

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
And surrounding area since 1920

June 8, 2010

## L.A.R.C. Executive

### President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

### Vice-President

Pat Ross, VE3CNX

### Past President

Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

### Treasurer

Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB

### Secretary

Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO

### Director, Flea Market

Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

### Director, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Director

David Lambert, VE3K GK

### Non-Voting

#### Director, ARES & CANWARN

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

### Appointments

#### LARC Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

### Repeater

#### Operator/Programmer

David Young, VE3EAY

### Field Day Coordinator

Pat Ross, VE3CNX

**Assistant** - David Lambert, VE3K GK

### Webmaster

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

### Newsletter Editor

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Auditors

Rob Hockin, VA3HO

William Clothier, VE3BCU

## Next Meeting Topic

The next **LARC meeting** will be on **Thursday, June 10**, at 7:30 PM. **Jim Spicer, VE3CTS** and **Tim Spicer, VE3TJS** will discuss "**Terrestrial Digital Television and the Digital Transition**". On June 12, 2009 all full power television stations in the United States had to complete the transition from analog (NTSC) to digital (ATSC) broadcasting. On August 31, 2011 a similar transition is scheduled to take place in Canada. Come out to the meeting to learn about terrestrial digital TV, learn the truth about some common myths and see a live demo.

## Correction to Article – "Dr. David Toth Memorial Service" in May's Newsletter

Thanks to Eric Meth VE3EI, who can remember the '70s much better than I can and tells us that Dave was Frequency Coordinator for the Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Council whereas he (Eric) was Chairman.

Jim Spicer - VE3CTS

## Next Meeting is Where and When?

**Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on June 10, 2010 at 7:30 pm**

All meetings are normally 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.

Next Meeting will be September 9, 2010. The meeting topic is still to be determined.

## Area Repeaters

### LARC Repeaters

#### London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

### SORT Repeaters

#### London

VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz  
Echolink Node 10741

VE3SUE 444.400 + 114.8 Hz  
IRLP Node 2400

VE3TTT 442.200 + D-Star

#### Ipperwash

VE3TCB 146.940 - 114.8 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

VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz  
CANWARN

#### Grand Bend

VE3RGB 146.750 + 173.8 Hz

#### Stratfordville

VE3DPL 146.655 - 131.8 Hz

#### St. Thomas

VE3STR 147.330 + 114.8 Hz  
Echolink Node: 72886

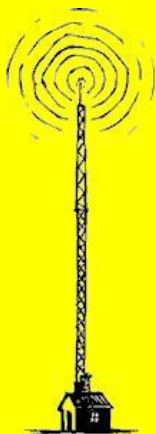
VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz  
IRLP Node: 2482

#### Goderich

VE3OBC 146.910 - 123.0 Hz

#### Whitechurch

VE3WWD 443.075 + 123.0 Hz



If you have a repeater 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.

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

## Mutual Aid

Would you be willing to answer some questions if a fellow ham needed some advice? Got a problem you can't figure out? Want to try something new but need someone to show you the ropes? Check out our new **Mutual AID page** (<http://www.larc.ca/mutual-aid.html>), a new way to get people who are looking for assistance together with the folks who can help supply the answers. **Let us know** what you think of this new facility.

## Membership Report

As of June 8, 2010, the London Amateur Radio Club has 108 members. 11 members fall under the Honourary Membership category. Of the 97 paid members, 24 of them fall under the Family Membership category. And we have 23 new or returning members.

Returning members are members that have returned after several years being away from the club or hobby

## Nets



### Daily

Trans Provincial Net  
7.055 MHz 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

### Sunday

Swap Net  
7.055 MHz LSB 12:00 pm  
ARES Ontario Net  
7.153 MHz 1:00 pm  
7.055 MHz 3:00 pm  
3.742 MHz 7:15 pm  
IRLP Reflector 9005 8:00 pm

### Monday

LARC 2m Net 8:00 pm

### Wednesday

ARES Net  
145.450 + VE3OME 7:30 pm  
ARES Ontario Net  
IRLP Reflector 9005 8:00 pm

### Thursday

PROCOMM Net  
147.180 + VE3TTT 8:00 pm  
444.400 + VE3SUE 8:00 pm

### Friday

Tech Net  
147.180 + VE3TTT 8:00 pm  
444.400 + VE3SUE 8:00 pm

### Saturday

VE3TTT 2m Net  
147.180 + VE3TTT 7:30 pm  
444.400 + VE3SUE 7:30 pm  
146.940 - VE3TCB 7:30 pm  
442.050 + VE3SRT 7:30 pm

If you have a 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.

