



Monthly Update

November 2025

www.ve3osh.com

November Meeting

The November monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 8:00 pm over the Zoom Platform.

What does it mean?

Recently one of our newer Hams was asking what some of the terms in Amateur Radio mean. So, we will run a short column with some Ham Radio terms and their meaning. For some of the old timers this is old hat but hopefully will help younger and newer Hams.

FT8: FT8 is a popular form of digital weak signal communication used primarily by amateur radio operators to communicate on amateur radio bands with a majority of traffic occurring on the HF amateur bands. The mode offers operators the ability to communicate in unfavorable environments such as during low sun spot numbers, high RF noise, or during low power operations. With advances in signal processing technology FT8 is able to decode signals with a signal to noise ratio as low as -20 dB in a 2,500 Hz bandwidth, which is significantly lower than CW or SSB transmissions.

Antenna Analyzer: Device that measures antenna and feedline characteristics, such as impedance, SWR, and bandwidth.

APRS: *Automatic Packet Reporting System* : digital communication protocol (packet radio) for exchanging information among a large number of ham radio stations covering a relatively large area.

Cold Solder Joint: Poorly soldered union of two or more electrical conductors, often resulting in an unsound connection or intermittent contact, and can have a grainy appearance.

Colpitts Oscillator: Oscillator circuit that achieves its waveform generation by positive feedback supplied through a capacitive divider, and is one of (at least) three oscillator circuits used in amateur radio equipment, commonly in VFO applications.

Lobe: Spatial signal pattern represented graphically by a balloon or raindrop shape, which shows the relative electromagnetic field directions and signal strengths logarithmically proportional to the distance from the source, typically an antenna.

Winlink, or formally, **Winlink Global Radio Email** (registered US Service Mark), also known as the **Winlink 2000 Network**, is a worldwide radio messaging system that uses amateur-band radio frequencies and government frequencies to provide radio interconnection services that include

email with attachments, position reporting, weather bulletins, emergency and relief communications, and message relay. The system is built and administered by volunteers and is financially supported by the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation

WARC Bands: The **World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) bands** are three portions of the shortwave radio spectrum used by licensed and/or certified amateur radio operators. They consist of 30 meters (10.1–10.15 MHz), 17 meters (18.068–18.168 MHz), and 12 meters (24.89–24.99 MHz). They were named after the [World Administrative Radio Conference](#), which in 1979 created a worldwide allocation of these bands for amateur use. The bands were opened for use in the early 1980s. Due to their relatively small bandwidth of 100 kHz or less, there is a gentlemen's agreement that the WARC bands may not be used for general [contesting](#). This agreement has been codified in official recommendations, such as the IARU Region 1 HF Manager's Handbook, which states: "Contest activity shall not take place on the 5, 10, 18, and 24 MHz bands." Non-contesting radio amateurs are recommended to use the contest-free HF bands (30, 17, and 12m) during the largest international contests.

Fox Hunting: Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF), also known as **Radio Orienteering**, **Radio Fox Hunting** and [Radiosport](#), is an amateur racing sport that combines [radio direction finding](#) with the map and compass skills of [orienteering](#). It is a timed race in which individual competitors use a [topographic map](#), a magnetic compass and radio direction finding apparatus to navigate through diverse wooded terrain while searching for radio transmitters. The rules of the sport and international competitions are organized by the International Amateur Radio Union. The sport has been most popular in Eastern Europe, Russia, and China, where it was often used in the physical education programs in schools.

ARDF events use radio frequencies on either the two-meter or eighty-meter amateur radio bands. These two bands were chosen because of their universal availability to amateur radio licensees in all countries. The radio equipment carried by competitors on a course must be capable of receiving the signal being transmitted by the five transmitters and useful for radio direction finding, including a radio receiver, [attenuator](#), and [directional antenna](#). Most equipment designs integrate all three components into one handheld device.



Balun: A balun [/ˈbælən/](#) (from "balanced to unbalanced", originally, but now derived from "balancing unit")^[1] is an electrical device that allows [balanced](#) and [unbalanced lines](#) to be interfaced without disturbing the impedance arrangement of either line. A balun can take many forms and may include devices that also transform [impedances](#) but need not do so. Sometimes, in the case of transformer baluns, they use [magnetic coupling](#) but need not do so. Common-mode [chokes](#) are also used as baluns and work by eliminating, rather than rejecting, common mode signal.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

According to **Thomas VE3PDK**, our Membership Director, 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 to the [Membership section](#) of our club page and submit the online form. Step 2: Send Nick an e-transfer to 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.

Membership Fees:

Full Year: January 1 – December 31, 2026

- Membership – **\$35**
- Additional fee for non-RAC members – **\$15** – this covers the cost of RAC Insurance.



Ms. Lisa Brazeau wrote to thank NSARC for providing communications for a recent charitable fund-raising event:

On behalf of everyone at **Brock Community Health Centre**, thank you for your generous support of our **first annual Brock Ride & Stride for Health**. Thanks to you, and to our incredible community, we raised **just over \$20,000** to support local health programs and services.

