Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

December 5, 2008

Next Meeting Topic

The next L.A.R.C. meeting will be on Thursday, December 11. The topic will be:

> An evening of culinary creations and conversations - come on out to our annual Christmas Pot-Luck Supper. **Earlier start at 7:00 PM** so supper's not too late. Bring along a dish of some sort (and an appetite), and enjoy a social evening with your ham friends.

Silent Keys

I'm sad to announce that we had 1 local silent key in November.

On November 9th

> HILL, Robert C. "Bob" VE3 EVG Silent Key 1927-2008 - At London Health Sciences Centre, University Hospital, London ON Sunday, November 9th, 2008 in his 82nd year. Bob is retired from IBM, a member of the former Scooter Unit, Mocha Shrine Temple, and a member of Ontario Genealogical Society, as well as a volunteer with the Dyslexia Program at the London Scottish Rite Learning Centre.

Other Items of Interest

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on December 11, 2008 at **7:00** pm

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

The meetings 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).

Next Month's Meeting will be January 8, 2009. This meeting will be about RF Safety presented Guenther Schweigl, VE3CVS

2008/2009 L.A.R.C. Executive

Title	Name	Callsign
President	Doug Tompkins	VE3IDT
Treasurer	Dave Steels	VE3UZ
Vice-President	Pat Ross	VE3CNX
Past President	Gord Baker	VE3GB
Secretary	Ruth Dahl	VE3RBO
Director, Flea Market	Ann Rundle	VA3EOR
Director, Membership	Shirley McCall-Nicholson	VE3SMN
Director, Website	Doug Elliott	VA3DAE
Non-Voting		
Director, Emergency Services	Brett Gilbank	VE3ZBG
Director, CANWARN	Tom Stewart	VE3OEP
Appointments		
LARC Repeater Coordinator	Mark Bramwell	VE3PZR
Field Day	Tony Drawmer	VE3SQU
Repeater Operator / Programmer	David Young	VE3EAY
Newsletter	John Visser	VA3MSV

Flaunt Your Face – Show Your Shack

In our hobby it's not always easy to put a face to all the fellow hams you talk to on the air. To help us all figure who's who, LARC invites its members to submit digital photos of yourself and/or your shack to be published on the membership page of our website. Purely voluntary of course, and if you prefer you can submit just one (depending on whether you think your face or your shack is more presentable).

How will it work? On the membership page, we'll attach your own picture where your first name appears, and the picture of your shack to your callsign. See the entry for Doug Elliott, VA3DAE for an example.

How do you submit your pictures?

Just email them to the LARC site webmaster address, which is: **webmaster@larc.ca**

Local Repeaters

LARC Repeaters

London	VA3LON	147.060 +	114.8 Hz	Currently down for repairs
London	VE3MGI	145.390 -	114.8 Hz	

SORT Repeaters

London	VE3TTT	147.180 +	114.8 Hz	ULR link repeater "SORT" System
London	VE3SUE	444.400 +	114.8 Hz	ULR link repeater "SORT" System, IRLP
Ipperwash	VE3TCB	146.940 -	123.0 Hz	Linked to VE3SUE
Grand Bend	VE3RGB	146.750 +	123.0 Hz	
Grand Bend	VE3SRT	442.050 +	123.0 Hz	Linked to VE3SUE
Goderich	VE3OBC	146.910 -	123.0 Hz	
Whitechurch	VE3WWD	443.075 +	123.0 Hz	

Other Area Repeaters

London	VA3SIX	53.470 -	114.8 Hz	
London	VE3OME	145.450 -	114.8 Hz	CANWARN
Stratfordville	VE3DPL	146.655 -	131.8 Hz	
St. Thomas	VE3STR	147.330 +	114.8 Hz	Echolink Node: 72886
St. Thomas	VE3STR	443.825 +	114.8 Hz	IRLP Node: 2482

Nets

Swap Net	7.063 MHz LSB	Sunday 12:00 pm
LARC 2m Net	147.060 + VA3LON	Monday 8:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Wednesday 7:30 pm
A.R.E.S. Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Wednesday 7:30 pm
PROCOMM Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Thursday 8:00 pm
PROCOMM Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Thursday 8:00 pm
Tech Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Friday 8:00 pm
Tech Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Friday 8:00 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	146.940 - VE3TCB	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	442.300 + VE3TCB	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	447.050 - VE3SRT	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	447.075 - VE3BHR	Saturday 7:30 pm
Trans Provincial Net	7.055 MHz	Daily 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

If you have a repeater or Net that should be listed here, please forward the information to John Visser, VA3MSV at va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll add it to the list.