# 2010/2011 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections

The Executive for the London Amateur Radio Club for 2010/2011 are as follows:

L.A.R.C. President	Doug Elliott, VA3DAE
L.A.R.C. Vice President	Dave Lambert, VE3KGK
L.A.R.C. Past President	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT
L.A.R.C. Treasurer	Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB
L.A.R.C. Secretary	Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO
Director, Flea Market	Ann Rundle, VA3EOR
Director	Mike Watts, VE3ACW
Director, Membership	John Visser, VA3MSV

We'd like to thank Pat Ross VE3CNX, who is stepping down as a director, for his diligence and support as a director, and welcome Dave to the position of Vice-President, and Mike Watts to the executive.

## Exercise Perfect Storm 2010

On Thursday, June 10th, Middlesex County and two of its constituent municipalities (Adelaide Metcalfe & North Middlesex) will be holding a major field exercise. Exercise Perfect Storm 2010 will involve both municipal and County staff and the CERV Teams of Middlesex County and the Middlesex-London Health Unit, and will utilize the expertise of the MLHU, OPP, Middlesex-London EMS, the Salvation Army, student volunteers, **ARES** and many other local agencies.

Please share this information with staff, elected officials and volunteers in your office; it is possible that you could receive a phone call or be otherwise contacted during the exercise.

**Name:** Exercise Perfect Storm  
**Date:** Thursday, June 10, 2010  
**Locations:** Adelaide Metcalfe, North Middlesex and the County EOC at Strathmere Lodge  
**Duration:** Exercise could begin anytime after 08:30h, ends at 13:00h  
Debriefing follows at Ailsa Craig Community Centre from 14:00h - 16:00h for participants

For more details, check in to the Wednesday ARES nets or contact [webmaster@larc.ca](mailto:webmaster@larc.ca).

## Upcoming Events

**Thu., Jun. 10, 2010**

### London Amateur Radio Club Meeting

London Amateur Radio Club  
Held at St. Judes Anglican Church, 1537 Adelaide Street North at Fanshawe Park Road East

**Sat., Jun. 12, 2010**

### London Vintage Radio Club Annual Flea Market

London Vintage Radio Club  
Held at Hammond Manufacturing, 394 Edinburgh Road, Guelph Ontario

**Sat., Jun. 26, 2010 –**

**Sun., Jun 27, 2010**

### Field Day 2010

Various Amateur Radio Clubs  
Various Locations. Contact your local club for more details.

**Sat., Jul. 10, 2010**

### Ontario Hamfest 2010

Burlington Amateur Radio Club  
Milton Agricultural Fairgrounds  
South of Highway 401; west of Halton Region Road 25 (formerly Hwy 25), or locally known as Ontario St. in Milton

**Sat, Aug 14, 2010**

### Hamfest 2010

Brantford Amateur Radio Club  
held in the Burford Fairgrounds

**Sat., Sep. 11, 2010**

### Barrie-Orillia Hamfest

Barrie Amateur Radio Club & Orillia Amateur Radio Club  
Located at the Oro-Medonte Fairgrounds

**Sun., Sep. 26, 2010**

### 33rd Annual 2010 London Amateur Radio Club Flea Market

Located at the Western Fairgrounds  
Special Events Building. London, Ontario

**Sat., Nov. 6, 2010**

### York Reg. ARC Hamfest 2010

Located at the Markham Fairgrounds at 10801 McGowan Road on the North East corner of McGowan Road and Elgin Mills Road.

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](mailto:va3msv@hotmail.com) and I'll add it to the list.

## Antenna Tower Rescue

A YouTube video shows the rescue of a man by Fire/Rescue from the top of a 60ft ham radio tower.

The YouTube description reads:

A man perched atop a 60 foot ham radio tower was reported to be having medical issues going in and out of consciousness.

Headland Fire/Rescue responded and then requested mutual aid from Dothan to assist in the rescue.

Dothan Fire/Rescue dispatched its high angle rescue team. Working together, the man was soon back on the ground where he was treated for dehydration and sent to a medical facility for a precautionary check up.

Henry County Sheriff Will Maddox and Henry County EMA Director Paul Brown were on the scene to make any resources from their departments available if needed to emergency responders.

