

Monthly Update

www.ve3osh.com

August 2026

September Meeting



When: Wednesday September 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location: Purple Woods Conservation Area (Our Repeater site)

NSARC Fall Return BBQ

Wednesday 16 September at 6:00 PM

Purple Woods Conservation Area

Corner of Simcoe Street and Coates Road

RSVP is REQUIRED so the organizer can plan food quantity needed.

More information will be forthcoming soon, watch your email.

October Meeting

Our first regular club meeting after the summer is Wednesday October 21, 2026 at 8:00PM over the Zoom platform.

Great Summer Kick-Off BBQ

Despite a stormy forecast, the weather cooperated with NSARC's Summer Kick-Off BBQ on Wed. June 17. Obliging, the first drops of rain waited to fall on the repeater site until after we had packed up everything at the end of the event.

It was pleasant to enjoy eyeball QSOs with many club Members and Friends, and to meet several of their family members. Thanks to everyone who helped by bringing goodies, setting up marquees and tables, and cleaning up afterwards.

A special shoutout is due to NSARC's de facto Head of Commissary, Louise VA3LLF, and her husband Sam VA3YYC for organizing and supplying this event, and for making sure that it ran smoothly.

Thank you to Robert VE3IRB for cutting the grass to prepare the site for us.

Joe VE3VGJ kindly set up his BBQ equipment, while Chef Grant VA3KJI flipped burgers and hotdogs non stop for the ravenous multitude.

Some attendees were overheard to say they were surprised by the large turnout. Some said that this was the best club BBQ yet! Of course, we grateful diners always say that, but, like the hamburgers, everything was truly "well done!"

73

Neil VA3NH





NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Radiosport Team Champions - 2026 CHAMPS REPEAT THEIR 2022 VICTORY

In England, it's all over but the celebrating now that the World Radiosport Team Championship has wrapped up. Yuri VE3DZ and teammate Yarik UW7LL savoured victory again as Gold Medalists, as they did at WRTC 2022, (held in 2023). Silver went to Manfred DJ5MW and Uli DM5EE, with the Bronze going to Emir E77DX and Sven DJ4MX. [Congratulations](#) to the organizers for a successful event and, of course, to the top three teams who are feeling like Olympians at the moment.

-- WRTC announcement.

ONTARIO SECTION NEWS

ITEMS OF INTEREST

2. Positioning Without Satellites or Base Stations

We're all used to satellite navigation systems such as GPS or GLONASS, sheer magic in which the combination of a set of reference transmitters and super-accurate timing information can be used to calculate a position to an astounding precision. They had land-based predecessors such as LORAN and Decca Navigator which worked in a similar fashion but with fixed land-based reference transmitters. Terra is an attempt to do the same thing without a network of dedicated transmitters, instead using FM broadcast transmitters as its fixed points.

This might seem like an impossible task without access to the transmitters, but they have a workaround using the Internet as a backhaul. Instead of transmitting their timing information like the systems mentioned above, they rely on a set of reference receivers sharing it online to the client's receiver software. So far they have a demo running in Denver.

The interesting thing about this system is that it's open-source, and requires only a relatively inexpensive software defined radio receiver and a computer to operate. Now anyone with a group of internet-connected friends to set up reference receivers can have their own positioning system, it's no longer the exclusive preserve of governments. We like this idea and we look forward to seeing it being tested more widely.
<https://hackaday.com/2026/07/01/positioning-without-satellites-or-base-stations/>

-- via Hackaday.com

3. Free, Modern Live APRS Map in 11 Languages

aprs.world is a free, modern web map of the worldwide APRS network, a fresh alternative to the classic trackers. Live APRS-IS firehose, station pages for every callsign, weather and telemetry graphs, and two-way APRS messaging straight from the browser. The interface is available in 11 languages, no login required.

There's also an Android companion app that goes beyond viewing: paired with a Bluetooth KISS TNC, it transmits real APRS packets over RF from your phone.
-- from TA4OHN via aprs.world

ISED Proposes Changes to Tower Policy

<https://www.rac.ca/ised-proposes-changes-to-tower-policy/>

For immediate release | June 30, 2026

Good News for Radio Amateurs!

On May 11, 2026, Canada's radio regulator, Innovation, Science and Development Canada (ISED), released a [consultation](#) on their proposals for changes to their policy on antennas and towers. These proposals will speed up and make easier the processes required to get permission to erect antenna systems.

The changes were designed to make things easier for commercial telecommunications providers, but they offer many improvements to Radio Amateurs.

Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)) and the Fédération des clubs radioamateurs du Québec ([RAQI](#)) submitted a joint response to the consultation. In it, we supported all of ISED's proposals for change to this policy.

