

Monthly Update

February 2025

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: **Dylan VE3KXY**
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

February Meeting

SPECIAL NOTICE – This months member meeting will again be on Zoom but will start at approximately 8:15 pm that's on Wednesday February 19, 2025.

See the NEW "Presentation Co-ordinator" column in this newsletter to see the details on this month presentation.

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, Neil VA3NH** and **Steve VA3TPS.**

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.

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 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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not paid your 2025 membership fee's they are PAST DUE.

If you have paid your 2025 dues, we thank you for supporting the club.

Did you know the club membership runs from January 1, 2025 and ends on December 31, 2025 and is paid in advance.

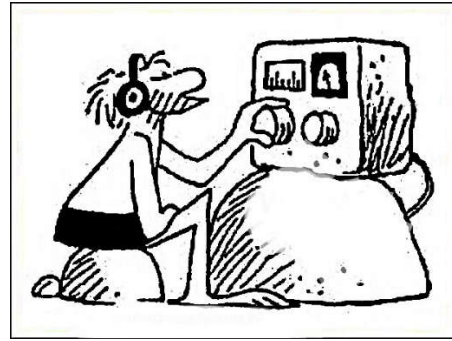
The membership renewal drive starts in late October for the next year.

There is also a Two-Part process to renew one's membership.

Step 1: go the membership section of our club page and submit the online form. NOTE: You will now need your RAC ID and renewal date.

Step 2: send the club an e-transfer to treasurer@ve3osh.com or give cash or cheque to either Derek, Thomas or Nick.

Membership dues are staying the same as 2024 - \$30.00 for a RAC member and \$40.00 for Non-RAC member



ANALOG HAM MEETS DIGITAL WORLD

PART 1. They Don't Make 'em Like They Used To

by **Neil McAlister - VA3NH**

Once upon a time, aspiring newbies to our illustrious hobby had to know how to design a transmitter -- or at least how to copy a circuit diagram from memory in order to pass the licensing exam. It is unlikely that many successful candidates actually went ahead and built that hypothetical transmitter; even less likely that any of them would have used their home-brew creations on the air. But that was not the point. From the days of Marconi, Amateur Radio has been a scientific avocation supported and advanced by a knowledgeable cadre of brilliant scientists, technicians and engineers who pursued this pastime as a natural offshoot of their professional activities.

When they were not designing and building their own stations from scratch, old time radio Amateurs could diagnose a wonky vacuum tube, test and replace a failed resistor, make a balun and dozens of other ham radio devices. Thick manuals and Amateur radio magazines detailed many useful DIY projects. Fast forward a few decades, and Heathkit was selling good quality, reliable kits to Amateurs who liked the satisfaction of operating gear that they had constructed with their own two hands. The Radio Shack sold electronic components to enthusiastic hobbyists.

Well-built, fully assembled equipment from Drake, Swan and Collins then made Amateur Radio gear accessible to a much wider range of participants, not all of whom had the benefit of technical training. As transistors began replacing vacuum tubes, ham radios grew more complex, acquiring more and more features. By the 1980s many of us who never had any formal experience in electronics hesitated to open the case of a second-generation, solid-state transceiver to look for a leaky capacitor, much less try to recap an older rig all by ourselves. Maybe such a task was still doable, but it could have been potentially fraught.

Then surface mount technology came along, making do-it-yourself diagnosis and repair of electronic devices nearly impossible for dilettantes. Such work now requires both education and expensive, specialized tools. Whether the ailing device be a TV set or a transceiver, it is often cheaper, and always much more convenient, to throw broken gear away than it is to have it repaired -- assuming repair is even possible.

Must we therefore resign ourselves sadly to the belief that Amateur Radio has devolved into a hobby of mere appliance operators? Not so fast! Now we are knee-deep in the era of programmable transceivers and SDR (software defined radio.)

Huh? Software and radio in the same sentence? Times have changed. What our up-to-date Amateur radio colleagues take for granted, some of us older hams find downright perplexing. In the same way that many adults are flummoxed by a smartphone that a twelve year old picks up and uses without instruction, it's just a matter of familiarity.

Case in point: This old ham joined the Quarter Century Wireless Association recently because there was no Half Century Wireless Association to join if he had waited another couple of years. Preoccupied by professional duty and family obligations, I had been off the air and out of touch for decades, stuck in a ham radio time warp from a bygone era.

Wakey! Wakey! I got a bucket of cold water over my head when I had to buy a 2 meter mobile transceiver three years ago. The shiny, new rig sat there on the desk, a lovely little paperweight silently mocking my ignorance. How to set frequency? Offset? Tone? Memory? I was gobsmacked by the unpleasant truth that time had passed me by. In a world of programmable transceivers I was functionally illiterate.

