



Monthly Update

www.ve3osh.com

February 2026

February Meeting

The February monthly meeting will be on Wednesday February 18, 2026 at 8:00 pm over the Zoom Platform.

We will have a presentation at 7:00 pm by **Joe VE3VGJ** on the portable antenna tower he modified, and he will go over the modifications and changes he made to the original lighting tower. **Joe** also has a few slides of electric mistakes, mishaps and screwups.

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.

Packet Radio -- A system of digital communication whereby information is broken into short bursts. The bursts ("packets") also contain addressing and error-detection information.

Peak Envelope Power (PEP) -- The average power of a signal at its largest amplitude peak.

Polarization -- The electrical-field characteristic of a radio wave. An antenna that is parallel to the surface of the earth, such as a dipole, produces horizontally polarized waves. One that is perpendicular to the earth's surface, such as a quarter-wave vertical, produces vertically polarized waves. An antenna that has both horizontal and vertical polarization is said to be circularly polarized

Procedural Signal (prosign) -- One or two letters sent as a single character. Amateurs use prosigns in CW contacts as a short way to indicate the operator's intention. Some examples are K for "Go Ahead," or AR for "End of Message."

Receiver Overload -- Interference to a receiver caused by a strong RF signal that forces its way into the equipment. A signal that overloads the receiver RF amplifier (front end) causes front-end overload. Receiver overload is sometimes called RF overload.

Safety Interlock -- A switch that automatically turns off ac power to a piece of equipment when the case cover is removed.

Selectivity--The ability of a receiver to separate two closely spaced signals.

Sidebands -- The sum or difference frequencies generated when an RF carrier is mixed with an audio signal. Single-sideband phone (SSB) signals have an upper sideband (USB -- that part of the signal above the carrier) and a lower sideband (LSB -- the part of the signal below the carrier). SSB transceivers allow operation on either USB or LSB.

Splatter -- A type of interference to stations on nearby frequencies. Splatter occurs when a transmitter is overmodulated.

Spurious Emissions -- Signals from a transmitter on frequencies other than the operating frequency.

NSARC New Directors

At our January Annual General Meeting 5 new directors were nominated for their positions and acclaimed into those positions. Most of these members are well known to the club prior to the election and over the next couple of months I will introduce these directors to you.

Steve VA3TPS



Neil McAlister, VA3NH President

Neil was introduced to ham radio by his father's friend Don VE3ATJ (SK), a radio technician who had worked in Canada's far north on an early warning radar system during the Cold War.

After medical school Neil took an Amateur Radio course from a Toronto club, and was licensed in 1978. He served a term as NSARC President, during which he designed the "North Shore" logo that our club still uses.

Then increasing family and professional duties put him on the sidelines of Amateur Radio for several decades.

Now retired from academia and specialist practice in Internal Medicine, Neil has leisure to enjoy radio again, dabbling in different modes as a general practitioner of ham radio, rather than a specialist. As "Bones" McCoy of Star Trek fame might have said, "I'm a doctor, not an electronics expert!"

His other hobbies include acrylic art and figure drawing, as well as music composition and digital music production.

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 to the membership section of our club page and submit the online form. Step 2: send Nick an e-transfer to treasurer@ve3osh.com using NSARC2026 as the EFT 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.

Membership Fees:

Full Year

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

AllStar Link

About AllStarLink - shared from the website: www.allstarlink.org

AllStarLink is a network of Amateur Radio repeaters, remote base stations and hot spots accessible to each other via Voice over Internet Protocol, (VoIP). AllStarLink runs on a dedicated computer (including the Raspberry Pi) that you host at your home, radio site or computer center. It is based on the open-source Asterisk PBX running the app_rpt application. App_rpt makes Asterisk a powerful system capable of controlling one or more radios. It provides linking of these radio "nodes" to other systems of similar construction anywhere in the world via VoIP.

AllStarLink's primary use is as a dedicated computer node wired to your repeater or radio. Connections from Echolink, other VoIP clients and telephone calls are supported.

Unlike other Radio-centric VOIP technologies, such as Echolink or IRLP, AllStarLink and the app_rpt/Asterisk technology have been specifically designed to be part of, and to link together parts of the very infrastructure of the radio systems that it implements, as opposed to be an end-to-end protocol like others.

All systems (nodes) are either repeater controllers or remote-base controllers. They connect directly with the radio hardware. Just simply as a repeater controller, the amount of functionality and flexibility is very impressive, and when you also consider its remote base, linking (full-duplex) and VOIP (for autopatch, remote control, etc) capabilities, it's amazing.

