

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



September 8, 2005

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The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, September 8th, 2005
@ 7:30pm

All meetings are located at St. Judes Anglican Church,
1537 Adelaide Street North at Fanshawe Park Road East in London, Ontario,

They are normally held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm EST
during the months of September to June (no meetings July and August).

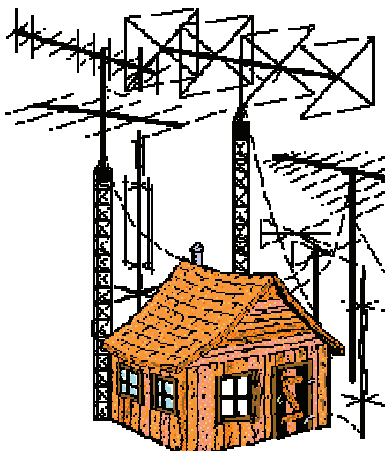
Meeting Topic: Status of HF in Canada by Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR and friends



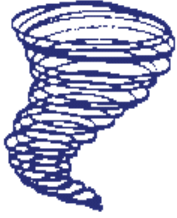
During the summer, changes occurred to the Canadian Ham Radio service.

Many hams are now permitted on the HF bands. This meeting is all about HF. We will discuss “What is HF”, “Who is permitted on HF”, “How to conduct yourself on HF”, and some interesting places to hang out on HF (nets and contests).

This issue of the newsletter contains lots of information of interest for people wanting to get onto HF. A printed version will be available at the meeting.



Update on Canwarn – September 2005 by Tom, VE3OEP



This is being written during another of those hot humid days we have been experiencing all summer long.

This weather pattern has resulted in quite a few Severe Thunderstorm Watches. Nets were not always run on those days when the main threat was pop-up type thunderstorms.

These storms could not be predicted with any degree of certainty and usually eased shortly after forming. These storms didn't warrant keeping controllers and spotters on the alert for long periods of time. We did however monitor VE3OME to ensure that any unusual weather situations could be passed to the Ontario Storm Centre. We seemed to have fewer of those storms which consisted of lines of cells moving in an organized pattern through our area. This is probably due to the low number of cold fronts which came our way, although we did receive some violent weather from those few fronts which did bring us some respite from the heat.

Although our main Canwarn station is at the Firehall, the availability of weather information online has enabled the controllers to run nets from home in some cases. This has resulted in fewer trips downtown, although the guarantee of electricity at the Firehall means it is still the preferred location when strong storms are coming through.

I would like to thank our many spotters who have joined our nets throughout the summer and enabled us to be the eyes for Environment Canada. I have received several messages from them over the summer thanking us for the reports we have passed on to them. I would also like to thank the controllers without whom the program could not function.

Once again this year Al (VE3LOD) has been a key player in keeping the nets going, along with Archie (VE3PTV) and Brett (VE3ZBG). Thank you gentlemen for your help.

If you are interested in knowing more about Canwarn or wish to become a spotter or controller, please contact me.

73

Tom Stewart
VE3OEP@rac.ca

Other Items of Interest

2005/2006 L.A.R.C. Executive

Here is the lineup for the LARC Executive Team 2005/2006:

Past President:	Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR	(LARC Repeater Coordinator)
President:	Gord Baker, VE3GB	(the boss!)
Vice President:	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT	(flea-market)
Secretary:	Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB	(only 1 that can spel goud)
Treasurer:	Tony Drawmer, VE3SQU	(money-man & field-day)
Director:	Shirley McCall-Nicholson, VE3SMN	(membership)
Director:	Al Bernier, VE3LOD	(keeps us honest)
Director:	Archie Van de Velde, VE3PTV	(ARES & Fox-hunts)
Repeater Operator:	Dave Young, VE3EAY	(knows ALL the codes)

St Thomas Club meetings – by AL VA3LX

Here's the details of the EARS meetings for St.Thomas.

We now meet the First Wednesday of each month, at 8:00 PM, in the Community Room of the "Real Canadian Superstore".

The Superstore is located at the corner of Talbot Street, and First Avenue beside Wal*Mart. The community room is located on the second floor, with access via stairs or elevator. No outside food or beverages are allowed, but may be purchased at the Superstore. Please retain your receipt as we are asked to submit them to the store. All are welcome, as we have lots of seating.

Talk-in on VE3STR-R, 147.330 + (114.8 PL)

Thank you,
VA3LX

Report on Field-Day 2005

Submitted by VE3PZR

During the last weekend in June, the club participated in the annual field day exercise by setting up a radio camp in Byron at the Reservoir Park. A log book was kept as people came and went. We had almost 50 hams (and want-a-be hams AKA kids) show up to help setup the camp as well as work the various bands.



Figure 1 - Getting a wire into the tree

This year we seemed to pull off the event with little difficulty. Everyone showed up as planned with the required equipment. The camp was established quickly with everyone lending a helping hand.



Figure 2 - Setting up a Tripod

Many of us proudly wore Ham Radio baseball caps with our call-signs embroidered into the fabric. Others found more inventive methods of advertising their call-sign.



Figure 3 - A Ham for Life!



We opened the site at 10am to give us 4 hours to get setup (and we needed every minute). Multiple tents were used because we needed operator stations as well as sleeping quarters for the evening.



2pm Saturday afternoon, finally we are on the air!



Pot Luck BBQ on Saturday evening

We tried something new this year and held a Pot Luck BBQ on Saturday evening. It was very well attended and gave everyone a chance to relax, chat and get ready for the next round of contacts. We will definitely do the BBQ again in 2006.

Thanks for everyone that showed to make it happen. It is almost time to start planning for 2006!

de ve3pzzr.