It was truly a perfect day — beautiful weather, great turnout, and an amazing sense of community spirit. None of it would have been possible without your sponsorship and belief in our mission to build a healthier Brock Township.

We're already looking ahead to next year and hope you'll join us again for the **2026 Brock Ride & Stride for Health**, happening on **Sunday, September 27, 2026** — mark your calendars!

Thank you once again for helping make this year's event such a success. Your partnership makes a real difference.

With gratitude,

Lisa Brazeau
Chair, Fundraising Committee
Brock Community Health Centre

Neil VA3NH

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 October 18 get together at Whitefeather. (thx **Derek VE3TKE**, Photo by **Jeanette**)



The Other Option (from Laird VE3LKS)

Well, our visit to the 420 Wing, located next to Airmen's Park at the south end of the Oshawa Airport, for their Pancake and Sausage Breakfast October 25 went well. Ten of us showed up, devoured some breakfast, drank copious amounts of caffeine and had a great time socializing. The 420 Wing does this once a month, usually on the third Saturday, so keep your ears open to see if we decide to patronize them again. Next few weeks we will be back at Coffee Time.

Who was present at this ground breaking, monumental history making event you ask? Well, here are the scoundrels. Doug VE3GVW, Jean Paul VE3JPT, Vic VE3JAR, Bob VE3HIX, Laird VE3LKS, Brian VE3IK, Larry VE3LWJ (the instigator), Ms M (harmonic of SK Howie VE3TY and a Q) and Clint VA3KDK.

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 **Neil VA3NH** for their article.

Upcoming Events

November Monthly Meeting – November 19, 2025

Will be on the Zoom Platform on Wednesday November 19, 2025 at 8:00PM

RAC Winter Contest: The RAC Winter Contest is coming up on December 20 from 00:00z to 23:59z hours. This is a fun contest where all the American's and a few other countries chase us Canadians. It is a great opportunity to say, "Hello" to all of our fellow Canadian Amateur Radio operators and is a very relaxed contest for most of us.

From the President

Now that Fall is here our club remains very active, with several important projects bubbling away in the background and our biggest public event in planning for the coming year.

First among these projects is the continuing effort to secure a new tower for our repeaters, and an affordable lease for the land on which the tower stands. Past President Derek VE3TKE diligently continues as our club's spokesman and representative for this critical issue, which he has patiently navigated through the bureaucratic shoals throughout the past three years. New information changes the situation almost weekly; but things appear to be steering towards a conclusion that will soon satisfy all parties. More to report as it is known.

As this is being written, the repeater committee is acquiring some donated 2 meter equipment for the club, free of charge. Metrolinx recently changed their mode of communication, rendering their old 2m gear surplus. They are generously giving it to regional Amateur Radio clubs. We can use this gear, which includes a repeater complete with cavity filters, for NSARC's backup and remote operations.

Our member contact with the Amateur Radio club at Ontario Tech University (OTU), Francis Wong VE3FRV is working with our Directors on ways to strengthen cooperation and support between our two clubs. Several OTU students have obtained their ham licenses via our Basic Amateur course. The possibility of cutting through red tape to permit occasional joint virtual and in-person meetings, either at the University or elsewhere, is being investigated.

In this era of rapid climate change, and increasingly frequent and longer power outages, preparation for Emergency Communications (EMCOMM) assumes urgent importance, our Past President Derek VE3TKE points out. Discussions for real, practical, workable plans are getting underway at the Board. Much more on this topic, I hope, as the weeks go by.

The annual Durham Hamfest will happen in the spring, but it's never too early to plan ahead, especially when it is NSARC's biggest fundraiser. Laird VE3LKS has retired as the event's coordinator; but he remains active on the Hamfest committee. A new coordinator for that committee is needed, so here's a great opportunity to get involved early with a project that already has an experienced crew and a long lead time.

It is reassuring to see that we have an active, enthusiastic and competent Membership and Board of Directors. When something really needs doing, somebody with the necessary know-how seems to jump up.

Your ideas and offers to volunteer are always more than welcome. One need not be an electronics engineer, a skilled communications technician, or a long-experienced ham to lend valuable assistance to NSARC. If you want to get more deeply involved in Amateur radio activities, technical or not so technical, just give us a shout.

Best of 73 de Neil

Neil McAlister, VA3NH,
Acting President,
NSARC, Inc.
president@ve3osh.com

The Static Section

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

Club Directors

President – **Neil VA3NH**
Vice President: **Brian VE3IK**
Secretary: **Justin VA3BIU**
Treasurer: **Nick VA3NPW**
Membership Director: **Thomas VE3PDK**

Committee Leads

Repeater & Technical Trustee: **Daren VE3NMD**
Website: **Laird VE3LKS**
Club Examiner: **Aldo VA3AG**
Newsletter: **Steve VA3TPS**
Net Manager: **Steve VA3TPS**
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 attendees 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 **Neil VA3NH** at president@ve3osh.com. Our club Secretary **Justin VA3BIU** will be sending out the Zoom link prior to the Wednesday meeting time. It has actually 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.