



Monthly Update

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March 2026

March Meeting

The March monthly meeting will be on Wednesday March 18 2026. We will have a presentation at 7:00 PM by **Chris VE3VMP** on Mesh Networks. at 8:00 PM over the Zoom Platform.

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 previous to the election and over the next couple of months I will introduce these directors to you.

Steve VA3TPS

Nicholas Field, VA3NPW

Treasurer

Communications Technical Team



NSARC Treasurer Nicholas Field, VA3NPW, from the Durham Region in Ontario, spent 20 years proudly serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, an experience that shaped his discipline, resilience, and commitment to community.

After retiring from military service, he discovered a new passion for Amateur Radio, beginning his journey in 2023. Whether connecting with others over the airwaves or continuing to serve my community in new ways, he remains dedicated to learning, exploring and staying engaged with the world around him.

Nick has proudly accepted the position of Provincial Communications Technical Lead for RAC in the Ontario Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), under the umbrella of the provincially sanctioned Ontario Corps of volunteers. He is responsible for ensuring technical standards are followed, maintenance of ACS emergency equipment and developing and delivering agency interoperability

solutions. Nick and his team will dedicate time in 2026 to updating and developing technical training programs for Ontario and supporting all ACS sections.

Our own Nick Field VA3NPW is featured on p. 36 of the Jan-Feb edition of "The Canadian Amateur."

NSARC is very proud of Nick's important work in the Amateur Radio community.

73
Neil

Dr. Neil McAlister, VA3NH,
President,
North Shore Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Oshawa, ON, Canada

president@ve3osh.com

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 an etransfer to Nick at treasurer@ve3osh.com or give either Nick or Thomas your fees in cash. If sending an EFT, please use the password indicated on the online membership form.

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.



RAC Amateur of the Year Award 2025: Fred Archibald, VE1FA and Helen Archibald, VA1YL

The RAC Board of Directors takes great pleasure in selecting Fred Archibald, VE1FA, and Helen Archibald, VA1YL, of Port Williams, Nova Scotia as the recipients of the RAC Amateur of the Year Award for 2025.

Through the RAC Amateur of the Year Award, Radio Amateurs of Canada recognizes the outstanding contributions made by Canadian Amateurs. The RAC Board considers nominations and presents the award when a nominee demonstrates exceptional contributions.

Fred and Helen Archibald have been pillars of Amateur Radio in Canada for decades. While the award traditionally reflects contributions within a given year, their sustained excellence in 2025 – combined with a lifetime of service – made them compelling joint recipients.

Together, they have organized and operated more than two dozen DXpeditions, activating rare Canadian islands for DXCC and Islands On The Air (IOTA). Their contest efforts have consistently ranked among the top stations in North America, with several Top 10 worldwide finishes in the IOTA Contest.

Fred is widely respected as an instructor, technical innovator and equipment restorer, having mentored numerous new Amateurs and restored historic communications equipment for museum exhibits. Helen has served as President of the Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (CLARA), is a long-time net controller, course instructor and youth outreach advocate through Guides On The Air and Jamboree On The Air.

For many years, they have opened their station for the RAC Winter and Canada Day Contests and have been strong contributors to Field Day activities, demonstrating operating excellence and sportsmanship.

Their partnership – spanning more than 50 years of marriage and decades of Amateur Radio dedication – reflects teamwork, resilience and service at the highest level.

Radio Amateurs of Canada sincerely congratulates Fred Archibald, VE1FA, and Helen Archibald, VA1YL, on being named the RAC Amateurs of the Year for 2025. An article about the Award will be included in the March-April 2026 issue of *The Canadian Amateur* magazine.

For more information about the RAC Amateur of the Year Award please visit:
<https://wp.rac.ca/rac-amateur-of-the-year/>

Allan Boyd, VE3AJB
RAC President

Environment Canada to end weather radio and telephone services



Environment Canada's Weatheradio and Hello Weather services, have been discontinued as of March 16th, 2026.

Weatheradio gave Canadians access to weather heard in both English and French through the radio, broadcast across different frequencies within a radius of 60 kilometres.

Specific Weather radios receivers, while free to operate, were purchased through a variety of retailers, according to Environment Canada.

Hello Weather was an automated telephone service that gave those same weather updates but instead of changing the dial on your radio, you picked up the phone, dialed a toll-free number and entered your location code.

Starting March 16, the National Weather Centre is encouraging the public to download the [free mobile app](#) or visit the interactive weather map on the [website](#).

The Weatheradio service was launched in 1976 and upgraded in 2004. The upgrade involved Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology which could alert specific areas to extreme weather like tornadoes and storms.

