

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

May 11, 2009

Next Meeting Topic

The next L.A.R.C. meeting will be on Thurs, May 14, 2009 at 7:30 PM

This meeting will be about **Tall Tales, Techniques and Triumphs** - assorted topics addressing some of the biggest questions facing mankind today. Well, maybe not the biggest, but a varied collection of interesting and entertaining ones, involving PL-259s, Powerpoles, Field Day, "survey says", the 2003 Blackout, and DIY antennas.

We will also hold elections for next year's executive unless the slate is filled by acclamation. Further nominations are welcome - contact any director for procedural information.

Items of Interest

- | | | |
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| ⇒ L.A.R.C. Executive Appreciation to L.S.A.R.C. | Understanding between RAC and Canadian Red Cross Society | ⇒ The Solar Cycle: NASA Calls It A Spotless Sun |
| ⇒ Membership Certificates | ⇒ Names In The News: VE5SF Appointed To CAC | ⇒ Ham Radio In Space: New APRS Satellites Being Planned |
| ⇒ Flaunt Your Face – Show Your Shack | ⇒ Malicious Interference | ⇒ Radio Stats: Morse Exceeds SSB In 2008 CQ World Wide DX Contests |
| ⇒ 2008/2009 L.A.R.C. Executive | ⇒ Cell Phone Bill 118 | ⇒ Radio Business: Buckmaster HamCall Database Exceeds 2 Million |
| ⇒ Nominations for 2009/2010 L.A.R.C. Executive | ⇒ How to get involved in Bill 118 | ⇒ Ham Radio Promotion: ARRL Releases FD Videos |
| ⇒ Local Repeaters / Nets | ⇒ Bill 118 Update | ⇒ Emerging Technology: Neilsen Says Twitter Has More Quitters Than Joiners |
| ⇒ Upcoming Events | ⇒ Working With Your Local Fire Department | ⇒ Emerging Technology: College Radio Tuner For iPhone |
| ⇒ 2009/2010 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections | ⇒ A Testament To Samuel F.B. Morse | ⇒ Emerging Technology: OLED Blue Improved By 25% |
| ⇒ Proposal Before The Membership | ⇒ Radio Experiments: UK To VE Marconi Day Success | ⇒ Emerging Technology: MPEG Surround Designated International Standard |
| ⇒ First Ontario Tornado This Year | ⇒ Ham Happenings: N6R - The Reagan Field Day Commemorative Station | ⇒ Field Day 2009 |
| ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-015E - Resignation of Midwest Director | ⇒ Follow-Up: IMPD Hold First Test Session | |
| ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-014E - RAC Canada Day Contest July 1, 2009 | ⇒ Special Event: VE7IYOA Celebrating The International Year Of Astronomy | |
| ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-013E - New RAC representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. | ⇒ Propagation News: New Solar Cycle 24 Website | |
| ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-011E - Renewed Memorandum of | | |

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on May 14, 2009 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 June 11, 2009. This meeting's topic is "Remembering Field Days Past", which will be a joint effort by Doug Elliott – VA3DAE, Dave Steels – VE3UZ and Pat Ross – VE3CNX.

L.A.R.C. Executive Appreciation to L.S.A.R.C.

The executive of the London Amateur Radio Club would like to thank the members of the former London Seniors Amateur Radio Club for their kind donation. The money will be put toward the operation of the club and the promotion of the amateur radio hobby.

Membership Certificates

The Club has created membership certificates for its current members. You can see your own certificate at the following link. <http://www.larc.ca/member-list.htm>

Simply click on your surname and it will bring up a PDF of your certificate suitable for printing.

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

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

Title	Name, Callsign
President	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT
Vice-President	Pat Ross, VE3CNX
Treasurer	Dave Steels, VE3UZ
Past President	Gord Baker, VE3GB
Secretary	Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO
Director, Flea Market	Ann Rundle, VA3EOR
Director, Membership	Shirley McCall, 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 Coordinator	Pat Ross, VE3CNX
Field Day Assistant Coordinator	Tony Drawmer, VE3SQU
Repeater Operator / Programmer	David Young, VE3EAY
Newsletter	John Visser, VA3MSV

Nominations For The 2009/2010 L.A.R.C. Executive

Past President - Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

Directors - Doug Elliott, VA3DAE
Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO
David Lambert, VE3K GK
David Steels, VE3UZ
Patrick Ross, VE3CNX
Ann Rundle, VE3EOR
John Visser, VA3MSV

Appointments (non-voting)

Auditor	William Clothier, VE3BCU
CANWARN Coordinator, ARES	Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG
Repeater Coordinator	Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

Local Repeaters

LARC Repeaters

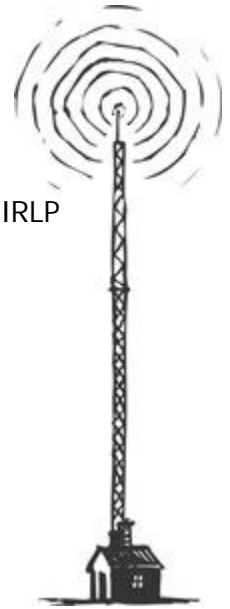
London VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz
 London VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

