

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
And surrounding area since 1920

April 4, 2014

## L.A.R.C. Executive

### President

David Lambert, VE3KGK

### Vice-President, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Past President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

### Treasurer

Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB

### Secretary, Flea Market

Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO

### Director

Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

### Director, Repeaters

Mike Watts, VE3ACW

### Director

Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR

### Non-Voting

#### ARES Representative

Ken Brightling, VE3ETP

#### CanWarn Representative

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

### Appointments

#### Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

#### Repeater Tech Support

John Visser, VE3FDV

#### Field Day Coordinator

David Lambert, VE3KGK

### Webmasters

Jim Morris, VA3AHQ

Tom Pillon, VE3HOR

Simon Wilton, VA3SII/G7HCD

### Newsletter Editor

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Auditor

Rob Hockin, VA3HO

## April L.A.R.C. Meeting

The next L.A.R.C. meeting will be held on **April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.** This meeting will feature a presentation by Jim Spicer, VE3CTS and his son, Tim Spicer, VA3TJS on the subject of "Terrestrial Television"

## RAC Bulletin 2014-011E - Volunteers needed for Dayton Hamvention

March 20, 2014

The Radio Amateurs of Canada will be at Dayton for Hamvention 2014 May 16th to 28th. Last few years, after a decade long wait, the Radio Amateurs of Canada operated a Booth at the Dayton Hamvention. RAC officers and RAC members met with many existing members, signed up new members, introduced themselves to soon to be members, and spoke to hams from the United States and around the world including hams from China, Qatar, Germany, Japan and Great Britain.

RAC is returning to Dayton for 2014 and we are once again looking for volunteers to operate the Booth over May 16 to 18th. Last year we organized a single three hour slot for each volunteer. Your availability will determine your slot and flexibility is the watchword. Please forward your contact information and availability by email to [ve4baw@rac.ca](mailto:ve4baw@rac.ca) with a cc: to our office at [rachq@rac.ca](mailto:rachq@rac.ca). Looking forward to seeing you in Dayton!

Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW

President and Chairman of Radio Amateurs of Canada

## Next Meeting is Where and When?

**Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on April 10, 2014 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 May 8, 2014. This will be our Annual AGM Meeting.

## Area Repeaters

### LARC Repeaters

#### London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VA3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

Currently off the air for  
maintenance

### SORT Repeaters

#### London

VE3GYQ 145.350 - 114.8Hz

VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz

IRLP Node 2400

Echolink Node 10741

VE3SUE 444.400 + 114.8 Hz

ALLSTAR Node 2416

VE3TTT 442.300 + 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

VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz

CANWARN

VA3FEZ 444.100 + 114.8 Hz

#### Grand Bend

VE3RGB 146.760 + 173.8 Hz

#### Stratfordville

VE3DPL 146.655 - 131.8 Hz

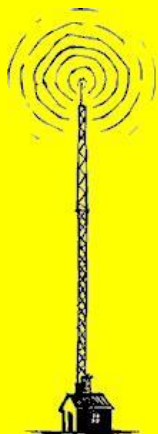
#### St. Thomas

VE3STR 147.330 + 114.8 Hz

Echolink Node: 72886

VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz

IRLP Node: 2482



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. This feature is still a work in progress with the new website.

## 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).

I am not sure we will continue this feature with the member list. Few members submitted a pic of their shack for others to see on the web site.

## 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?

I think we have plans to continue this service. Still a work in progress I think.

## Membership Report

A new membership year has begun.

Currently the L.A.R.C. membership stands at 99 members with 10 of them being new members.

The following is a list of new member for the 2013/2014 Membership Year with the date that they joined L.A.R.C.

