



Central States VHF Society E-Newsletter

Quarter ending March 31, 2004
(created on May 31st, 2004)

Come to Toronto Conference!

The Ontario VHF Association, VE3VHF, and the Toronto VHF Society, VE3ONT invite you to the 38th annual Central States VHF Society Conference in Toronto, Ontario on July 22, through July 24, 2004.

The first mailing went out back in February—this year electronically—to everyone for whom we had email addresses. Thank you to all 150 or so who indicated they received the attachment OK. It appears that using e-mail will save us a lot of money in the coming years. Snail mail was used for those we did not have current e-mails. More importantly, the “second” mailing goes out in a few days to EVERYONE via snail mail and will include the registration form. If you are planning to come to the conference, and we hope you are, please return it as soon as possible. Your early registration will help us “get the numbers right”!

The registration documents will be available for download on the web as well. (Within the week.) They will be available shortly at: www.csvhfs.org/ and at www.ovhfa.com/

The family program has shaped up nicely and we NEED you to bring your spouses and family to enjoy the fine activities that are outlined below. The opportunity to see Niagara Falls should NOT be missed!

Help your fellow attendees by contacting our Prize Chairman, Dana Shtun VE3DSS, with any prizes you can bring for the prize table. Please bring Spouse prizes too. If you are a prize donor and have received a request via mail from Dana, but have yet to respond, we urge you to contact him as soon as you can. Dana can be reached at ve3dss-1@rogers.com

We are looking forward to bringing you a top-notch technical conference, and a memorable experience for your families. We look forward to seeing you!

2004 Family Program Update

We have booked Stage West, a world-class dinner theatre, for Thursday evening July 22nd. Located only 10 minutes from the Delta Meadowvale, Stage West offers a superb buffet-style dinner combined with an exciting musical review that will have the audiences

dancing in the aisles. Scheduled for July 22nd is “British Invasion II – America Strikes Back”, a delightful combination of music from the ‘60’s British Invasion and American Pop. British Invasion I was one the most successful shows ever presented at Stage West, so this year’s performance stands to be a smash hit. Only 50 seats have been reserved so you may want to book early. We have negotiated a group rate for the show at \$Cdn \$60 per person (US \$45 each), including the show, a buffet dinner, coffee/tea, taxes and gratuities. While we know this cost is higher than dinner shows at past conferences, we are confident you will not be disappointed. You can learn more at the Stage West web site at

http://www.stagewest.com/whats_playing.asp

We have planned a bus excursion on Friday July 23 to the Niagara Falls area, which will include the Falls, the Niagara-on-the-Lake village (shopping) and a winery tour and more. Saturday’s bus tour will be highlighted by a visit to the famous CN Tower, an 1815-foot freestanding structure that dominates the Toronto skyline. Stand on the glass floor at 1,100 feet above the City of Toronto, enjoy the breathtaking views of the city and Toronto Islands, and shop in the huge gift store. The tour will include shopping at the Eaton Centre, Skydome, and a tour of the city core.

73,
Peter Shilton, VE3AX
2004 CSVHFS Conference Chmn.
ve3ax@csvhfs.org

2004 Papers and Presentations

The Toronto Conference program has shaped up nicely! We actually ran out of available program time to fit in all of the fine presentations we were offered. So we have several in reserve ready to go. We have GREAT presentation content which is the reason for which you should come to Toronto! Just look at the following presentation titles coming up (slight changes might occur):

Jon Jones, NØJK – Sept./Oct. 2003 Tropo/F2/AU Openings
Ev Tupis, W2EV – Transatlantic on 2m
Andrew Flowers, KØSM/2 – Laser Communications – Beyond Line-of-Sight
Steve Kavanagh, VE3SMA – Antenna Heights for 6m Sporadic E
Ev Tupis, W2EV – HamIM – Instant Messaging for Liason
Paul Wade, W1GHZ – Multi-Band Feeds for Dishes
Ken Oelke, VE6AFO – Moonbounce Basics

Bill Burgess, VE3CRU – Getting Started in VHF/UHF
Art Shulman, VE3ZV – White Box Modifications for 10GHz
Al Katz, K2UYH – EME – Digital Communications
Emil Pocock, W3EP – Backscatter over the Atlantic
Dave Olean, K1WHS – K1WHS Contest Station Upgrades
Paul Shuch, N6TX – Electromagnetic Spectrum Basics
Mark Hoffman, K2AXX – VHF Contesting from Different Parts of the Country
Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA – Broadband Over Powerline and Interference

We have several other articles that will be in the Proceedings making that a valuable item on your bookshelf.