SORT Repeaters

London VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz 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	7.055 MHz LSB	Sunday 12:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	7.153 MHz	Sunday 1:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	7.055 MHz	Sunday 3:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	3.742 MHz	Sunday 7:15 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	IRLP Reflector 9005	Sunday 8:00 pm
LARC 2m Net	147.060 + VA3LON	Monday 8:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Net	145.450 + VE3OME	Wednesday 7:30 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	IRLP Reflector 9005	Wednesday 8:00 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., May 14, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting
- Sat., May 23, 2009 [CNIB HAMFEST 2009](#) - CNIB Amateur Radio Program
CNIB Centre, 1929 Bayview Ave. Toronto - North of Eglinton Ave - south of Lawrence Ave
- Sat., Jun. 6, 2009 [Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket](#) - GARC & KWARC
Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex, 550 Belsyde Ave. E., Fergus, Ontario
- Sat., Jun. 6, 2009 to [VE3MIS Special Event Operation](#) - Mississauga Amateur Radio Club
- Sun., Jun. 7, 2009 [Streetsville Bread and Honey Festival](#) 28.480 21.315 14.240 7.230 MHz. For certificate send QSL request with a return envelope to Michael Brickell, VE3TKI, 2801 Bucklepost Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, L5N 1X6.
- 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., Aug 15, 2009 [Hamfest 2009](#) - Brantford Amateur Radio Club
From London: Take Hwy 403 East to Hwy 24 South. Go South on Hwy 24 to Hwy 53(traffic lights). Turn right (West) onto Hwy 53 to Burford. Watch for the "Hamfest" signs. The hamfest is held in the Burford Fairgrounds.
- Sat., Sep. 12, 2009 [Ottawa Amateur Radio Club 13th Annual Hamfest](#) - Ottawa Amateur Radio Club
Carp Agricultural Fairgrounds, 3832 Carp Road, Ottawa (Carp), Ontario
- Sat., Sep. 12, 2009 [Barrie-Orillia Hamfest](#) - Barrie Amateur Radio Club & Orillia Amateur Radio Club
Located at the Oro-Medonte Fairgrounds. North on Hwy 400 to Hwy 11. North on Hwy 11 to 7th line of Oro-Medonte. Go towards the Airport, and just past the Airport (follow the Hamfest Signs). Lat/Long - 44° 30' 12" N W 79° 33' 17"°
- Sun., Sep. 27, 2009 [L.A.R.C. 32nd Annual Fleamarket](#) – London Amateur Radio Club
Located at the Western Fairgrounds Special Events Building.
- Sat., Oct. 24, 2009 York Region ARC Hamfest - 33rd Edition – York Region ARC
Located at the Markham Fair Grounds, 10801 McGowan Road, just north of Elgin Mills Rd

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

2009/2010 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections

It is that time of year again for us to think about the lineup for the club's executive members for 2009-2010.

Every May we decide who will be responsible for the handling of the money, physical resources, and determining the future direction of the club.

The club's executive requires at least 7 members each year and if you are interested, we request that you make yourself available one night per month to go over club business.

Some of us have been on the executive for several years and enjoy the experience.

We have some simple rules

1. Any current member of the club can request to be a member of the club's executive and added to the ballot.
1. Only members in good standing can vote (must be a paid member)
2. We must have a quorum (at least 25 members in good standing) in order to hold a valid election.

Some of the activities that require planning, coordination or at least some monthly discussions: Monthly meeting topics, fund raising, flea market, field day, repeaters & other equipment, extra activities.

We currently meet the 4th Thursday of the month from 7pm to about 9pm. All club members are invited to attend any executive meeting. If you have some interest but are unsure, and want to come and see what we do, just check with one of the executive as to where we are meeting.

The next page is a snip from the club's by-laws that specifically deal with the election process.

2009/2010 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections

from the LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED - BY-LAW #1

3. Board of Directors

3.1 The day-to-day affairs of the Corporation shall be arranged by a Board of Directors composed of 7 selected Directors, 1 non-voting Director appointed by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Past President of the Corporation.

3.3 To be eligible to stand for election to the Board of Directors one must be a member in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting at which members of the Board of Directors will be elected.

This year's Annual Meeting will be held May 14, 2009.

3.4 A Nominating Committee shall be struck by the President at least 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting and it shall begin its activities immediately upon being appointed.

3.4.1 The Committee shall be composed of three members in good standing. The Past President shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.

3.5 The recommendations of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board shall cause such report to be published in the LARC Newsletter, that will be sent to all members in good standing as notice of the Annual Meeting. Such report shall also outline the procedure pertaining to additional nominations.

3.6 Additional nominations may be received by the Secretary up to 12 hours prior to the Annual Meeting if submitted by a member in good standing supported by the written agreement of 4 other members and the written acceptance of the nominee.

