

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920



September 3, 2008

Next Meeting Topic

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

Presentation on "BIG GUNS" by Pat Ross - VE3CNX. Come hear what Pat has to share about some of his QSO's working DX on 80/20 meters and some interesting details of the Global Ham population and how to capitalize on your station capabilities by working alongside the BIG GUNS.

Silent Key



On Sunday, August 10, 2008 while near the scene of the Sunrise Propane explosion in Toronto, District Chief Bob Leek (VE3TFD) passed away of natural causes. Bob was the District Chief for Emergency Planning with the Toronto Fire Department, the Emergency Coordinator for Durham ARES and a member of South Pickering Amateur Radio Club. Everyone spoke highly of Bob and will miss him. His contribution to Durham ARES will be impossible to replace.

Other Items of Interest

- ⇒ 2008/2009 L.A.R.C. Executive
- ⇒ Flaunt Your Face – Show Your Shack
- ⇒ L.A.R.C. Field Day 2008 Report
- ⇒ ARES Update
- ⇒ Message from Ann Rundle, VA3EOR about the flea market
- ⇒ Warrior's Day Parade
- ⇒ Revised HF Band Plans
- ⇒ L.A.R.C. Flea Market

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, September 11, 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 October 9, 2008 and the scheduled topic will be Sunspots Analysis presented by Dave Steels, VE3UZ

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

2008 Field Day Report, by Dave Steels, VE3UZ and Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO

Callsign Used: VE3LON
 Entry Class: 4A
 Total Attendees: 40
 Power Source: Generator
 Transmitter Power: 100 watts

Bonus Points
 100% Emergency Power 400
 Media Publicity 100
 Set-up in Public Place 100
 W1AW Field Day Message 100
 Visit by Served Agency 100
 Youth Participation (1) 20
 Web Log Submission 50

 Total Bonus Points 870

Score Summary
 Total CW QSO's 286 Total CW Points 572
 Total SSB QSO's 1130 Total SSB Points 1130

 Total QSO Points 1702

 Apply Power Multiplier (x2) 3404

 Add Bonus Points 870

 Grand Total Score 4274

| Year | Class | Score | Recent Rank |
|------|-------|-------|-------------|
| 1976 | 4A | 2917 | |
| 1977 | 4A | 3072 | |
| 1978 | 3A | 2628 | |
| 1979 | ? | ? | |
| 1980 | 2A | 2364 | |
| 1981 | ? | ? | |
| 1982 | ? | ? | |
| 1983 | 7A | 6834 | 2 |
| 1984 | 7A | 6776 | 3 |
| 1985 | 7A | 7044 | 1 |
| 1986 | 5A | 6108 | 4 |
| 1987 | ? | ? | |
| 1988 | ? | ? | |
| 1989 | ? | ? | |
| 1990 | 4A | 3518 | 10 |
| 1991 | 5A | 4004 | 7 |
| 1992 | 5A | 3242 | |
| 1993 | 4A | 3086 | |
| 1994 | ? | ? | |
| 1995 | 2A | 2322 | |
| 1996 | ? | ? | |
| 1997 | 5A | 2704 | |
| 1998 | ? | ? | |
| 1999 | 5A | 4162 | 6 |
| 2000 | 4A | 3846 | 8 |
| 2001 | 4A | 2336 | |
| 2002 | 4A | 1583 | |
| 2003 | 5A | 3008 | |
| 2004 | 3A | 1542 | |
| 2005 | 6A | 3496 | |
| 2006 | 4A | 2484 | |
| 2007 | 4A | 3548 | 9 |
| 2008 | 4A | 4274 | 5 |

|
|
Best Score in 22 years, since 1986

This years Field Day weekend was a great success. I have been told that our final tally was the best we'd had in 22 years. Considering the weather conditions we were dealing with I believe we did an amazing job. We had stations run by Pat Ross (VE3CNX), Doug Elliott (VA3DAE), and John Cummings (VA3JC) with John Watson and Roger Lonney (VA3RGR), we praise them all and thank them for coming out and staying up and working your stations. We also thank all the people that manned the radios, without whom we could not have got all the contacts that we did. We were also helped by our IT guys Mike Argyle (VE3XMA) and John Visser (VA3MSV). Our special thanks to Dave Young who helped out with many things and especially the advertising of our event. The pot luck dinner was also a huge success even with the rain, we managed thanks to a lot of ingenuity and everyone working together we ended up with a semi-dry area to eat, and enough food left over to have lunch the next day. All in all it made for a fun and interesting weekend that showed us how resilient we can be, when we need to be. Especially for Pat Ross's friend, Peter Angel, who was visiting from Australia he seemed to find our weather just a little bit chilly and was bundled in a winter coat for a good part of the weekend.

