



Monthly Update

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January 2026



IMPORTANT – Annual General Meeting

The NSARC Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday January 21, 2026 at 8:00 pm over the Zoom Platform. Members who have paid their 2026 dues will have received an email invitation and Zoom link from our Club Secretary, Justin / VA3BIU. As part of the AGM, we will be holding elections for the Director's positions. If you are interested in running for one of the positions, please contact Derek / VE3TKE at ve3tke@ve3osh.com before Tuesday, Jan 20, 11:59 pm. If you are not a paid member and wish to attend the AGM, please renew your membership soonest and a meeting link will be sent to you. Details are in the Membership Renewal section of this newsletter.

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.

Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) or Moon-bounce -- A method of communicating with other stations by reflecting radio signals off the Moon's surface.

Emission types -- Term for the different modes authorized for use on the Amateur Radio bands. Examples are CW, SSB, RTTY and FM. Energy. The ability to do work; the ability to exert a force to move some object.

Frequency coordination -- Allocating repeater input and output frequencies to minimize interference between repeaters and to other users of the band.

Frequency Coordinator -- An individual or group that recommends repeater frequencies to reduce or eliminate interference between repeaters operating on or near the same frequency in the same geographical area.

High-pass filter -- A filter designed to pass high-frequency signals, while blocking lower-frequency signals.

Half-wave dipole -- A basic antenna used by radio amateurs. It consists of a length of wire or tubing, opened and fed at the center. The entire antenna is $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength long at the desired operating frequency.

Input frequency -- A repeater's receiving frequency. To use a repeater, transmit on the input frequency and receive on the output frequency.

Low-pass filter -- A filter that allows signals below the cutoff frequency to pass through and attenuates signals above the cutoff frequency.

Offset-- The 300 to 1000-Hz difference in CW transmitting and receiving frequencies in a transceiver. For a repeater, offset refers to the difference between its transmitting and receiving frequencies.

Open repeater -- A repeater that can be used by all hams who have a license that authorizes operation on the repeater frequencies.

Output frequency -- A repeater's transmitting frequency. To use a repeater, transmit on the input frequency and receive on the output frequency.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Club memberships are valid January 1st to Dec 31st of the current year. If you are interested in renewing your 2026 membership, please do so before the AGM so that you can attend and vote on club matters.

Step 1: Visit the [Membership Section](#) of our club page and complete the [Online Membership](#) form linked to at the top of the web page.

Step 2: send Nick / VE3NPW an e-transfer to treasurer@ve3osh.com. Please use NSARC2026 as the password. Alternatively, you can 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 member.

Membership Fees:

Full Year

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

2026 Presentations

As some of you are aware the GH ACS group has been offering 1-hour presentations on different topics. I have spoken to Rosemarie Upfield VA3RIE and she has given me permission to post these events here in our newsletter.

If you are interested in one of these, send her an email by the date indicated and she will send you the Link for these presentations the week before. Once you attend one of these, Rosemarie will put you on her list for future presentations.

ACS-GH Winter 2026 Presentation Line Up

Confirm your registration before the deadlines provided, by sending an individual email including your Canadian Call Sign to: reupva3rie@gmail.com

PORTABLE OPERATIONS HINTS AND KINKS JANUARY 28 2026

Presented By John Leonardelli VE3IPS

Antennas, Propagation, Equipment, Power, Apps and more, for the basic or advanced HAM, there will be something of interest for everyone. Register before January 26 at reupva3rie@gmail.com

PASSING VOICE TRAFFIC FEBRUARY 11 2026

Presented By Rosemarie Upfield VA3RIE

What is the Principle, Purpose, Process, Function and Formats of Voice and Data Messaging in an Emergency Situation. Register before February 9th at reupva3rie@gmail.com

