

# Monthly Update

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

April 2026

## April Meeting

The April monthly meeting will be on Wednesday April 15 2026 at 8:00 PM over the Zoom Platform.

## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Stan VE3ILU



The North Shore group rocks! We had 18 people show up on March 28, 2026 at Coffee Time to help Stan VE3ILU celebrate his 90th birthday! His daughter, Angela, even brought an amazingly delicious cake as a treat for all of us to share. Stan was surprised when he saw how many came out to join in the festivities. Thank you for helping make his day special! A tip of the hat also to Coffee Time for being so willing to allow us to do this in their fine establishment.



**Brian VE3IK had recent exchange with Dave Goodwin VE3KG, our RAC Regulatory Affairs Officer around a couple of questions that came up during our latest basic course about a Countries prohibiting Amateur Radio operation and also passing Third party Traffic and this information is good to know for some of our more recent Amateur Radio operators (Steve VA3TPS)**

Thank you for writing to me about this. It's no wonder you are having trouble finding answers to these questions. There are no definitive answers to either question, but for very different reasons. It's hard to find something that isn't there.

**Brian VE3IK asked:**

**Q 1:** What countries prohibit amateur radio operation (I think it is North Korea and Yemen)?

**A 1:** There are no countries that have made any formal declaration that they do not allow Amateur Radio. They simply don't allow it.

North Korea definitely does not allow Amateur Radio now, but they have allowed some Amateur Radio operations on very rare occasions. A medical doctor from the Republic of Georgia was active from North Korea in 2001 and 2002. He operated as P5/4L4FN with NK official permission. Then, they summarily withdrew that permission. Why did they allow it? Why did they withdraw it? Who knows? North Korean government decision-making is opaque, to say the least. Ed P5/4L4FN made

about 16,000 QSOs in his off-hours when he was doing his job as a medical doctor. There was another demonstration operation by Mariti OH2BH. He operated as P51BH for several hours on 21 April 1999. He made almost 300 QSOs. There have been a very few previous operations from North Korea. If they ever allow Amateur Radio again, it will be a surprise, and it may be quick. Be ready! That's one I need.

As for Yemen, there have been a few operations from that country. I have worked 70 stations in 1990, 2014 and two different operations in 2023. Again, Amateur Radio is not formally forbidden, but it's not a very welcoming place. Civil war, humanitarian disaster, tragedy on a scale we can't imagine: they may have more important things to consider than Amateur Radio.

There are other places where sometimes visiting Amateurs can get permission, and at other times, they can't. Often, these are less-developed countries with rudimentary radio regulations or no provisions for Amateur Radio at all. The absence of authority for Amateur Radio does mean Amateur Radio is forbidden.

But formal, official bans? I know of none.

Q 2: What counties prohibit third-party traffic with Canada?

A 2: None, as far as I know. Again, there are no specific prohibitions against **third-party traffic with Canada**. Most countries simply don't allow their Radio Amateurs to exchange third-party traffic. You would have to parse the radio regulations of each country to find what restrictions they may have.

The ITU regulations say this:

*25.3 2) Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction.*

That's pretty clear. "**Only** in case of emergencies" is a pretty strict limitation. "Emergencies" and "disaster relief" are not defined in the ITU regulations. So, in the event of an emergency, international third-party traffic is permitted, at least in the ITU regulations. But each country has its own rules, interpretations and circumstances.

We are in a very fortunate position in Canada. ISED Policy says this in RIC-3:

### **8.3 Communications on behalf of third parties**

*Any foreign administration may permit its amateur stations to communicate on behalf of third parties without having to enter into any special arrangements with Canada.*

*Canada does not prohibit international communications on behalf of third parties.*

*In case of emergencies or disaster relief, international third-party communications are expressly permitted unless specifically prohibited by a foreign administration.*

So, Canadian Amateurs may exchange third party traffic with anyone. But Amateurs in some countries may not be allowed to exchange third party traffic with anyone. Our rules do not limit third-party traffic to emergencies, so Canadian Amateurs have lots of latitude.



**On Saturday, April 18, 2026, Radio Amateurs of Canada is once again organizing a special on-air event to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day.**

Every year on April 18, Radio Amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of Amateur Radio and to commemorate the formation of the **International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)** on April 18, 1925.

The IARU has announced that the theme for this year's World Amateur Radio Day will be "**Entering the Next Century of Amateur Radio Communications & Innovation**".

Radio Amateurs of Canada is once again holding a "**Get on the Air on World Amateur Radio Day**" special event in which we encourage as many Amateurs as possible to get on the air and contact as many RAC stations as possible.

- RAC official stations will operate across Canada from 0000Z to 2359Z on April 18. The RAC official station call signs are VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE3RHQ, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC.
- Those contacting one or more of these stations will be eligible for a special commemorative certificate noting their participation in RAC's Get on the Air on World Amateur Radio Day Event.
- Participants simply need to complete one or more contacts, on any band and mode, with RAC official stations to earn their certificates.
- No logs need to be submitted; simply check back on the RAC website when instructed and enter your call sign to download your certificate.