If you have a paper that is **ready** to go, contact me promptly at ve3bfm at csvhfs dot org for inclusion in this year's Proceedings. The deadline for this year's Proceedings is a matter of days away. If we miss this deadline, please consider contributing your article and/or presentation to the 2005 CSVHFS Conference.

Presenters for this year's conference need to work with me on their audio/visual needs and handout needs. Again, contact me and let's put all the details to rest well before the conference.

Bob Morton, Technical Chairman and V.P.
VE3BFM@csvhfs.org

2004 Conference Lodging

Our conference site is The Delta Meadowvale in Mississauga, Ontario. This premier conference center is located just south of Ontario's main east-west highway, the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway (Hwy 401). Those traveling in from Detroit, Buffalo, or eastern Lake Ontario will easily spot the hotel at Mississauga's Erin Mills Parkway/Mississauga Rd. exit. A shuttle service is available for about \$13 Cdn from the Pearson airport, only 15 minutes away. Travel time from Detroit is about 3 hours, and from Buffalo is about 90 minutes.

The mailing will have a basic map, but you can also visit the hotel website at www.deltameadowvale.com/ to view a small map.

We have reserved a block of rooms at Cdn \$115/night (currently about \$85 US), **a rate which can be applied three days before and after the conference dates of July 22-23-24, 2004 should you wish to extend your visit to the area.** Please support the CSVHFS by booking your room under this banner - just quote the CSVHFS when booking your reservation.

You can reach the Delta Meadowvale directly at 1-800-422-8238 Monday -Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Calls outside that time frame will go to Delta's national reservation centre but they also have the details and should be able to book you just as easily.

There was a problem with the reservation procedure at the Delta that came up when one of our members tried to reserve his room. That problem should be fixed now and the 1-800 # on the CSVHFS web site should work fine now. As in past years, reservations are to be made by the members directly with the hotel, quoting the CSVHFS rate in the process. If they refer you back to me, let me know and we'll "fix" it again!

73
Peter Shilton
VE3AX

Chambers & Wilson Award Nominations

Each year the society recognizes two people with significant awards. The Chambers award honors one who has elevated the art of VHF and above operations through technical or operational contributions. The Wilson award honors one for outstanding and continuing service to the Society or to VHF/UHF in general. The Society will present these awards at the banquet during the conference in Toronto. The recipient need not be in attendance. If you wish to nominate a worthy person, contact Kent Britain, WA5VJB with your nomination input. Kent coordinates the award winner selection. Contact Kent at "wa5vjb at csvhfs dot org".

States Above 50 MHz Award Program

Program is in progress. Your contacts through June 30th, 2004 will count for this program year. It's never too late to get involved. You can look through your log since July 1st, 2003 and determine what states you worked on which bands. See the CSVHFS website and follow the links for rules and forms. Go to <http://www.csvhfs.org/CSVHFTST.HTML>.

CSVHFS Submits FCC Comments

Owen Wormser, K3CB, our CSVHFS FCC Committee Chairman, carefully crafted a response to the FCC concerning BPL. It was submitted during the comment period and maintained a logical and reasonable tone. You can view the comments at: <http://www.csvhfs.org/docs/BPL.pdf>. You might want to even echo some of the comments in the document in your own responses. Some individual hams have submitted shrill responses to the FCC with little supporting reasoning or data. The CSVHFS response cuts to the heart of the matter.