I would like to thank everyone again for all your help, company and wonderful food.

Hope to see you all again next year.

Note from editor: Thanks to Ruth Dahl (VE3RBO), Ann Rundle (VA3EOR) and Ann Bernier (wife of Al Bernier (VE3LOD) for their excellent job organizing the Pot Luck Dinner.

ARES Update, by Doug Elliott, London ARES Emergency Coordinator

WEEKLY ARES NET - In order to allow some distant ARES groups to join our weekly Wednesday night net via IRLP, we've changed to using the VE3TTT repeater, and to a 7PM start time. Thanks to the SORT group for making it available to us. We'll be evaluating the cost/benefit of this move in the next month, and will decide whether we continue on TTT, or revert to OME.

ARES PAGERS – We've slightly modified the message sent out on the ARES pagers to announce scheduled or emergency nets. Instead of just sending the frequency of the net as a 6 digit number, we're now appending a minus sign, and a "Reason" digit. Remembering the meaning of the "Reason" digit is as easy as ABC...

- 1 stands for A – an ARES net
- 2 stands for B – Butterfingers - someone tried for 1 or 3 but hit the wrong button. Re-page to follow.
- 3 stands for C – a CANWARN net

Example pager messages: 147180-1 (an ARES net on VE3TTT)
 145450-1 (an ARES net on VE3OME)
 145450-3 (A CANWARN net on VE3OME)
 654-3210 (a false alarm wrong number page, which can be ignored)

If you're interested in getting an ARES pager, please contact any ARES EC or the LARC Webmaster.

RED CROSS RADIO ROOM – As part of recent renovations, the London Red Cross made a small room in the basement of their Commissioners Road location available to ARES for use in an emergency. It has lots of 110 Volt power, and conduit to an exterior wall for antenna cabling. Some ARES volunteers had a "Bench Building Bee" a couple of weeks ago, where it became evident that our radio skills are much better than our carpentry skills. Most of the injuries have healed by now, and the outcome is a 12 foot long work surface in the radio room, suitable for multiple radio stations. Donations of chairs, a corkboard and a white board are soon to be installed, and the next step is to bring in some radio equipment, and do some test transmissions.

REACHABILITY TEST – On Saturday August 23, a group of ARES testers spread out to Middlesex County Emergency Operations Center locations to test out radio communications. People were located in London, Dorchester, Strathroy (Main EOC), Parkhill and Newbury. An oversimplified summary of the results is that the OME repeater reached all these locations well, but simplex operation, even at 50 watts, was not workable. The problems with simplex came as a bit of a surprise, and is a wake up call that we need to do more work if we want to be prepared to support an emergency situation in Middlesex. We hope to repeat this exercise, and a variation where we focus on fine tuning communications to one particular location. We're considering using standardized antennas, perhaps copper pipe J-poles or beams, and using permanently installed antennas at higher elevations.

ONTARIO SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET) - The Ontario Province-wide Simulated Emergency Test will occur on September 27th 2008 as outlined on the EMO ARES website: <http://www.emoares.org/set2008.html> As noted in SET instructions this will be a Joint Michigan State/Ontario pandemic scenario exercise. We encourage all ARES members to participate and have made provisions to move traffic swiftly through the established networks.

The Ontario Phone Net (NTS) will be handling all HF traffic which will be routed through the Toronto Emergency Operations Centre for delivery to the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre. The Toronto EOC (VA3EOT) will be manned with 5 radio operators monitoring the HF, VHF/UHF and IRLP networks to support the flow of traffic in and out of the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (VE3EMO). The PEOC will be staffed with 3 radio operators and a supervisor to ensure the quick flow of traffic back to community level ARES operations.

