



Monthly Update

June 2025

www.ve3osh.com

Summer Shut Down

During the summer shut down period from June to September there will not be any monthly meetings. The weekly VPL and Rag Chew will continue. Remember that the club has a number of events during this period.

From the President

The Summer BBQ was scheduled for June 18th this year. When it got close to the day of the event, the weather did not look like it was going to cooperate with us this year. On the 18th I was watching the weather reports on a hourly basis to see if it was going to clear up. Finally, at noon, the weather reports stated doom and gloom but gave it a 40% chance so I made the decision to "GO" and Neil sent out the email that it was a go but come prepared for weather.

This year Louise had four people bring up their gazebo's and set them up in a cube format so that the people attending would have some sheltered space to stand under if we got the expected rain. We ended up having only a few sprinkles and the doom and gloom never showed up.

We had 35 people show up this year. Some showed up but did not let us know that they were coming and some that registered to show up did not. We also had a few cancellations. Overall, a great time was had by all. Good food, thanks to Louise this year being her first time organizing this event.

Near the end of the event, Brian VE3IK grabbed everyone's attention and requested to make a speech. Brian advised everyone that on behalf of the Sea Cadets they wanted to present a plaque to North Shore ARC specifically to myself and Aldo for the club's assistance in providing Basic Amateur Radio on-line exams to the Sea Cadets. I accepted the plaque from Brian and thanked Brian. See picture of the plaque below. Robert VE3IRB did take a picture of the acceptance, but has a computer problem so he can send any pictures of the BBQ or the acceptance.



Picture of the plaque presented to North Shore ARC by the Sea Cadets.

ARRL FIELD DAY



JUNE 28-29

ARRL Field Day June 28-29 ,2025

NSARC FIELD DAY 2025

BACKGROUND

1. Every June, more than 40,000 amateur radio operators throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate amateur radio's science, skill and service to our communities. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in amateur radio.

President NSARC intent: Have NSARC participate in Field Day Activities and successfully submit all logs.

My Intent: Set up a Class A Club (No Use of the power grid) station at purple woods and safely operate during the Field Day window while attempting to gain points bonuses from the following: Have a Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) Station; Keeping PEP at or under 100 Watts; media publicity; public information table; message handling via winlink; alternate power QSOs; W1AW Bulletin; and educational activity bonus.

MISSION.

2. NSARC will prepare for, and conduct Field Day from Purple Woods Conservation area and from home stations during the ARRL Field Day window.

TIMINGS

3. Field Day:

UTC: 28 1800Z Jun 2025 to 29 2059Z Jun 2025
Local: 28 1400Q Jun 2025 to 29 1659Q Jun 2025

4. No Setup before:

UTC: 27 0000Z Jun 2025
Local: 27 2000Q Jun 2025

5. Virtual Info Meeting: Nick to send out an information package to all that will be participating at Field Day.

ADMINISTRATION

6. In the coming weeks, emails will be sent out where members will be able to self identify if they would like to participate in Field Day. You do not need any equipment or previous experience to participate, in fact, there will even be opportunities

for unlicensed persons to have a chance operating the radio. We will have a Field Day Info meeting during one of our weekly VPL in March. Once a date is picked, an email will be sent out.

7. We have some key roles that will need to be filled, this will be discussed in further depth at the info meeting. I will fill the role as Field Day Coordinator, Martha Dinsmore has identified as looking after food for the event. I will be seeking people to fill the roles of Safety Officer, GOTA Coaches/operators; Public Affairs, and a few more roles.

Stay tuned for more info!

Nick Field - VA3NPW

2025 Field Day Coordinator



Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)

Has Released Two Bulletins.

1 – ISED Releases New Basic Amateur Radio Question Bank

For immediate release – January 27

This new Question Bank will be used for all Basic Amateur Radio Certificate examinations beginning July 15, 2025.

Since early 2023, Radio Amateurs of Canada has had a committee of 20 instructors and Accredited Examiners (AEs) working to update and improve the quality of the 984 questions, 984 correct answers and 2,952 distractors (incorrect answers) in the Question Bank. This was the first major update to the Question Bank since 2013.

We are extremely grateful to the 20 Radio Amateurs from nine provinces who gave so freely of their time and expertise to bring this enormous project to a successful conclusion.