Bill Ambler, VE3CFY	Oct 10, 13
Jim Ballantine, VA3JBY	Jun 11, 13
Brian Coleman, VE3DTM	Sep 12, 13
Jay Gall, SWL	Apr 11, 13
John Hood, VE3VJH	Sep 12, 13
Jim Morris, VA3AHQ	Sep 12, 13
Martin Southcott, VA3MRS	May 31, 13
Brian Wilkins, VA3OPT	Jun 13, 13
John Young, VE3ZJY	Sep 12, 13
James Hodgson, VE3HOV	Mar 13, 14

## Nets



### Daily

#### ONTARS Net

3.755 MHz 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

#### Trans Provincial Net

7.055 MHz 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

#### London Senior's Net

146.400 MHz 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

### Sunday

#### 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

147.060 + VA3LON 8:00 pm

#### SATERN Net

147.180 + VE3TTT 9:00 pm

444.400 + VE3SUE 9:00 pm

### Tuesday

#### ELMER Net

147.060 + VA3LON 9:00 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

# 2013/2014 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 2013-2014.

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.
2. Only members in good standing can vote (must be a paid member)
3. 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 7:30 pm to about 9:00 pm. 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 with the proposed changes marked in red.

## Upcoming Events

Thu., Apr. 10, 2014

[London Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting](#) – London ARC  
St. Judes Church, Southwest corner  
of Adelaide Rd. N. and Fanshawe Park  
Rd., London, Ontario

Sat., Apr. 18, 2014

[38th Durham Region Hamfest](#)  
– South Pickering ARC & North  
Shore ARC  
Pickering Recreation Complex, 1867  
Valley Farm Rd., 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Thu., May. 8, 2014

[London Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting](#) – London ARC  
St. Judes Church, Southwest corner  
of Adelaide Rd. N. and Fanshawe Park  
Rd., London, Ontario

Thu., Jun. 12, 2014

[London Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting](#) – London ARC  
St. Judes Church, Southwest corner  
of Adelaide Rd. N. and Fanshawe Park  
Rd., London, Ontario

Sat., Jun. 28, 2014 to

Sun., Jun 29, 2014

[Field Day 2014](#) – Various Clubs  
and Individuals

Sat., Jul. 12, 2013

[ONTARIO HAMFEST - 40th  
Anniversary](#) – Burlington ARC  
Milton Agricultural Fairgrounds, Milton,  
ON. Doors open to public at 9:00 am

### Every Saturday Morning

Starting at 8:30 am.  
Breakfast at the Cottage  
Restaurant. Located across the  
street from the London Police  
Station on Dundas St.

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.

# 2013/2014 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 (A.R.E.S.) 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 8, 2014***

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 L.A.R.C. Newsletter, which 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.

**Additional nominations may be made at the Annual Meeting. Nominees must be nominated and seconded. The nominee must accept and then placed on the ballot. All must be members in good standing for at least the last 30 days.**

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.

**The election of the Board of the Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting of LARC. The Directors shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members present and/or signed proxies. The newly elected Directors shall take office once the election has been completed and the new directors declared elected.**

Please contact the L.A.R.C. Secretary Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO, if you have any nominees or questions. You can reach me at [ragann61@hotmail.com](mailto:ragann61@hotmail.com).

## **RAC Bulletin 2014-012E - 2014 Radio Amateurs of Canada Scholarships Available**

March 27, 2014

Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce that in 2014 we will again be offering scholarships to young Amateurs who are taking post-secondary schooling in Electrical, Electronic and Software Engineering. Students in other fields of study will be considered on a case-by-case basis. You must be an Amateur and the deadline for applications is July 31, 2014.

In 2013, RAC gave out three Education Scholarships of \$500 each to: Paulyn Mulles, VE3PJM, who is attending Carleton University; Jason Deglint, VE7TJD, who is attending University of Victoria; and Liam Bindle, VE5LRB, who is attending the University of Saskatchewan. Each of these young Amateurs received a \$500 academic scholarship to assist their further studies in Electrical Engineering. In their application each one stated how being an Amateur is a good match to their schooling and provides hands-on ability to complement their academic studies.

Shaftesbury High School in Winnipeg also received a \$500 community grant to assist them in becoming

the only permanent Telebridge Station in Canada to communicate with the Amateur Radio Station on the International Space Station (ARISS) under the guidance of Robert Striemer, VE4SHS.

