

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
And surrounding area since 1920



November 1, 2008

## Next Meeting Topic

The next L.A.R.C. meeting will be on Thursday, November 13. The topic will be:

A presentation on **Lightning Protection** by Bill McHugh, VE3NH.

## Silent Keys

Unfortunately we had 2 local silent key in October.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>

LEBEL, Gerry – VE3TH – Sadly passed away at LHSC University Hospital on Sunday October 5, 2008 Gerry Lebel in his 83rd year. Loving friend of his wife Gwen (Bunny) for over 59 years. After completing highschool Gerry graduated from the Radio College of Canada in Montreal and was an avid ham radio operator from the age of 17.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>

GIROUARD, Richard Adrien – VE3GIR – Passed away at the age of 63 years, October 12, 2008 in St. Thomas. Richard is survived by his dear friend Sharon Jones, his loyal friend John England (spouse Cami), and his Grandson Aiden Love who was the joy of his life. Richard was married for thirty-six years to Madeline Girouard (nee Machon). They have two children, Andrea Love and Andrew Girouard. Richard was an active member of Holy Angels' Parish participating in many ministries including Marriage Preparation and the London Diocese Evangelization Commission. Richard lived in St. Thomas his entire life and apprenticed in mechanics with his father Sylv Girouard. He became a Service Advisor and Manager, employed by London and St. Thomas GM dealers. In his later years, he was a Painting Contractor. Richard spent five enjoyable years with local Scouting as Akela and Troop Scouter. Ten years were spent with the Optimist Club as a local and executive member of local clubs and Ontario District.

## Other Items of Interest

- ⇒ 2008/2009 L.A.R.C. Executive
- ⇒ Flaunt Your Face – Show Your Shack
- ⇒ Local Repeaters and Nets
- ⇒ London Scouts Jamboree On The Air
- ⇒ ARES Report
- ⇒ ARRL Files Petition with FCC against Experimental License Using 40 Meter Band
- ⇒ Electronics Distractions Legislation
- ⇒

## Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on November 13, 2008 at 7:30pm

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 December 11, 2008. This meeting will be annual Christmas Potluck Dinner. Unfortunately this meeting will be for **Club Members and Guests only**.

## 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](mailto:webmaster@larc.ca)

## Local Repeaters

### LARC Repeaters

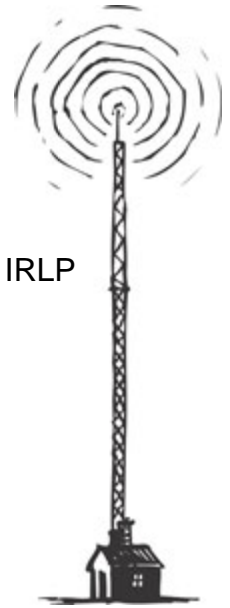
London VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8 Hz  
 London VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8 Hz

### 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 VE3SRT 442.050 + 114.8 Hz Linked to VE3SUE

### 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

LARC HF Net	7.063 MHz LSB	Sunday 11:00 a.m.
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
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



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

## London Scouts Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)



On Saturday October 18, about 8 LARC members converged on Spencer Lodge on Windermere Road to help provide young members of the Scouting movement, and their leaders, with a taste of the Ham radio experience. All over the world, their counterparts were trying to communicate with other scouts via ham radio, and we helped make contacts with scouts in Spain, Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas, Saskatchewan as well as numerous Canadian locations.

Our 4 stations consisted of an HF radio, and IRLP setup, a PSK31 station and an APRS demonstration. The response of the 90 youths in attendance was enthusiastic, and vocal.

Many thanks to our volunteers who volunteered their time as well as their skills including not just radio operation, but also explaining, antenna rigging, troubleshooting, teaching, and tree climbing. You made this such a success that we're bound to be invited back again next October to share our hobby once again.



## **ARES Report by Doug Elliot, VE3DAE**

### **Thames Valley ARES Group – Exercise Rotten Rail**

Middlesex County invited the Thames Valley ARES group to participate in their Simulated Emergency Test, which took place on Thursday October 23. This is a very large exercise (there were over 200 people present at the debriefing) with a lot of planning and preparation invested by county staff.

The premise of the exercise was that a railroad tank car was crossing the region, leaking a toxic substance in increasing volumes. This led to a simulated evacuating of a large area, with local high school drama students portraying the elderly residents who were evacuated to the Gemini Sports Plex. However, before the SET could begin, a car belonging to one of the drama students caught fire in the parking lot (for real) singeing 3 adjacent cars and causing the diversion of firefighters and evacuation of the building that was to receive the exercise evacuees.