Thank you for your continuing support. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones, stay safe and have fun while celebrating World Amateur Radio Day.

## **A couple of Changes to my Mobile**

Written by Derek – VE3TKE  
March 13, 2026

### **Change # 1**

After years of jumping out of my car to pull my Comet SBB-5 off its roof magnetic mount every time I entered a garage, I finally hit my limit. The routine of climbing onto the door sill just to reach the center of the roof was getting old.

At a Hamfest, I found the perfect solution: a Tram 1191 window-mount antenna, that was still in the bag for just \$20. It promised a lower profile, a flexible removable coil whip, and a much cleaner install since the coax stays inside the car.



Figure 1: Tram 1191

## Window Antenna Kit

The installation had a few hurdles. My driver-side cargo window had integrated wires, and the instructions warned that the antenna wouldn't work on tinted glass.



I moved to the passenger side and decided to test my luck with the tint anyway.



After mounting the external base and internal coupling box, I tuned it to a solid 1.4:1 SWR on VHF—not bad at all!



Here is a look at the antenna

components.



The performance is great for local repeater work through my FTM-400XDR. While I did lose some long-range "reach" compared to the roof-mounted SBB-5, the convenience is unbeatable.

For those rare long-distance trips, I just keep the new Comet CM-5M mag-mount & my Comet SBB-5 antenna in the trunk as a backup.

Here is an Amazon link if anyone is interested in getting one. The cost is currently at \$101.62.

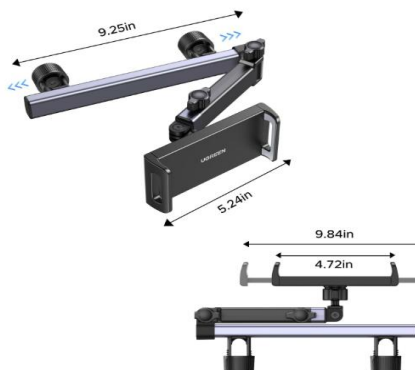
<https://www.amazon.ca/WSP1191-144mhz-Amateur-Glass-Mount-Antenna/dp/B07DWHFP6G>

## Change # 2

Recently, I made another change. When I installed my radio in the car under the front passenger seat, it was great as it was out of the way. The only drawback was the radio speaker was on the radio base unit under the seat. So, I had to always keep the volume up to be able to hear what is being said on the radio. Well, that is now changed.

I was browsing the Amazon store for some way to get a remote speaker up to where I could hear it without having to keep the volume almost at maximum.

I found a Car Headrest Tablet Mount. I pondered over how or if I could use or adapt this to be used. Can it swing to the front. Can I mount a small speaker on the bracket.

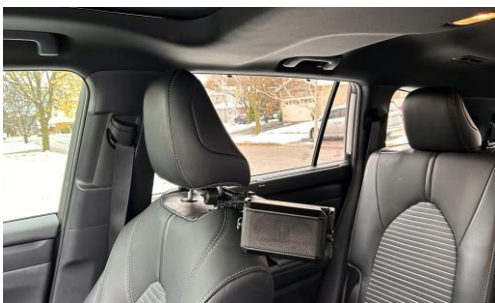


After reviewing the details on this item, which are never detailed enough and checking out the other pictures. I felt that due to the low price of \$15.72 it's worth a try so I ordered it.

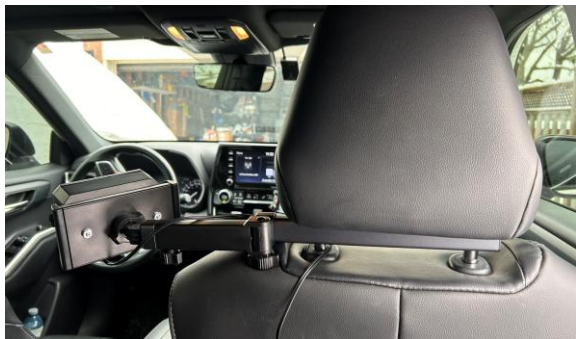
I had a small external speaker in my pile of stuff that we all have. I measured it and it seemed to be the right size.



When I received the Headrest mount, I opened the tablet jaws and found that it would accept the width of the speaker bracket. That's great. I just need to figure out how to install the speaker bracket to the expandable table jaw plate. I drilled two holes thru the plate for a threaded screw and nut. It worked. I drilled thru a space in the plate. I mounted the speaker and took it out to the car to test.



Here is a look from the driver's seat.



Here is a look from the back passenger seat.



The speaker mount is easy to remove, if required as well as the speaker. The speaker is well behind the passenger's head and the speaker is mounted facing me being the driver. The speaker can be moved in any direction and remains in place with the tension knob that you tighten.