Watch - Man Trapped on Antenna Tower Rescued by Headland Fire/Rescue Assisted by Dothan Fire/Rescue:  
[http://www.southgatearc.org/news/may2010/antenna\\_tower\\_rescue.htm](http://www.southgatearc.org/news/may2010/antenna_tower_rescue.htm)

## VE7TUB – Bathtub QSO

By Peter West  
June 1, 2010

The Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association, VE7NA, ([www.ve7na.ca](http://www.ve7na.ca)) will host a 24 hour special events station VE7TUB beginning on July 24, 2010 to commemorate the annual running of the World Championship Bathtub Race to be held on 25 July 2010 in Nanaimo,



British Columbia. For more information on the World Championship Bathtub Race, visit [www.bathtubbing.com](http://www.bathtubbing.com).

For more information on special event station VE7TUB visit [www.ve7tub.ca](http://www.ve7tub.ca).

Thanks to Jean-Michel Hanssens, VA7CIP, Media and Community Relations, Nanaimo Amateur Radio Association for this information.

## CBers exempt?

By Peter West  
May 25, 2010

Eagle-eye reader Ken Grant, VE3FIT, noticed the Toronto Star Wheels editor quoting an Ontario ministry of transportation spokesperson as saying that since CB radios are hardwired into the vehicle, the microphones are not considered handheld devices and are thus exempt from the province's distracted driving legislation Bill 118.



We fear this is an issue of the Toronto Star quoting itself from a previous erroneous statement made by a government official before the legislation was passed.

However I've got a call into the spokesperson for clarification.

Having said that: If you want to help fight to get a permanent exemption for amateur radio use by drivers in moving vehicles in Ontario then **please do the following today:**

1. If you haven't already, [please renew your membership](#). We need to show the government that the amateurs in Ontario are part of an organized and determined group (RAC) dedicated to working towards a permanent exemption for ham radio;
2. If you're not a member ([and go read the benefit statement for RAC](#)) ([here's more](#)) please join today (see above);
3. If you are a member, please go to your local club, ARES groups, radio associations or neighbouring hams and ask them to support you and all the other amateurs in Ontario by becoming a RAC member today.
4. Get ready to be asked to [go visit your local MPP](#) with a statement (which I'll

write for you) about why an exemption is warranted and how it will benefit the people of Ontario;

5. Keep reading this blog for more information to come soon.

### One Response to "CBers exempt?"

1. *Keith on May 30, 2010 Says:*

I'm still waiting for the first citation to be handed out against a ham based on all this foolishness. Once that happens, it seems to me that RAC can also greatly assist in this effort by making that information public so that some of us with deeper pockets might be able to help the "scofflaw" create a legal defense fund to fight it.

I remain absolutely convinced there is a glaring, jurisdictional disconnect between the federal Radio Regulations and what the Ontario Minister of Transportation is attempting to impose on our federally-licensed, Amateur Radio Service.

Clearly, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation has absolutely NO legal authority to regulate not only federal, but INTERNATIONAL law, particularly when the Ministry has seen fit to grant blanket exemptions to other, similarly licensed federally regulated radio services.

This is BESIDES the fact that there is absolutely no credible evidence.... NONE.... that the use of amateur radio equipment in a moving vehicle creates a traffic hazard.

This whole issue is just another case of blatant overreach by our provincial government. Indeed, in their myopic attempt to regulate a problem that doesn't exist, they have, in fact, created a glaring, federal-provincial jurisdictional disconnect in the process.

# How to lobby the government

By Peter West  
May 18, 2010

One of our members who live in Ontario noticed that his local MPP was hosting a Saturday afternoon "get-together" for constituents at a local Second Cup coffee shop.



Taking some initiative, Joe, VE3OV, who is the ARES EC for Toronto North York, dropped by and talked to MPP Kathleen Wynne. Joe explained to Ms Wynne how amateur radio operators in Ontario were being negatively affected by Bill 118 and how the time-limited exemption from hands-free legislation should be made permanent. Joe said he got a fair hearing and Ms Wynne said she'd like to learn more about amateur radio and Bill 118.

This is how amateur radio operators in Ontario will get a permanent exemption to Bill 118. It's called talking to your MPP. Do it respectfully. Use simple language to explain what's at stake for the people of Ontario. But, most importantly, JUST DO IT!