BANDING TOGETHER WITH HAMCLOCK MARCH 11 2026

Presented By Rob Schuetze VE3XBI, YRARC Director of Emergency Communications HamClock is an essential daily tool for every amateur radio operator. It delivers real-time propagation reports, solar weather data, world clocks, and satellite tracking—all at a glance. With critical information instantly available, HamClock helps you make smarter communication decisions and improve on-air effectiveness every single day, and let's be honest... it looks cool too! Register before March 9th at reupva3rie@gmail.com

Could HAM Radio help Taiwan survive wartime internet outage?

from Deutch Welle, world news from Germany

<https://www.dw.com/en/could-ham-radio-help-taiwan-survive-wartime-internet-outage/video-75435263?mobileApp=true>

An interesting article about amateur radio ,thank you to **Neil VA3NH** for the link to the article.



**Geoff Smith, VA3GS
(SK) Appointed to
Canadian Amateur
Radio Hall of Fame 2025**



The Board of Trustees of the [Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame](#) is pleased to announce that Geoff Smith, VA3GS (SK), has been named to the Hall of Fame. Radio Amateurs of Canada recognizes deserving Amateurs by appointments to the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

The Constitution for the Hall specifies that the appointment as Member of the Hall is made for "outstanding achievement and excellence of the highest degree, for serious and sustained service to Amateur Radio in Canada, or to Amateur Radio at large".

The Trustees of the Hall have interpreted the Constitution to mean that the person has performed significant service over many years to enhance the well-being of Amateur Radio.

Born on February 18, 1942, Geoffrey Read Smith was a man of strong values and a lifelong commitment to service – both within his local community and around the world. He believed deeply in the importance of kindness, never letting a day pass without offering an encouraging word, a helping hand, a smile, or a quiet act of goodwill.

Geoff was a Graduate of Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. In his professional career, Geoff spent 35 years (1964-1999) at St. Andrew's College in Aurora, Ontario as a Teacher, Housemaster, Counsellor, Coach, Assistant Headmaster, University Advisor, and Cadet Corps Commander. He was also the initiator of Computer Science at the College.

He was appointed Headmaster of King's-Edgehill School in Nova Scotia between 1988 and 1990, and after his retirement he spent 12 rewarding years as Principal at Canadian College in Lanciano, Italy.

Geoff passed his Amateur Radio Operator's Qualification in 1977 and was first licensed as VE3KCE, and in 1992 he obtained the call sign VA3GS to go along with his initials. He was a valued and popular member of the York Region Amateur Radio Club (formerly the North York Amateur Radio Club) for over 40 years.

He became the club's Chairman of the Board in 1978 and he held several positions between 1978 and 2019 including Membership and Activities Director, Hamfest Director and President. He also involved himself in many of the club's Public Service Events, volunteered at the 2015 Pan Am games and was a member of the York Region Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). He also taught many of the Amateur Radio courses for the club.

Geoff served as the Ontario South Director, Assistant Director and Vice-President of the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation and was the Ontario South Director for Radio Amateurs of Canada from 2004 to 2009. He was also Net Controller on several ONTARS Public Service nets.

From 1982 until he became a Silent Key on December 4, 2019, Geoff was Secretary and co-founder of Coax Publications Inc. and was actively involved as co-author in the preparation, editing and writing of the Canadian Amateur Radio Basic and Advanced Study Guides and in editing the Instructor Guides.

Radio Amateurs of Canada and the Board of Trustees of CARHOF sincerely congratulate Geoff Smith, VA3GS, on his appointment to the Hall of Fame.

A detailed account of his achievements will be presented in an upcoming edition of *The Canadian Amateur* magazine.

For more information on the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame please visit: <https://wp.rac.ca/carhof/>

Prepared by John Grow, VE2EQL
Chair, Board of Trustees
Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame



Please mark your calendars! Durham Hamfest 2026 will be held on **Saturday, April 18th** at the same venue as in previous years. Please visit <https://durhamhamfest.com> for more details.