Upcoming Events

Thu., Dec. 11, 2008 London Amateur Radio Club meeting – Christmas Potluck Dinner

Sat., Dec. 27, 2008 RAC Canada Winter Contest – 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC

Thu., Jan. 8, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting – RF Safety by Guenther Schweigl, VE3CVS

Sat., Feb. 7, 2009 **Big Event 31 - Flea Market and Hamfest -** Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Merriton Community Centre, 7 Park Ave., St. Catharines, Ontario

Thu., Feb. 12, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting – Presentation open to volunteers

Sat., Feb. 28, 2009 **Burlington Spring Flea Market** – Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Royal Canadian Legion, 828 Legion Rd., Burlington, Ontario

Thu., Mar. 12, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting – Topic to be determined by Mike Cook, VE3ZMC

Sat., Mar. 28, 2009 **Hamex 2009 -** Peel and Mississauga ARC
Brampton Fairgrounds - West side of Heartlake Rd., Brampton Ontario

Thu., Apr 9, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting

Sat., Apr. 18, 2009 **Durham Region Hamfest (33rd Annual)** - North Shore ARC & South Pickering ARC
Iroquois Park Recreation Center - Located on Victoria St. at the corner of Henry St., Whitby, Ontario

Thu., May 14, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting

Sat., Jun. 6, 2009 **Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket** - GARC & KWARC
Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex, 550 Belsyde Ave. E., Fergus, Ontario

Thu., Jun. 11, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting

Sat. Jun. 27, 2009 to Sun. Jun. 28, 2009 Field Day 2009. Location may still to be determined.

Sat., Jul. 11, 2009 **ONTARIO HAMFEST 2009** - Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Milton Agricultural Fairgrounds - South of Hwy 401; west of Halton Region Rd. 25 (locally known as Ontario St), Milton, Ontario

Sat., Dec. 19, 2009 RAC Canada Winter Contest

If you know of an upcoming event that should be listed here, please forward the information to John Visser, VA3MSV at va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll add it to the list.

2008 RAC CANADA WINTER CONTEST

In December each year, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sponsors the Canada Winter Contest. Amateurs all over the world are invited to participate.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC December 27, 2008. Next year the contest will be held on December 19, 2009.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested frequencies: CW – 25 kHz up from the band edge and for SSB – 1850, 3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØ's and stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSOs: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points. RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC. You may work any station once on each of the two modes, on each of the eight contest bands.

It is prohibited to make CW contacts in the conventional phone sub-bands, phone contacts in the conventional CW sub-bands, or to make or solicit QSOs through a repeater during the contest period.

Multipliers: Thirteen in total, Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Each multiplier may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are:
Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, VA1, CY9, CYØ); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB] (VE4, VA4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5); Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6); British Columbia [BC] (VE7, VA7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9); Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NU] (VY0); Yukon [YT] (VY1); and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2). Certain special Canadian prefixes in use at the time of the contest may also apply; however there may be no more than 13 multipliers on each band/mode. Please use the multiplier abbreviations noted above.

Final Score: The total QSO points from all bands multiplied by the total number of multipliers from all bands.

Categories: The following 9 categories are eligible for a certificate or award. Plaques will be awarded to the top-scoring entrants in each category. Thanks to the following for their sponsorship:

- Single Operator All Bands High Power (>100 watts) – **Radioworld**
- Single Operator All Bands Low Power (max. 100 watts output) – **Contest Club Ontario**
- Single Operator QRP (max. 5 watt output) All Bands & Single Band ** – **QRP Canada**
- Single Operator All Bands CW only, any authorized power – **Maritime Contest Club**
- Single Operator All Bands PH only, any authorized power – **Saskatchewan Contest Club**
- Single Operator Single Band, any authorized power *** – **Elkel Products**
- Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power (>100 watts) * – **Alfa Radio**
- Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low Power (max. 100 watts output) * – **Tony Allsop VE3FTA Memorial by the Mississauga ARC**
- Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter, any authorized power – **Radioworld**

For the Canada Winter Contest a special trophy is awarded for the highest Single Operator (no power classification) Foreign Entrant – **Jorge Bozzo LU8DQ Memorial by Alan Goodacre, VE3HX**.