## 3 Responses to "How to lobby the government"

1. *Joseph Verdirame on May 19, 2010* Says:  
Kudos to Joe, VE3OV, for taking this initiative! Joe is an asset to our community, a true diplomat who has lobbied long and hard for our rights on many fronts. We will get nowhere by stomping our feet and throwing tantrums. 😊 Both you and Joe, VE3OV, understand very well that we need to maintain our credibility to have any hope at all of enacting changes to Bill 118.  
Joe, VE3LNU
2. *Ken Grant, VE3FIT on May 25, 2010* Says:  
Please read this column from the weekend Toronto Star Wheels section. The Ontario Government continues to

speak out of both sides simultaneously. I have asked the columnist to help clarify the government's position regarding Hams and mobile radio. We can only hope.

<http://www.wheels.ca/article/786120>

3. *Keith, VA3KSF on June 1, 2010* Says:  
Lobbying one's MPP for such change, while a noteworthy gesture, is much like trying to drive your car with your foot on the brake and the gas pedal at the same time: You'll go nowhere. That's because politicians and regulators aren't about to admit that they made a mistake.

Rather than grant a blanket exemption to persons who hold licenses under the federal Radio Communication Act as other provinces have done, our Ontario Government chose to arrogantly play "we know best" and "cherry pick" exemptions to this new law.

And, sadly, the ONLY way this nonsense is going to be overturned for we hams is by a legal test case that results in a court ruling throwing the whole Transportation Ministry's myopic "three year exemption" nonsense in the trash as horribly inconsistent and therefore, blatantly unconstitutional.

That is, it's the Transportation Ministry's attempt to cherry pick exemptions for SOME federally licensed radio users (but not others) that has made both the law (and the regulation implementing it) systemically discriminatory on its face. And I believe it's that arrogant "we know best" regulatory approach that WILL eventually lead to a successful court challenge and a blanket exemption for ANYONE who holds a federally issued radio license.

But, unfortunately, someone with deep enough pockets is going to have to first mount an (expensive) legal challenge to do it.

I find it absolutely fascinating that our gormless "we know best" Ontario Government minions have now seen fit to grant a blanket exemption from the new HST for anyone who wants to sip a Tim Horton's coffee from a paper cup while driving down the highway. Yet, WE must all be "hands free" by 2012! What a joke!

The bottom line here is that the regulated application of Bill 118 was (and is) blatantly inconsistent on its face. And trying to get MPPs to repeal the law (or change the regulations) based on any other grounds is nothing but an exercise in futility. Obviously, most of these clowns don't have the slightest clue as to what amateur radio is about... and could absolutely care less. They have "done something" about those horrible cell phones and that's all that matters.

Besides the fact that there is a glaring federal/provincial disconnect in the law itself over who has the authority to regulate access to the public airwaves, the blatant inconsistency in the way the Minister of Transportation has now arrogantly chosen to grant exemptions to a horrifically flawed law to anything other than unlicensed cell phones WILL eventually be struck down by a court order.

Indeed, this nonsense would all be comic if it wasn't so systemically discriminatory. And the need for someone to legally challenge such blatant regulatory overreach to change it speaks volumes about where our province... and our country... is now headed.

## Supercapacitors May Replace Batteries

May 14, 2010

And finally this week, failed batteries are a problem that plague both cell-phones and Amateur Radio satellites. But Micro-Super capacitors may provide a solution.

Science Daily reports that Berkeley Lab researcher John Chmiola believes he has found a solution in electrochemical capacitors, which are commonly referred to as "super capacitors." This is because of their higher energy storage densities than conventional dielectric capacitors and higher abuse tolerance than batteries.

In a paper published in the April 23rd issue of the journal Science, titled "Monolithic Carbide-Derived Carbon Films for Micro-Super capacitors," Chmiola and Yury Gogotsi of Drexel University, along with other co-authors, describe

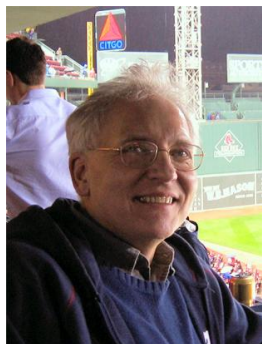
a unique new technique for integrating high performance micro-sized super capacitors into a variety of portable electronic devices through common micro-fabrication techniques. They say that this evolving technology could eventually lead to an end to failed batteries in critical equipment including satellites where there is no way to replace a defective battery once the bird has been launched and is on-orbit.

You can Read the full ScienceDaily article 'Is There a Micro-Super capacitor in Your Future?' at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/04/100426092805.htm>

## Surfin': Got Batteries?

Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU  
Contributing Editor  
June 4, 2010

*This week, Surfin' solves the mystery surrounding our little friend -- the battery.*



When I was a kid, I had a love-hate relationship with batteries. I loved those circa-1959 D- and C-cells when I powered up a toy and that toy performed as expected. I hated them when I powered up a toy and nothing happened.