Details on all four categories of scholarships and applications can be found at Scholarships Canada: <http://www.scholarshipscanada.com>

Further detailed information is also available on the RAC Website at: <https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/donations/foundation/grant-info.php>

If you know an Amateur who is studying at the post-secondary level they should consider applying for one of these grants.

RAC would also like to thank all the Canadian Amateurs whose generous donations over the years enable RAC to assist the leaders of tomorrow.

Bill Unger, VE3XT  
RAC North/East Ontario Regional Director

## **RAC Bulletin 2014-013E - Invitation to All Amateur Radio Operators... Consultation on Federal Regulatory Issues of Interest to Amateurs**

March 27, 2014

The Radio Amateurs of Canada meets on a regular basis with Industry Canada on issues of interest to amateur radio operators. Over the years issues such as requirements for operator certification, amateur 60M access, the need for an exam/question bank update, items for inclusion in World Radio Conferences, antenna management issues, spectrum intrusion and other matters have been raised with Industry Canada by RAC.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada is seeking input from amateur radio operators on developing an inventory of issues that should be raised with Industry Canada for resolution. The Radio Amateurs of Canada represents and advocates for all amateurs to our

federal regulator but provides services to our members only.

Your input can be by email or hardcopy. Items raised by amateurs may be published in RAC Report with personal identifiers removed.

RAC is looking for your immediate input. Email and hardcopy to be sent to our office.

RAC

720 Belfast Road. Unit 217  
Ottawa ON K1G 0Z5  
[rachq@rac.ca](mailto:rachq@rac.ca)

Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW  
President and Chair, Radio Amateurs of Canada.

## Industry Canada Rolls Out Updated Ham Radio Question Pool, New Exam Generator

March 13, 2014

Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)) [reports](#) that telecommunications regulator Industry Canada ([IC](#)) has released a new Amateur Radio examination question bank -- or pool -- based on recommendations from RAC. IC also launched a new [exam generator](#).

"This is good news that we were eagerly anticipating," RAC President Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW, said. "We were pleased to work with IC on this issue of significant importance to Amateur Radio operators."

RAC entered into a contract with IC in January 2013 to update the question pool in English and in French -- Canada's official languages. The review team examined more than 3000 questions and 12,000 possible answers for the Basic and Advanced examinations in English and French "and aimed for perfection in every one," the organization said. "Technical and linguistic accuracy were equally important in the review."

RAC said changes included correcting factual errors, replacing obsolete language and examples, making questions and answers clearer, and ensuring that questions addressed current Amateur Radio practices and regulations. Comments elicited from radio amateurs in Canada helped the team identify where changes were needed. RAC wrapped up its work a year ago.

Following the release of the new examination question banks, RAC received reports of typographical or transcription errors in the exam questions. "Fortunately the new system IC has developed makes it easy and quick to correct such errors," said Vincent Charron, VA3GX/VE2HHH, RAC's Director of Communications and Fundraising. "RAC will assist in conveying the information. Anyone wishing to report errors is invited to send these reports by [e-mail](#)." – RAC

**The ARRL Letter**

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Partner Up With RFinder

March 3, 2014

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and RFinder are excited to announce a new business partnership agreement effective March 1st. RAC endorses RFinder as the official Worldwide Repeater Directory for all Canadian amateur radio operators.

The RFinder is a steadily growing worldwide repeater directory including IRLP, Echolink, AllStar, DStar, MotoTRBO, and even Winlink information. RFinder currently have over 175 countries in the directory. Access to the World Wide Repeater Directory is provided by any version of the RFinder smartphone apps on Android, iPhone and iPad/iPod Touch. The same user-id enables access from any version of the RFinder app, the browser interface ([web.rfinder.net](http://web.rfinder.net)), or through a growing list of third-party memory programming applications such as [RT Systems radio programmers](#) and [CHIRP open source software](#). One subscription, access to worldwide repeater data from any computing device on Windows, Linux, OS X, web, Android iPhone and soon on Windows Phone!

Canadian hams purchasing the RFinder application will financially benefit the Radio Amateurs of Canada through the terms of this new agreement.