ARRL Field Day Entry Form Report

Submitted by: David Steels, VE3UZ

Datestamp: 2005-06-29 06:48:27 PDT

Call Used: VE3LON ARRL/RAC Section: ON Class: 6A
Club/Group Name: London Amateur Radio Club
Participants: 25

Power Source(s): Generator
Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power	600
Set-up in Public Place	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Youth participation	100
Youth operators=5	
Youth participants=5	
Submitted via the Web	50
Total Bonus Points:	<u>1,050</u>

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m				
80m			236	100
40m	258	100	97	100
20m	111	100	60	100
15m			92	100
TOTAL	369		485	

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	369	0	485	
Total Points	738	0	485	1223

Claimed Score: **2,446**

Industry Canada Introduces Alternatives to Morse Requirement for HF

In July 2003, the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) 2003 held by the ITU in Geneva, Switzerland, deleted the mandatory international requirement for proficiency in Morse for access to the HF bands below 30 MHz. The revised International Radio Regulations leave it up to individual administrations to decide whether to retain or delete Morse as a national requirement. Since July 2003, more than 25 administrations have deleted the Morse requirement for HF access.

Immediately following WRC-2003, RAC conducted an Internet survey of Canadian amateurs on whether Canada should retain or delete Morse. 66% of the statistically significant response of more than 1300 Canadian amateurs either recommended deleting, or would accept deleting, the mandatory Morse qualification, but also recommended other changes. This resulted in discussions between RAC and Industry Canada, following which RAC formally submitted a proposal to the Department recommending, among other things, that the mandatory Morse Qualification be deleted but also that it be retained as a voluntary qualification for reciprocal operations in countries that have not deleted the Morse requirement.

Per Canada Gazette Notice DGRB-003-05 dated 30 July 2005, Industry Canada has adopted elements of the RAC "Proposal on Morse Code and Related Matters" and has removed the mandatory requirement for the Morse Qualification for access to the HF bands below 30 MHz.

Effective immediately, HF operation on the bands below 30 MHz has been authorized by Industry Canada for:

- a) amateurs who were certified with only the **BASIC Qualification prior to 2 April 2002**
- b) amateurs who have been certified with **both BASIC and ADVANCED Qualifications**
- c) amateurs with only the **BASIC Qualification who were certified after 1 April 2002, and who achieved a pass mark of 80% or greater**

Those amateurs with only the BASIC Qualification who were **certified after 1 April 2002**, but who achieved less than an 80% pass mark, will either have to **qualify in Morse, write the Advanced or re-write the Basic examination** to obtain HF privileges. This latter requirement is related to a decision to increase the BASIC examination pass mark to ensure that candidates have been tested in all areas of the syllabus. Amateurs who need to confirm their examination marks should contact their Accredited Examiner. Accredited Examiners are required to retain marks for at least three years.

Also effective immediately, **the pass mark for the BASIC Qualification has been raised from 60% to 70%.**

Amateurs wishing to have their certificates annotated with a Morse Qualification may still do so by passing the Morse examination at 5 Words Per Minute.

Holders of only the BASIC Qualification may now construct, install and operate transmitters from kits that have been commercially designed and packaged. BASIC-only holders still are not authorized to modify or install and operate modified commercially manufactured equipment.

The above changes and others have been incorporated in revised RICs 2 and 3.

All amateurs should review and keep on hand these revised documents.

- RIC-2, Issue 5, dated July 2005, Standards for the Operation of Radio Stations in the Amateur Radio Service, is available at: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf05478e.html>
- RIC-3, Issue 2, dated July 2005, Information on the Amateur Radio Service, is available at: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf05478e.html>

HF Emergency NETS - Katrina

Submitted by Terry Hillier, VE3TEH

Hurricane Katrina HF Response and Recovery Frequencies		
2802.40	USB	American Red Cross Disaster (F-91) **
3171.40	USB	American Red Cross Disaster (F-92) **
5136.40	USB	American Red Cross Disaster (F-93) **
5141.40	USB	American Red Cross Disaster (F-94) **
5211.00	USB	FEMA
5236.00	USB	SHARES Coordination Network (nationwide HF voice coordination)
6859.50	USB	American Red Cross Disaster (F-95) **
7507.00	USB	USN/USCG hurricane net (pri)
7550.50	USB	American Red Cross Disaster (F-96 - primary) **
7698.50	USB	American Red Cross Disaster (F-97) **
9380.00	USB	USN/USCG hurricane net (sec)
10493.00	USB	FEMA
14396.50	USB	SHARES Coordination Network (nationwide HF voice coordination)
** Type-accepted equipment and an issued US FCC license are required to transmit on Red Cross frequencies		

HF Emergency NETS – 80m
Submitted by Terry Hillier, VE3TEH

AMATEUR HIGH-FREQUENCY GULF COAST HURRICANE NETS		
3845.00	LSB	Gulf Coast West Hurricane
3862.50	LSB	Mississippi Section Traffic
3873.00	LSB	Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
3873.00	LSB	Louisiana ARES Emergency (night)
3873.00	LSB	Texas ARES Emergency (night)
3873.00	LSB	Mississippi ARES Emergency
3910.00	LSB	Mississippi ARES
3910.00	LSB	Louisiana Traffic
3923.00	LSB	Mississippi ARES
3925.00	LSB	Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
3925.00	LSB	Louisiana Emergency (altn)
3935.00	LSB	Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
3935.00	LSB	Louisiana ARES (health & welfare)
3935.00	LSB	Texas ARES (health & welfare)
3935.00	LSB	Mississippi ARES (health & welfare)
3935.00	LSB	Alabama Emergency
3940.00	LSB	Southern Florida Emergency
3950.00	LSB	Northern Florida Emergency
3955.00	LSB	South Texas Emergency
3965.00	LSB	Alabama Emergency (altn)
3967.00	LSB	Gulf Coast (outgoing traffic)
3975.00	LSB	Texas RACES
3993.50	LSB	Gulf Coast (health & welfare)
3995.00	LSB	Gulf Coast Wx

