

# Monthly Update



[www.ve3osh.com](http://www.ve3osh.com)

## December 2025

### December Meeting

The December monthly meeting will be held on **Wednesday December 17 2025 at 8:00 pm** over the Zoom Platform.

### January Meeting

The January monthly meeting will be on **Wednesday January 21 2026 at 8:00 pm** over the Zoom Platform, this will also be our **Annual General meeting** with elections for our 5 Director's positions.

### Christmas Dinner



On December 04, 2025 we had our Christmas Dinner at the Mandarin Restaurant in Oshawa with people attending. Lots of good food and camaraderie was enjoyed by all and attached are a few pictures from **Neil VA3NH**.





## 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.

**Band spread** - A receiver quality term used to describe how far apart stations on different nearby frequencies will seem to be. We usually express band spread as the number of kilohertz that the frequency changes per tuning-knob rotation. Band spread and frequency resolution are related. The amount of band spread determines how easily signals can be tuned.

**Band-pass filter** - A circuit that allows signals to go through it only if they are within a certain range of frequencies. It attenuates signals above and below this range.

**Bandwidth** - The width of a frequency band outside of which the mean power is attenuated at least 26 dB below the mean power of the total emission, including allowances for transmitter drift or Doppler shift. Bandwidth describes the range of frequencies that a radio transmission occupies.

**Chassis ground** - The common connection for all parts of a circuit that connect to the negative side of the power supply.

**Courtesy tone** - A tone or beep transmitted by a repeater to indicate that it is okay for the next station to begin transmitting. The courtesy tone is designed to allow a pause between transmissions on a repeater, so other stations can call. It also indicates that the time-out timer has been reset.

**Digipeater** - A packet-radio station used to retransmit signals that are specifically addressed to be retransmitted by that station.

**Digital communications** - Computer-based communications modes. This can include data modes like packet radio and text-only modes like radioteletype (RTTY).

**Duty cycle** - A measure of the amount of time a transmitter is operating at full output power during a single transmission. A lower duty cycle means less RF radiation exposure for the same PEP output.

**Front-end overload** -- Interference to a receiver caused by a strong signal that overpowers the receiver RF amplifier ("front end").

**Maximum useable frequency (MUF)** - The highest-frequency radio signal that will reach a particular destination using sky-wave propagation, or skip. The MUF may vary for radio signals sent to different destinations.

## UNDERSTANDING ENGINEERING TERMS

Percussive Maintenance  
*I hit it and it started working.*

Cycle Power to the Panel.  
*Turn it off and on again.*

High Impedance Air-Gap.  
*I forgot to plug it in.*

Organic Grounding.  
*I got electrocuted.*

Themally Reconfigured.  
*It melted.*

Kinetic Disassembly.  
*It blew up.*

Thermal Shock.  
*It burned.*

These terms were sent to Steve / VA3TPS and printed a couple of years ago. Thank you to **Lois** SWL for the article.

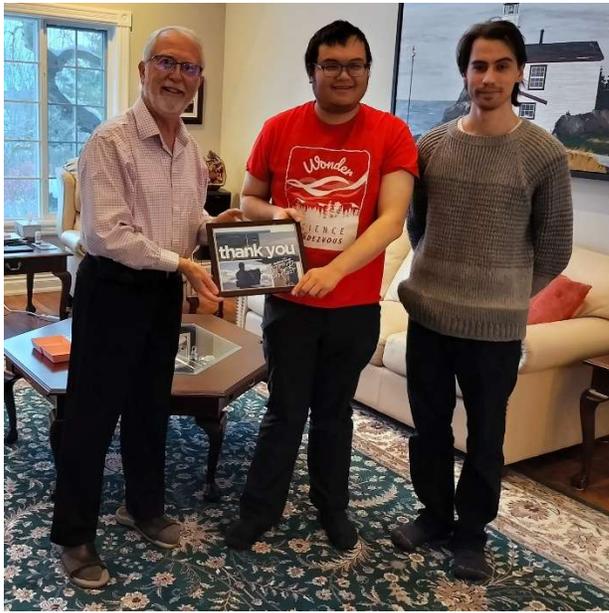
## Thanks from Ontario Tech Amateur Radio Club

Two fellow Amateurs from Ontario Tech University recently paid a visit to the QTH of Neil VA3NH for crumpets and tea. (Well, cappuccino and cookies, actually.) Francis Wong VE3FRV is Lead Director of the Ontario Tech ARC and a member of NSARC. Michael Bondarenko VE3ZAO is a member of the university club who is interested in rocketry and radio telemetry.

The men brought a framed plaque thanking NSARC for our own club's ongoing support of OTSR -- Ontario Tech Space and Rocketry and the Ontario Tech ARC.

Their gift was gratefully accepted on behalf of NSARC; and its home for now is on the wall of Neil's shack.