3.7 The election of the Board of Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting of LARC. The Directors shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members. The Directors shall take office on July 1 of that year.

Please contact the LARC Secretary, Ruth Dahl VE3RBO, if you have any nominees or questions. You can reach her at ragann61@hotmail.com.

PROPOSAL BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP (April 2009)

Last summer, the London Seniors Amateur Radio Club began the process of dissolving their club. One of the outcomes of this action included the Seniors club offering to donate the remaining balance of their funds to the London Amateur Radio Club. In return for this proposal, the LARC executive offered to grant the current members of the London Seniors Amateur Radio Club lifetime memberships in LARC upon the dissolution of the Seniors club.

The LARC executive acted in good faith but inadvertently overlooked a twenty year old amendment to the constitution that eliminated the "Life member" as an option.

To correct this oversight, the executive now proposes that the former members of the London Seniors Amateur Radio Club be granted "**Honorary Member**" status instead. This is allowed by the constitution, as currently prescribed.

The Honorary member description is listed below. To grant this status requires a majority vote of a quorum of the membership.

Such vote will take place at the annual general meeting on May 14, 2009. Only members of LARC in good standing will have a vote. If you are unable to attend the May meeting you may vote by proxy. Send the signed ballot found on the last page of this newsletter with another member who will be attending or mail to the club. If mailed, the ballot must be received prior to the day of the vote.

London Amateur Radio Club Inc.
P.O. Box 82, Station B
London, ON N6A 4V3

6. Membership (excerpt from constitution)

6.1 Membership is open to anyone with a genuine interest in amateur radio and is not restricted to licensed radio amateurs.

6.2 There shall be four classes of membership.

- a) **Honourary:** An Honourary member is one who has been recommended by the Board of Directors for Honourary member status and has been approved by a majority vote at any General meeting.
- b) **Amateur:** An Amateur member is one who holds a valid Canadian Certificate of Proficiency in Radio (or its equivalent) or who holds a similar certificate issued by another country recognized by the IARU.
- c) **Short Wave Listener (SWL):** A Short Wave Listener (SWL) member is one who does not hold a valid Canadian Certificate of Proficiency in Radio (or its equivalent) but who exhibits a genuine interest in the amateur radio hobby.
- d) **Family:** A Family member is one who is qualified for Amateur or Short Wave Listener member status but who is residing with an immediate family member who holds such a membership.

First Ontario Tornado This Year

(from

http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/warnings/SWS_bulletins_e.html?prov=on)

Issued by Environment Canada Toronto at 5:33 PM EDT Monday 27 April 2009.

The first confirmed tornado of the season for Ontario...

After receiving reports of funnel clouds and a possible tornado in the Windsor area Saturday evening, an environment Canada damage survey team was sent out earlier today. After speaking with some eyewitnesses to the event and viewing the damage, Environment Canada is confirming Ontario's first tornado of the 2009 season. The tornado briefly occurred near the intersection of Hanna st east and langlois avenue in Windsor. It did minor roof damage to a union hall and Debris from the roof also did some damage to homes to the southeast of the union hall. The tornado was rated as a Fujita scale zero event with maximum winds around 90 kilometres per hour. This is the lowest rating on the Fujita scale which goes from zero to five.

Environment Canada personnel are continuing to investigate damage from Saturday's storms that occurred in the Ottawa area. Some of this damage may also have been related to tornadoes. An update on this investigation will be issued on Tuesday.

RAC Bulletin 2009-015E - Resignation of Midwest Director

May 5, 2009

Due to increased demands on his personal and career schedules, Midwest Director Devon Racicot, VE5DWR, has regretfully submitted his resignation from the Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors. The RAC Board and Executive extends sincere thanks to Devon for his past service, and best wishes for the future.

As required by the RAC By-laws, a call for nominations to fill the remainder of the director's two-year term will appear in the July-August 2009 issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine, as will nomination procedure details. Qualified RAC members who reside in Manitoba or Saskatchewan are encouraged to take the necessary steps at that time to fill the post and ensure representation for all Radio Amateurs in the Midwest Region.

R.D. (Bob) Cooke VE3BDB
President - Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

RAC Bulletin 2009-014E - RAC Canada Day Contest July 1, 2009

April 22, 2009

This is a reminder that the 2009 edition of the Canada Day Contest is will be held on July 1, 2009. For more information please download the pdf file with the rules at http://www.rac.ca/service/contesting/files/2009_Canada_Day_Rules_-_English.pdf

RAC Bulletin 2009-013E - New RAC representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee.

April 14, 2009

After more than ten years as RAC's representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, David Shipman, VE7CFD, has asked to be replaced.

RAC has then chosen Sam Ferris, VE5SF, to replace David. The ARRL has already been advised of our choice and Sam is already starting his work.

Radio Amateurs of Canada wants to thank Dave, VE7CFD, for the many years he has served the Amateurs of Canada by being on this important committee. We also wish Sam, VE5SF, all the best in his work.