HF Emergency NETS – 40m

Submitted by Terry Hillier, VE3TEH

AMATEUR HIGH-FREQUENCY GULF COAST HURRICANE NETS		
7225.00	LSB	Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
7235.00	LSB	Louisiana Emergency
7235.00	LSB	Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
7235.00	LSB	Louisiana Emergency
7240.00	LSB	American Red Cross US Gulf Coast Disaster
7240.00	LSB	Texas Emergency
7243.00	LSB	Alabama Emergency
7245.00	LSB	Southern Louisiana
7248.00	LSB	Texas RACES
7250.00	LSB	Texas Emergency
7260.00	LSB	Gulf Coast West Hurricane
7264.00	LSB	Gulf Coast (health & welfare)
7265.00	LSB	Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio (SATERN) (altn)
7273.00	LSB	Texas ARES (altn)
7280.00	LSB	NTS Region 5
7280.00	LSB	Louisiana Emergency (altn)
7283.00	LSB	Gulf Coast (outgoing only)
7285.00	LSB	West Gulf ARES Emergency (day)
7285.00	LSB	Louisiana ARES Emergency (day)
7285.00	LSB	Mississippi ARES Emergency
7285.00	LSB	Texas ARES Emergency (day)
7290.00	LSB	Central Gulf Coast Hurricane
7290.00	LSB	Gulf Coast Wx
7290.00	LSB	Texas ARES (health & welfare)
7290.00	LSB	Louisiana ARES (health & welfare) (day)
7290.00	LSB	Texas ARES (health & welfare)
7290.00	LSB	Mississippi ARES (health & welfare)

HF Emergency NETS – 20m

Submitted by Terry Hillier, VE3TEH

AMATEUR HIGH-FREQUENCY GULF COAST HURRICANE NETS		
14265.00	USB	Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio (SATERN) (health & welfare)
14300.00	USB	Intercontinental Traffic
14300.00	USB	Maritime Mobile Service
14303.00	USB	International Assistance & Traffic
14313.00	USB	Intercontinental Traffic (altn)
14313.00	USB	Maritime Mobile Service (altn)
14316.00	USB	Health & Welfare
14320.00	USB	Health & Welfare
14325.00	USB	Hurricane Watch (Amateur-to-National Hurricane Center)
14340.00	USB	Louisiana (1900)

Jump Start Your HF Experience with QSO Parties and Contests:

By VE3IDT, Doug Tompkins

QSO parties are held often on weekends and can be a quick way to make contact without any pressure. Usually they just want your RST and location (often use ON for Ontario) is all that is required to make the contact. So get out there, test your rig and antenna and have some fun.

Contests are also held on weekends and can be from 8 hours to 48 hours long. Often there are a lot of DX contacts out there too. There are groups that head for Africa and the south islands to contest from there. The rules and contact exchange information varies quite a bit so listen and you should be able to figure out whether they want a serial number or just your ITU zone (04 for Ontario) and RST. If still unsure, just ask and then go get some contacts. Again the QSO's are short and the pileups many. Be patient as many of these guys are running KW power and may have the beam pointed in another direction and will go back to other contacts before you but hang in there or wait till the pile dies down and go back and pick him up. If conditions are poor they often will make the effort to get you for the points.

The following links are a good resource for rules and requirements. One word of caution, avoid known net frequencies as it will only upset the net controllers so use common sense. (I will not go back to someone that is too close to a net as it only encourages them, but that is just my personal comment) Below are a few links with contest information.

Get on a mailing list from RAC, ARRL or the HFRadio bulletin for some great info.

- <http://www.rac.ca/service/infocont.htm>
- <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>
- http://hfradio.net/mailman/listinfo/news_hfradio.net

Special Events and Awards:

Special events are a great way to add to your QSL collection.

The operators are usually operating very casually and will often take a min to describe the event and are always glad you stopped by. There are many awards you can work towards as you get the hang of all this HF stuff. Some require nothing more than making 15 contacts on 10M to Texans in El Paso to get the Worked all El Paso award. Just send in your log and \$2, no return postage required. Others require more work for example DXCC, 100 countries contacted and require the QSL cards to prove it.

There are RAC awards and ARRL awards along with many other ones to keep you busy.

Below are some links for awards:

- <http://www.rac.ca/service/awards.htm>
- <http://www.rac.ca/service/awards2.htm>
- <http://www.rac.ca/service/awards2.htm#Wo>
- <http://www.arrl.org/awards/>
- <http://www.tpn7055.ca/tpnaward.html>

A bit of Do, Don't and Why for the HF beginner

(aka: Two dozen things about ham radio your mother never told you...)

(VE3PMK, VE3NJG, VE3IDT, VE3PZR)

So, you've learned your radio privileges now include HF, but now what do you do?

HF can be intimidating to a new operator, but it can also be a fun place. Hams new to HF want to know how to be a good HF operator. Everyone has to learn somewhere, so a quick bit of reading might be a good start. There are a few important ground rules with HF, some are in accordance with national and international laws, some are founded in tradition, and they're all founded in good reason. What you do on HF can affect or interfere with communications halfway around the globe! Just like driving, there are laws and conventions that keep the traffic running smoothly.