ARES Update, by Doug Elliott, London ARES Emergency Coordinator

To expedite the flow of information in and out of the PEOC a dedicated IRLP channel (9206) will be implemented for tactical operations, IRLP channel 9005 will be used for Net Control operations.

On the morning of September 27th at 09:00 hours the following message will go out to all Ontario ARES personnel.

"Attention all stations this is a Simulated Emergency Test, an avian flu pandemic has hit Ontario. Although the infection is scattered, many people are afraid to leave their homes for fear of being infected. Absenteeism is widespread, causing sporadic critical infrastructure outages. Emergency Management Ontario has requested the activation of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service to determine the extent of infection.

Because the effects are not uniformly felt across the province, many regions have resources that are needed in other areas. Emergency Management Ontario is organizing the identification and deployment of those resources and requests that community based ARES groups report what resources they may have available and the level of infection in their area. Emergency Management Ontario appreciates the cooperation of the ARES in gathering situation reports."

SOUTHERN SEVERE WEATHER - The media has been reporting the series of tropical storms and hurricanes that have been, and will continue to affect the Southern United States. Behind the scenes, there are ham operators providing emergency communications in many of these unfortunate situations. There are specific HF frequencies for each storm, and operators should be careful to avoid interfering with emergency transmissions. There is also an opportunity to monitor these frequencies to learn what happens on the air in a disaster, and how hams are helping out.

A good way to find out more about the ham response, and the frequencies in use, is to subscribe to the RAC bulletin service. This webpage explains how to get these low frequency emails: <http://rac.eton.ca/racbullemail.htm>

Information on the current situation is at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/09/04/10316/?nc=1>

More general information about government, military and amateur communications for severe storms can be found at: <http://www.hurricanefrequencies.com/>

Message from Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

Come One Come All

Welcome back everyone. I hope that you had a great summer. With fall just around the corner, everyone knows that it is to come out to our LARC flea market. I hope that everyone has September 21st circled on their calendar! With Radio World, Durham Radio and Maple Leaf Communications being at our flea market just think of all the money that you are going to save on gas going to them, and everyone knows what that means...You guessed it more cash for you to spend at the flea market!

If anyone still needs a table please give me a call at 519-238-1542 or 519-280-9575 or send me an email at va3eor@hotmail.com or come out to the meeting on Thursday and I will get you registered. Tables are \$10 and the cost of admissions is still only \$6.

See everyone on Thursday and of course on the 21st!

73
Ann VA3 EOR

Warrior's Day Parade, By Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO



Thanks to the devotion each year by John Pedersen, VE3MGR, we were able to help out with the parade again this year. John has a long standing relationship with the parade patrons and has been able to get a few of us each year to be there for them. Our job is to stand on the side of the roads at different areas to watch the participants in the parade and make sure that no one stumbles or has some medical issues. If they do, as with 2 years ago, all we do is make the person comfortable and contact our net controllers and they send out St. John's ambulance to help in the situation. For the past 2 years, John Pedersen managed to arrange to have a Ham Operator in the trailing St. John's Ambulance which made communication between us and them easier. Present this year was John Pedersen (VE3MGR) at the staging area with Paul Fraser (VA3PFN) who rode with St. John's Ambulance. Al Bernier (VE3LOD), Ruth Dahl (VE3RBO) and Ann Rundle (VA3EOR) were on the parade route. Norm Campbell (VA3XCN) and John Visser (VA3MSV) were at the grandstand on the Western Fair Grounds.



Pictured here is in the back row is Paul Fraser (VA3PFN), Norm Campbell (VA3XCN) and John Visser (VA3MSV) Front row is Ann Rundle (VA3EOR) and Ruth Dahl (VE3RBO). This picture was taken after the parade was finished.