This is the combined work of a large group of RAC members from across Canada. All were instructors in courses or Accredited Examiners (AEs), or both. The two most prominent were François Daigneault, VE2AAY and Dave Newcombe, VE3WI, who dedicated endless hours to this very exacting project.

The other members of the committee were:

Mark Richardson, VA3OBO
Francis Pitre, VA6FP
Tony Fonseca, VA7TF
Yvon Hachey, VE1VON
Gaétan Trépanier, VE2GHO
Michel Dumais, VE2SIG
Rod Clifton, VE3ISO
Geoff Bawden, VE4AE
Peter Driessen, VE7AB
Don Tolson, VE7ATJ
Frank Vanderzande, VE7AV
Sandy Wohl, VE7SFW
John Schouten, VE7TI
Frank Davis, VO1HP
Al Penney, VO1NO
Brent Taylor, VY2HF
Fred Archibald, VE1FA
Dave Goodwin, VE3KG

2 - ISED Releases New Documents for Amateur Exams

For immediate release | June 2, 2025

On May 30, 2025, Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) published three important documents related to the Amateur Radio examinations:

ISED updated "[RIC-1 – Guide for Examiners Accredited to Conduct Examinations for Amateur Radio Operator Certificates](#)" which sets standards for Amateur Radio certificate examinations and provides direction to Accredited Examiners (AEs) on the conduct of exams.

This update to RIC-1 makes three important changes:

- 1) ISED has given specific direction on the conduct of "virtual examinations," that is, examinations conducted over the internet.
- 2) ISED has dropped geographic restrictions for AEs. AEs in any province or territory may now examine candidates in any province or territory.
- 3) ISED has clarified that both the candidate and the AE must be in Canada at the time of the exam.

These changes were initiatives by ISED and were the subject of a Canada-wide consultation with AEs.

On that same date, ISED published two new documents specifically for the Basic exam:

- 1) A sheet of formulas and block diagrams. These are fully labelled. ISED is offering these for training purposes only.
- 2) A very similar sheet of formulas and block diagrams with all labels and context removed. These may be used as approved reference material during all Basic examinations starting on July 15, 2025.

These new documents were RAC initiatives. They were created by the members of the RAC Examination Standards Committee (RAC-ESC-CNE).

Dave Goodwin, VE3KG

Regulatory Affairs Officer

Radio Amateurs of Canada

QSL: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE SPAMLY.

by Neil McAlister, VA3NH



Years ago, confirmation of a QSO on Amateur Radio was a special courtesy because it required the senders to make so much effort. It had to be done by swapping paper QSL cards. Receiving a physical card from a DX station to hang on the shack wall or to paste into a scrap book was something to anticipate with pleasure and growing excitement.

Sometimes these cards were exchanged directly through the mail, but usually they reached eagerly waiting hands through the good graces of an intermediary: the volunteer QSL Bureau. Patience was a virtue. It might have taken a year or two to complete a two-way exchange of cards via the Bureau.

Often it still does. Paper QSL cards are still available from many Amateurs today, either by direct mail or via their Bureau, a service still provided for its

members by Radio Amateurs of/du Canada.

But alas, there are many places in the world where postal service is almost non-existent; where petty crooks routinely open envelopes to steal anything negotiable that might have been enclosed. Some foreign Amateurs using web based logging platforms warn about this, telling contacts flatly not to use their country's post office for QSLs. A good number of hams, particularly serious contesters, use electronic logging and foreign QSL agents who live in more reliable jurisdictions.

Despite the irregularity of the mail in some places, there are many Amateurs who collect QSL cards -- and some other hams who demand payment for sending them one. If you want paper you'll have to pay for it in advance, with no guarantee that the card you covet will ever arrive here in Canada.

We can empathize with operators of stations in rare, much sought-after QTHs who may be unable to cope with the big workload and high postal costs of mailing large volumes of QSL cards. However, there are certain stations that might be considered shady operators, maybe even bad actors. A few callsigns in regions with otherwise seldom-heard prefixes seem to be on the air most of the time with different operators in control. They will not QSL in any manner, physical or electronic, without prepayment.