73,

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
Vice-President International Affairs,
Radio Amateurs of/du Canada

RAC Bulletin 2009-011E - Renewed Memorandum of Understanding between RAC and Canadian Red Cross Society

April 1, 2009

A renewed Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. and the Canadian Red Cross Society. Replacing the original 1994 agreement, the MOU updates details and clarifies the role played by Amateur Radio and in particular the RAC Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in time of disaster or other events requiring emergency communications.

The MOU may be viewed in both official languages at <http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/download.htm> under the heading "ARES Documents".

All Radio Amateurs involved with emergency communications should become familiar with the document in order to facilitate cooperation between the two signing organizations.

R.D. (Bob) Cooke VE3BDB
President Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

Names In The News: VE5SF Appointed To CAC

April 24, 2009

Radio Amateurs of Canada has then chosen Sam Ferris, VE5SF, to replace David Shipman, VE7CFD as its representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. Shipman had held that position for the past ten years. Ferris is a well known Canadian contest enthusiast. (RAC)

Malicious Interference

By Peter West, VE3HG

May 1, 2009

I'd like to see is a statement by Industry Canada in response to this question from RAC. What official guidelines are place as to how Industry Canada responds to reports of ongoing malicious interference to an established Amateur Radio network activity?

Currently in Toronto, the ARES Group has had to shut down several repeaters used in its daily city-wide network activity. Three or four individuals with Amateur Radio equipment have undertaken to seriously disrupt the group's daily activity. Recording playbacks and interfering cross-band repeating are now daily occurrences.

Is Amateur Radio a service that Industry Canada is willing to safeguard or is Amateur Radio at the lowest priority level? I'd like RAC to solicit an official answer from Industry Canada in Ottawa. I'd like to see that answer posted in this blog so that all Amateur Radio operators in Canada know what protection they have from misfits who will destroy Amateur Radio public service if they go on interfering unchallenged. Most Amateurs do not have the time, resources or the power to shut the scofflaws down. So what now? Bring back the Licence fee? Take up another hobby?

Joe, VE3OV

ARES EC, Toronto North York

Cell Phone Bill 118

By Peter West, VE3HG

April 13, 2009

So what is happening in Ontario with Bill 118? (This is the proposed Bill to ban the use of cell phones or other distracting devices while driving a moving vehicle.)

Radio Amateurs of Canada has been communicating with the Standing Committee which is creating the Bill. We have also participated in a hands-on demonstration of amateur radio equipment which was attended by Ministry of Transportation staff. These are the folks who are actually writing the Bill. A brief was sent to the committee requesting an exemption for amateur radio operation from a moving vehicle.

Work on Bill 118 continues and RAC has sent the committee another helpful document that outlines three recent situations where amateur radio operators served their communities in times of need.

Several interested Ontario amateurs have asked what they could or should do at this moment. We are suggesting that we await the decision of the Standing Committee in regards to the exemption. If none is proposed then we may wish to move to directly communicating with local members of the legislature.

In all lobbying situations, it's critical for interested individuals or small groups to be seen by government as representing the overall community. Radio Amateurs of Canada has created a good working relationship with the Standing Committee and Ministry of Transport staff. This is working in our favour.

What any lobbying group would wish to avoid is overzealous or unsupported petitions or lobbying by well-meaning individuals. Speaking with a single voice sends a strong message to government officials including elected officials.

As the author of this post and as the moderator for the RAC Blog, I'd welcome any comments or offers of support. They can be sent to me (Peter West – VE3HG) directly at ve3hg@rac.ca

How to get involved in Bill 118

By Peter West, VE3HG

April 17, 2009

An email came to the RAC offices today from an Ontario ham concerned about what was RAC doing about Bill 118 (This is the proposed Ontario Bill to limit the use of cell phones in moving vehicles. There is concern that this could have a negative impact on the use mobile amateur radio use).

In my role as vice-president of public relations and as the one-man working committee working on Bill 118 for RAC I sent him a reply.

What I said was this: First I referred the amateur to this blog where I offered a synopsis of what's happened so far. Here's the link to the posting: <http://racblog.wordpress.com/2009/04/13/cell-phone-bill-118>

But I went on to offer some observations and I made a request. Here in part is what I said.

I suggested that the hams in Ontario (and I'm one of them) haven't organized themselves to effectively lobby government. Some concerned individuals have launched petitions and made representation to the government committee that is drafting the Bill and while these efforts are noble and well-intentioned they leave government officials wondering if the amateur radio community in Ontario is speaking with one voice or is it fragmented.

When it comes to lobbying government, it's essential to be seen as united, conciliatory and most of all determined. So while the efforts of individuals have been laudable, I'm concerned about their overall effectiveness.

I say this after a career in public relations where government lobbying was often a critical part of the job. I don't say it to minimize the work of others or to be critical. I'm coming from a place of dispassionately looking at how can we as a lobbying group be more effective.

