

Monthly Update

September 2025

www.ve3osh.com

September Meeting



When: Wednesday September 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Location: Purplewoods Conservation Area (Our Repeater site)

NSARC Fall Return BBQ

Wednesday 17 September at 6:00 pm

At the repeater site

Purple Woods Conservation Area

Corner of Simcoe Street and Coates Road

Pre-registration is required so we know how much food to order.

If you are attending, and if you can donate any food items, please USE THE LINK BELOW to contact the event organizer **Louise VA3LLF**.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGGVuUUUsLUjPpHYscjsFBZtNeN8CClvZLTkh4wdsxl1dOg/viewform?usp=header>

RSVP is REQUIRED so the organizer can plan food quantity needed.

For more information, to volunteer, or to bring food items, contact **Louise VA3LLF**. lou.f@me.com

October Meeting

The first regular meeting after the summer break will be on Wednesday October 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm over the Zoom Platform.

Senator ALDO



- 1) Apply to become a member of the Straight Key Century Club.
- 2) Start contacting other members on the cw frequencies.
- 3) to get to the first level award "Centurion" you need to work 100 members and exchange numbers.
- 4) Now after getting the "Centurion" award you may work 50 more members and exchange numbers.
- 5) You are now a "Tribune" and as a tribune you now are required to work 50 unique numbers till you get to Tx8 or 400 unique contacts.
- 6) Now to get to be a "Senator" you must work another 200 unique numbers but only "T" and "S" contacts are allowed.

Once that is done you get your "Senator" Status. By the time you get finished you may work about 2000 cw contacts.

It has been a lot of fun for me to achieve this award.

Aldo VA3AG

Congratulations to Aldo, that is a lot of QSO's and sounds like lot of fun.

Presentation Coordinator:

Currently our club is looking for a presentation Coordinator whose job it would be to search out and locate some people to do presentations during our club meetings.

The topics can be about Amateur Radio, or associated topics, electronics, special events, etc. Could also be about community events or other topics that might benefit our members. So, if you can help out the club and its members give **Derek VE3TKE** a shout and let him know.

Also in the meantime, if anyone knows of someone doing presentations, you could contact the presenter and Derek and help set a meeting date for the presentation.



RAC Response to Proposal to US FCC about Satellites

July 25, 2025 – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has taken note of the concerns raised by Canadian and international Amateurs regarding a proposal submitted to the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by AST, a US-based company.

The proposal seeks limited authorization to use the 430 MHz to 440 MHz spectrum – including other non-Amateur bands – for satellite telemetry, tracking and control (TT&C) functions during unspecified emergency scenarios.

RAC was aware of this proceeding, designated as FCC Docket 25-201 and opted not to comment during the initial submission phase. This decision aligns with guidance received from our US counterpart, the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), who has now submitted their formal comments.

RAC intends to participate during the reply phase of this proceeding, which concludes on August 5, 2025. We will coordinate closely with the ARRL to ensure our response is both complementary and constructive. Our shared goal is to uphold and defend Amateur Radio access to the 430-440 MHz band.

RAC has also consulted with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), ensuring that Canadian regulatory authorities are aware of the proposal and the concerns voiced by Canadian Amateurs.

The Amateur community has expressed strong reservations about potential interference with weak-signal activity in the vicinity of 432 MHz, as well as with Amateur satellites operating between 435 MHz and 438 MHz.

While some online commentary has exaggerated the implications of the proposal – including claims that Amateur access to this spectrum is in jeopardy – it is important to note that such assertions are unfounded.

Nevertheless, RAC remains committed to defending the interests of Canadian Amateurs and will formally respond to the FCC in the upcoming phase of the proceeding.

*Dave Goodwin, VE3KG
Regulatory Affairs Officer
Radio Amateurs of Canada*

RAC Strengthens Emergency Preparedness with Auxiliary Communications Service and New Recruitment Plan

Toronto, Ontario – July 23, 2025

Radio Amateurs of Canada is proud to announce the development of the Auxiliary Communications Service in Ontario, alongside a comprehensive new recruitment and retention plan. This initiative is part of the Ontario government's \$10 million investment in emergency preparedness grants, aimed at enhancing the response capabilities of Ontario Corps partners across the province.

Under the leadership of Premier Ford and the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Radio Amateurs of Canada is receiving \$545,000 to recruit and retain volunteers, upgrade skills, and prepare teams for deployment within Ontario. These efforts will ensure a sustainable volunteer workforce equipped with the necessary skills for emergency telecommunications.