"Obviously, going forward, we encourage all Canadian Amateurs to consider RFinder as their repeater directory provider. RAC staff and volunteers will proactively work with RFinder on providing repeater

directory information updates for Canada as repeater directory information is a constantly changing environment" notes Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA, RAC Vice-President.

"Our partnership with RAC and the Amateur Radio community in Canada is a milestone in the development of RFinder- The World Wide Repeater Directory. We offer the same agreement with Radio Amateur society's worldwide. This is a unique opportunity for each geography on Earth to have their own branded Repeater Directory while giving their local Hams access to repeaters all over the world, and financially supporting the local Amateur Radio advocacy group. We will translate to any language!" says Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator of RFinder.

Canadian RFinder users will see a new graphic feature; the RAC logo appearing on their app as well.

RAC is the voice of amateur radio for all Canadians and is also a member society of the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union).

Contact information:

RAC: Vincent Charron, VA3GX/VE2HHH, Dir. Comm. & Fundraising - [hq.communications@rac.ca](mailto:hq.communications@rac.ca)

RFinder: Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator - [w2cyk@rfinder.net](mailto:w2cyk@rfinder.net)

## DX Corner

By David Lambert, VE3KGK

until Apr 08	Reunion Island	F5MNV/FR	HF bands CW
Mar 28 to Apr 09	Mellish Reef	VK9MT	DXpedition all bands/modes <b>May have already closed down April 3 due to very bad weather</b>
Mar 31 – Apr 18	Cuaracao	PJ4	HF SSB
Apr 01 – Apr 15	Dominica	J79DB	HF
Apr 02 – Apr 14	San Andres Island	5J0X	80m – 10m CW/SSB/PSK
Apr 03 – Apr 12	Helgoland Island	DA0HEL	
Apr 04 – Apr 15	Senegal	6W	160m – 10m
Apr 04 – Apr 18	Tonga	A35	160m – 10m CW/SSB/RTTY
Apr 05 – Apr 12	Madeira Islands	F5SGI/CT9	80m – 10m CW
Apr 05 – Apr 17	Easter Is	CE0Y	HF
Apr 05 – Apr 18	Bonaire	PJ4H	CW/SSB/RTTY
Apr 05 – Apr 20	Morocco	CN2CA	SSB
Apr 05 – Apr 30	Botswana	A22LL	
Apr 07 – Apr 14	Dominican Rep	HI7	40m – 20m CW/QRP
Apr 08 – Apr 15	Palau	TS8QX	40m – 10m CW/SSB
Apr 09 – Apr 17	Ogasawara	JA1AAI	CW
Apr 09 – Apr 20	American Samoa	KH8	40m – 10m CW/SSB/RTTY
Apr 11 – Apr 14	Fiji	3D2SE	CW
Apr 15 – Apr 16	Antigua	V26MN	CW
Apr 15 – Apr 25	Seychelles	S79SD	CW
Apr 16 – Apr 24	Montserrat	VP2MMN	CW
Apr 18 – Apr 24	San Andres Is	HK0	CW/SSB
Apr 18 – Apr 25	San Andres Island	5JZ0T	80m – 10m CW/SSB/RTTY
Apr 22 – May 01	Lesotho	7P8YY	10m – 15m
Apr 24 – Apr 25	St. Kitts/Nevis	V4	CW
Apr 24 – Apr 30	Crete	SV9	HF CW
Apr 27 – May 05	Ogasawara	JD1BLY	40m – 10m SSB/CW/Digital
Apr 27 – May 11	Ogasawara	JD1BMH	40m – 10m CW/SSB/RTTY
May 02 – May 25	Mauritius	3B8	40m – 6m SSB/Digital
May 03 – May 11	Dodecanese	SX5LA	DXpedition SSB/CW/RTTY
May 03 – May 12	Ogasawara	JD1BYT	All bands/modes
May 04 – May 18	Liechtenstein	HB0DRK/HB0YRK	80m – 10m CW/SSB/PSK/RTTY
May 12 - May 18	Isle of Mull	F4FET	maritime mobile & portable HF bands
until May 23	Nepal	9N7AA	160m – 10m CW only
remainder of 2014	Taehuksan Island	DS4DRE/4	80m – 10m SSB/CW
remainder of 2014	San Salvador	YS1/NP3J	80m – 6m CW/SSB