As far as petitions go, in my opinion, the time for sending petitions has not yet arrived and quite frankly I'm not convinced that lobbying the elected government officials to protect the rights of amateur radio operators will have any effect as our numbers are too small, our cause too inconsequential and our chance at swaying public opinion negligible (especially with a public which is losing its "right" to talk on their cell phones while driving).

Now having said that, I'm still very hopeful that an exemption will be granted to amateur radio mobile operation as we are likely to get grouped with all other users of mobile two-way radio transceivers such as taxis, delivery trucks, municipal vehicles and others. These groups have paid lobbyists, big budgets and time. RAC has few volunteers, no budget and limited time. Their lobbying efforts behind the scenes have been substantial and I hope effective.

On the bright side in all other jurisdictions that have passed or proposed a similar legislation, there has been some exemption for amateur radio operation.

It comes down to this: If the hams in Ontario (and again I'm one of them) want to do something effective, then we need to organize. So far, I've seen very little initiative coming from the ham radio community.

And when it comes down to RAC, it might help to remember that the national organization keeps running thanks to the efforts of a score of volunteers who are on the national executive team and hundreds of other hams living in communities across Canada who participate through ARES groups, RAC-affiliated clubs and other special committees and working groups.

The bottom line is this: If we want to be more effective, we need to attract more amateurs to join with us in our national organization. That (among other things like Bill 118) is my job at RAC.

I'll try harder. You want to help? Email: ve3hg@rac.ca

Bill 118 Update

By Peter West, VE3HG

April 22, 2009

Ontario's Bill 118 to ban cell phone use in vehicles in motion has had its third reading in the Ontario Legislature and as expected only emergency responders have received an exemption.

This was expected.

The Bill now returns to staff to work out who else should be exempted and why. Radio Amateurs of Canada, speaking on behalf of all licensed amateur radio operators in Ontario, will be invited to consult with ministry officials on the creation of supporting regulations.

Voting on the completed Bill is not expected until the fall of this year.

Speaking on behalf of RAC I (Peter – VE3HG) can say that ministry contacts have always said that it was never the intent that the Bill should impact two-way radio transceiver type communications such as takes place in amateur radio, CB, taxi or delivery vehicles.

Now that intent maybe limited to wired in radio systems that have microphones attached to the equipment. This may, and I emphasis MAY, have an impact on the use of handi-talkies as it would be almost impossible for a police officer to be able to distinguish between a handi-talkie and a cell phone. On the positive side, many emergency responders use handi-talkies and we may well have a strong argument that can be made in our behalf. Time will tell.

Having said all that, there are no guarantees, however, now is not the time to approach members of the Legislature or the minister as they will not have seen the changes which are likely to be written in to the Bill in the next few months.

If exemptions are not forthcoming, then there may well be a need for direct communications but that time has not arrived.

Again I'd invite interested members of Ontario's amateur radio community to keep in touch with Radio Amateurs of Canada and I'd be pleased to receive any emails directly to ve3hg@rac.ca

Working With Your Local Fire Department

By Peter West, VE3HG
March 30, 2009

There's a great article in FireFighting in Canada magazine that mentions amateur radio as another tool to be used during emergencies.

Here's the quote: What would cause your radio system to fail? Do you have alternate methods of communications and if so, how often do you test them? Cellular phones should never be relied on as a replacement communications system. If you have satellite phones, do you understand their limitations and have you trained your staff? Amateur radio has proven to be the one communications link that survives in a disaster, from Banda Aceh to Hurricane Katrina. How well connected is your department to amateur radio and have you ever run a real-time exercise using amateur radio?

If your club or ARES group has been thinking about contacting municipal authorities to talk about integrating amateur radio into the community's disaster plans, this article might provide some leverage.

Many municipalities don't realize how vulnerable their communication's systems are until they fail from lack of Hydro power (Think of the Ice Storm of 1998) or are overloaded by the volume of traffic on the system (cell phones are very prone to fail during localized emergencies).

Right now Canadian trained amateur radio communicators working within ARES groups are serving their communities as floodwaters rise in Manitoba. This level of cooperation didn't just happen.

A Testament To Samuel F.B. Morse

May 1, 2009

A belated 218th Happy Birthday to the inventor of telegraph communications, Samuel F.B. Morse.

Morse was born on April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, Massachusetts. 53 years later on May 24th 1844, it was Morse who sent the words "What hath God wrought" by telegraph from Washington, D.C to Baltimore, Maryland. That single transmission ushered in a new era in telecommunications and set the stage for the vast global data and voice networks that exist today.