The date is approaching fast and we are looking for volunteers to help with the event. Especially volunteers to run the club table, security and the snack bar. The event runs from around 7:00 am till noon to 1:00 pm. If your calendar is free on that day and you are willing to help with this major fundraising club event, please sent Jan VA3TCN a short email at va3tcn@ve3osh.com.

Also please spread the word about our Hamfest to all your Ham friends and talk it up in the air with other local clubs or ham radio operators.

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. 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. Otherwise, the “Other Option” meets Saturday mornings at the Courtice Coffee Time.

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 the link.

Upcoming Events

January & Annual General Meeting – January 21, 2026

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

Winter Field Day 2026

This year Winter Field Day will be on Saturday January 24 at 1600hrs UTC through to 21:59 hrs. UTC on Sunday the 25th January, 2026. More information is available at winterfieldday.org

February Monthly Meeting – Our February meeting is on February 18 at 8:00PM and will be a Hybrid meeting, In person at the Ontario Tech and also over Zoom. More information to follow.

Durham Hamfest – The 47th annual Durham Hamfest is on Saturday April 18, 2026 9am to 12noon. (follow the website at www.durhamhamfest.com)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A New Year's Call to Action

Happy New Year to the Members and Friends of NSARC.

With the busy holiday season behind us, we now look ahead, towards the coming year. While we hope for the best, if we are unlucky, it might turn out to be a rough one, with much more at stake than merely our enjoyment of this hobby.

Our country is facing greater peril than it has seen during any time that most of us can remember. The changing climate has already brought massive wildfires, destructive floods and deadly heat waves. These are predicted to get worse. Politically, the threat to Canada's sovereignty, territorial integrity and freedom is real. It will fall to each individual Canadian to do whatever we can -- personally -- to face down disaster, be it a natural catastrophe or a man-made one.

Unlike most other western democracies, Canada has no national Civil Defence organization. In an emergency, it is mainly up to the provinces and local authorities to coordinate and meet challenges that could range from natural disasters to deliberate depredations by unfriendly foreign governments.

As individual citizens, what can we do? Lots. We can hone our skills and make them available. Amateur Radio operators possess unique abilities that could be applied to great benefit during a communications blackout. After decades of indifference to the potential value of Amateur Radio in an emergency, governments at all levels are finally beginning to take notice.

We have the motivation. What we need is training and organization. So here's a New Year's resolution. This ham intends to make learning the ropes of EMCOMM his personal priority in 2026 and to upgrade his station to make it fit for purpose. NSARC members are encouraged to take advantage of training opportunities that could make Amateur Radio an effective mitigating force in disaster management if such a need should ever arise.

Respect to fellow Radio Amateurs who are taking action already on this urgent file. Others who want to get involved are earnestly encouraged to contact NSARC's Past President, Derek Christian VE3TKE, who is coordinating Emergency Communications, (EMCOMM, efforts for our club at DRACS@ve3osh.com)

Naturally we all fervently hope for a peaceful and problem-free 2026; but hope, as they say, is not a plan. So, we remember the Scouts' motto, "Be Prepared."

73 de Neil, VA3NH

Dr. Neil McAlister, VA3NH,
Acting President,
North Shore Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Oshawa, ON, Canada
president@ve3osh.com

Website – ve3osh.com

The Static Section

This section of the Newsletter will be for information and seldom changes.

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

Email – info@ve3osh.com

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 VA3KJ, 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.

Net Statistics for 2025

Here are a few of the stats for our 2025 Tuesday Night Rag Chew Net.

Total Check-ins: 551(up 26 from 2024)

Total number of individual stations checking in: 49

Average Nightly Check-ins: 11

Stations with most check-ins:

1st Place -a tie between **Joe VE3VGJ** and **Laird VE3LKS** with 49 check-ins

2nd Place- **Doug VA3DCE** -45 check-ins

3rd Place – **Jan VA3TCN** – 42 check-ins

I would like to thank our 5 Net Controllers for a job well done and your dedication is appreciated!!

Also, a big thanks to everyone who checks in to our Tuesday Night Rag Chew!!

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.