The Mellish Reef DXpedition has been humming along nicely. Mellish Reef is a sand bar off the north east coast of Australia that measures 600 m by 120 m at high tide. Unfortunately since it is only at most

a few meters above sea level, and it is constantly windy there, any stormy weather would prove to be very hazardous. A tropical depression has built up to the north of Mellish Reef and it has become likely

that rough seas could present a threat to the safety of the operators who are members of the DXpedition. The decision was imminent as to vacating the reef before the seas became so rough that evacuation of all amateur operators would become extremely hazardous. The closing down of the DXpedition may have already occurred by the time you read this.

For those of us who enjoy the competitive thrill of trying to work all 340 ARRL recognized entities, a DXpedition to a "rare one" is a clarion call to action! On the list of the most wanted countries, Mellish Reef sits at the 22nd most wanted entity. It is not one I need, having been lucky enough to work it back on May 7th 1982 on 20m SSB.

For those of you who might have needed VK9MT for a new DXCC entity, I can understand your disappointment. However, I'm sure you will agree that the safety and well-being of those hardy operators comes first. They are still showing as operating at 1545 Z today April 3, but I do not know how much longer they will be on.

I'm sure they will remove everything they can from the reef when they leave since they intend to donate some of their gear to the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides at a location somewhere in Australia.

The following DX operations has been approved for DX Century Club (DXCC) credit.

The 2014 operation of FT5ZM -- Amsterdam & St Paul Island

The current operation of T6DD -- Afghanistan

The October 12-24, 2013, operation of TN2MS -- Republic Of The Congo

If a request for DXCC credit for these operations has been rejected in a prior application, contact ARRL

Awards Branch Manager [Bill Moore](#), NC1L, to be placed on the list for an update to your record. Please note the submission date and/or reference number of your application in order to expedite the search for any rejected contacts. DXCC is Amateur Radio's premier award that hams can earn by confirming on-the-air contacts with 100 DXCC "[entities](#)," most of which are countries in the traditional sense. You can begin with the basic DXCC award and work your way up to the DXCC Honor Roll. Learn [more](#). -- *ARRL Awards Branch Manager Bill Moore, NC1L*

### **A short message from L.A.R.C. President, David Lambert, VE3KGK**

As most of you already know, I am stepping aside as the President of the Club, effective the May 10th AGM.

I will be the Field Day coordinator this year and will try to be available for the Historic Bridges event in July.

I would like some input from those of you who are HF operators letting me know if the HF Corner information is useful to you. I can be contacted at my e-mail address or through the webmaster. If the information is not useful to you (and some of it is available elsewhere if you are willing to search) I will discontinue putting it in the newsletter every month. If even a few want me to continue I will do so. Please let me know. No responses will mean no interest.

Thanks for your support over the last two years.  
David VE3KGK.

#### ***Editor's Note:***

*Personally I think Dave's **HF Corner** has been a welcomed addition and would encourage him to continue to submit each month.*

## **Mellish Reef Update**

March 28, 2014

In DX up front, the Mellish Reef DXpedition team is now in Australia and making ready to head out to sea. According to the group's latest update all of the equipment has arrived, antennas have been tested

and are now stored for the voyage. If all continues as planned, the ship will be fueled and the group was to set sail for Mellish Reef sometime on March 25th. *(Press release)*



## New DXCC Country -- Crimea?

March 11, 2014

Separating out the politics of this hot-zone, Crimea's parliament, subject to the popular vote, expects to become a separate nation:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/0...n\\_4940387.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/0...n_4940387.html)

If so, Crimea will most likely become a new DXCC country sometime in the near future, perhaps as soon as this year, according to DXCC rules.

FYI.