73 Neil VA3NH

## NSARC AND THE SEA CADETS

North Shore has had a long association with the Sea Cadet program in Durham Region including the Bowmanville Sea Cadets. For the past few years our club has provided training, equipment and practical help for the Cadets in setting up and running remote Amateur stations between their various locations at events in the area, especially in Oshawa. Aldo VA3AG serves as the examiner for Cadets who complete their Basic Amateur training and want to get their ham licenses.

In gratitude for these contributions the Bowmanville Navy League Branch (Civilian partner organization for the cadets) invited NSARC's President to the Ship's Dinner this year

This year's event was special for us because NSARC's own acting Vice President, Brian Holmes VE3IK, is Commanding Officer of the Bowmanville Sea Cadets. Here he is, looking splendid in his uniform and medals as a commissioned Officer of Canada's Naval Reserve.

The group photo shows, L to R:

Councilor and Deputy Mayor of Clarington, Willie Woo.

Lt (N) Brian Holmes, Commanding Officer of Sea Cadets Bowmanville.

Police protection was provided for the two Directors of NSARC. No, actually two on-duty officers who dropped in to pay respects to the Sea Cadets, Naval Cadet (junior officer and police Constable) Chad Churchill, and his superior officer in DRPS.



NSARC President Neil McAlister VA3NH.

It was a relief to learn that civilian landlubbers are not subject to strict Naval protocol. Therefore, NSARC members are not required to address Brian VE3IK as "Sir" on all occasions!

Bravo Zulu, as they say in the Navy, which is code for "Well Done."

## IS WI-FI SPYING ON YOU?

by **Dr. Neil McAlister, VA3NH**

### WHAT IS A "RADIO?"

Your eyes are a kind of biological "radio" that receive wavelengths within what we call the visual spectrum -- light -- that gets reflected or produced by objects in the outside world. Your brain analyzes and organizes those received signals into meaningful images that we call vision. That's how we see things.

Wi-Fi devices cannot take visual images like a camera because they don't have the optical hardware needed for visual imaging. They cannot see.

Or can they? Wi-Fi devices are both transmitter and receiver. They communicate with each other by swapping Beamforming Feedback Information (BFI). These feedback signals show how radio waves propagate within a limited range, and this information is then sent without encryption from devices connected to a Wi-Fi router. As radio signals reflect off a person who moves through the Wi-Fi field, their body causes measurable fluctuations in the Wi-Fi signals, creating unique patterns that are altered by the movement and presence of those people. AI can analyze reflected patterns of radio waves received by a modem far below the visual spectrum. That data can be used to generate very specific "maps" of body shapes and activities. It's a different kind of "seeing" using a very different part of the electromagnetic spectrum than human eyes receive. These Wi-Fi reconstructions are not traditional, recognizable visual images like we see when we look at somebody. They are data that describe poses, breathing, movement and 3D positioning even through walls, producing what we can only imperfectly describe as silhouettes, shadows and extremely detailed patterns.

To be clear: We are NOT talking about hacking cellphones and laptops. Forget that. Turning off your cellphone is irrelevant. You do not need to have a phone at all for AI to recognize you as you casually walk through the "free Wi-Fi" field of a coffee shop on your way to work. All that is required is that someone -- anyone -- within range has a device connected to that modem, sending standard Beamforming Feedback Information to it.

Hello? Is anybody listening? If this doesn't scare you, what does?

Fingerprints and gait recognition alone are two fairly reliable, time-tested, stand-alone tools for recognizing individuals. Neither tool has anything to do with facial recognition, a third highly reliable tool. How much more reliable, and sinister, is an AI assisted process that identifies individual persons without their knowledge by analyzing multiple patterns derived from their highly unique, individual biological data?

Recent research shows nearly 100% accuracy identifying individuals from ordinary, unencrypted Wi-Fi BFI signal patterns, without needing any visually recognizable photographs -- or any special hardware.

#### BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING

Consumer Wi-Fi routers cannot capture photographs of faces or other fine visual details. But they can "see" us in a way that is entirely different from human eyes. Their radio signal-based design enables them to function in any lighting or in pitch darkness, and to penetrate obstacles like walls, quite unlike cameras. So far, experiments have typically used custom antennas and AI training of software with prior datasets, not routers just purchased off-the-shelf.

So far, AI technology has evolved at lightning speed over the past couple of years, and the pace is accelerating. Grave privacy concerns arise as public and private Wi-Fi may very soon be targeted by criminals for profit and extortion. Such a powerful tool will inevitably be usurped by authoritarian state agencies for omnipresent surveillance, covert tracking and political repression. Such predictions are not the paranoid fantasies of the tinfoil hat brigade. These are real and present dangers, prompting urgent demands for legal safeguards and enforceable standards.

Is anyone listening? You hadn't heard about this before? At the rate AI is progressing exponentially, you will certainly hear much more about this danger, and much sooner than you think. Big Brother IS watching you.