In the following paragraphs we will try to illustrate a few pointers that every HF operator (both new and experienced) should keep in mind when on the 'short-waves.' Albeit numbered, the points are not in any specific sequence, so their order does not suggest degrees of importance. The numbering is more for reference purposes in case you wish to review or refer to a specific point(s).

1. A ham ticket is a privilege, not a right. Just like driving, there are rules that must be observed. They are there to protect the usefulness of the radio spectrum and vis-à-vis the safety of all persons using it. Radio is a recreation 99% of the time to a ham, but it can be a critical life-safety device to others. Please treat it with care and respect.
2. On HF, it is very important to listen before attempting to transmit. (AKA: listen, listen, listen!) There are a lot of frequencies that are assigned to nets, calling, and other categories of traffic. Always listen for a minute before you transmit.
3. Okay, so you listened and didn't hear anything, but before assuming the frequency is not occupied, ask if frequency is in use. You can't always hear both sides on HF, in fact it's very common! Someone could be working a station in your skip zone, but they are outside of your skip zone.
4. A simple 'This is {your callsign}, is this frequency in use?' works wonders. Listen for about 10 seconds for any reply or existing traffic. Repeat this procedure two or three times and if nothing is heard, there is a high probability the frequency is vacant.
5. This of course begs the question your receive conditions are such that you can hear a reply if it was there. If your noise floor is S-5 or S-7 (as can often be the case with urban living) and there's a station or stations below this level, you won't hear them and therefore you might still be barging onto an occupied frequency. This illustrates the importance of doing everything we possibly can to keep our operating conditions as ideal and clean as possible. Put a little work into setting up a good antenna with minimal receive noise, it will pay off with lots of good DX!

6. It is inevitable you will eventually inadvertently QRM an ongoing QSO. When this happens, simply apologize quickly to the parties involved and move to another frequency or wait quietly until the frequency is relinquished. Do not try to start a round table chat unless you are specifically invited to join in.
7. Keep proper spacing from other stations. (4 kHz absolute minimum for phone, 5kHz or more is better.) To QRM another station is both rude and violates the terms and conditions of your privileges. Remember, we are allowed zero emissions beyond the band edge. That means you can't use 14.350MHz for USB! Your side band would occupy 14.350 to 14.353, possibly 14.354. This means you must keep your 'dial indicated' frequency several kHz away from the band edge. For LSB, the reverse is true, stay at least four kilohertz above the band edge. For AM or FM (as in 10m) your signal occupies spectrum in BOTH directions, so the same rules apply. This also applies to the sub-sections within the band itself. You cannot allow your 'phone' signals to bleed into a non-phone section of the band.
8. It is illegal to communicate with a pirate station. If you encounter a pirate do not lecture them. You may not communicate with them in any way, this is the law! Do not give them an audience. This also applies to any station deliberately causing QRM or attempting to interfere with the operation of other stations. The best way to deal with these people is to ignore them. Pretend they're not there. Do not speak about their interference to your contact. Do not acknowledge their presence in any way. Do not react to anything they say. Denied an audience, these stations disappear very quickly. This simple yet effective procedure is the best means with which to deal with this problem. It has worked for generations, so please follow it and it will continue to do so.
9. Before replying to a CQ, be sure you are allowed to operate on that frequency, in that mode, and with that station. Some classes of license have more privileges than others. Many nations have different band plans than ours. Some allow operation in areas and modes we are not, and conversely, we are permitted to operate in spectrum and modes where others may not. Albeit few and far between, there are a few countries that have forbidden their operators from communicating with certain other countries. With the advent of the internet, third party traffic is pretty rare these days, however, some countries do not allow it.
10. The best thing to keep in mind when on any band (HF or otherwise) is to keep everything as polite as possible. After technical considerations, courtesy is your paramount concern. If all operators treat other operators with the same courtesy and respect they would like to receive, the bands will remain a fun and relaxing place to be.
11. Use plain language whenever you can; there is no need for slang at all other than the Q-code if necessary or RST etc. Use phonetics only when required, once the other station has copied your call correctly, you no longer need to keep saying it with phonetics. Save your voice for the next contact. You're going to need it. ☺

12. Let your contacts know if you are new to HF radio. They will make you feel welcome and will overlook your inexperience. They might also offer you some valuable pointers which may ultimately make you a better operator.
13. Learn what frequencies on each band are established net or DX calling windows or known DX frequencies, [eg: IOTA.]
14. Understand split operation. If a station is calling 'CQ and listening up 5 & 10' it means they are not listening on the same frequency on which they are transmitting. They're tuning a receive frequency about 5 to 10kHz higher than their TX freq. This is one method of controlling pile-ups.
15. Avoid sensitive topics. {i.e. politics and religion} Keep the QSO positive and interesting. Never lecture or condemn anyone on air. If they are causing deliberate interference, remember point 8. Nobody wants to hear people arguing over the air, it's a waste of spectrum. No one wants to listen to someone 'soap boxing.' If you want to pontificate, try a public speaking club.
16. Respect the human rights code. Never slander or libel others on the air. Idle gossip is never good form. Don't propagate rumours. Give everyone the first benefit of doubt. 99.999999% of radio operators are really nice folks. Remember the golden rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated.
17. Avoid the use of alcohol when operating. Luckily this is a rarity, but every few years you may hear someone on the air who's obviously intoxicated. This is both dangerous and unwise from many perspectives. You could damage your gear by not noticing a problem due to your diminished awareness. You may violate the terms of your license. You may say or do things you would not do otherwise. You could be causing interference and not realize it. No matter how you look at it, it's simply not appropriate and it can be very dangerous.
18. As a new operator, learn and adhere to the existing long-established operating practices. They are conventions that have evolved over the years for good reasons. You wouldn't race a car through a parking lot even though there may not 'technically' be a speed limit. These operational conventions are there because they keep everything running smoothly and help avoid or minimize problems. Stick with the rules and observe conventions and you too will soon be a well seasoned HF'er!
19. Avoid calling public safety nets [i.e.] Hurricane net or Maritime net unless you can be of use or are requested. These nets pass specific and sometimes critical traffic. If they need stations in a specific area or a certain kind of assistance they'll ask for it. These nets typically call for stations with traffic first, but very often call for 'any station with or without traffic' later. Once a 'general call' for stations is made, feel free to check in!
20. Be patient with everyone. We are all different. If you feel challenged or uncomfortable, then politely sign clear. Avoid confrontation. If you don't know the correct protocol for a certain situation, get some advice from an experienced operator.