73

Nathan Cohen (Chip), W1YW

## Marion Island Activations

March 21, 2014

Several sources are reporting that ZS1KX, will be leaving South Africa on April 2nd for the Marion Island. He has requested the callsign ZS8KX and expected to be active from the island in May. QSL direct to Gerard de Jong, P.O. Box 744, Wellington, 7654, South Africa.

Also from Marion Islands comes word that a female operator signing ZS8A, has been showing up on

28.650 MHz between 14:20 to 16:00. Reports are that she handles QSLing via ClubLog.

Marion Island lies in the Southern Indian Ocean and is part of a two island group. It is only about 12 miles long by 7 1/2 wide, and the two islands have a combined area of 196 square miles. Politically they form part of South Africa's Western Cape Province.

*(OPDX, Wikipedia)*

## International Marconi Day – April 26

March 28, 2014

Saturday April 26th is when stations around the world will be on the air to celebrate International Marconi Day. This is a once a year opportunity to make contact with historic Marconi locations around the world and to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on the April 25th 1874.

At airtime, over 20 Marconi related sites have confirmed that they will be on board this year's

celebration. These include the historic GB4IMD at Poldhu in Cornwall, England along with VO1AA on Signal Hill in St. Johns, Newfoundland, and W2MRC at Monmouth Junction in New Jersey.

All stations planning to participate are urged to register in advance. Full details are at [www.gb4imd.com](http://www.gb4imd.com).

*(IMD)*

## "Amateur Radio: Your Gateway to Wireless Communication" is World Amateur Radio Day 2014 Theme

February 20, 2014

The International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](http://www.iaru.org)) Administrative Council has designated "Amateur Radio: Your Gateway to Wireless Communication" as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2014. World Amateur Radio Day is celebrated each year on April 18 to recognize the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in Paris in 1925. ARRL Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, who had proposed the idea the year before, became its first president. The primary purpose of World Amateur Radio Day is to focus a public spotlight on Amateur Radio and its benefits to countries and communities. This year the IARU and its member-societies around the world will celebrate the organization's 89th anniversary.

Each year the IARU Administrative Council selects a World Amateur Radio Day theme that is consistent with the role and purpose of Amateur Radio and that represents a commendable activity that would cast IARU and Amateur Radio in a favorable light.

As the IARU's [history](#) recounts, in the early 1920s it was generally assumed that the lower the frequency and the longer the wavelength, the better, and "very large antennas and very high power were the rule." Amateur Radio experimenters were the first to discover that the short wave spectrum, far from being a wasteland, could support worldwide propagation. As the rush to shorter wavelengths ensued, however, Amateur Radio, which had proved

the value of this spectrum in the first place, "were in grave danger of being pushed aside," the IARU's history notes.

Adopting the philosophy of strength in numbers, Amateur Radio pioneers met in Paris in 1925 and created the International Amateur Radio Union to support Amateur Radio worldwide. Just 2 years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, Amateur Radio gained the allocations still recognized today -- 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. From fewer than 30,000 licensees in 1927,

Amateur Radio's numbers have grown to 3 million. From the 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925, the IARU has grown to include 150 member-societies.

Several IARU member-societies and associated clubs are expected to field special event stations to mark the occasion. Read [more](#). -- Thanks to Geoff Atkinson, VK3TL, IARU R3 Director, IARU website

**The ARRL Letter**  
[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Local Hams Test the Emergency Station at MLHU

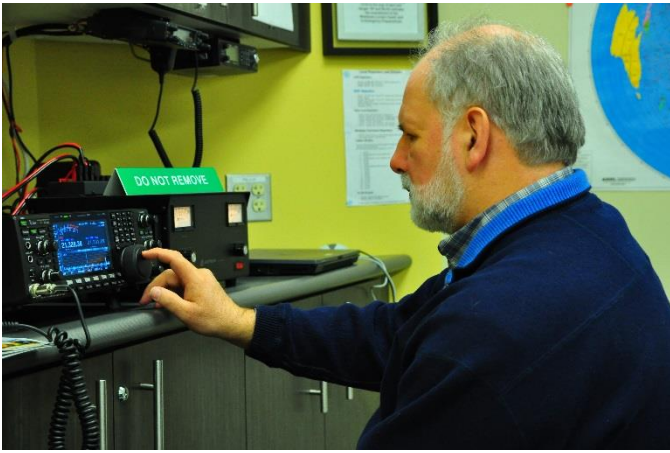
March 31, 2014

Today, March 31, 2014 Ansil Rock, VE3HDR, Ken Brightling, VE3ETP, Jim Morris, VA3AHQ and David Lambert, VE3K GK attended at the MLHU, to test the equipment and antennas at the Emergency Preparedness amateur radio site on King Street in London.