Readers are directed to an article by Viviane Osswald in the Oct. 2025 issue of PC World, from which this note for our club newsletter is largely excerpted.



The future is here. Now. This illustration about "Big Brother" watching was generated by the author, VA3NH, who directed an AI artist bot.

## 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 Nick an etransfer to [treasurer@ve3osh.com](mailto: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

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



## 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 togethers at Whitefeather. (thx **Derek VE3TKE**, Photo by **Jeanette**)



## The Other Option (from **Laird VE3LKS**)

"The Other Option" visits the 420 Wing located next to Airmen's Park at the south end of the Oshawa Airport, for their monthly Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. Breakfast is held the third Saturday of the month and starts at 0830 and the cost is \$10.00).

The November breakfast today went well. 10 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 week 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](mailto: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!!

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 the article.

## Upcoming Events

### December Monthly Meeting – December 17,2025

Will be on the Zoom Platform on Wednesday December 17,2025 at 8:00PM

**RAC Winter Contest:** The RAC Winter Contest is coming up on December 20 from 0000z to 2359z 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 very relaxed contest for most of us.

### January & Annual General Meeting – January 21,2026

Will be on the Zoom Platform on Wednesday January 21,2026 at 8:00PM

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Changing Times

As we close the door on 2025, our club looks back on a full slate of activity, fun and community service successfully completed during this past year.

But it's no time to rest on our laurels. Someday we may look back on 2025 as the end of an era. Coming months will bring changes, only some of which are predictable. Some changes may bring opportunities; others challenges.

To get things under way, our Annual General Meeting of NSARC Inc. will be on 21 Jan. 2026 at 8 PM via special Zoom link.

Details about that link, the nomination procedure for election of Directors and proxy voting will be sent to Members by the Election Supervisor, Derek VE3TKE.

So please pay your dues for 2026. Only Members in good standing are eligible to run for office or to vote at club meetings.

## Learning With OTARC

We have been fortunate to establish an informal association with the Ontario Tech Amateur Radio Club from Ontario Tech University in Oshawa. The learning experience is a mutual opportunity. NSARC offers advice and our Basic Amateur training course free of charge to OTARC members. The young engineers from the university open our eyes to a new generation of applications for Amateur radio such as rocket telemetry. We look forward to a hybrid virtual and in-person Members Meeting with OTARC on the OTU campus in February.

## EMCOMM

Far from retiring into obscurity, the Past President is spearheading efforts to bring NSARC into the modern era of emergency communications (EMCOMM). We have been absent from this important aspect of Amateur Radio service for decades, and we look forward to learning and playing our part in regional emergency preparedness.

## Tower Project

It is very likely that the long-running tower project, that the Past President continues to lead, will either succeed or fail within the next few months. It depends on whether the landowner (CLOCA - Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority) and NSARC can agree quickly to a lease for our continuing use of the Purple Woods repeater site.

Why quickly? Imposing unexpected urgency, multiple Conservation Authorities in Ontario are being amalgamated by the Provincial Government into just 7 larger groups. CLOCA as an independent entity, with whom our club has enjoyed harmonious relations and free rent for many years, may simply disappear.

In any case, the landlord tells us that the days of free rent for our shack and tower on the hill are over, and NSARC must deal with this new reality.

## Hamfest's Future

A tremendous thank you to Jan / VA3TCN who has stepped up and volunteered to Chair the 2026 Hamfest Committee. This event is NSARC's biggest annual fundraiser and is held in the spring. Leading this event is no small task; Jan will be supported by an experienced backup team who will handle things like parking, security, tickets and the snack bar. A call for volunteers will be coming shortly to complete the team.

## The Way Forward

Just as propagation is predictably decreasing on the down side of this current sunspot cycle, things will surely get more challenging for NSARC in the coming year.

Success in grasping opportunities and meeting future challenges largely depends on how hard we are prepared to work. A club is no more active than its members. NSARC shall succeed if we roll up our sleeves. Those who promise to do things for the club will back up words with actions, fulfilling those commitments with enthusiasm. Members who have yet to take an active role in NSARC activities are warmly invited to step up and dive right in. Give us a call, or send an email to the Directors.

All best wishes to the Members and Friends of NSARC, and to your families and friends, for a peaceful and enjoyable Holiday Season, and for a happy and healthy New Year.

Gud dx es 73 de **Neil VA3NH**

Dr. Neil McAlister, VA3NH,  
Acting President,  
North Shore Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Oshawa, ON, Canada  
[president@ve3osh.com](mailto:president@ve3osh.com)

## The Static Section

This section of the Newsletter is informational and will only change when necessary.

### Club Executive

President – **Neil VA3NH**  
Vice President: **Brian VE3IK**  
Secretary: **Justin VA3BIU**  
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**  
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 **Neil VA3NH** at [president@ve3osh.com](mailto:president@ve3osh.com). Our club Secretary **Justin VA3BIU** 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.