I hated them even more when I popped the battery cover of my immobilized toy to find that not only had the battery died, but that it had taken the toy with it, spilling its rust-colored guts all over the inside of the battery compartment and beyond!

As an adult (also known as a "big kid"), not much has changed. I still have a love-hate relationship with batteries, but instead of D- and C-cells, AA-cells, AAA-cells and oddly-shaped mystery-cells power my current collection of toys.

In addition to a cornucopia of battery shapes and sizes available today, there have been improvements in battery technology since the "good ole days." Some of the batteries I use are

one-shots, but many are rechargeable and I can recall none that have leaked since an errant cell ruined my favorite toy, [Robby the Robot](#).

Although I have been a battery consumer for more than a half-century, their workings were a mystery to me. Truth be told, as long as they worked, I did not care *how* they worked. But recently I needed to learn how batteries worked, so I turned up a couple of excellent Web sites that educated me on the matter.

[Battery University](#) rightly claims to be "an online resource that provides practical battery knowledge for engineers, educators, students and battery users alike. The papers address battery chemistries, best battery choices and ways to make your battery last longer."

The [Electropaedia](#) of battery and energy technologies "contains a comprehensive knowledge base about energy supply and battery technologies, battery applications, chargers and ancillary equipment."

Whether you are a battery novice or veteran, both Web sites are worth a visit. Until next time, keep on surfin'.

*Editor note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, wonders if someday he can revive Robby the Robot. To contact Stan, send him [e-mail](#) or add comments to his [blog](#).*

## Surfin': Online HF Propagation Application

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU  
Contributing Editor  
May 28, 2010

*This week, Surfin' kicks the tires on a cool new online HF propagation tool.*

Jari Perkiömäki, OH6BG, wrote that [VOACAP Online](#), a Web-based propagation prediction application, is now up and running and making HF propagation predictions between any two points on the globe. (VOACAP is arguably one of the best HF prediction engines available today.)

Just enter the coordinates of the transmitter and receiver sites and VOACAP Online uses the Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program (VOACAP) to calculate the maximum usable frequency (MUF) of the HF path between the sites. The results of the calculated prediction display a "circuit reliability" graph that indicates the probability of achieving a CW-grade transmission between the transmitter and the receiver.

If you're not sure of a transmitter's or receiver's coordinates, you can use the Google Maps-based [QTH locator](#) to obtain that information.



The [VOACAP Quick Guide](#) has loads of information about VOACAP including links for downloading the application.

In addition to Jari Perkiömäki, OH6BG, James Watson, HZ1JW, and Juho Juopperi, OH8GLV, are the wizards behind the curtain at VOACAP Online.

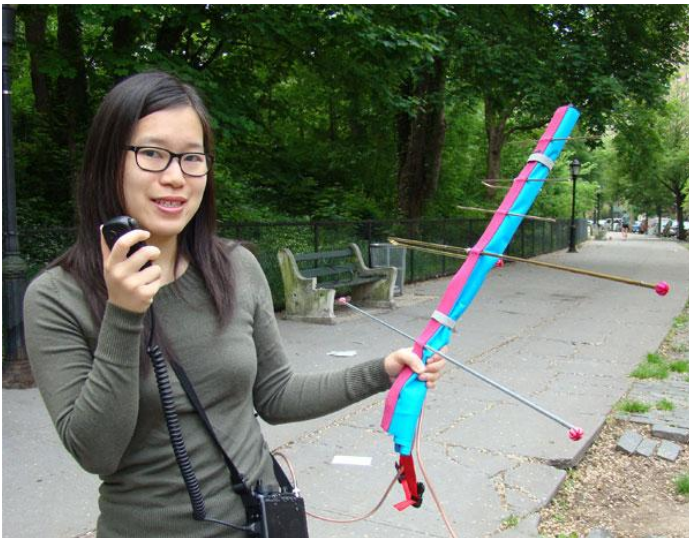
By the way, being an old shortwave listener, I really appreciated the [World Radio Broadcasting](#)

[Stations on Google Map Web pages](#), which are accessible from the [VOACAP Quick Guide](#).

Until next time, keep on surfin'.