The Auxiliary Communications Service will play a crucial role in providing reliable communication during emergencies, leveraging the expertise of skilled professionals and highly trained volunteers. This service will be instrumental in supporting local emergency responders and ensuring communities are better prepared to respond to local emergencies.

"We are honoured to stand with our Ontario NGO partners and the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response in this vital initiative."

Radio Amateurs of Canada is part of a province-wide network of skilled professionals and highly trained volunteers who can be mobilized quickly to help communities hit hard by emergencies. Items that partners have already purchased using grants include emergency food kits, GPS devices, satellite phones, canteen trucks, portable shelters, training for volunteer drone pilots, and more.

During the ice storm that left thousands of Ontarians in the dark and cold earlier this year, Ontario Corps partners were deployed, volunteering over 6,000 hours. They provided tree-clearing services, supported evacuation reception centers, and delivered over 3,700 meals and food hampers, as well as conducted over 4,100 wellness checks.

Radio Amateurs of Canada is committed to enhancing emergency readiness and response capacity, ensuring that communities across Ontario are better prepared to face any challenges that may arise. We look forward to working closely with our partners and the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response to achieve these goals.

For more information, please contact:

Jason Tremblay, VE3JXT | RAC Community Services Officer | community@rac.ca

The Canadian Woodpecker?

Nonsense!

In March 2025, the Canadian government announced plans to buy an Over-The-Horizon-Radar (OTHR) radar system from BAE Systems Australia. The radar system Canada will acquire can operate from 5 MHz to 30 MHz. That frequency range is a technical specification - a statement of capability. It is not a statement of the system's necessary operational bandwidth.

Some Canadian Amateurs reacted with outrage. Those of us who have been around for a while remember the days of the Soviet Union's OTHR system. It ran from 1976 to 1989 and operated from about 7 MHz to 19 MHz.

Nicknamed "The Russian Woodpecker", this system caused great disruption to the Amateur HF Bands. Similar OTHR systems in China and Iran have also caused serious interference over the years, but the "Russian Woodpecker" was a truly spectacular disrupter of the HF bands.

The emotional reaction of some Oldtimers is, I think, unwarranted. The system that Canada is buying has been in successful operation in Australia for years without interference to Amateur Radio.

Canada and Australia are countries that live up to their agreements and treaties. However, Russia, China and Iran are not so. Inferences that all OTHR systems are alike miss that critical distinction. Canada honours the spectrum allocations developed at the International Telecommunication Union's World Radiocommunication Conferences.

The Canadian table of Frequency Allocations (CFTA) shows allocations for Radiolocation at these HF frequencies:

- 5250 – 5275 kHz
- 13450 – 13550 kHz
- 16100 – 16200 kHz
- 24450 - 24650 kHz
- 26200 – 26420 kHz

These are the likely frequencies at which this will operate. None of these allocations overlap or are even adjacent to any Amateur allocation.

73, Dave Goodwin, VE3KG

The vain search for a correlation between dynamically fluctuating SWR and wind speed

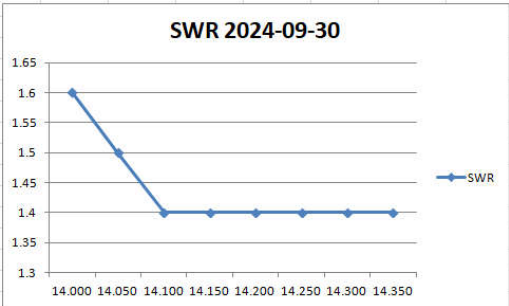
That comes a time in the life of every HAM when tradition and sacred practices are abandoned, albeit temporarily. I guess I should start by apologizing to the CLUB members and the HAM community en masse for breaking with tradition and working on an antenna when the weather was nice out. I will claim an extreme circumstance that led to the lapse as my defense.

Back in April I was busy running up my POTA count and had just crested 400 stations in the log when I suddenly lost all ability to be heard using my 20M dipole. I could hear just fine, but there was no apparent output at the antenna. I checked the SWR and found it swinging wildly between 2.6 and 4.8 to 5.8 right across the band. Once this was established, I checked my trusty 570's output into the dummy load I keep handy. Fortunately, it was the full 100watts. As most of my time on the radio is in the evenings, I was reluctant to dig too deeply into the problem without being well rested.

The next day, a Saturday as it happened, I sat down in the shack and checked the SWR. Darn it all, it was normal again!!! SO, I hooked up the 570 and logged a couple more stations before I went 'mute' again. Sure, enough the swinging SWR was back with a vengeance. Here's what the antenna looked like.



The dipole came from Durham Radio and was a very nice unit. It served me very well over the years and was way better than the previous purchase which failed due to water ingress in the Centre insulator. This is the SWR plot for my "working very nicely" 20M dipole.