21. Look for an Elmer! Ask for help. There are lots of seasoned HF operators who would be more than happy to get you going in the right direction. Your local club meetings are likely filled with guys (and gals!) with many years of experience. If you can't make it out to a meeting, ask on some local repeaters. Help is everywhere!
22. Listen and check in with local nets. It's a great way to get your feet wet and meet some active HF operators in your area.
23. Listen to some contesting and make a few contacts. The contacts are short and sweet and a great way to practice using your rig. Also, if there's a problem on your signal, someone will likely point it out to you.
24. Give honest signal reports. There's no shame in getting a 3/3 or a 2/1. It's radio, and you're not going to be booming in everywhere all the time. Some operators seem to be offended if they receive a report less than a 5/9. There are others who have to have the contact repeat their call numerous times, get it wrong the first few, and still give out a 5/9. This is a common problem and is perhaps due to many not understanding the proper way to evaluate a received signal. It would be a benefit to all hams if everyone reviewed this simple procedure. A report is of no value to anyone if it is not accurate.

With a bit of care, forethought and consideration your HF experience can be lots of fun. Remember: Ham radio is a gentleman's (and lady's) hobby. Be on your best behaviour and treat all others with courtesy and you'll have many years of happy DX. It doesn't take long before you accumulate and occasionally 'bump into' a long list of 'radio-friends' from every corner of the globe.

Happy DX!

HFRADIO.NET

Canadian Amateur Radio HF Nets	Freq.	Site	Time
Alberta Public Service	3.740Mhz.	No	0130UTC Daily
Anything But The Weather Net	3.740Mhz.	No	7.30pm Thursday ET
ARES Ontario HF Nets	7.153 Mhz 3.743 Mhz	Yes	2:00pm Sundays ET 8:00pm Wed. ET
Aurora Net (Afternoon)	7.055Mhz.	No	2330UTC Daily
Aurora Net (Evening)	7.055Mhz.	No	0230UTC Daily
B.C. Northern Net	3.775 Mhz	No	Sunday, Wednesday evenings at 0300 UTC
BC Public Service	3.727Mhz	Yes	0230UTC Daily
Canadian Red Cross Headquarters	14.125Mhz.	Yes	1900UTC Sunday
CERTS VE3BPQ 10 Meter Net	28.360 Mhz.	Yes	7:30pm Wed. ET
Chicken Junction Net	3.775 Mhz.	No	6:30pm ET Daily
C.L.A.R.A Nets	7.055Mhz. 14.140Mhz. 3.750Mhz. 3.740Mhz.	Yes	9.00am Tues. ET 17.00utc 7.00pm Mon. ET 4.00pm Tues. PST
Cod Jigger Net	7.085Mhz.	Yes	1300 UTC Daily
Communication Ontario Net.	7.153Mhz.	Yes	10.00 am Daily ET
Great Lakes Emergency and Traffic Net [GLETN] Pre Net 30 Min. prior	3.932Mhz.	No	8.30pm Daily ET
Intercontinental Amateur Radio Traffic Net	14.300Mhz.	Yes	7am - 12Noon Daily ET
International White Cane Net (NCS Vince VA3DV)	14.252Mhz.	No	1pm Tuesdays ET
Laurentian Net	3.755Mhz.	No	6.45 pm Daily ET
London Amateur Radio Club	7.063Mhz.	Yes	11.00 am Sundays ET
Manitoba Evening Phone Net	3.747Mhz	No	19:00 CT Daily
Manitoba Public Service	3.747Mhz.	Yes	7 PM CST Daily
Maritime Mobile Service Network	14.300Mhz.	Yes	12pm-10pm Daily ET