*Editor note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, longs for more online ham radio applications. To contact Stan, send him [e-mail](#) or add comments to his [blog](#).*

## Diana Eng, KC2UHB, Develops Collapsible Fabric Yagi



Designer and electronics enthusiast Diana Eng, KC2UHB, has developed a collapsible fabric Yagi for portable amateur radio satellite operation. In her column in MAKE Magazine she writes that one of her favorite ham radio activities is making contacts on satellites. She says that it is really

fun to know that you're controlling something that's receiving and sending communications from space.

Eng notes that communicating with satellites means carrying a big Yagi antenna around. So she decided to use her fashion sewing skills to make a collapsible fabric Yagi antenna that's much easier to transport.

Eng notes that the actual antenna design is based on the work of engineer and writer Kent Britain, WA5VJB. The difference is the materials used in the final assembly. Thin brass tubing is used for the antenna elements while rolled up cloth doubles as both the boom and as a carrying case for the finished antenna. This makes it easily transportable as well as quick to set up in the field or for classroom satellite demonstrations. Full instructions on how to build one is on line at <http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2010/05/collapsible-fabric-yagi-antenna.html> (MAKE Magazine)

## Field Day with goats

By Peter West  
May 20, 2010



Yes there are goats in one of the articles posted in CQ's online magazine [WorldRadio Online](#) that arrived today in my inbox.

There are lots of great articles but the one entitled "Flying Solo on Field Day" was really interesting especially when the writer referred to

Steve Galchutt, WGOAT (I'm not making this stuff up folks.) of Monument, CO, who takes his goats Rooster and Peanut with him on Field Day.

Online magazines may be the future (and this one is pretty good) but I still like the feel of paper. Call me old school.

### 2 Responses to "Field Day with goats"

1. James, VE2KHC on May 21, 2010 Says:  
Greetings! This PDF magazine is very well written — and the ads are truly eye appealing.

Sidebar: I did some of the "14Kers" in Colorado — and their 2M networked repeater system for the state is most impressive. Just think of the coverage when one opens a repeater atop 14,000 feet...I have! It would make any repeater trustee jealous!!

73!  
de James, VE2KHC

2. Graham, VE3GTC on May 22, 2010 Says:  
I agree, an excellent magazine that fills a niche — a no-paper, digital format, full color and full feature magazine Amateur Radio magazine.  
cheers,  
73 es 72 Graham VE3GTC

## Ham Radio In Print: Getting Ready For Field Day

June 4, 2010

Two articles well worth reading in the June issue of Popular Communications magazine. The first is titled Getting Ready For Amateur Radio Field Day and was written by none other than noted DX'er, contester and all around nice guy Chip Margelli, K7JA.

With an emphasis on introducing the fun of Field Day to all hams, Margelli tackles such things as assembling a team to put on a local Field Day event, choosing a venue from where to operate,

deciding on what gear and antennas to use and more. In fact Chip covers just about every aspect of setting up and operating a Field Day station you can think of and many items that might not ever cross your mind.

Getting Ready For Amateur Radio Field Day is a worthwhile read for any individual or group planning a Field Day operation this year or in the future. It's loaded with photos and begins on page 10 of the magazine. (PopComm)

## Ham Radio In Print: Calling For Backup

June 4, 2010

Once you finish reading Chip Margelli's Field Day item keep going because on the next item up is an article by Police Chief Mike Burg, N8QQN. It's the story on how he introduced ham radio as a back-up to an Ohio town's emergency communications system.

Titled "Calling For Backup: Ham Radio Enhances A Police Department's Preparedness," it's the true story of how Burg fulfilled a promise he had made to himself years ago. That being, if he ever found himself in a position to improve communications within the Rittman, Ohio Police Department, that he would do it. The story he

tells is how this was accomplished by adding a ham radio station to the overall emergency communications system in the area while keeping amateur radio separate and distinct from the rest of the emcomm mix.

In his story, Burg takes the reader from his conceiving the idea of the station through its planning, installation and first operation last March 24th. That's when the Silvercreek Amateur Radio Association came in to use it for a local tornado safety drill in conjunction with the National Weather Service and Skywarn out of Cleveland. You will find this one beginning on page 18. (PopComm)

## Field Day 2010



### ARRL Field Day Overview

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.



ARRL Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many

roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an

excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

### At A Glance

#### • Objective

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations

residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

• **Dates-**

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday.

**Field Day 2010** will be held **June 26-27, 2010.**

• **Bands**

Any Amateur Radio band except 12, 17, 30 and 60 Meters.