RAC and RAQI also asked for two changes and two additions to ISED's policy:

- An increase in the exemption from consultation for antenna systems. The current policy makes antennas less than 15 metres exempt from consultation. We would like to change this to 20 metres.
- A decrease in the size of the zone within which Amateurs are required to respond to their neighbours' concerns. We requested a decrease to two times the height of the antenna system from the current three times the height.
- Relief from antenna restrictions in "covenants" on residential property
- "Reasonable accommodation" for Amateur Radio antennas for those residing in condominiums, stratas and rented housing.

A copy of RAC and RAQI's response is available in [English and French](#).

Bulletin sent from Official Bulletin Manager VA3PC



Some photo's from this years Field Day

Email – info@ve3osh.com



OLD AND IMPROVED

DIY passive filter gives portable FM receiver new life.

by Neil McAlister, VA3NH

You Get What You Pay For

A portable FM radio that costs \$30 doesn't owe you much. At VA3NH there is a cheap, smallish, battery powered portable AM/FM receiver. But you get what you pay for. The little radio is inconvenient to use. It has tiny, badly labelled buttons and insanely non-intuitive, awkward memory, time and alarm setting features. Reception is spotty at best, even with its built-in whip antenna fully extended and aiming in the right direction. And with that long, metal wand waving its menacing tip at eye level, the unit's alleged portability seems more dangerous than handy.

Once tuned on a station, however, FM reception sounds surprisingly good through its single monaural speaker. But a receptacle for a standard 3.5mm TRS plug, and icons on the little LCD screen showing that stereo stations are being received, invites the listener to use headphones to fully enjoy FM broadcasts.

Disappointingly, that invitation is a false promise. The loud, high pitched FM hiss heard through any of several pairs of headphones that vary from dirt cheap to studio quality is just intolerable, making headphone listening a non-starter.

Technical Notes

Or is it? An Internet search for "FM hiss on headphones" dug up explanations and circuit diagrams for a passive filter inserted between a radio's headphone output and your headphone jack. It's a low pass device to filter out that annoying, high frequency hiss.

There are two identical circuits, one for the left channel and one for right. The two circuits share a common ground. (Fig. 1)

Each separate circuit has one resistor and one capacitor. Resistors 1K Ohm. "Pop can" capacitors are 1 uF. (Formulas exist for calculating exact values, but these appear to work well enough.)

Keep It Simple

The ol' junk box provided everything that was required, including an unused plastic project box that I hadn't seen since high school days

There was a dual gang stereo potentiometer in the junk bin, so I threw it into the mix too, wired not as a conventional volume control, but as a variable resistor (trim pot) in the output to the headphones. This proved to be a pointless complication. We live so far from any broadcast radio stations that the possibility of swamping the receiver with multiple interfering signals is non-existent. While increasing the resistance cuts out all but the strongest signals, all signals here are pretty weak, so minimum resistance is the rule, and the variable resistor never needs to be touched.

Improved Reception

In addition to surprisingly clean, hiss-free stereo reception, this DIY low pass filter offers a very important additional benefit: the radio's awkward whip antenna is no longer required. As with most little FM receivers, the headphone cable, when fully stretched out, serves double duty as an antenna that vastly improves reception compared the receiver's built-in whip. (Fig. 2).

Being a passive filter, the device has no appreciable effect on the receiver's battery life.

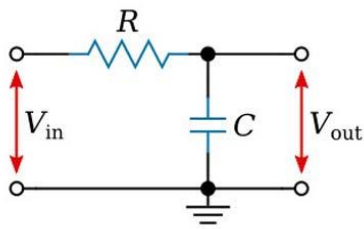
Moral of story? That "good junk" just might come in mighty handy some day! And the price is right.

73 de Neil, VA3NH

Illustrations:

Fig. 1. One of two identical circuits for each channel of a passive low pass filter for stereo headphones.

Fig 2. A humble thing but mine own. Do-It-Yourself low pass headphones filter. The accessible trim pot makes this one something of a "fur lined tea-cup." That amusing complication is of little practical use.



FIRST AID COURSE

As part of NSARC's increasing focus on emergency preparedness, several club Members have expressed interest in taking a certified first aid course. We have investigated options and found that St. John Ambulance offers a two day course most relevant to our needs, both in Oshawa and in Ajax. The cost is \$175.00.

Anyone who wants to pursue this first aid training, please contact the club President.

73 de Neil - VA3NH
president@ve3osh.com

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.

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.