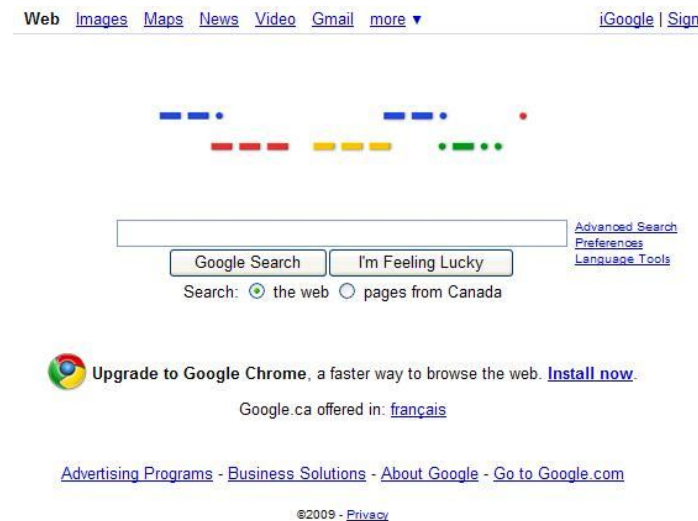
But Morse's influence on communications appears to be in its sunset days. His vision of a vast wired community based on dots and dashes did emerge to some degree but has since given way to wireless communications, with the telegraph considered an anachronism of another century long past.

Most services have phased out the use of the Morse Code having replaced it with automated digital

communications. Even the longtime distress monitoring for the three letters SOS is being phased out world-wide in favor of an automated, satellite-based search and rescue service.

Very soon it will only be the current generation of ham radio operators who will likely be using Morse's simple, but elegant communications system and it's not known if the next generation of ham radio operators will want to carry this nostalgia and legacy on. Let's hope they do because it would be a shame to see the contributions of the great Samuel F.B. Morse forgotten with the sands of time.

By the way, the Google search engine did its share in celebrating. On April 27th it featured some Morse Code right on its front page.



Radio Experiments: UK To VE Marconi Day Success

May 8, 2009

A big success for Marconi Day 2009. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, reports from Nottingham in the U-K:

This year, on Marconi Day, a Marconi official station using Marconi equipment completed a radio contact that was similar to those Marconi himself achieved many years ago.

During the late hours of Friday 24th and the early hours of Saturday 25th April, GB4FPR was operated from the Fort Perch Rock Marine Radio Museum in the Wirral. Using a newly obtained 501kHz to 504kHz Notice of Variation license, they managed a transatlantic QSO on 502kHz with a station in St. John's, Newfoundland. The operators used Marconi marine equipment and Morse and received a 539 report from V01MRC.

It was a crossband QSO with GB4FPR transmitting 1 watt ERP on 502kHz and receiving the Canadian station on 3566kHz.

And this historic note: Fort Perch Rock from there the U-K Marconi station operated for this event was first

built as a coastal defense battery during the Napoleonic era. This, to protect the Port of Liverpool. G-4-N-J-H says that it is open all year round and features museums, exhibitions and of course a tea-room. Definitely a nice place from where to call a CQ. (GB2RS)

Ham Happenings: N6R - The Reagan Field Day Commemorative Station

April 24, 2009

N6R commemorating the lives of President & Mrs. Ronald Reagan will again be operational for Field Day from the grounds of the President Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum in Simi Valley, California. N6R will operate 1800 UTC on June 6th to 1900 UTC on June 28th using various modes on 80 meters through 10 Gigahertz. This will be the ninth year of Field Day operations from the Presidential Library. More is on-line at www.vcars.org (N6ZE)

Follow-Up: IMPD Hold First Test Session

May 1, 2009

A growing number of police officers in Indianapolis have decided to get their ham radio licenses. This, after being told by their superiors in the department to remove all personal radio gear from patrol vehicles. Now they are discovering that there's more to the hobby than idle chit chat. Some are so impressed that they are even helping to organize training and testing sessions for their fellow officers.

From Jack Parker, W8ISH:

As we first reported last February, the Indianapolis Metro Police Department has cracked down on road officers using Amateur Radios without a license. This comes following a complaint filed with the FCC by a local ham.

As a result, the Indianapolis Police Chief ordered all illegal radios removed from police cars until the officers became licensed hams. That forced dozens of Metro officers to race off to the nearest Amateur Radio book store.

Veteran police officer Dewey Runnels passed his test and helped organize a weekday test session for officers working Indy's eastside district. Over sixty officers signed up to take the Technician Class license test.

This called for a response from the ham radio SWAT team. That stands for Swift Working Amateur Testers. VE Dave Wendt-KA9OOH, recruited thirteen volunteer examiners from four Central Indiana counties to handle the overwhelming number of applicants. IMPD provided a training room, the officers lined up, produced an ID and put pen to paper to earn their Tech ticket. The centralized test session allowed officers from three

different shifts an opportunity to work the exam into their work schedule.

Of those pre-registered only one third showed up to take the test. Sixty percent of the officers passed and now await their new amateur radio call signs.

Officer Dewey Runnels, KC9PIY, expects future test sessions to be better attended. He is excited about his new privileges and looks forward to a General Class upgrade.

KC9PIY: "I've talked to a couple of guys that have been able to talk to Canada, California and South America and I want to be part of that."

Future weekday test sessions are being scheduled to accommodate the growing number of IMPD officers wishing to earn their Technician Class license.