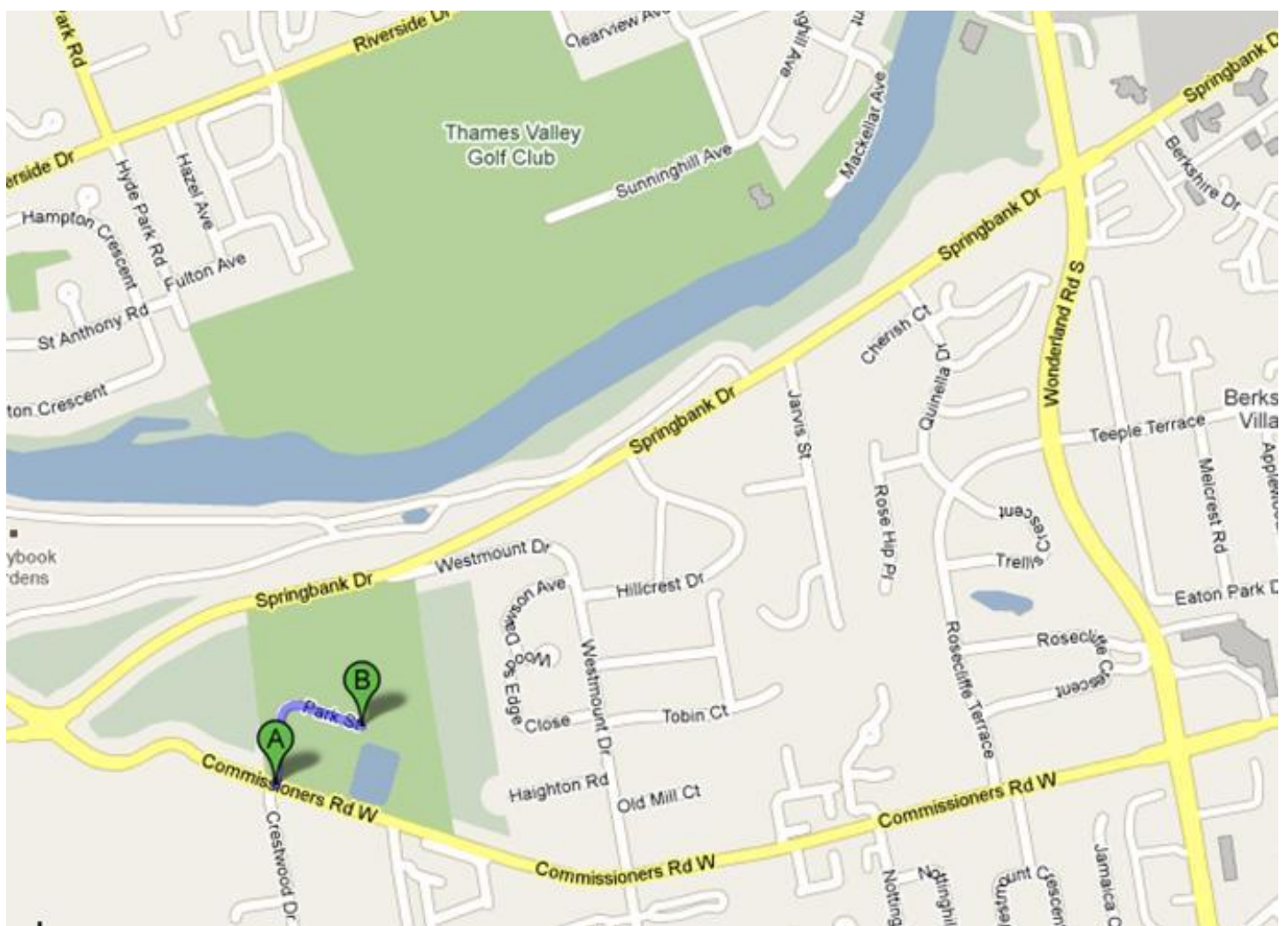
• **Awards**

Field Day is not a contest; no certificates are awarded.

## **L.A.R.C. Field Day**

**Location** - Reservoir Park. Most of us will meet at the Cottage Restaurant on Dundas

Street at Adelaide Street around 9:00am for breakfast before heading to the park.



Location A shows the location of the gate to Reservoir Park while location B shows the general location of the central point of the Field Day site.