Quick! Grab the user manual! Alas, the manual was almost useless – thin, poorly illustrated and cryptically written as if it had been rendered from the original Chinese by an imperfectly multilingual, Malaysian-speaking translator. Worse, the instructions took it for granted that the purchaser was fully acquainted with the general concept of programmable radios. There was not one word about programming the mobile rig or where to obtain software to do it!

After three decades off the air the very idea that many transceivers are programmed nowadays was news to me. There followed much consulting with Dr. Google. (This was just before A.I. engines like Perplexity made clunky, old "Google searching" for mere website addresses obsolete.) After many unprintable imprecations to the uncaring gods of ham radio, the little mobile rig was finally persuaded to cooperate. It has been doing yeoman service in the car ever since.

Appliance operators? Hah! An Amateur who masters programmable rigs and SDR transceivers can laugh off that scurrilous epithet. These so-called "appliances" are anything but plug and play. They do not function without serious study, clear understanding, and hands-on intervention by their users. "Troubleshooter" might be the more accurate job description for the task that many hams undertake today. Our highly-educated, young colleagues from institutions like Ontario Tech University doubtlessly know all this stuff instinctively; but I humbly beg them to forgive the naivety of some of us older hams who once failed to keep up with the times.

Not convinced? The new reality became even more apparent to this old guy when my beloved 1989 vintage Kenwood HF rig died for the third time and wasn't worth trying to repair again. If wrestling with a little 2 meter mobile had been vexing, a new, full featured Yaesu FTDX10 analog-SDR hybrid HF transceiver would prove to be an order of magnitude more challenging.

But that's a whole 'nuther story for a future chapter. TO BE CONTINUED ...

73 de Neil - VA3NH

RAC Amateur of the Year 2024: Mike Kelly, VE3FFK



For immediate release:

The RAC Board of Directors takes great pleasure in selecting Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, of Ottawa, Ontario as the recipient of the RAC Amateur of the Year Award for 2024. Through the [RAC Amateur of the Year Award](#), Radio Amateurs of Canada recognizes the outstanding contributions made by Canadian Amateurs. The RAC Board considers nominations for the RAC Amateur of the Year Award and presents it if and when the nomination demonstrates the exceptional contribution made. If there are several nominations the best for that year is approved.

Website – ve3osh.com

With over five decades as an Amateur, Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, has volunteered countless hours as a member of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC).

“My Amateur career began as a teenager intrigued by the sounds of Morse on an old ‘all wave’ radio, and wanting to figure out what those guys were saying. That led to a course with the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC) and eventually, reluctantly, a few Executive positions there over the years. One of those positions was the club’s designated Delegated Examiner in around 1993, something I still enjoy doing. An interest in public service events led to several years volunteering for the Canadian Ski Marathon, the Rideau Lakes Bicycle Tour, several car rallies, soccer tournaments and road running events. Other interests included bicycle mobile HF and VHF operating, and portable operation before it became as popular as it is today.”

In December 2008, Mike joined a team of dedicated volunteers who provided much-needed support at RAC Headquarters every Wednesday and he continues to do so to this day. His responsibilities include managing and publishing the Silent Key List for The Canadian Amateur (TCA) and overseeing the Carl Everson Memorial Silent Keys List – tasks that demand extensive research, correspondence and writing every week. Mike plays a crucial role in supporting RAC elections by helping coordinate ballot distribution, reception and counting to ensure a fair and timely process. His additional commitment to various administrative tasks and ongoing assistance to the Office Manager highlights his invaluable support to RAC operations.

In January 2023, while returning from a 160m CW contest with Craig Delmage, VE3OP, Mike mentioned his long-standing wish for an Amateur station at RAC Headquarters to replace the station that had been closed years before. After discussions with RAC officials, a plan was launched in celebration of RAC’s 30th Anniversary to refurbish the RAC Headquarters in Ottawa to include a more modern office, a multipurpose room for meetings and other activities, and a flagship radio station. The refurbishment project required over 14 months of work on a daily basis involving: proposal writing; new office design; removal of old equipment/furniture; construction oversight; volunteer team coordination; and acquisition of new equipment/furniture.

With the completion of the office refurbishment project, Mike and Craig turned their attention to the planning, design and installation of RAC’s first-ever flagship radio station VE3RHQ. When completed, the new flagship station will serve many essential purposes including: public service and emergency communications; education and training opportunities; community engagement; supporting local clubs and other organizations; and promoting Amateur Radio throughout Canada and internationally through contests, events and award chasing.

Radio Amateurs of Canada sincerely congratulates Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, on his appointment as Amateur of the Year for 2024.