This footnote: Don't look for these newly licensed police officer hams to be operating while on duty. Indianapolis Metro Police officials have renewed their original VHF radio license. They plan to give road officers at least 10 VHF channels. This, for point-to-point communications using department-approved radios.

Special Event: VE7IYOA Celebrating The International Year Of Astronomy

May 1, 2009

The first amateur radio special event station for the International Year of Astronomy has been announced and it is VE7IYOA located in Victoria, British Columbia Canada. VE7IYOA will be active from June 1st to the 30th to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Galileo Galilei's first look at the sky through an optical instrument. This Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher is acclaimed as the father of modern observational astronomy. VE7IYOA has a unique QSL card on offer. (VK3PC)

Propagation News: New Solar Cycle 24 Website

May 1, 2009

Wondering where Solar Cycle 24 is? So is Kevin Gibeau ,VE3EN, in Ontario, Canada. And now Kevin has established a web site to track the ever so slowly emerging solar cycle.

The information on this site updates every two minutes and is gathered from a wide range of sources. This saves you the trouble of surfing the web to find all the data yourself. Instead, you need only take your web browser to <http://www.solarcycle24.com> to find it all. (Southgate)

The Solar Cycle: NASA Calls It A Spotless Sun

April 24, 2009

The lack of High Frequency propagation could continue. This, as NASA has announced that the sun has plunged into the deepest solar minimum in nearly a century.

According to the space agency, Sunspots have all but vanished and consequently the sun has become very quiet. It notes that in 2008, the sun had no spots 73% of the time. That was a 95-year low. Now, in 2009, sunspots are even more scarce, with the "spotless rate" jumping to 87%. How long this downward sunspot spiral will continue is unknown. (Spaceweather)

Ham Radio In Space: New APRS Satellites Being Planned

May 1, 2009

The APRS satellite fleet will be expanded in the not distant future. Writing from the US Naval Academy Satellite Development Lab, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, the father of APRS, reports on new satellites with the same APRS packet relay capability as currently operated by PCSAT and the ISS that are now in their development stages.

Bruninga says that their design will use the new Byonics all-on-a-board Packet TNC/Radio/Telemetry system. This makes it possible to build a packet satellite out of a single 3.4" square board. 5 rechargeable batteries is all you need to power this tiny APRS satellite.

No launch dates have been announced at this time. (WB4APR)

Radio Stats: Morse Exceeds SSB In 2008 CQ World Wide DX Contests

April 24, 2009

Even with the poor propagation, more than 10,000 logs have been submitted for the 2008 running CQ World Wide DX Contest. This, according to Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST, who says that's a new record for the event.

But here's the real surprise for those who think that Morse is dead or dying. Cox reports that the number of CW logs have exceeded the number of phone logs for the first time in more than 20 years. A total of 5013 SSB logs and 5272 CW logs submitted.

SSB results of the 2008 CQWW Contest will be published in the August 2009 issue of CQ magazine with the CW results in the September issue. (CQ)

Radio Business: Buckmaster HamCall Database Exceeds 2 Million

April 17, 2009

Buckmaster Publishing' has announced that its HamCall Callsign Database now exceeds 2,000,000 world-wide callsigns, with data from over two hundred countries.

HamCall says that it is the world's largest callsign database and is available on CD-ROM as well as on the hamcall.net website. A typical callsign listing includes mailing address, e-mail address, accurate latitude/longitude, grid square, QSL manager, previous callsigns, photo and much more. And for those who want to have all of this information on their home computer a new HamCall CD-ROM is published each month.

For further information on HamCall and other Buckmaster products please contact: Jack Speer, N1BIC, at Buckmaster Publishing, 6196 Jefferson Hwy, Mineral, Virginia 23117. Or you can e-mail Jack to info (at) buck (dot) com. Either way you will get a quick response for one of the nicest people that we have ever met who is serving the needs of the world-wide ham radio community. (ARNewsline™ via press release)

Ham Radio Promotion: ARRL Releases FD Videos

April 10, 2009

New videos promoting Field Day and amateur radio technology are now available from the ARRL. Both are short Public Service Announcements better known as P-S-A's.

According to the League's Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the Field Day PSA is meant to be posted on Web sites, added to e-mails and shared via the Internet. . The other which spotlights amateur radio technology is meant for broadcast and cable TV.

The two spots were an all volunteer effort on the part of ARRL's national Public Relations Committee. This included Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, who is the voice heard on the Field Day PSA. Its available for download from the [ARRL's Field Day Web page](#). The technology PSA is targeted for commercial TV uses. As such it is a high resolution, 43 megabyte MOV type file that can also be downloaded from the ARRL. Because this version is meant for professional use, it has a formal 60 second lead-in followed by the 30 second PSA. A very low resolution preview version not meant for distribution is also available. (ARRL)

Emerging Technology: Nielsen Says Twitter Has More Quitters Than Joiners

May 8, 2009

Ham radio has nothing to fear from the Twitter instant messaging social network. The Chicago Tribune reported on May 1st reported on a recent Nielsen Online survey that found the number of people leaving Twitter after just one month outnumber the new arrivals by a margin of 3 to 2.