The address for the Cottage Restaurant is 600 Dundas St. Parking is available behind the restaurant and between Babaz Restaurant and the May Court Shop

### Current Band Captains

- **80m Phone** - Doug Elliott, VA3DAE
- **40m Phone** - Mike Doncaster, VE3NLP
- **20m Phone** - Kevin Richardson, VA3EAR
- **15m Phone** - Glen Lee, VA3ARC
- **10m Phone** - Dave Lambert, VE3KGK
- **CW** - Currently Open for Band Captains
- **Wi-Fi** - John Visser, VA3MSV and Mike Argyle, VE3XMA

Kevin and Glen's band could be switched around however 20m and 15m should be covered.

**Note to Band Captains.** We will be using a wireless network with 3 Wi-Fi repeaters if needed and N3FJP's Field Day logging software which will be available on site from Mike Argyle and John Visser. Mike and John will also have a limited number of notebook computers available if you do not have your own to use for logging.

If you have any further questions about what L.A.R.C. is doing for Field Day, feel free to contact any member of the L.A.R.C. Executive.

## INTRODUCTION

**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 have camping out and 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.



By way of history, the London Amateur Radio Club (LARC) was formed in 1920 and incorporated in 1978 as a not-for-profit association. Regrettably, records as to when LARC first participated in Field Day activities are not readily available to the writer. However, in



speaking to long-standing member John Watson, VE3EZF, who joined LARC circa 1960, he can recall

LARC Field Day exercises taking place as far back as 1961 on a farm situated at the Southwest corner of Fanshawe Park Road and Wonderland Road, and which was owned by a fellow-member Joe Jefferies (SK) whose call, VE3GB, was reassigned to Gord Baker, a close friend of the family. Apparently there were about twelve (12) attendees, operating two stations on HF and one on VHF/UHF, which John co-worked. He recalls freezing temperatures in

the middle of the night, while trying vigorously to make 2M CW/AM contacts!!

In subsequent years, LARC used the Parkwood Hospital (baseball diamonds), Byron Hill, and since 2003, the Byron Reservoir Park on Commissioners Road west of Wonderland Road. A campsite consisting of tents, tables and a large trailer was setup for 24 hours of radio fun. St John's ambulance provided a mobile generator equipped with area lighting to illuminate the area, making for a very pleasant weekend of fun.

Over these many years John continued to be a faithful contributor to the LARC Field Day event, and could be seen/heard working CW alongside Dave Steels, VE3UZ. John Watson has been a ham for over 58 years and has attended many Field Day events over the span of 48 years with LARC. This year John has committed to be there again.



Anyone interested in ham radio as well as the general public are invited to attend and all are encouraged to participate on the air (under supervision, of course). Children are especially welcome as they represent the

future of the hobby and are most impressed with the campout atmosphere and they rarely decline the opportunity to key the mike and be heard on the airwaves.



The highlight of the weekend is the pot luck barbecue dinner on Saturday evening, when family and friends join with the group in sharing good food, fond memories and quality time.

Thank you for volunteering to participate in the 2010 Field Day exercise. Once again the event will take place at Byron Reservoir Park, west of Wonderland Road on Commissioners Road. **Set up will commence at 12:00 noon Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> June and operations extend through to 2:00 pm Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> June.** We



anticipate putting at least four (4) stations on the air and operating continuously throughout the 24 hour period. And please, bring your family and friends. There will never be

a better opportunity to show them the advantages/capabilities of amateur radio in an emergency situation. Don't forget to bring some food and lawn chairs and join us for the barbecue pot luck starting around 6:00 PM Saturday.



If you wish further information and/or wish to participate/operate one of the stations, please contact one of the people on the cover page of this document. See you there!

73 and Good DX

# LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

33rd ANNUAL  
2010 FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26th  
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



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  
LARChamfest@gmail.com  
Note: All email answered within 72 hrs  
Phone: (519) 238-1542 (Ann)

Make Cheque or Money Order Payable 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 2010 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 1<sup>st</sup> ) and 1 vendor admission is reduced to \$ 4**

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

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Table(s): x \$ 10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Total: = \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ PO code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 October 1 to September 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, it's 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).



Office Use Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Chq	
Membership Card	
<input type="checkbox"/> Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd	
Sticker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd	

**LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PLEASE PRINT

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00       RENEWAL  
 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00       NEW MEMBER

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Member # 1	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

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Member # 2	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

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Member # 3	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

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Member # 4	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Street/P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_ City/Town      \_\_\_\_\_ Province      \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Mailing Address: London Amateur Radio Club  
c/o Membership Director, VA3MSV  
P.O. Box 82, Station B  
London, Ontario, N6A 4V3