Notes:
Where the categories have a power class and the submitted log does not clearly identify the power class entered, then the log will be treated as if the highest power class for that category was entered. Where logs do not properly indicate the entry category, they will be classified into the highest category.

Single operators who receive assistance from a DX spotting system or Packet Cluster network during the contest must classify themselves as Multi-ops.
* In the Multi-Single category only one transmitter and one band are permitted during the same time period (defined as 10 minutes.) Exception: One, and only one, other band may be used during any 10-minute period, if and only if the station worked is a new multiplier. In other words the Multi-Single Transmitter class allows a second station to "hunt" and work multipliers only on a separate band.
* Multi-Multi category stations may operate on several bands simultaneously.
** Although there is only one QRP category, which qualifies for a certificate or award, it is intended that the published results would show All Bands or the Single Band of operation. To facilitate this break out of the listings, your entry should indicate the power class you used.
*** Although there is only one Single Operator Single Band category that qualifies for a certificate or award, it is intended that the published results would show High Power or Low Power. To facilitate this break out of the listings, your entry should indicate the power class you used.

Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the topscoring entrants in each category, as noted above with the sponsor name in bold text. Special thanks to our sponsors for their ongoing support! Certificates will be awarded to the topscoring entrant in each category in each province, territory; US call district, and DXCC country. To facilitate the proper allocation of certificates, all US stations should indicate their actual US call district if different than indicated by their call prefix. DX stations should indicate the actual country of operation if different than indicated by their call prefix.

Results: Will be published in The Canadian Amateur magazine published by the Radio Amateurs of Canada. The results will also be published on the RAC website at <www.rac.ca> in the contest section.

Entries: All entries (electronic or paper logs) must be postmarked or electronically submitted by January 31, 2009. Electronic entries will be confirmed by return email.
Send paper entries to:
Radio Amateurs of Canada
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 0Z5

Paper mail entries must contain a summary sheet showing score calculation, a multiplier check sheet and logsheets.
Logsheets must show time, band, mode, call of station worked, exchanges sent and received and points claimed for each QSO. New multipliers must be clearly marked in the log.

Contest entry forms are also available on the RAC website at <www.rac.ca>.

Send email entries to <canadawinter@rac.ca>.

Any entry with 200 or more contacts should be submitted in digital form, either submitted by email or mailed in via 3.5" MSDOS/Windows formatted diskette. The preferred format is RAC Cabrillo in plain ASCII/Text format. While the contest committee prefers Cabrillo formatted submissions, we will continue to accept electronic logs from older versions of contest software, but your file must be in ASCII/Text format. Given there are several free programs that support the RAC contests and generate an acceptable entry, we encourage you to seek out one of these programs. The RAC Cabrillo format is described and its detailed layout is shown on the RAC website at <www.rac.ca/downloads/raccabrillo1.pdf>.

Electronic logs should provide a summary sheet with the same information as shown for the paper log entries. The standard summary sheet provided by the typical logging program is generally acceptable, but you should confirm that it contains the same information as shown for paper log entries. A properly filled out Cabrillo header section will be sufficient for logs submitted in that format.

Please ensure that you completely fill out the header information in the Cabrillo file. Name your file with your Call Sign and the file extension .LOG (e.g., yourcall.LOG). If you email your log, please send the file(s) as attachments. Do not paste the log file into the text of your message. This is often impossible to extract correctly.

Large files may be zipped if necessary. If you need help with preparing or emailing your log, please contact Sam Ferris, VE5SF, at <ve5sf@rac.ca>.

For the previous year's contest results, visit the RAC website in the contesting sections. We will also be publishing a list of submitted logs and the categories entered on the RAC website after the cutoff date to assist in correcting any entry categorizations.

Please send email entries to <canadawinter@rac.ca>.