Canadian Amateur Radio HF Nets	Freq.	Site	Time
Maritime Net	3.750Mhz.	Yes	18:00 Daily ET
Maritime Old Timers Net	3.750Mhz.	No	7:00 Sundays ET
Maritime Weather Net	3.770Mhz.	No	6.00am Mon. to Sat. ET
Michigan Amateur Radio Communications System	3.953Mhz.	No	11.00am Mon. to Sat 1.00pm Sun. ET
Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps Net NCS rotated among the 8 districts and Section Staff Note: 3.932 and 7.232 are designated Michigan emergency frequencies.	3.932Mhz.	No	5.00pm Sun. ET
Michigan District ARES Net VE3EUI Denny	3.932Mhz.	No	7.30pm Fri. ET
Michigan Information and Traffic Net (NTS)	3.952Mhz.	No	7.30pm Fri. ET
Mississauga Maritime Net	14.122.5Mhz.	No	7:45am ET Daily
North Bay Net	3.768Mhz.	No	9am Sunday ET
Northwest Ontario Net	3.750Mhz.	No	8.15pm Daily ET
Old Sweat's Net VA3WSN Dave Net Manager	7.063Mhz.	No	10am Tues. ET
Ontario Amateur Radio Service (Ontars)	3.755Mhz.	Yes	7am-6pm Daily ET
Ontario Phone Net (NTS)	3.742Mhz.	Yes	7.00pm Daily ET
Ontario Swap Shop	7.055Mhz. 3.755Mhz.	Yes	12 Noon Sundays ET 7pm Sundays ET
Pot Hole Net (Ottawa Valley Mobile ARC)	7.095Mhz. 3.760 MHz	Yes	10.00am Sat ET 10.00am Sun. ET
Pow Wow Club Net	3.750MHz	Yes	0400UTC Daily
Rotten Apples	7.238Mhz.	Yes	6-7am & 7-8pm ET
Sandbox Roundtable Net	7.063.5Mhz.	Yes	6.30pm Daily ET
Sanderson Hour	3.762.5Mhz.	Yes	9pm Daily ET
Sask Public Service Net	3.744Mhz	No	0100UTC Daily
Sunparlor Amateur Radio Club	3.805Mhz.	Yes	1pm Sunday ET
Swan Amateur Radio Net	7.2325Mhz.	Yes	2-4pm Saturday ET
Trans Canada Pow Wow Club (Oct1 to Apr.30)	3.750Mhz.	Yes	12am Daily ET
Trans Provincial Net	7.055Mhz.	Yes	7am-5.00pm Daily ET
Upper Peninsula Net (NTS)	3.921Mhz.	No	5.00pm Daily ET
VO1 / VO2 Evening Net	3.785Mhz.	No	22.30 UTC Daily
Wolverine Net (NTS)	3.955Mhz.	Yes	7.00pm Daily ET

<i>CW Nets</i>	<i>Freq.</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Time</i>
10th Region Net CW	3.590Mhz	No	0145 UTC Daily
Eastern Canada Net [ECN]	3.655Mhz	No	7.45-9.30pm Daily ET
Ontario Quebec Traffic Net [OQN]	3.667Mhz.	No	2100-0000 UTC Daily
Peel Amateur Radio Club	3.685Mhz.	No	10am Sunday ET
Pot Lid Net (slow speed 8-12 WPM) NM Ed VE3GX ve3gx@rac.ca	3.620Mhz.	No	11am Sunday ET
QMN Michigan Section Net	3.663Mhz.	No	7:30 pm ET & 10:00 pm ET
Sask CW Net	3.695Mhz	No	0400UTC Daily

List Updated Sept. 1 2005

Please inform the Website Editor of any errors or omissions to this list....Thank You.

Website Editor
Jim Taylor VA3KU

webmaster@hfradio.net

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Windom: HF Multiband Wire Antenna

Submitted by Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR

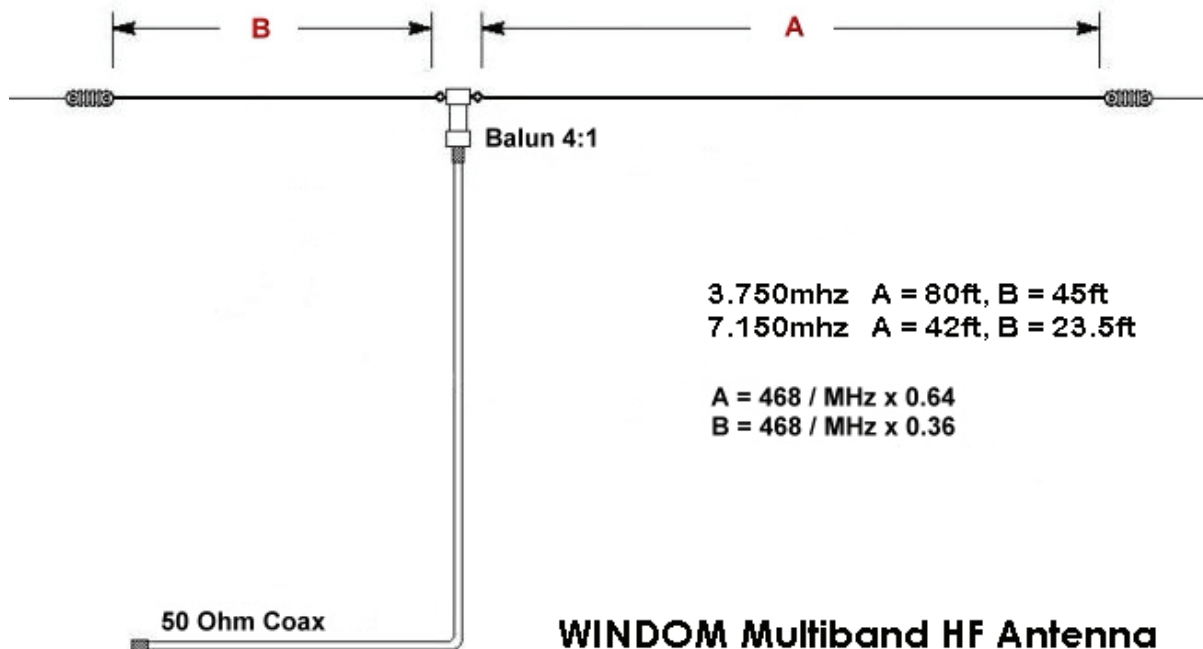
One of the areas of ham radio that can make the greatest impact on your HF station is the antenna. Luckily, the antenna can also be the least expensive piece of equipment. By experimenting with various designs, you can find out what works best in your situation.

Last season many of you attended one of my talks where I described a homemade antenna based on a coil wrapped on a PVC pipe with a length of wire coming out the end.

I have recently been introduced to an antenna called the Windom. Designed in the 1920's, the antenna at first appears to be a simple dipole but is feed off-center instead of the middle (one leg is longer than the other). It has the strange property of giving low SWR and radiating on many of the HF bands.

