on 2 meters. Several people offered perspectives that are worth bringing to the attention of the whole Membership.

Electrical Safety

In our technical hobby of Amateur radio, the first safety concern that we probably think about is electricity.

A newly-minted Amateur, eager to get on the air but short of cash, might reasonably shop around for pre-owned equipment. A used rig may not be the fanciest, most modern technology available, but if it works well and the price is right it is good investment for many of us.

When some of us old-timers took up ham radio decades ago, there was a lot of good, secondhand vacuum tube equipment available. Experienced hams and authoritative guidebooks warned sternly about the potentially lethal danger of old-fashioned, tube driven, high voltage, high amperage electrical equipment, lest we newbies be tempted to fiddle around with its guts. You can be fatally zapped by a big capacitor in a hefty, old "boat anchor" that was not discharged even when the rig was unplugged. Electrical engineers and technicians can still work magic with vintage equipment; but my "Elmer" Don Reavely – VE3ATJ (SK), a retired electronics technician who had worked with radar in its early days -- gave a much younger me some sound advice that boiled down to this: "Until you know what you're doing, don't do it." It may be just as well that I found a nice, little "solid state" Kenwood TS-130 used, at a fair price, back in the day, and never had to take much interest in potentially dangerous vintage ham radio equipment.

How times have changed. When we are working with high power amplifiers, extreme caution is still needed. But barefoot transceivers that put out 100 watts or less are much more likely to be murdered by an untrained, would-be repairman than they are to kill that unwary tinkerer —unless the person happens to have a cardiac pacemaker, perhaps.

Lightning

From time to time we hear about hams who have lost equipment when their antenna, or some part of their residence, was hit by lightning. (Figs. 1, 2) The risk is not only damage to expensive electronic appliances, but also destruction of property and life in a house fire. Adequate grounding and lightning arrestors are helpful preventive measures. The gold standard of protection is to physically disconnect antennas and power from the rig when bad weather threatens or when we will be away from the shack for a longer period of time.

During the rag chew Joe – VE3VGJ reminded the group that placing fuses as close as possible to the pieces of equipment that they protect may save the need for costly repairs someday.

Software Safety

Bob – VE3HIX brought an important aspect of Amateur radio safety to our attention – an issue that most of us generally don't think about specifically in a ham radio context. Today most of our shacks are equipped with one or more computers. Software safety is therefore important.

Every computer connected to the Internet needs anti-virus protection to save our systems from being hacked and our files from being compromised, held for ransom or destroyed. We cannot settle for freeware samples that we fire up at irregular intervals to see whether our computer was already infected by last month's virus. This is one place where even a thrifty ham cannot get away with being too frugal. As the ancient sage warned, "Good thing no cheap; cheap thing no good." Anti-virus software that we pay for is heuristic -- it schedules scans automatically, updates its virus profiles automatically, and works in the background full time to prevent virus infections before they happen. The risk is far more than theoretical. ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) and several more of their services were shut down by hackers for a couple of months this year.

Beyond this, it is wise to keep up with the most recent software updates. These often include repair or patches for design vulnerabilities in earlier releases that were exploited by hackers. Bob recommends downloading Glary Utilities, a free service. The "one click maintenance" option in that software is very useful. It will automatic-

ally detect apps for which newer updates are available; then it can download and install some or all of those updates if you wish.

Towers and Climbing Safety

The only people allowed to climb our club's tower have formal training and safety certification. They must have the club's approval, and they must adhere to policies including proper safety harness and other equipment. When working around our shacks at home, we are on our own; but hopefully the natural desire to minimize expenses will not prevent us from hiring competent help with our own towers and high ladders. One mistake can cause a life-altering accident.

Even when using only a short ladder at home, staying well clear of power lines with antennas and towers is basic. More than this, consider where a tower, a metal support, a dipole or a long wire could end up if bad weather blows it down. In a power line? Place the apparatus elsewhere, far away from potential danger.

Accidents Waiting to Happen

Unfortunately, many serious accidents do not involve climbing towers and high ladders. A short stepladder can be a severe accident waiting to happen. (Fig. 3) By way of illustration, Neil – VA3NH described one of the worst household falls that he knew about during four decades of medical practice. It happened to a poor chap who fell off the bottom step of a stepladder, a height of about one foot. He missed his footing when he hit the ground, he slipped, and his other leg got stuck between the first and second treads of the stepladder. The man fell backwards, striking his head and breaking his leg in a compound fracture with the broken ends of the bone sticking through the skin. During the next several weeks he nearly died from infection in the terrible wound. He was incapacitated in rehab for more than six months, and he never walked normally again.

Bottom line: respect a ladder, no matter how low that ladder may be. Wear proper shoes, not flip-flops or "Crocks." Never stand on the top of a stepladder. When getting off any ladder or stool, look down to see exactly where you intend to plant your foot. A single misstep from a seemingly trivial height has sometimes caused severe and lasting injury.

Often height is not even an issue in a serious fall. Tripping over cables and power cords lying on the ground poses a major, though often forgotten danger. (Fig. 4) Dressing cables neatly, and protecting them with a proper plastic or rubber cover in pedestrian areas, is more than an aesthetic exercise. At public events, red traffic cones and colourful ribbons can prevent unwary people from tripping over guy wires.

First Aid

If an accident or a sudden medical event like a heart attack does occur, what will we do? Call 911? Good luck with that. Better to plan ahead: hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.

Thomas – VE3PDK is also a Scout leader who has operated during SOTA (Scouts On The Air). He reminds us that for special events when we run portable stations, we may set up in the countryside or somewhere in a park far from town. Emergency medical help may be far away, and possibly not even reachable from some locations. Thomas maintains his personal certification in first aid from St. John's Ambulance. Though now a retired physician, Neil – VA3NH keeps up-to-date first aid equipment in his car. That first aid gear has been needed only once in forty years, but during a car accident that he came upon one afternoon, the kit was really useful to staunch someone's bleeding until paramedics arrived.