Item Wanted:

Aldo VA3AG is looking for a 500 pf 5 to 10 kv door knob capacitor.
 If you can help him out give him a call at (905) 429-7320

FOR SALE

Astron AST-RS35MAP Linear Power Supply **\$175**
 Only issue is the Amp needle sticks. Though, it works great and is the only power supply I've ever used for my shack

Yaesu FT3DR [MARS Modded] w/ extras **\$500**

- RTSystems RTS-USB68 Programming Cable
- Yaesu YA-CD41 Rapid Cradle Charger
- Yaesu YA-SSM17A Speaker-Mic
- Yaesu YA-SCU39KIT
- Diamond DIA-SRH77CA
- Yaesu SDD-13 DC Car Adapter
- Yaesu YA-SBR14LI Extra Battery
- Yaesu YA-EDC6 Power cable
- Digirig Mobile (Default Logic Levels)
- Digirig Yaesu HT Audio/PTT Cable
- Digirig Coiled USB-A to USB-C cable



Yaesu FTM-300D [MARS Modded] w/ extras \$700

- Yaesu YA-MLS100 15W Mobile External Speaker
- FTM300DR Stand
- Digirig Mobile (RS-233)
- Digirig Yaesu FTM MiniDin10 Cable (9600 baud audio + PTT + serial)
- Digirig Yaesu FTM MiniDin10 Cable (1200 baud audio + PTT)
- Digirig Short USB-A to USB-C cable



(I know it's not Ham Radio, but if anyone's interested in selling this as well)

UNIDEN UNI-CMX760 "All-in-the-mic" handheld CB Radio w/ extras \$200

- FireStik FIR-SS3H Heavy-Duty Stainless-Steel Spring
- FireStik FIR-FL4 Lightweight "FireFly" 4ft Antenna
- Diamond K-400 Lip Mount

If anyone is interested or wants to make me an offer at my email: thehamradiohoser@gmail.com

Eric VA3FYB

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

Thank you to **Neil VA3NH** and **Joe VE3VGJ**, **Robert VE3IRB** for their article 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

NSARC Fall Return BBQ -September 16,2026

More information will be available soon.

September 27th,2026 - Cannington, Brock Ride & Stride

Emails have been sent by **Derek VE3TKE**

September 27th,2026 - Newcastle, Hike or Bike for Clarington Hospice.

Emails have been sent and **Laird VE3LKS** is looking after this event and will supply more information soon.

October Monthly Meeting

Our first monthly meeting after the summer and fall BBQ is on Wednesday October 21st,2026 at 8:00pm over the Zoom platform.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Field Day and DRACS

Field Day was a great success this year. Participants had fun making contacts and having eyeball QSOs while enjoying goodies provided by our Head of Commissary, Louise VA3LLF.

As a big bonus, Field Day was an opportunity for NSARC to promote regional awareness of our club and of our growing interest in Auxiliary Communications for emergency services under the leadership of Derek VE3TKE and our recently established Durham Region Auxiliary Communications Service (DRACS).

Cameron Wilson (EMO Field Officer, Severn Sector) visited the NSARC Field Day site at Purple Woods. Since he is new to amateur radio, we provided a full tour. He was highly impressed by Joe's portable tower and our members' setups. Although Cameron is not our direct Field Service Officer (ours was deployed elsewhere), he offered to provide some limited support to our group moving forward. Since Cameron lives in the Oshawa area, we asked him if he would like to join our club as he is looking to get his amateur radio license.

Nick VA3NPW set up a display featuring the revised RAC Field Kit, explaining its emergency capabilities to Cameron and some of our members.

Later on Sunday, Ian Clarke (VA3KCP), Section Manager of RAC GH ACS (Golden Horseshoe Auxiliary Communications Service) also visited our Field Day site. As a fellow Amateur radio operator, he was very impressed by our group's setup and operations during our tour.

We hope to nurture our relationships with regional and Provincial emergency management organizations. NSARC has been contacted by an official of the Oshawa municipal government, who has requested a meeting with us later this summer, to learn about NSARC and the communications services that we could offer during an emergency.

There appears to be growing awareness in all levels of government that the Internet and cell phones are not magically infallible communication tools. At the time of

writing, the Internet has been down for more than a week in a wide rural area north of Oshawa, including the Purple Woods conservation area where our repeater is located. While this service outage affects a small number of distant Amateurs who use Internet based Allstar (not radio) to reach VE3OSH, our FM based repeater remains unaffected and functioning as usual, complete with its standby generator in case the power goes out too.

When all else fails, radio gets through.

Finally, but by no means least, the whole club thanks Steve VA3TPS for all his work on our Update!

73 de Neil, VA3NH

Dr. Neil McAlister, VA3NH,
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: **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, we are currently down two of our regular controllers. If anyone can help out for a week or two it would be greatly appreciated.

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. Starting in the fall, 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.

73