Revised HF Band Plans

Revised HF Band Plans: RAC has announced revised band plans effective immediately. There's a new DX window on 40M, and a bigger one on 80M. Some HF nets may be changing because the frequency they use is now inappropriate in the new plan, so keep your "ears" open for changes. The full details can be found on the RAC website's [HF Band Plan page](http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfplan-20080711.pdf) (<http://www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfplan-20080711.pdf>)

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

31st ANNUAL
2008 FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21st
9.00 AM TO 1.00 PM

PREPAID VENDORS SETUP: 7:00 AM

ALL OTHER VENDORS SETUP: 7:30 AM

BOOK EARLY AND SAVE ON ADMISSION



ADMISSION: \$6.00, (Age 10 and up)
TABLES: \$ 10.00

LOCATED AT THE
WESTERN FAIR GROUNDS
SPECIAL EVENTS BUILDING
LONDON, ONTARIO



Talk in VA3LON. 147.060 PL 114.8

Free Parking ~ Air Conditioned
Commercial Dealers ~ Snack Bar Facilities
Wheelchair Accessible with Handicap Washrooms

Bring & Buy: Let LARC sell your item(s) at our club table.
{2 items max} INFO: <http://www.larc.ca/larctable.html>

Inquiries: Email
hamfest2008@hamster.foxhollow.ca
Note: All email answered within 72 hrs
Phone: (519) 238-1542 (Ann)

Make Payments out to
"London Amateur Radio Club Inc"
(not to Ann Rundle) and mail to:

Ann Rundle VA3EOR
36797 Crediton Rd RR2
Dashwood, On N0M 1N0

ATTENTION 2008 FLEA MARKET VENDOR

Book early, tables are booked on first come first served basis. Loading door available. We do not reserve unpaid tables. No separate hydro for tables BUT there will be a test table with power for seller demonstrations. Only two vendors passes allowed per vendor prior to doors opening on the day of the flea market. Vendor passes will not be sold without table sales. Table information and site Map will be sent to you in your vendor's conformation package.

***Book early (before Aug 1st) and 1 vendor admission is reduced to \$ 4**

PREPAID VENDORS SETUP NOW 7:00AM

Name: _____ Admission(s) x \$ 6 (\$ 4) _____

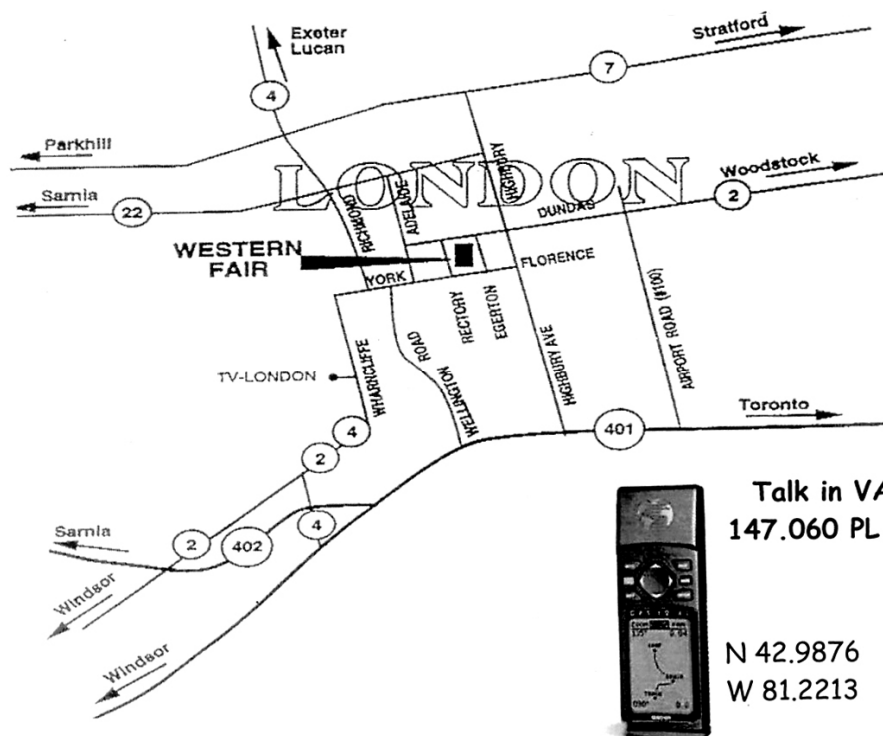
Table(s): x \$ 10 _____

Callsign: _____ Total: = _____

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____ City _____ PO code _____

Phone: _____



Flea Market Bring-and-Buy



Based on the success from the last couple of years' 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.

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-ham radio 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 21st.

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, Durham Radio, Maple-Leaf Communications and TGM Communication have already committed to be a vendor for our 2008 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.