RAC CONTEST ENTRY FORM / FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION AU CONCOURS DE RAC

- ❑ **Canada Winter Contest / Concours hiver Canada**
  Entry deadline: January 31 – date limite: 31 janvier
- ❑ **Canada Day Contest / Concours fête du Canada**
  Entry deadline: July 30 – date limite : 31 juillet

- ❑ Single Operator All Band High Power (>100W output) / opérateur unique, toutes bandes, haute puissance (>100W)
- ❑ Single Operator All Band Low Power (max 100W output) / opérateur unique, toutes bandes, basse puissance (max 100W à l'antenne)
- ❑ Single Operator QRP (max 5W output) – All Band or Single Band / opérateur unique, toutes bandes ou bande unique, QRP (max 5W à l'antenne)
- ❑ Single Operator All Bands CW only, any authorized power / opérateur unique, toutes bandes, CW seulement, toute puissance permise
- ❑ Single Operator All Bands PH only, any authorized power / opérateur unique, toutes bandes, phonie seulement, toute puissance permise
- ❑ Single Operator Single Band, any authorized power / opérateur unique, bande unique, toute puissance autorisée
- ❑ Multi-Operator Single Transmitter / opérateurs multiples, émetteur unique
  - ❑ High Power / haute puissance
  - ❑ Low Power / basse puissance
- ❑ Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter / opérateurs multiples, émetteurs multiples, toute puissance autorisée

Call Sign / Indicatif : _____

Name / Nom : _____

Address / Adresse : _____

_____

Code / Code : _____

Score Calculation / Calcul des points

Canada QSOs (excl. RAC): _____ x 10 = _____
RAC QSOs: + _____ x 20 = _____
DX QSOs: + x 2 =
Sub-Total / Sous-Total : = _____ QSOs = _____ Pts
Multiplier / Multiplicateur : x _____
Claimed score/Points revendiquées: = _____

Who were the operators? / indicatif des opérateurs?

_____

_____

_____

Comments / Remarques :

_____

_____

_____

MULTIPLIER CHECKLIST / LISTE DES MULTIPLICATEURS

Check off each multiplier worked / Cochez chacun des multiplicateur contacté

	VE1 NS	VE2 QC	VE3 ON	VE4 MB	VE5 SK	VE6 AB	VE7 BC	VE8 NT	VE9 NB	VO NL	VY0 NU	VY1 YT	VY2 PE	TOTAL
1.8 CW														
1.8 PH														
3.5 CW														
3.5 PH														
7 CW														
7 PH														
14 CW														
14 PH														
21 CW														
21 PH														
28 CW														
28 PH														
50 CW														
50 PH														
144 CW														
144 PH														

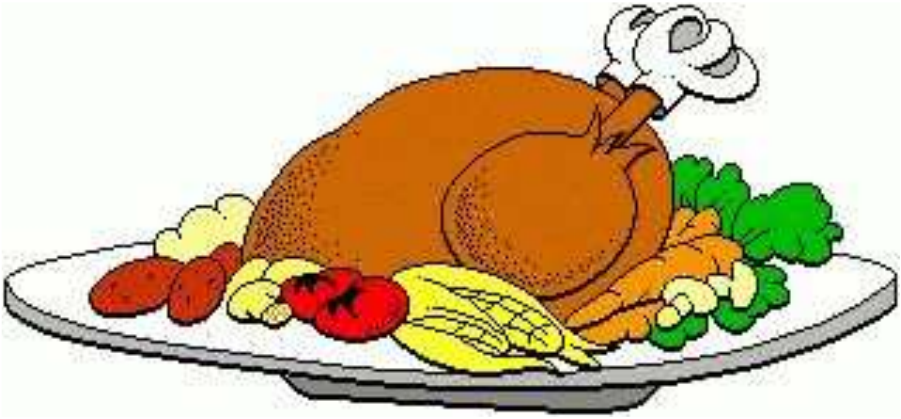
Multiplier total / Multiplicateur total

December's Meeting

Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, December 11.** An evening of culinary creations and conversations - come on out to our annual Christmas Pot-Luck Supper. **Earlier start at 7:00 PM** so supper's not too late.

This meeting will still be located at St. Judes Anglican Church, 1537 Adelaide Street North at Fanshawe Park Road East in London, Ontario.



Members and Guest are Welcome

Money collected from the 50/50 Draw will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Restructuring: Canada To Give Hams Experimental 600 Meter Band

(from http://www.eham.net/articles/20539)

Some Canadian hams will soon have access to the 600 meter very low frequency band. This after telecommunications regulator Industry Canada accepts a Radio Amateurs of Canada proposal that will permit selected Canadian radio amateurs to operate in the vicinity of 500 kHz.

Industry Canada has authorized Radio Amateurs of Canada to recommend which hams who would be licensed to operate in the 504 to 509 kHz band. Power output would be a maximum of 20 watts ERP and bandwidth up to 1 kHz. Stations operating in this band would be technically operating under Special Developmental Licenses although they would all be radio amateurs. Distinct call signs would be used and the licenses would be renewable annually subject to the amateur demonstrating the research he has carried out.