David Martin is Nielsen's vice president of primary research. He says that if Twitter's user retention rates don't do better than the current 40 percent, the service simply won't be able to grow into the Internet social networking giants such as MySpace and Facebook.

According to Nielsen, in March, Facebook saw 69.2 million unique users, representing 41 percent of the U.S. Web audience. MySpace had 55.9 million, or 33 percent. But despite its initial rapid growth Twitter, lagged far behind, at 13.9 million users and 8.2 percent.

No reason was given to explain the massive defection from Twitter but Nielsen's Martin says that if 60 percent continue to quit from one month to the next, the inability to replace defectors suggests a natural limit to growth with Twitter. He expects for it to max out at about 10 percent of the U.S. Internet audience.

As to ham radio, while nobody does regular research on the retention rate in the hobby, it appears to be well above 85 to 90 percent, month to month. (RW, Chicago Tribune, others)

Emerging Technology: College Radio Tuner For iPhone

April 24, 2009

Now here's a new toy that might quickly be adapted for use in ham radio. Backbone Networks, a Web radio service provider, has developed software called the College Radio Tuner for use with the Apple iPhone and the iPod Touch. This is an application for streaming college-based radio stations that works in coordination with Backbone Networks and its partner, the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System and its IBS Student Radio Network.

The College Radio Tuner software is available for free from the Apple Store. The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System maintains the constantly updated station database. The player can provide information and art for currently playing stations, songs and provide a purchase link for the Apple iTunes store.

Now, if some enterprising ham could find a way to adapt this technology to monitor repeaters in a geographic area they too might be available to monitor from

anywhere without the need to carry a separate H-T. (RW)

Emerging Technology: OLED Blue Improved By 25%

April 10, 2009

A promising technology called organic light-emitting diodes, or OLED's has just seen a major breakthrough. Researchers at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have successfully synthesized and tested new materials that improve the power efficiency of blue OLEDs by at least 25 percent. They note that lighting consumes one-fifth of the electricity generated in the United States. They say that solid-state lighting offers tremendous potential to improve the situation once major research challenges are overcome.

OLED's are a multi-layered device that produce light by running an electrical current through a specially engineered host material into which light-producing phosphorescent molecules are embedded. The Department of Energy's solid state lighting program is funding the OLED research. (ScienceDaily)

Emerging Technology: MPEG Surround Designated International Standard

April 10, 2009

Proponents say MPEG Surround is now an international standard, ready for deployment. Agere Systems, Coding Technologies, Fraunhofer and Philips said the Moving Pictures Expert Group has finalized the standardization process at the 79th MPEG meeting in Marrakech, Morocco. The document is MPEG-D standard document IS 23003-1. (MPEG Group)

Field Day 2009



What is Field Day?

Wikipedia defines **Field Day** as an annual amateur radio exercise sponsored by various amateur radio IARU regions and member organizations, in order to encourage emergency communications preparedness. In the United States, it is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country with over 30,000 ham radio operators participating each year.

Since the first ARRL Field Day in 1933, Amateur radio operators throughout the United States have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.

To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component and many clubs also engage in associated fun activities of camping out and having cookouts for the participants. Operations are typically for a continuous 24 hours requiring the scheduling of relief operators to keep the stations going through the night. Additional contest points are awarded for such things as experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts through space satellites and involving youth in the activity.

Who can attend?

The event operates under the supervision of the local radio club (LARC). That means any person, even those without a valid radio license, are permitted to show up and operate any radio on any band. For those of you that have thought about working HF, here is your opportunity to get on the air.

When is Field Day?

Field Day is **always the fourth full weekend of June**, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2009 will be held June 27-28, 2009.**



Here is Christian Hornick (age 11, at the time) operating under the watchful eye of Pat Ross, VE3CNX at last year's Field Day.

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

32nd ANNUAL 2009 FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27th
9.00 AM TO 1.00 PM

VENDOR SETUP: 7:30 AM

BOOK EARLY AND SAVE ON ADMISSION

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

TABLES: \$ 10.00



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

Inquiries: Email
LARChamfest@gmail.com
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 2009 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**

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

Table(s): x \$ 10 _____

Callsign: _____ Total: = _____

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____ City _____ PO code _____

Phone: _____

Talk in VA3LON, 147.060 PL 114.8

N 42.9876 W 81.2213



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 PROXY BALLOT

FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP STATUS OF THE DISOLVED LONDON SENIORS RADIO CLUB PROPOSAL

VOTE TO TAKE PLACE AT THE GENERAL MEETING OF MAY 14, 2009.

The undersigned submits a vote on the proposal to grant the former members of the dissolved London Seniors Amateur Radio Club the status of HONORARY MEMBER in the London Amateur Radio Club.

YES

NO

Dated: _____ X _____

Signature

Call Sign

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