We spent four hours there checking the equipment to make sure it was functional in case it might be needed for communications in an emergency.

Pat Simone, VA3HIS (in the first photo), kindly provided us with sandwiches for lunch.





The equipment was tested and found to be working very well, with each of us taking a turn at the rig, and several contacts were made into the US, and two Italian stations were also able to hear the station with 5/5 signal reports. Initially the bands appeared to be dead but about a half hour after we arrived the signals started picking up and we were able to make sure the HF rig was receiving as well as transmitting.

Pat Simone has agreed that periodic testing of the station's abilities should be on-going. We will set up a schedule to test the radios every few months to make sure they are available in an emergency, if needed.

It is encouraging that Pat sees the need for on-going activation of the station so there can be a group of operators who could turn up on short notice, if needed, to operate the station in an emergency. She completely understands that having a station for emergency communications means that periodic testing to make sure there are no gremlins in the system is paramount in keeping the station ready for activation on a moment's notice. She is setting a fine example of what steps need to be taken before an emergency actually takes place, to make sure that if the need arises, that station can be operable in a very short period of time. She is to be applauded for being pro-active with making sure emergency communications can be established from that site quickly, if needed.

David Lambert, VE3K GK

## Hams Detect Signal from Retired NASA Deep-Space Probe

March 13, 2014

Radio amateurs from [AMSAT-DL](#) (Germany) and [Bochum Observatory](#) detected the beacon signal of the retired NASA International Cometary Explorer ([ICE](#)) deep space probe on March 1 and 2. After some changes to the ground equipment and aligning the receiving antenna to the predicted position in the sky, the beacon signal could positively be identified due to its frequency, the position in the sky, and the frequency shift due to Doppler shift. They used a 20 meter radio telescope. Launched in 1978 as the International Sun-Earth Explorer 3 (ISEE-3), ICE was the first spacecraft to detect the "solar wind"

approaching Earth. In 1982, the spacecraft was renamed the International Cometary Explorer and diverted to the Moon, where its gravitational pull placed ICE into a heliocentric orbit. Support for the ICE mission was terminated in 1997, although the spacecraft transmitter was left on. It was last detected by NASA's Deep Space Network in 2008. --  
*Thanks to AMSAT-DL*

***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Canadian Hams Attempt To Cross The Pond On Two Meters

March 28, 2014

A group of hams from Atlantic Canada will operate from Pouch Cove, Newfoundland, from July 4th to the 12<sup>th</sup>. This, in a bid to complete a 2 meter trans-Atlantic QSO and claim the Brendan Trophy.

The expedition will operate take to the air from Maidenhead Grid GN37 transmitting on 144.270 MHz with about 750 watts into a 30 meter long rope Yagi with a gain of more than 23 dB over a dipole. The group will concentrate its efforts using the digital mode JT65B that offers greatly enhanced

performance over more conventional analog operation. It will also have the capability to operate CW and SSB if conditions warrant.

A special callsign has been requested and will be announced if and when approved. In the event that approval for a special callsign is not received, the group will use VO1NO.

Real time information on operating modes and schedules will be posted during the expedition on the team's web site, the ON4KST website site and

the G4CQM Shoutbox. Facebook users are also welcome to join the group's page at Brendan Quest 2 meter Trans-Atlantic Attempt 2014.