Hams taking part in these operations would support Canada's efforts to action a proposal on the agenda of the 2011 World Radio Conference for a new amateur allocation in the 600-meter band. More information will follow in upcoming Radio Amateurs of Canada bulletins. (RAC)

The Booby-Trap Repeater Jammer

(from http://www.eham.net/articles/20539)

And finally this week, the rather bizarre video showing the discovery of a repeater jamming device with a booby-trap attached. That's the story from the United Kingdom told in an item that first aired on ITV news and is now posted to a video sharing website. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, has the rest of this rather strange tale now coming to the attention of hams world wide:

The accidental find of the booby trapped jamming unit apparently took place in the United Kingdom in late 2007. According to an early 2008 report by Erika Barnes of ITV News and only recently discovered on the YouTube dot com video website, the device was accidentally discovered in Buckinghamshere by the caretaker of the property.

Mike Harrison is the manager of Wolton Estate. Thats a tiny in-land island in Englands south end. He told Barnes that in the course of his regular duties that he unearthed some top soil and found a white box. He was suspicious and decided to not go near it. After turning it over using a long stick he noticed a battery attached to something that he suspected might be an explosive and decided to back away.

Authorities found it to be a radio jamming device intended to interfere with ham radio relay communications to a repeater located on a tower near a location known as Brill. Authorities say that the device was also designed harm and possibly kill anyone who might have found it and try to turn it off. Thankfully for Harrison he moved it with the stick and even more thankfully the device failed to detonate.

At the time the report aired that there was at least one more jamming device in the area. The ITV story warned that anyone who might find it to not tamper with it. Instead, that they should notify the local police. No word if it was ever located and disarmed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF.

Talk about carrying repeater jamming to a new low. As far as we have been able to determine, the person or persons who planted the booby trapped jamming devices is still at large. You can see the story yourself at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT11HFigbxk&feature=related

DX Propagation: Scientists Say That The New Sunspots Are Here

(from http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=184248)

Improved band may soon be on their way. Scientists say that after more than two years of few sunspots, even fewer solar flares, the sun is finally showing signs of life.

David Hathaway is a sunspot forecaster of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville Alabama. In his opinion the solar minimum is behind us. He said that in October scientists counted five sunspot groups,. Hathaway says that this may not sound like much, but in a year with record-low numbers of sunspots and long stretches of spotlessness, five is significant.

Even more significant is the fact that four of the five sunspot groups belonged to Solar Cycle 24. That's the new and long-awaited next installment of the sun's 11 year solar cycle. Hathaway says that October was the first time sunspots from new Solar Cycle 24 outnumbered spots from old Solar Cycle 23.

Hathaway adds that this is a good sign that the new cycle is taking off. This will be welcome news to the ears of hams who have waited a long time to work some new and possibly rare DX. (NASA)

PCSAT Recovery Successful

The sunlight-only PCSAT-1 should return to full operations on December 9 when it once again receives solar illumination for two weeks.

Operating PCSAT-1 is just like any 1200 baud 2 meter packet repeater. Uplink and downlink are on 145.825 MHz and the path is VIA ARISS. This path is identical to the ISS path so that you do not have to change anything between the two spacecraft. Visit Quick Guide to ARISS and PCSAT-1 Digipeating for how to configure your TNC for 1200 baud satellite operation.

You can make two-way contacts, send beacons and bulletins and send your position so you will show up on the PCSAT web page pcsat.aprs.org. There are also plans to conduct a Satellite Simulated Emergency Test, see www.aprs.org/sset.html for information.

AMSAT News Service

25th Anniversary of Ham Radio in Space

Twenty-five years ago, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, made history by being the first amateur radio operator to talk to hams from space. To celebrate, the ARISS team has planned special operations during December and part of January.

December 7-12 they will run a test of 9600 baud packet operations on the simplex frequency 145.825 MHz. December 14-19 they will switch to 1200 baud packet on 145.825 to support double hop opportunities with PCSAT. And at times, especially during the weekends, you might see some SSTV operations if the crew is available.

Several "surprise" events are planned. For more updates visit www.amsat.org. A certificate will be available for those who communicate with the ISS, either 2-way direct (with the ISS crew,the digipeater, or cross band repeater), or 1-way reception of SSTV or voice downlink.