The national weather centre's official document on Weatheradio states having a receiver or access to a battery-powered radio that transmits Environment Canada's weather information is "as important as having a smoke detector in your home."

Radio, generally speaking, can provide much-needed information in emergency situations like a power outage or in places where there's no internet or wireless connection.



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, act as security and help out behind 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 fund-raising 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, look who dropped by to make sure the North Shore guys weren't getting into any trouble at the 420 Wing on Pancake Day on Saturday February 21.. Yes, that is Rhonda our local MP!

Laird VE3LKS

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

March Monthly Meeting

Our March meeting is on March 18. Presentation at 7:00 PM, business meeting at 8:00 PM over Zoom.

CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

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

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

April Monthly Meeting

Our April meeting will be on Wednesday April 15, 2026 at 8:00pm over the Zoom Platform.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Time sneaks up on us quickly. With Spring in the air, we are emerging from winter hibernation in our shacks and sniffing the air as NSARC club activities ramp up for a fun filled, new season of group activities.

Hamfest

Hamfest Coordinator Jan, VA3TCN and his whole crew have things well in hand for the big event on Sat. April 18 -- just a month from now! Things are fully organized, but if anyone still wants to volunteer for NSARC's main fundraiser of the year, Jan can find a useful job for you.

Tower Project - The Long and The Short of It.

New Members of NSARC may be unaware that a huge windstorm (a rare *direcho*) devastated the Durham Region on May 21st 2022. Among many things that got wrecked by the storm, our tower at the Purple Woods Conservation Area, which we had been sharing with a major communications company, got bent out of shape. Literally. It was folded in half.

NSARC made emergency repairs on our tower, cutting it off half way; and we have been using the remaining 40 foot stub for our repeaters ever since. Meanwhile the big communications company separately erected their own temporary, portable tower on a trailer at the adjacent site.

That was *four years ago*. Ever since then our (now) Past President Derek, VE3TKE, has laboured countless hours, sent hundreds of emails and made dozens and dozens of phone calls to interested parties to negotiate permission for NSARC to erect a new tower on the same site, on terms that our club can afford.

After dragging their feet for years, the commercial communications company decided to move to a new location, leaving NSARC free to negotiate solely with the land owner, the good people of CLOCA (Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority).

CLOCA has been a more than generous friend to us in the past, allowing NSARC to use their land free of charge for many years. But in these inflationary times they find themselves underfunded, in desperate need of any additional sources of revenue they can find.

Under Derek's persistent leadership NSARC and CLOCA have drafted a mutually acceptable three year lease agreement, which will be signed by both parties very shortly. Funding for this lease was budgeted, and approved by the Members at our February meeting. All of us at NSARC express sincere gratitude to Derek for bringing us through a very rough time over the past four years, always keeping his eyes fixed on the goal.

With a lease finally in hand, now we can move ahead with phase two of the tower project -- design, procurement and assembly of a new repeater tower at Purple Woods.



Our tower after the storm of 2022.

Ontario Tech ARC

Over the past months NSARC has established friendly links with a sister club at the Ontario Tech University in Oshawa.

We had hoped that NSARC could have shared a joint meeting with them on the university campus by now. Unfortunately the failure of RAC to provide us with a necessary insurance certificate has postponed such a possibility until at least May.

EMCOMM

The newly established Durham Region Auxiliary Communications Service (DRACS) is a new club activity for NSARC.

Emergency communications (EMCOMM) has long been a priority for some Ontario Amateur Radio clubs, and Durham Region is now hastening to catch up. If you are interested in supporting this vital activity, please contact the DRACS Coordinator, Derek VE3TKE, or his humble assistant Neil, VA3NH.

Some of us have already taken in-person training in Auxiliary Communications from the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), and we have joined Ontario Corps to make our services available should deployment of trained communications volunteers ever be needed in an emergency.

NSARC is proud to note that our own Treasurer, Nick Field VA3NPW, is RAC's Provincial Comm Technical Lead.

Lots More to Come

As various public service events such as bike-a-thons and Canoe the Nonquon draw near, Members will be kept up to date with separate emails.

Please note that because of liability insurance requirements, only Members in good standing, (i.e. paid members) of NSARC can now participate in public service events. For purely social events like BBQs, Saturday morning get-togethers like White Feather Farm or Coffee Time visits, and our year end Christmas get together, all Members, Friends and their guests are most welcome.

So spring has sprung, and NSARC looks forward to an exciting and successful season. Talk with you soon. Even better, see you in person at one of our events.

73

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.

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. 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.