After connecting the speaker to the radio, after finding the required Stereo to Mono audio connector that originally came with the radio, I needed to turn the volume down as it was about eight inches away from my head. Great, I can hear a lot better and the wife does not get the rumble from under the front seat.

Website – [ve3osh.com](http://ve3osh.com)

Here is the Amazon link if anyone is interested in obtaining one. The price, like everything else has increased. Currently at \$21.65 CAD plus shipping and taxes.

<https://www.amazon.ca/UGREEN-Headrest-Rotation-Extendable-Essentials/dp/B0DL5JT5QH>

Derek - VE3TKE



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](mailto: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.

Email – [info@ve3osh.com](mailto:info@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](mailto:va3tps@outlook.com)

## Editor's Note

Thank you to **Derek VE3TKE**, **Brian VE3IK** and **Laird VE3LKS** for their articles and pictures.

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

### April Monthly Meeting – April 15,2026

Our April meeting is on Wednesday April 15,2026 at 8:00Pm over the Zoom platform.

### Durham Hamfest – April 18,2026

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Durham Hamfest is on Saturday April 18, 2026 from 9:00amd to 12:00 noon. Please visit <https://durhamhamfest.com> for more details.

### The 29th Annual Ontario QSO Party 2026

1800Z April 18 to 0300Z April 19, 2026  
and 1200Z to 2000Z April 19, 2026, more information at  
<http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/>

### May Monthly Meeting – May 20,2026

Our May meeting will be on Wednesday May 20,2026 at 7:00Pm and we are in the process of arranging a joint meeting with the Ontario Tech ARC at their campus and also on the Zoom Platform. Detail are being worked out and more information and confirmation on details to come soon.

### Bike for Guide Dogs - May 31,2026

The Bowmanville Lions Club asked NSARC to provide comms for their "Bike for Guide Dogs" charity ride on May 31. Past President Derek VE3TKE is coordinating this activity for our club, and already he has asked for volunteers and lined up sufficient resources for us to proceed with this new club event. If anyone still wants to help, please contact Derek at [ve3tke@ve3osh.com](mailto:ve3tke@ve3osh.com)

### Canoe the Nonquon - June 6,2026

Details on this event and the locations are being worked on and Volunteers have been solicited by email from **Neil VA3NH**.

### Aquino Tank Weekend – June 12 to June 14,2026

More information available soon from **Laird VE3LKS**

## NSARC Summer Kick off BBQ – June 17,2026

More information will be available soon, watch your emails for updates coming soon.

## ARRL Field Day – June 27 to June 28 ,2026

More information available soon.

## NSARC Fall Return BBQ -September 16,2026

More information will be available soon.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



After at least one false start, Spring has finally arrived. Better weather is most welcome because a busy and exciting season for NSARC is getting under way.

### Shovels in the Ground

Some who did not attend the Members Meeting in March might still be unaware that a lease for our tower and shack location at Purple Woods was signed with our landlord, the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, last month.

With that lease in place, the club's tower committee set to work immediately to prepare plans, get quotations, and obtain the necessary permits to purchase and erect a new tower. (The good old days when you just put up a tower and used it are ancient history.)

A tower budget proposal must be presented to NSARC Members for your approval before your money can be spent. Please make every effort to attend the very important Members Meeting in April, and the other monthly meetings where club business is discussed and voted on.

### Hamfest

Jan VA3TCN and the whole volunteer team have things well in hand for another successful Hamfest on Saturday morning April 18 from 9 AM to 12 noon.

<https://durhamhamfest.com/>

There will be a club table for Members to sell one or two items if they haven't got enough things to justify getting a whole table for themselves.

### Joint Meeting with OTARC

We are conferring with our friends at Ontario Tech ARC to hold a joint Members Meeting with them on their university campus on Wed. May 20th. The tentative starting time would be 7 PM. Whether or not a technical presentation will precede the business meeting, as well as other details, are not finalized yet. Please check your email for future updates.

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## Canoe the Nonquon

Saturday June 6th is the annual Canoe the Nonquon boat race in Port Perry. For the third year the Scugog Historical Society, which operates the Museum on Scugog Island, has asked NSARC to provide communications for this, their biggest fundraising event.

Licensed operators are needed at checkpoints along the race route on the Nonquon River and south along Lake Scugog shoreline to the finish at the municipal dock in Port Perry. Apart from fun in the great outdoors, the prospect of a free BBQ lunch provided by the race organizers should be sufficient added encouragement.

If you can volunteer, please contact Neil VA3NH. [president@ve3osh.com](mailto:president@ve3osh.com)

It's only April, but as you see, a very busy NSARC season is off to a running start already. Looking forward to seeing everybody at one or more of these events in the following weeks!

73 de Neil - VA3NH

Dr. Neil McAlister, VA3NH,  
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 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 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.**

## 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.