The ham radio participation wasn't quite that exciting, but we did manage to get 6 radio stations set up at various Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs), and passed messages as part of the exercise. It was definitely a valuable learning opportunity for us, as we were scrambling to cope with a challenging radio environment, and the conflicting logistics of working closely with both EOC staff and radios.

Although we were grateful to the county for inviting us to work in the EOC's, probably the biggest lesson we learned was that radio operations and the EOC environment don't mix very well. In the future we will likely want to set up in a separate location which we can select and set up for efficient radio operation, and pass messages (but not intrusive noise) to the EOC staff.

We've found lots of opportunities for improvement, which is exactly why you do these exercises, and proof that it was a success.

## **ARRL Files Petition with FCC against Experimental License Using 40 Meter Band – And Gets Action**

On Monday, October 20, the ARRL filed a *Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization* ([Petition](#)) with the FCC with respect to [WE2XRH](#). According to the FCC, this experimental license -- issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) -- proposes to "test digital transmissions in 4.50-5.10 MHz, 7.10-7.60 MHz and 9.25-9.95 MHz for a terrestrial digital radio service to the citizens of Alaska."

The League's *Petition* states that DART's hopes that this experimentation "will lead to a terrestrial, high-frequency (HF) digital aural (domestic broadcast) service in Alaska. Ostensibly to study the operation of this 'shortwave' system at high latitudes, and apparently in order to roll out this domestic broadcast service, DART specifies exceptionally high power operation in various segments of the HF spectrum. ARRL's interest in this matter is limited to the fact that the experimental license includes the band 7.1 -7.3 MHz...allocated domestically exclusively to the Amateur Radio Service."

"It is astonishing that the FCC would grant this experimental license for operation at such a high power level in a band that is allocated exclusively to a service with which such operation is clearly incompatible," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "The only possible explanation is that it was an error; the only reasonable step for the FCC to take is to correct its error immediately, either by cancelling the license or by amending the frequency ranges to delete 7.1 -7.3 MHz."

Four days later...

### **FCC Amends WE2XRH Experimental License:**

by The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 42 on October 24, 2008

In response to the October 20 ARRL Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization (Petition) concerning an experimental license issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) station WE2XRH, the FCC today issued an amended license that redefines one of the station's frequency ranges to eliminate conflict with the Amateur Radio Service. This revision addresses ARRL's concern that the original 7.10 to 7.60 MHz range would cause unacceptable interference to Amateur Radio operations in the 40 meter band. The amended license narrows the range to 7.30 to 7.60 MHz and gives as the reason for the change, "operation in the band 7.1-7.3 MHz will cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio Service licensees."

## **Electronic Distractions Legislation by Dean Dalrymple**

*Editor Note: I found this Friday October 31, 2008 in the Yahoo ScanOnt Group and received permission from Dean to include it this newsletter.*

I'm a bit surprised to not have seen more discussion on this. I thought for sure once we got the details everyone here would have something to say. Maybe it's just because the media was pandering to the masses again and forget to mention a couple of points. Such as the legislation also makes changes to the Public Vehicles Act in regards to car pooling, but that was never mentioned in any of the news casts I saw.

So, firstly, SCANNERS (the focus of this group) do not appear to be in anyway included in this legislation, unless you drive around with it in your hand. The legislation doesn't make any mention at all of receive only radio devices such as car radios or scanners. That's good news for all of us here.

As far as two-way radios such as CB's and HAM radios go... well... I can't tell, maybe you can.

So what WILL be banned:

- Hand-held wireless communications devices such as cell phones, smartphones
- Hand-held electronic entertainment devices such as iPods, or other portable MP3 players, or portable games
- Texting and emailing
- Viewing display screens on devices not required for driving such as a laptop or DVD player

Ok, so I would bet that based on the news stories on the weekend we were all expecting that, there really isn't anything of surprise there.