CSVHFS Website

Since last conference, our former Webmaster, Jon Lieberg, K0FQA has handed over duties to our new "webguy" Paul Goble, ND2X/5. We thank Jon for his years of fine work and thank Paul for stepping forward to keep the CSVHFS website a viable communication tool with the membership.

If you have not been to www.csvhfs.org lately, go take a look. The site has been freshened up and has updated info on Ant Rng results, NF results, States Above results, Chambers Award recipients, and Wilson Award recipients. Most significantly, the LINKS page is greatly expanded—a handy place to start your VHF/UHF/SHF info searches.

More website improvements are coming. If you have suggestions on roles or features that would be helpful for our VHF/UHF/SHF community, send them along to ND2X/5. CSVHFS needs a volunteer to assist Paul by just managing the Links page. Keep it the links current and interesting—with this specific task, you won't be overwhelmed. Help Paul out—step forward!

CSVHFS Logos

We have .jpg, .gif, .tif, and even .ps images of the CSVHFS logo at <http://www.csvhfs.org/filearea/logos/>. These are available for you to use on your QSL cards and on your websites. You don't have to hotlink to the CSVHFS site, but please give CSVHFS visibility on your QSL cards and websites. If you construct other CSVHFS logos that you'd like to share with the membership, send them along to Paul, ND2X/5 the "web guy".

Get Involved in CSVHFS

As a minimum, consider putting together a paper for a future Proceedings issue. Develop that further into a presentation at a Conference. Consider serving the society on the Board of Directors or on one of the following committees: FCC, WorldWideWebsite, States Above 50 MHz Program, Database, Proceedings on CD-Rom, and Publicity/Recruitment. Yet another alternative is to marshal the efforts of VHF'ers in your area and host a future conference in your town. Many hands make small work. Make sure to lend your hand and keep the society energetic and viable going forward. Want to take the next step? Go to <http://www.csvhfs.org/CSVHFOFF.HTML> and email or contact any of your board members or officers and they will be glad to try and utilize your help.

Submit Stuff!

Send along material!
Bruce Richardson, W9FZ w9fz at csvhfs.org
2330 Lexington Ave S. #312
Mendota Hts, MN 55120

-- Tidbits --

WA5YOU Report

Had a nice chat on the phone with Charlie Chennault, WA5YOU the other day. He reports every day is better than the last. He works hard at regaining strengths and abilities he had prior to a stroke a number of years ago. He lives in rural West, Mississippi now and expects to be back on 6 and 2 meters within a year. He has a rustic hunting cabin available for visitors if hams want to come activate EM-53 as a rover or as portable. He reports he has generally high terrain and good views in many directions. Wanda is getting busier with her catering business. Although we list an email address for Charlie on the webpage, he's not actually email accessible currently. Give him a call if you haven't touched base with him lately.

Charlie and Wanda are long time members of CSVHFS and Charlie served the society for many years as Treasurer. This past summer, an anonymous donor presented the CSVHFS Board with an honorary Life Membership for Charlie and Wanda. The Board heartily concurred and was thrilled to present this honor to Charlie and Wanda.

KØSM "Rainscatter" Software

Andy Flowers, KØSM/2, recently created a software utility to assist with rainscatter QSO's on 5 and 10 GHz. It uses real-time radar plots. You highlight the storm you want to use and it helps you with dish headings for both parties. Take a look at:

<http://mail.rochester.edu/~af006m/RainScatter.html>

Portable DC Power Regulation

W4RRY has developed a battery booster that will give you a good solid 13.8 for your portable operations. If sagging voltage has you LO drifting and your SMA relays not firing well, you may want to use this booster. Sure, it's \$105 delivered but according to a local testimonial, it works VERY well. The website outlines the theory. The circuit only adds enough extra voltage to bring it up to 13.8 (up to 23 Amps). Take a look for yourself at:

<http://members.cox.net/w4rry/index.html>

Tulsa & Milw – What You Missed

A small website of pictures is at:
www.w9fz.com/milw2002/csvhf02.html
www.w9fz.com/tulsa2003/csvhf03.html

While you're at the Toronto Conference, please take lots of digital pictures and route them to W9FZ for an after-action website about Toronto.