Now, because of my lot size and the use of somewhat compromised antennas, I check the SWR for the bands I'm operating on 2 or 3 times a year unless there's a problem.

Venturing outside I noted the wind and the swinging antenna. I dropped it down and checked the dipole legs for obvious signs of damage. There were none. I checked my feed line using the dummy load with my MFJ 269 and whipping it around. It showed a dead-on 1:1 match no matter what I did. So, it would have to be the antenna. After hoisting it back up I checked in the shack and the darn dipole had miraculously healed itself. That was good for a couple more stations in the log before other things commanded my attention.

It took a number of weeks to nail down that when the wind blew the SWR was all over the place. Also, noted that when the wind was calm things were pretty much normal. I tinkered with raising and lowering the antenna and even changed the feed line. All of this fiddling about established the wind as the cause of my inability to be heard.

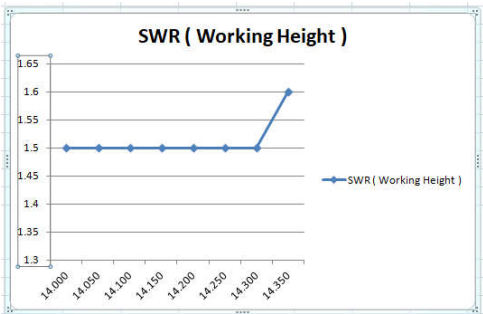
I checked the connections to the dipole, the center insulator and the legs. And there was nothing obvious. I couldn't really check the continuity on the legs due to the 'nice' purple insulation. I started to get really suspicious of the 'nice' purple wire coating as it had to be hiding something.

Finally, things got to the point where whatever was failing broke. The SWR was 5.8 across the band no matter what. The dipole had to come down and wonder of wonders one leg was 2.5 inches longer than the other. Some of you may remember a similar story of my previous dipole that failed due to water ingress and rust at the SO-239 connector.

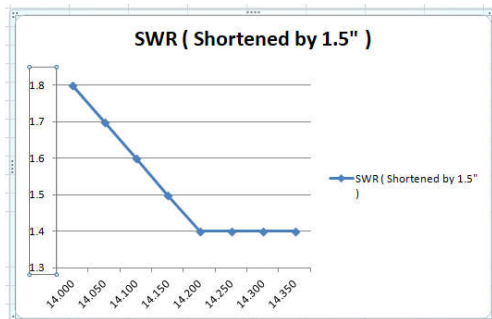
Serendipitously it was Milton Hamfest time. I had an XYL approved list and a modest radio fund. At the Milton Hamfest I was really pleased to acquire some center insulators with SO-239 connectors and with bare copper wire and insulators waiting in the shack, I was set. This is one of the center insulators shown below. I am pretty pleased it only cost 5 bucks and they wanted that for some of the SO-239s on offer



I made my new 20M dipole deliberately long and started to cautiously trim things down. I decided to work with it at about 4 and a-half feet off the ground because I was just too lazy to haul it up and down while tuning. I got it nicely dialed in, but decided that just a little more off each leg would be the answer. I thought based on the trimming that 2 inches off each end would be the most I could do, so I cut 1.5 inches off each end. At working height, the match looked very nice at 1.5:1 almost right across the band



I got out my trusty butane torch and soldered the ends to complete my work. Part of the exercise resulted in me almost using the title "The curse of the singed digits" owing to the movement of the wire in the gentle breeze and how bloody hot the torch was. Flushed with success I hoisted the new dipole into its operating position and HEY PRESTO!! it was too short.

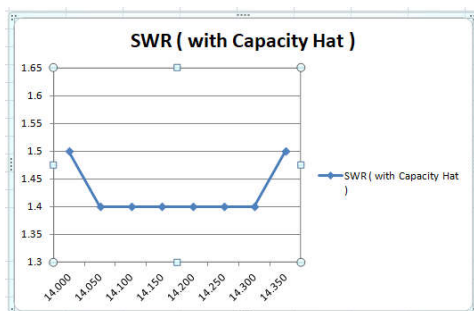


Not having any longer lengths of bare copper wire left, there was only one thing to do and that would be to make the wires longer electrically.

Enter the capacity hat. A little bit of quick modeling using 4NEC suggested that something on the order of 1 and 5/8s inches would set things right. I cut 4 pieces of copper wire to 4 inches long intending to do a bit of trimming. I placed at the end of the legs in an "X" pattern and tested things out. Disappointingly, while the match was better it still wasn't great. But I decided to solder things in anyways. At this time my much-used butane torch from Princess Auto packed it in. My only option was the propane torch which is way too hot for antenna work in the summer. With things soldered in and the arms of the capacity hats re-arranged to the "X" pattern with each arm about 1.75 inches long the antenna was hoisted up again. It looks like this now.