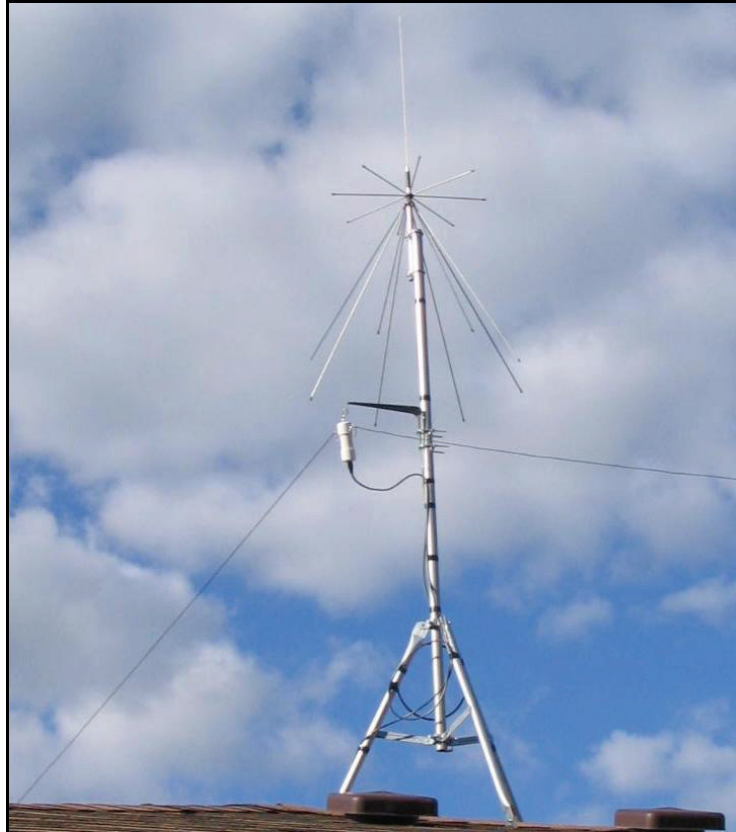
I have searched the net and have found numerous reports of people that love it and as well as people that hate it. So far I am happy with it. The parts that I used were a \$25 4:1 Balun from Radioworld, some single conductor wire from Rona and a length of RG-58mini coax.

The basic formula states that you should pick the lowest band that you want to use and put that frequency into the formula to find the lengths of the 2 legs. For illustration purposes I have included the measurements for 2 popular frequencies.



I decided to go with the 80m and up version of the Windom (80+45ft).

Although it is reported to be a 'no tune' antenna, I found that a tuner was required if I wanted to work all of the bands. At no point was the SWR really out of whack which meant it was very easy to match with either an internal or external tuner.



Rooftop Tripod with Discone + Windom

I installed the Balun on the roof to a tripod that also holds a Discone (multiband receive antenna).

The small horizontal arm is a shelf bracket from Rona with the tip bent downwards to make it easy to attach the Balun. The long leg (80ft) goes to the backyard and is attached to a tree. I do not have a large property so the long leg has a bend that wraps around the back fence.

The short leg (45ft) goes to the front of the house. I purchased a 6ft T-bar from Rona, painted it white and attached it to the back of the basketball net on the front of the house. The wire almost reaches the T-bar; I used some nylon twine to bridge the gap.



Front of house with 6ft T-bar riser for Windom

I find that the SWR is flat (almost non-existent) on 80m, 10m & 6m but needs a tuner on 40m & 20m. This antenna is so easy to put together that I might throw another one up in another direction that is cut for 40m (half the length of the current Windom).

Many people find themselves suddenly permitted to use HF but are without suitable transmitting antennas. The London flea market is in a few weeks. I suggest picking up some Baluns + some wire and start playing with wire antennas before the snow flies!

References:

- <http://www.packetradio.com/windom.htm>
- <http://users.erols.com/k3mt/windom/windom.htm>
- <http://kh2d.net/windom.cfm>

THE RST REPORTING SYSTEM IN A NUTSHELL!

Copied from <http://www.hamuniverse.com/rst.html>



RST Reports: An RST report is a report from a receiving station on the quality and strength and/or tone of a CW signal of a transmitting station's radio signal at the receiving station's location (QTH).

Here is what it means:

R Readability - Understanding what is said and how well. On a scale of 1 to 5, the readability of your signal with a "5" being perfect with no difficulty. In other words the ability of the other operator to understand what you are saying. A "1" is unreadable....a "5" is perfectly readable.

S Strength - On a scale of 1 to 9, indicates how strong your stations signal is. A "1" is a very faint signal. A "9" is an extremely strong signal.

T Tone - Used for morse code signal reports. Indicates on a scale of 1 to 9 the quality of the tone of the morse code "dits and dahs". From a "60 cycle harsh tone" (a 1).... To a "very pure tone", (a 9)

Example #1 A CW REPORT: If you got a report of "599" on CW, it means the following:

The five means your signal is very easy to understand with absolutely no difficulty. The first nine means your signal registers a very strong reading on your S meter, usually 3/4 scale or more. The second nine means your CW tone has a nice pure clear tone or sound.

Example #2 A VOICE REPORT: If you get a 5 5 (sometimes said 5 by 5)....Your signal is perfectly readable with a fairly good signal strength.

In some cases people may tell you: your signal is five nine plus twenty dB... In this case the twenty db part indicates that your signal is so strong that it goes off the standard 1 through 9 signal strength S meter dial by twenty decibels as indicated on the meter readout. (See note below) This would mean that you are putting out a REALLY strong signal!