AllStarLink is an attempt to take this technology and make it available and applicable to as many Amateur Radio operators as possible, via their local repeater systems. For the most part the AllStarLink team try to keep administration and policy making up to local systems. They only require users to adhere to strict technical standards (to prevent a bad sounding or un-usable system), and minimum operational requirements, most of which have to do with making the systems available to all, and making sure that everyone gets along, and treats everyone with proper respect and dignity.

VE3OSH is fully equipped with this amazing technology which replaces the built-in controller on our repeater. We have several permanent links with the COARC group which allow anyone using our repeater to communicate further given our tower size.

Due to the size of the tower being reduced, several of our members were essentially cut off from the rest of the group over RF. With AllStarLink, if your reception is

Website – ve3osh.com

spotty or you are new to the hobby and your Handheld Transceiver (HT) is just not enough to get in, this system provides a variety of options to remain connected. IaxRpt for windows computers, DvSwitch for android devices, zoiper for iPhones and Linux devices, and the Hams Over IP bridge being just a few ways of internet linking with our repeater, or any repeater in the allstar system.

Some people have gotten very creative with this system and there exists many different nets or reflectors available to anyone who has access to a node or repeater with AllStarLink connectivity. Simply dial *3517300 and like magic you are connected to the Trans-Canada Hub, with ~ 37 nodes always connected, and hundreds which connect during nets, your voice, input, and expertise can be heard across the country. Or if you wanted to chat with our friends in the Peterborough group, just dial *3611411. For more information about DTMF commands, please see the guide linked below.

When connecting or disconnecting links over RF, please be considerate and demonstrate proper etiquette. Say your callsign, say your intentions, listen for objections, then dial DTMF tones. "This is VA3NLM announcing intentions to link this repeater VE3OSH to VE3PBO. Any objections come now" "Nothing heard, commencing link". Pro Tip: If you are having problems with getting DTMF tones registered on the repeater, try to use your radios "Autodial" function instead of just transmitting the tones. We are still unsure why this is. Cheap Chinese radios also regularly encounter problems with DTMF tones due to low quality construction.

For the members of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club only, we have special provisions in place to remotely connect to this system on your computer, android device or iPhone. Please see the link below for a guide to set it up, and send an email to the repeater committee (Repeater@ve3osh.com) to ask for the password. Please be patient as we have to verify your membership status before giving you access to this system. Due to several factors, only IaxRpt and DvSwitch users have the ability to directly link nodes to our repeater. Zoiper and Hams Over IP users can only transmit/receive and cannot link nodes due to software limitations.

<https://tinyurl.com/Ve3oshAllstar>

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact a member of the repeater committee at repeater@ve3osh.com.

-Quinton VA3NLM

Note: Currently we have the following commands set up as well as a few mandatory commands required by Allstar: We have the codes detailed below enabled.

Activated functions

- *70 Local connection status
- *80 Force system ID
- *81 Say system time
- *69 Parrot the current transmission only (Only works on DTMF over RF)

Mandatory Command Codes

These are the mandatory command codes which all Allstar Link nodes must support to provide command code consistency to the users.

- *1 node Disconnect link
- *2 node Connect link in monitor mode
- *3 node Connect link in transceiver mode
- *70 Local connection status
- *99 DTMF phone key (Assert PTT from phone portal. Note: # releases PTT)

Quinton and our Repeater committee members are working on possibly setting up some additional commands for our repeater VE3OSH. Once we get all that sorted out, we will pass along to everyone and maybe will try and have a short presentation and demonstration over the Zoom and we thank you for your patience.

Steve VA3TPS

Email – info@ve3osh.com

CENTRAL ONTARIO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

What We Are

We are an Amateur Radio Club based out of Newmarket Ontario

We have 5 Tower Sites across Central Ontario, Main Site is in Ballantrea Ontario, With Sites in Grass Hill (Near Lindsay), Eagle Lake (Near Haliburton), and Two Near Bancroft.

Our members

All of our members contribute in some way or another. Each gifted in their own unique way in which we work together to make the Hobby Better for everyone involved.

When projects are ongoing everyone pitches in with ideas and assistance to get the project up and running.

You can visit the C.O.A.R.C. website at www.coarc.on.ca, where you will find all the information on all of the repeaters hooked up to this network.