And after the soldering and hoisting this is what the SWR curve looks like.



So, I'm back in the POTA hunt again. AND I solemnly promise to wait for the cooler weather to work on my next antennas. In my neighborhood my 4BTV is noisy as all get out. The SWR is respectable on 40, 15 and 10, but you can't work what you can't hear. I'm thinking about a Linear Loaded Dipole for 40M and possibly a fan dipole for 17, 15, 12 and 10M. The center insulator the now defunct dipole will live on in another antenna. The wire will likely go to scrap, unless I can figure out a way to test it without letting all the smoke out.

de **Ken VE3RMK**



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.

Below is a recent picture from the September get togethers at Whitefeather. (thx **Derek VE3TKE** , Photo by **Jeanette**)



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

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.

Thank you to **Senator Aldo VA3AG** and **Ken VE3RMK** for their articles.

Upcoming Events

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**

Hike or Bike - September 28, 2025 (New Event)

More information available soon from **Derek VE3TKE**

October Monthly Meeting – October 15, 2025

Will be on the Zoom Platform on Wednesday October 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

November Monthly Meeting – November 19, 2025

Will be on the Zoom Platform on Wednesday November 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

From the President

Well I don't know about you but I have had a busy summer. The wife and I have been baby sitting our grand kids quite a lot thus allowing their parents to work their crazy rotating shifts. Now that the grand kids are now in school and day care we hope to have a bit of a break this fall.

Regarding the ongoing situation with our repeater tower, I have been asked by CLOCA to provide a Business Plan with revenue figures that we as a club can now afford on a monthly basis to continue to be located at the Purple Woods location. I have written this plan (20 pages) and submitted it to our executive to be reviewed and accepted. After a few changes it was accepted. This plan was then submitted to CLOCA on August 15th for their review and hopeful acceptance. CLOCA did advise that they would need some time to review the plan. I am currently still waiting for the response. Once I get the response, I will notify the executive first and then I will call a Special Zoom meeting for all club members to hopefully vote on accepting the new conditions and monthly expense to remain at Purple Woods.

We still have a few events for this year. The Saturday Sept 20th Simulated Emergency Communications Test that is being conducted by the GH Section of RAC ACS. Myself and a few club members will be participating in this event for the Durham Region. A number of other regions such as York, Peel, Niagara and Toronto will also be participating. Nick VE3NPW is the Durham Region Team Leader for this event. Most of our group are new to EMCOMM so we hope all goes well. Good thing that this is training event. Who knows, after this event we may start up regular EMCOMM Training. For those participating in this event, we will be setting up a Zoom meeting to review who and what needs to be done for this event. I will send out an email shortly.

The next event is the Hike or Bike event in Newcastle on Sunday Sept 21. Those participating in this event have already received an email with details and assignments for this event. The main event location has moved this year. It has moved to south of the Hospice site as the Hospice is completed and ready to open it's doors. Looking forward to participating at this event.

We have a new event this year on Sunday Sept 28 called Brock Ride & Stride for Health in Cannington, Ontario. This is the first year for this event and we were contacted to provide communications for the event. The event coordinator has previously worked with the North Shore group on an event that we did for a number of years. I will be the Net Control for this event. I will be sending out an email soon with details and assignments to those people who signed up for this event. Looking forward to participating in this event.

The last event that is planned at this time is the Annual Scout Canada JOTA. This will be held on Saturday October 18th and Sunday October 19th.

Looking forward to receiving more information from Thomas VE3PDK on this event. Last year Nick VE3NPW and myself participated in the event and had a great time with the Scouts. Looking forward to participating this year at JOTA.

I have asked Daren VE3NMD to takeover the administration of next year's Basic Training Course planned for January 2026. Daren, now that he is retired has accepted the task. Daren is now in the planning process for the course while Brian VE3IK and Richard VE3LSZ, the instructors for the course are modifying the course material for the Basic Course to meet the new changes that ISED announced a while ago.

There was also a new exam procedure released by ISED a while ago that Aldo VA3AG, the club examiner must now follow. One of the new requirements is that examiners must now examine only one person at a time if examining virtually. This will now change our course. We will now no longer be including an exam as part of the course but will be providing a list of examiners, with Aldo's name at the top of the list to course participants. Details about next years course should be released shortly by Daren.

I hope to see everyone at the club BBQ on September 17th at Purple Woods.

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 7:00pm 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.