For more information about the RAC Amateur of the Year Award please visit:

<https://wp.rac.ca/rac-amateur-of-the-year/>

Allan Boyd, VE3AIB

RAC President and Chair

Swap Shop

Nothing new this Month...

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

Email – info@ve3osh.com

Editor's Note

Thank you to **Neil VA3NH** for his article.

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

We haven't had any members shack or mobile setup pics in a while. There must be some out there so send them to me with a short description of your station and setup.

Upcoming Events

February Monthly Meeting

Will be on Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesday February 19, 2025.

ARRL International DX SSB Contest

March 1-2, 2025, more info at <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

March 29 to 30th, 2025 more info at <https://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

This is a great contest for DX, you can work anyone, any where for lots of qso's.

April 12, 2025



It is getting closer, your Durham Hamfest organizing committee has been having meetings with this year's volunteers to organize this year's event. We are now accepting bookings by vendors for tables. The Hamfest will be held on Saturday April 12, 2025 from 0900 to around 12 noon. The website for our Hamfest is: www.durhamhamfest.com. If anyone has any questions or comments about the Hamfest you can contact Laird VE3LKS by email at: ve3lks@yahoo.ca. Also spread the word around the airwaves when you're talking to your fellow amateur radio operators about our Hamfest!

Presentation Co-ordinator

As I am new to this position and have just started to learn how to locate, contact and book prospective speakers it will take me some time to get this right. So please bear with me for a while. In the meantime, if you know or hear of any good presenters, please let me know. My email address is dylanbender@hotmail.com

To start the process, I asked Derek our club President for some background on the task that I have taken on.

Derek advised me that we already have a presentation lined up for our February member's meeting. So far I am finding this is a quite easy task.

This presentation will not be a club presentation as we will be joining another group for this presentation and **everyone who wishes to attend will need to contact this group by email to be able to attend. Sorry for the short notice.** This group will then email you the link to attend.

The club Secretary will still send the NSARC February Member Meeting Zoom link for the meeting that will start directly after this presentation at about 8:15 pm. So don't login to Zoom early, you will have a long wait and will miss the presentation.

This group uses the Microsoft TEAMS platform. So when you get the link, please TEST the link as there will be a small browser add-in module that needs to be installed. Simply click on the link to start this process. When completed you should end up at the Teams waiting screen for the presentation. Please do this before Wednesday. There will not be anyone to assist with connecting when the presentation starts.

Yes, this presentation will be on Wednesday night starting promptly at 7:00 pm and ending at 8:00 pm. The same time we normally would have the club presentation.

After the presentation is finished, we all will disconnect and then use the NSARC Zoom link to join the NSARC February Members meeting on Zoom. Again this is the link that the club secretary sends out.

The group that will be presenting is the "ACS GH". This is the Auxiliary Communication Service group for Golden Horseshoe section which also covers the Durham Region. Derek advised me that a large number of club members has recently attended an on-line training course on the "Winlink Email" with this group. Winlink is where you can send email over RF on Ham frequencies.

This weeks 1-hour presentation will be on "NVIS Antennas". It will be presented by John Leonardelli – VE3IPS. *"Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) Antennas, a communications system that permits coverage up to approximately 500 km using relatively low power equipment. Simple antenna ideas to make on a Saturday afternoon, providing a walk through on NVIS appropriate antennas, and the various antennas he has made for portable and Em-Comm operations."*

To arrange to attend this presentation, you need to send an email to:

Rosemarie Upfield – VA3RIE
Education and Training Coordinator
Auxiliary Communication Service (ACS)
Golden Horseshoe (GH) Section
Email: reupva3rie@gmail.com

I hope to see you there.

Dylan Bender - VE3KXY

From The President

I would like to thank Peter VA3PKM our Vice-President for hosting the January Annual Member's Meeting as I was not well. I apologize for the the meeting agenda that was sent out with all of the mistakes.

That file was a previous meeting agenda that I sent Peter to use as a template. Peter apparently had some computer problems and tried to do his best editing the form. Anyway, I hear that the meeting went well. Again, that's Peter.

Next, I would like to thank Dylan Bender VE3KXY for signing up as our new Presentation Co-ordinator. Let's all try to assist Dylan with any presenters that you may know.

As you know from reading Dylan's Presentation Co-ordinator column, I made the first presentation easier for him by supplying him with a pre-arranged presentation already setup. I hope that everyone understands what we are trying to do here. This group has a number of presentations that they will be doing over the next few months and I asked if our club members can attend. They replied yes with the condition that each member must email them directly to get the Teams link for the presentation.

If we have minimal problems switching back and forth we may attend there presentations until Dylan gets up to speed.

I want to get back to shovelling snow... so that's it for this month.

Derek VE3TKE
President