So next let's look at what WONT be banned:

- Hands-free wireless communications devices with an earpiece or Bluetooth device
- 911 calls
- Pressing the button of a hand-held device to activate hands-free mode for incoming or outbound calls
- GPS units mounted on dashboards
- Collision avoidance systems
- Use by emergency services personnel such as police, fire and ambulance
- Logistical transportation tracking devices used for commercial vehicles

Ok, good news there. GPS units will still be allowed, but only ones mounted to the car, hand-held GPS units will fall within the ban. So those of you who drive around with a hand-held unit will need to invest in an inexpensive dash/windshield mount, which will be a lot cheaper than the \$500 fine if you are caught holding it.

I find that last one a bit curious, but before I get to it, let's go to the one before that, the emergency services exemption.

The Highway Traffic Act section of the Bill (Bill 118 if anyone was wondering) is actually dived into two sections. "Display screen visible to driver prohibited" and "Hand-held devices prohibited". The emergency services exemption is listed under BOTH sections. That would mean that police, fire and ambulance will still be able to use the computers while driving, AND will still be able to talk on their hand-held cell phones while driving. (and hopefully they don't try to do all three a once)

Now, as to that "Logistical transportation...", that only applies to the first part, "Display screen...". Remember in my reply the other day I pointed out that a lot of trucking companies now have MDT's in their trucks, well that's what that exemption is for, specifically "a logistical transportation tracking system device used for commercial purposes to track vehicle location, driver status or the delivery of packages or other goods"

What's interesting is that there is NOT a "parked" exemption for display screens like there is for hand-held devices. That means if you are sitting in a parking lot or your driveway, are behind the wheel, and you pull out your laptop or some other prohibited device, you will be braking the law and if a cop sees you, you could get slapped with the \$500 fine. That could get interesting when people, especially people who's vehicles as their offices, start challenging the fines. It would also be interesting to see how this would/will effect the integrated work station Ford is planning on adding to their F-series and E-series trucks in the coming months.

Hand-held devices prohibited

The part that matters most to us right? This is actually dived into 8 subsections, most of which are pretty clear. But they do leave a bit open to interpretation, so I'll directly quote the relevant parts. (or at least the ones I see as relevant)

## Electronic Distractions Legislation by Dean Dalrymple cont.

Quote:

"Wireless communication devices

"78.1 (1) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a hand-held wireless communication device or other prescribed device that is capable of receiving or transmitting telephone communications, electronic data, mail or text messages. "

End Quote.

I think it's the last part of that, is most relevant. By specifically stating "telephone communications, electronic data, mail or text messages" they seem to be excluding two-way radios in general, since two-way radios in general aren't telephones, or the other stuff.

But here's where things start getting a little grey

Quote:

"Entertainment devices

"(2) No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a hand-held electronic entertainment device or other prescribed device the primary use of which is unrelated to the safe operation of the motor vehicle."

End Quote.

Obviously two-way radio's of commercial users (taxis, couriers, etc) don't fall into this category, but what about non-commercial radios such as CB's, FRS/GMRS and HAM radios. Could and/or Would these be considered a communications device or an entertainment device? Interesting question isn't it. Obviously one argument is that they are without question communications devices that meet federal regulations as such. However, the other argument is that they aren't required communications devices such as the two-way radios used by taxis, etc, and their primary use is in fact for a hobby (except for a CB in a transport truck), which would make them an entertainment device. It really seems to be a grey area open to interpretation, how would interpret it?

Jumping back to the primary focus of this group, SCANNERS, we have subsection three:

Quote:

"Hands-free mode allowed

"(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), a person may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while using a device described in those subsections if the person is not holding the device."

End Quote.

So it doesn't matter if someone considers a scanner a communications device under subsection 1 or an entertainment device under subsection 2, as long as you are NOT holding it, it is NOT included in this legislation, and will remain completely legal in vehicles in Ontario.

Subsections 4, 5, and 6 all deal with exemptions from subsections 1 and 2. I won't quote them because they are fairly clear (well, except for 4 which oddly refers to itself, and is somewhat cryptic). Emergency services are exempt for subsection 1, allowing them to use hand held communications devices while driving. You are exempt from subsection 1 if you are calling police, fire or ambulance. You are exempt from both 1 and 2 if you are lawfully parked.

Subsection 7 allows the Minister to make changes to subsections 1, 2 and 4. And subsection 8 defines "motor vehicle".

So there we have it, all the current details of the legislation.

You can find the legislation at

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2099](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2099)

The list of "will" and "wont" near the beginning of this was a cut'n'paste from the PDF file linked to in the second paragraph of the this newswire.ca story:

<http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2008/10/28/c2333.html?lmatch=&lang=e.html>

Dean

# **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).