Safety Begins at Home

Our club's recent Rag Chew topic about safety in Amateur radio was a reminder to think about this sometimes-neglected aspect of our hobby. Practicing safe shacks may not always be the sexiest item on a ham's personal to-do list; but as they say, safety begins at home. With that in mind, it's time for me to head out to the garage to make sure that the coax leads for my indoor antenna farm are properly dressed and secured out of the way of winter boots and stumbling feet.

73 de Neil – VA3NH

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Figs. 1 and 2 Too late to worry about lightning protection after a strike.

Fig. 3 Even a short stepladder can be very dangerous if used improperly.

Fig. 4 Watch out for cables on the floor.



In this issue:

- 1) RAC Canada Day Contest Update
- 2) RAC Canada Day Contest Certificates
- 3) December is Youth On The Air (YOTA) Month

RAC Canada Day Contest Update | Certificates

<https://www.rac.ca/>

RAC Contest Managers: Bart Ritchie, VE5CPU and Sam Ferris, VE5SF

The RAC Canada Day Contest Results have been updated to insert a misplaced log for Igor Mordick, VA3FF, in the SOABCW category.

As a result he will now move into third place in the category with a score of 111,112. This bumps Mark Mattila, VA7MM, out of third place in the category moving him to fourth place.

Our apologies to all those who were impacted by this error. Please see the updated results in the PDF file on the [RAC website](#).



December is Youth On The Air (YOTA) Month

<https://www.rac.ca/december-is-youth-on-the-air-yota-month/> Every December, Youth-operated stations around the world are part of a special event celebrating Youth in Amateur Radio (aka YOTA or Youth on the Air). Amateur Radio operators age 25 and younger will be on the air as special event stations around the world throughout December in celebration of Youth in Amateur Radio. YOTA Month stations will be on all bands and modes at various times. **YOTA Month 2024 Participants:**

Stations located within the Americas include:

In Canada: Ariel, VE2SZU, will be VC2YOTA

- Maria, VE3OMV, and Daniel, VE3FCT, will be VC3YOTA
- Andrew and his class will be VB7YOTA

- **In the USA: K8YYOTA, K8OYOTA, K8TYOTA and W8AYOTA**

In El Salvador: YS1YOTA

In Argentina: LT4YOTA

For complete details please visit:

RAC: <https://www.rac.ca/december-is-youth-on-the-air-yota-month/>

YOTA: <http://events.ham-yota.com>

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



Ken Fitzgerald, VA3KJF at 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

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



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.

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



Well, it is that most wonderful time of the year again, children and grandchildren are making their list and getting excited. Ham Radio operators are moving some gear around and making some space for the new radio or maybe a tuner or an amplifier!

I would like to send from my family to you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and best wishes for a Safe and fun Holiday!!

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

NSARC Christmas Dinner - Wednesday December 18th at 6:00 pm.

RAC Winter Conest – Saturday December 28th 0000hrs to 2359hrs.

This is a great short contest with lots of fellow Canadians on the air.

Annual General Meeting

Will be on Zoom at 7:00 PM on Wednesday January 15, 2025.

From the President

Some of you may have noticed or even received emails from some of the club executive that are now using a new email address. Thanks to Nick VA3NPW the club has now secured the use of the “**Google Workspace For Non-profits**” which is an on-line solution. This on-line solution has many features that will benefit the club. Some of the features are:

- **100 TB of on-line file storage.** This will replace the existing DropBox account that is used by the club.
- **A club Corporate Gmail Account.** This will replace the club executive and committee members from using personal email accounts. This also allows us to use the club Domain Name (VE3OSH.COM). It will now allow the club to have and use club emails for club business. Some of these emails will be what they call positional email address such as president@ve3osh.com. This will allow very easy switching from one person to the next person while retaining all past contacts and emails. No I am not saying I am leaving at this point but this use of positional email addresses just makes sense looking ahead. This also allows the club to be in full control of email communications. At the start, the club executive and committee members will be issued one of the new club email addresses.
- **Google Meet.** Google Meet is an on-line video conference service similar to what the club currently uses called “Zoom”. Mid next year the Google Meet solution will replace the Zoom service.

When Nick mentioned to me that if we qualify to use the Google Workspace for Non-profits we will be able to use all of the features of this service **all at NO COST**. Then when we reviewed some of the features like the three listed above we found that using this service would also save the club money on an annual basis. We would not have to pay for the Dropbox or the Zoom service anymore. That will save the club over \$400.00 per year. This is great savings for the club.

The Google Workspace for Nonprofits has many features and also provides on-line software to many to list here. If you would like to find out more information about this on-line service [click here](#).

I have asked Nick VA3NPW to be the primary administrator for this service as he has had previous knowledge and training on using this on-line solution. So while Nick gets this solution working, which will take a while, please don't send a lot of emails to Nick asking questions about this solution.

For the executive and committee members, when Nick is ready to add you to this solution, you will receive an email from “The Google for Nonprofits Team” with instructions on how to login and gain entry into the club Workspace.

There are many YouTube video's and there is a library of Google training videos that are available to learn how to use the club Workspace account. We will also have Nick and others provide an overview of this service in the new year.

As we learn ourselves and setup other features to use we will advise the membership.

On another note, as we are getting closer to closing out another year and since not everyone will be attending this year's Christmas Dinner, I would like to take this time on behalf of myself and the rest of the club executive to wish all of the NSARC members and the Friends of NSARC—Happy Holidays.

May we all be prosperous and be healthy in the new year.

73 – Derek VE3TKE
President NSARC