NOTE:

The RST System of Signal Reporting was established roughly in 1934 as a quick method of reporting **R**eadability, **S**ignal Strength and the **T**one of CW.

For voice contacts only the "R" and "S" are used. The "S" component is usually not the same as your S-Meter reading as *most S-Meters aren't calibrated to track the RST System.*

The RST is also reported on QSL Cards and must be filled in correctly. For example a "569" report for a **voice** contact is NOT valid. Note that many DX operations and contest stations merely report "599" as a convenience to avoid having to log each of the real reports. This is a questionable practice but is used most of the time in DX'ing/Contesting.

Would you give a 599 for a station you could barely hear? Would you appreciate it if this was your report from someone that could barely hear you? Be honest with your reports!

The RST report system works well, can be used for troubleshooting problems with your station and has been used by Hams worldwide for many years and also is used by the military with slight modifications in their reporting of transmissions.

There is a great deal of "averaging all factors" when giving a signal report to another station.

There is a lot of difference between a voice report of 59 and one of 52.....but the most important thing to me would be readability! I have heard hundreds of stations perfectly clear on voice and CW that were not moving the S Meter! (Yes...it does work!) So their report might have been an R5.....to my ears!.....

Study this information below to help you with giving out accurate reports.

Feel free to copy any or all of this information if it would be helpful to you!

R = READABILITY

- 1 -- Unreadable
- 2 -- Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
- 3 -- Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 -- Readable with practically no difficulty
- 5 -- Perfectly readable

S = SIGNAL STRENGTH

- 1 -- Faint signals, barely perceptible
- 2 -- Very weak signals
- 3 -- Weak signals
- 4 -- Fair signals
- 5 -- Fairly good signals
- 6 -- Good signals
- 7 -- Moderately strong signals
- 8 -- Strong signals
- 9 -- Extremely strong signals

T = TONE

- 1 -- Sixty cycle a.c. or less, very rough and broad
- 2 -- Very rough a.c. , very harsh and broad
- 3 -- Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered
- 4 -- Rough note, some trace of filtering
- 5 -- Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated
- 6 -- Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
- 7 -- Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
- 8 -- Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
- 9 -- Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

Copied from: <http://www.hamuniverse.com/rst.html>

LARC HAMFEST 2005 - September 25

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 28TH ANNUAL 2005 FLEAMARKET

Every year at the end of September, the London Amateur Radio Club sponsors a technology flea market. This year the flea market will be held on Sunday Sept 25th at the "London Western Fair Grounds".

The flea market is extremely important to the club. It is a major source of revenue and allows us to continue with our various functions and services without raising the membership dues or to put it another way, it stops us from closing the doors due to lack of funds.

The full brochure: <http://www.larc.ca/newsletter/LARC-HAMFEST-2005.pdf>

Inquiries can be sent to: hamfest2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca

How to support YOUR flea market:



The most obvious way to support your hamfest is to **attend**. We charge a small admission for people to enter the flea market. Bring a friend or two. The standard ham-radio flea market of today contains several non-hamradio items and has the interest of a broader audience.

Rent a table. Many of you have high-quality, under-used equipment that is begging to be updated. Seize the opportunity to sell your old equipment and of course buy new stuff! Start cleaning out your closets and garages NOW and have your goods ready for sale on Sept 25th.

Another way to support the flea market is to **volunteer**. We need some people for various activities such as security and setup/teardown on the day of the hamfest. Please send me an email letting me know you are interested in helping.

The real measure of success of a flea market is what happens 'next' year. Many of the SW-Ontario area hamfests are dying due to lack of vendors which has the side-effect of buyers not willing to show-up in subsequent years. We are lucky because some large vendors such as Radioworld have already committed to be a vendor for our 2005 hamfest. Radioworld (and other larger commercial vendors) no longer appear at many of the 'smaller' hamfests which in essence was the last nail in the coffin of those hamfests.

Bring-and-Buy



Based on the success of last year's bring-and-buy table, we have decided to offer it again this year!

The situation:

Many people like to come to our hamfest and look around and have a good time.

Not many are willing to rent a table because they might only have 1 or 2 items for sale or they simply do not want to sit there all morning dealing with the endless stream of people asking the same questions over and over again.

Solution: This year the club will have a bring-and-buy table.

Here is how it works....

You do not rent a table but you come to the hamfest as a buyer. You also bring your 1 or 2 items and go the LARC table. We will take the item(s) and fill out a for-sale card that describes the item plus your asking price. It will cost you a loonie (\$1) to leave your item on the club table. When the item sells, you will pay us 5% as a commission. If your item does not sell, you pick it up at the end of the hamfest and the only cost to you was the \$1 that you left earlier in the day.

For example: If you asked us to sell your mobile radio, you might put a \$200 price tag on the unit. You left a dollar behind as payment. When we sold your radio, we keep a total of 5% which is normally \$10. Since you already paid a buck, we only keep \$9 giving you back \$191.00.

The rules are simple:

- We are only willing to sell one or two items per person. We are not trying to displace our normal table rentals.
- It costs a dollar per item to have it placed on our table
- We will retain 5% as a sales commission when the item sells.
- Please be reasonable with your pricing; it doesn't do either of us any good if you are asking an extremely high price for boat anchors. Radioworld is a good place to compare prices because they have both a new and used section on their webpage.

Have anything to say?



If you have a comment or announcement that might be of interest to the club, feel free to send me a message and I'll include it in the next mail out.

My email address is: LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca

Our Club Web page is: <http://www.larc.ca>

For list of upcoming events:
http://www.larc.ca/meet_2004_5.htm

**If you want to be added or removed from our
Mailing list, send an email to:**

LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca (Mark, VE3PZR)