AMSAT News Service

'Twas The Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through 2 meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their H-Ts to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power.
It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX *PacketCluster*,

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam.
A flying sleigh, with an
Eight-element beam,

And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean.
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams.
On a mission, this Christmas,
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of *CQ*,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late QSLs
For a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth, till
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp.
(Never worked right before;
Now it works like a champ).

A new, lowpass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
A new rig? I thought!

A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?!
(If he thought I'd been bad,
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
73."

Then he grabbed his H-T,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone with no good-bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pileup was big,
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final
came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX!"

"The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".
I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"

Santa Claus is coming!

To a receiver near you.

The holidays are coming and the kids are starting to anticipate Christmas. Sometimes a great introduction to ham radio that entertains the younger set is to let them speak to Santa on the air.
Each year a 14300 khz regular puts on what is known as a "Santa Claus Net" bringing volunteer Santa's into ham shacks and other places the world over. For the better part of the past decade Clyde, KG4BVR from the Alabama gulf coast coordinates our Santa Clause net activities as he will be this year.

Volunteer Santa's choose a clear frequency in the general portion of the 20 meter band and let it be known on 14300 khz where they'll be. Folks with youngsters to entertain can then tune in and give their youngsters a chance to talk with Santa over the air. This year dates will be December 23 and 24, from 1300 to 1600 EST. Check with the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 14300 khz for the actual Santa clause operating frequency.

Great fun for the ham display at the local shopping center. Have a mobile command post operational on 20 meters, let the kids talk to Santa and meanwhile talk to the adults about disaster preparedness and why ham radio is important. Meanwhile show off your capabilities to leadership, shopping center management and others.

Net controls all over North America will be playing Santa that day. A couple of Santa's go all out with the audio production (no music of course) to give the kids the impression that they're actually listening to activity around Santa's headquarters. The kids will have fun and it shows ham radio to the public!

Sometimes lady ops will play Mrs.Claus to the delight of the children. What a great way to introduce the grandchildren to ham radio when visiting over the holidays. Let them talk to Santa Clause.

Explain how radio waves propagate on HF and tune to the twenty meter band to find Santa ready and waiting to hear from the kids.

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

-- Membership application and dues are currently requested.

Our term of membership runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Each and every year it is increasingly more difficult to get Amateurs to commit to membership in their local club due to the alternate functions we are asked to fund.

The ***London Amateur Radio Club*** has a long history of providing technical support, social support and repeater facilities. Public service efforts are currently provided by a club affiliation with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (***ARES)*** and ***Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)***.

Your Directors work tirelessly to provide meeting topics that are informative and entertaining, events that are timely (Christmas meeting, field day, bus trip) and participate in events that display and promote Amateur Radio in the community.

To be effective in its pursuits, the Club needs the support of the local Amateur fraternity through membership.

While we obtain financial support from our Annual Flea Market, we require membership support to fund such things as meeting hall rent, repeater sites rent and maintenance, web site fees, membership cards and liability insurance. For what it's worth, none of these things are getting any cheaper.

The cost of membership has not changed for a number of years and even in the face of increased cost, we would like to keep it that way.

With more than 1000 'hams' in the London area, its inconceivable that less than 10% support a pastime about which most of us are passionate.

PLEASE, make a choice and do your part to keep the ***London Amateur Radio Club*** alive and well by purchasing your membership at our next meeting (or by mail – details on our web site). The cost is still only $25.00 (single) or $30.00 (family residing at the same address).

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

☐ SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: $25.00 ☐ RENEWAL

☐ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: $30.00 ☐ NEW MEMBER

RAC Membership Number: _____ I am not a RAC Member ☐

ARES Volunteer? Yes No

NOTE: It is important for volunteers to provide their phone number and e-mail address.

Name(s): _____ _____ _____

Last Name First Name Call Sign

_____ _____ _____

Last Name First Name Call Sign

Address:

_____

Street/P.O. Box

_____ _____ _____

City/Town Province Postal Code

_____

Phone Number

E-mail Address: _____

(Monthly reminders via e-mail only)

Date: _____

All information requested should be completed - this will be used for the club's membership database only. All LARC membership information is held in strict confidence.

Please make cheque payable to: *London Amateur Radio Club Inc.*

Mailing Address: London Amateur Radio Club
c/o Membership Director, VE3SMN
P.O. Box 82, Station B
London, Ontario, N6A 4V3