Is that a hobby? The spirit of Amateur Radio? A basic computer log is available free of charge from more than one source, so requiring payment to confirm any QSO sounds more like a profit-making business. Whether one is willing to risk forking over money and banking info to such operators depends on how much one really wants confirmation of that QSO with the seldom visited archipelago of Southeastern Moolah-Moolah, I suppose.

Computer logging brought revolutionary improvement in the ease, efficiency and speed of the once glacial QSLing process. Unlike in the days of yore when a QSL card was a real gift, electronic confirmation is so easy to do that it is almost taken for granted these days. We are more likely to notice when a QSO is not confirmed. A ham who fails to provide some means of electronic QSL might seem to be vaguely unfriendly and standoffish.

It isn't difficult. Over the years there has been some consolidation of online logging platforms to make the electronic QSL process very easy.

One of the earliest platforms, the well-known ARRL Log of The World (LoTW), is the de facto gold standard for granting awards in many places by dint of its head start and longevity; but it is somewhat difficult to set up and awkward to use. Fortunately, more user friendly software such as Grid Tracker automatically logs digital QSOs with operators' accounts on LoTW, qrz.com and several other common platforms, making effortless confirmation when the records from two stations match.

Contesters have a variety of sophisticated logging programs at their disposal, many of which provide means of automatic confirmation.

Along with the convenience of creating electronic logs and confirmations automatically, however, there comes a down side. A certain amount of fragmentation in software based logging seems to have occurred. Even different platforms that generally work well together may not agree on some standards. For example, qrz.com calls one popular digital mode by its common name, VARA HF. But with pedantic insistence on traditional nomenclature, LoTW acknowledges no such mode. From the depths of their separate silos, making confirmations for VARA HF contacts across these two platforms is impossible without arcane and awkward work-arounds.

Adding to the fragmentation caused by incompatible software, you may have noticed an increasing volume of unsolicited email emanating from a new company in recent months. When their customers send you unasked-for QSLs confirming QSOs that you never logged on that platform -- the clickbait -- this company spams you with advertising for software tools. How much mutually incompatible software does one ham shack need? At the risk of being a curmudgeon myself, I send all unsolicited advertising directly to spam, unopened.

When nearly instantaneous ways of serving up a QSL are readily available, it seems rather quaint to read an old ARRL manual commending paper QSL cards as "the final courtesy of a QSO." But good manners never go out of fashion, do they? After an enjoyable contact it is satisfying to ensure that an appropriate log entry is recorded so that confirmation can be shared with the other party. More ceremonious occasions -- like a special event or a new Ham's first QSO on a particular band or mode -- may call for commemoration with something special: a physical QSL card. Some hams create their own customized, studio quality QSL cards on glossy photo paper as an artistic sideline of our infinitely interesting hobby. (Fig. 1)

Amateur Radio has a long, rich history, and the traditional courtesy of a QSL is part of it. That's something nice to think about and to enhance the full enjoyment of ham radio after a pleasant QSO.

73 de Neil - VA3NH

Fig. 1. Some Amateurs make professional quality QSL cards at home for special events or special QSOs. This was NSARC's card for Aquino Tank Weekend.

Swap Shop

We are looking for items for sale!

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

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

ARRL Field Day – June 28 to June 29

More information available soon from **Nick VA3NPW**.

IARU HF World Championship

Dates: The second full weekend of July (July 12-13, 2025).

Contest Period: Begins 1200 UTC Saturday and runs through 1159 UTC Sunday. Both Single and Multioperator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

[Click here for the complete IARU HF World Championship Rules \(PDF\)](#)

Aquino Tank Weekend – July 25 to July 27, 2025

More information available soon from **Laird VE3LKS**.

NSARC Fall Return BBQ -September 17, 2025

More information will be available soon from **Louise VA3LLF**

Hike or Bike -September 21, 2025

More information available soon from **Derek VE3TKE**

Cannington Hike or Bike – September 28, 2025

More information available soon from **Derek VE3TKE**

The Static Section

This section of the Newsletter will be for information and will not change.

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: **Position is Open**
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

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 the Zoom platform starting Wednesday night at 7:00 pm for members and guests. Everyone is welcome to attend. On the third Wednesday night the club has its member meeting on the Zoom platform 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.