These repeaters are maintained by a small group of individuals, **VE3ATP Doug**, along with **VA3NSC Dave** and **VE3CA Cam** and there are some other Ham's also helping whose names I don't have at the moment. They have been maintaining and slowly updating the linked repeaters on a regular basis.

Our own repeater **VE3OSH** is now linked to the Ballantrea **VE3BAL** repeater through the Allstar Link and connected across Central Ontario to all the other repeaters. This is a great system that they have set up and gives you coverage from the west end of York Region over to Bancroft and down Hwy 62 towards Madoc and also through most of the GTA and Durham region.

I recently travelled over to an address on Weston Rd in Vaughn to pick up some parts and from my mobile was able to communicate with another ham in the Bancroft area, approximately 250 kms away.

These Amateur Radio operators are working on and maintaining this system on their own time and sometimes at their own expense and deserve a big "Thank you" for all the work they do. So check out their website and have a look at the system and enjoy the use of our Repeater and this linked network and pass it on to other amateur radio operators.

Steve VA3TPS



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 send Jan VA3TCN a short email at va3tcn@ve3osh.com.

Also please spread the word about our Hamfest to all of 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.



The Other Option (from Laird VE3LKS)



Well, it was a hardy bunch that made the trek to Coffee Time this past weekend. We had visitors from far off places, like Uxbridge and Port Perry, and even had one gal drive all the way from Nova Scotia just to join in on the fun! Great to see you, Greta! In other news, one lonely soul decided to head up to White Feather Farm to enjoy the brisk outdoors. We missed you Nick but hope you had a good time up there all by yourself! 😊

On Sat, Jan 17 the Coffee Time gang met at the 420 Wing at the airport to enjoy a nice pancake breakfast. Some neat toys were shown around and Joe took some cool pics of our Aquino Tank Weekend operating site with side-by-side pics of then and now. Tnx, **Joe VE3VGJ** for the great pics!



Website – ve3osh.com



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.

Upcoming Events

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

CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

March 28 to 29th, 2026 more info at <https://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

This is a great contest for DX, you can work anyone, any where for lots of qso's.

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

Email – info@ve3osh.com



Talking About Talking?

A ham friend in VE7 land raised an interesting point the other day. He notices that we Amateurs often spend more time talking about *how* we communicate than we actually spend communicating about anything else. Exchanges concerning transceivers, power supplies, antennas, software and modes seem to preoccupy us, often to the near exclusion of a million other, unrelated topics.

When cordless phones and Internet make effortless contact with the other side of the world commonplace, non-Hams may be forgiven for finding Amateur radio connections in hissy, noisy sideband; or the beeping of Morse Code; or the content-starved, digital straitjacket of FT8; or talking on FM to a repeater just a few km away, utterly unimpressive. Why bother, they ask? What do Hams actually *talk* about?

Good questions. The pioneering mountaineer George Mallory, who lost his life in the quest of Mt. Everest, explained that he wanted to conquer that fearsome peak "because it's there." Similarly, some Amateurs pursue DX for its own sake, an interesting technical aspect of this interesting, technical hobby.

Contesting in all modes brings the fun and excitement of competition to many enthusiasts.

Making new acquaintances and friends is another satisfying aspect of our hobby. Of course, we shall never solve the world's intractable problems over the airwaves. Discussing contentious issues like politics and religion is rightfully considered bad manners in the Amateur community. Psychology 101 teaches that arguing never wins arguments: it only drives the two parties more firmly into their own, opposite corners.

So, on the air we Amateurs deliberately ignore our differences, concentrating by default on what we share in common with fellow hobbyists who may live very far from us in very different worlds. Building personal bridges of understanding and tolerance in real time through Amateur Radio can be the result.

In the long run, small talk might ultimately prove to be the biggest value of Ham radio.

But it is not all small talk. Amateur Radio sometimes carries important messages about very important issues. Emergency Communications (EMCOMM), long considered a significant aspect of our hobby in some jurisdictions, is increasingly recognized as a potentially critical ingredient in managing an organized response during natural disasters closer to home when conventional methods of communication have failed. We've already had a couple unpleasant tastes of that here in our own Province when hydro and Internet both collapsed at once, in some communities for days.

We hams are very lucky. At both ends of the spectrum, ranging from personal enrichment to essential public service, we share an endlessly interesting and useful avocation.

How many other hobbies can say the same?

73 de **Neil, VA3NH**

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

The Static Section

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

Website – ve3osh.com

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

Email – info@ve3osh.com

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 Tuesdays 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.

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.

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.