The Brendan Trophy is part of a series of awards offered by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society to

the first amateur radio operators to complete a 2 meter Trans-Atlantic QSO. Further is on the web at [www.brendanquest.org](http://www.brendanquest.org) or by e-mail to [info@brendanquest.org](mailto:info@brendanquest.org) (Press release)

## FT5ZM Team Leader Pens Newsletter Article on DXpedition

March 20, 2014

The March issue of the Twin Cities DX Association's *The Gray Line Report* includes an [article](#) by team leader Ralph Fedor, K0IR, about the recent FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition. -- Thanks to [The Daily DX](#)

**The ARRL Letter**

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## TX Factor Episode 2 Now Live

March 22, 2014

The second episode of the UK's only TV Show Dedicated to Amateur Radio is now available to view at [www.txfactor.co.uk](http://www.txfactor.co.uk)

In this episode Mike Marsh spends a blustery morning with Howard Long G6LVB in the car park at the RSGB's National Radio Centre, Bletchley Park. Howard demonstrates how easy it is to receive telemetry data from the recently launched FUNcube

satellite using the FUNcube dongle, Dashboard software and a simple antenna.

Bob McCreadie remains warm and cozy inside the NRC as he talks to Howard Long and Graham Shirville, G3VZV about the history of the FUNcube project. Bob gets a guided tour of the National Radio Centre with Graham Parry, G7OSR, while Mike is allowed to call CQ in the radio control room

Bob McCreadie, **G0FGX**

## Building a Super Station 30th Anniversary Edition Now Available

March 13, 2014

The 30th anniversary edition of *Building a Super Station* by David Robbins, K1TTT, is [available](#) free for download.

**The ARRL Letter**

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Variability Of The Sun And Its Terrestrial Impact

February 28, 2014

A major university is joining in the ongoing research to better understand the workings of our home star.

Montana State University will be a major player in a new international program to better understand solar activity and its effect on the Earth.

MSU solar physicist Piet Martens is one of the leaders of a team that will investigate a solar paradox, extreme solar events and solar dynamo activity. One of the other two co-chairs is Dibyendu Nandi, a former M-S-U researcher who continues to

collaborate with the university's Solar Physics Group. He is now Dean of Science at the Indian Institute of Education and Research in Kolkata, India.

The new five-year program titled Variability of the Sun and its Terrestrial Impact was launched January 13th by the Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics and will among other things involve reports radioed to the observers and researchers here on Earth.

More is at [tinyurl.com/llzrtow](http://tinyurl.com/llzrtow) (Bozeman Daily)

## **Special Event: HI-SEAS Mission Team Set for Mars "Landing" on March 28**

March 27, 2014

Ron Williams, N9UIK, and his fellow "astronauts" are set to "land on Mars" on March 28. Williams is part of Mission 2 (of four) in the Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation -- [HI-SEAS](#) -- project. The team is taking ham radio along to their simulated Martian outpost, a self-contained domed shelter, where they'll be cut off from civilization until mid-summer. They will begin their ham radio special event from their quarters on "the Red Planet" -- actually in Hawaii -- starting on April 12 at 1900 UTC.

"We will continue to do this weekly for the duration of the mission or until interest wanes," Williams said. Their plan calls for simulating the communication delay that would occur over the distance from Mars to Earth, as required by the project's NASA sponsors. This will mean integrating a 20 minute signal delay into all communications, whether via Amateur Radio or the Internet.

"To the best of our knowledge, this will be unique to any Amateur Radio special event ever conducted," Williams told ARRL in February. "Learning how to deal with signal delay is something that NASA is very interested in. The team was able to obtain the special event call sign K6B for the project for nearly the entire length of the mission, instead of the typical 15 days.

Stations working K6B will receive a commemorative QSL card.

Every Saturday morning at 1900 UTC (0900 Hawaii Time), K6B will call out on an [EchoLink](#) repeater and on 10 meters, to offer information regarding the project and to invite calls. "We will stop transmitting and will turn off our receiver," he said. "During the following 20 minute 'signal delay,' an outside coordinator will line up individual hams wishing to make contact with us. At the end of 20 minutes we will turn our radio back on and begin receiving transmissions." These will be called in order by students at Hawaii Preparatory Academy, KH6HPA.

After logging the call signs, the "Martian" team will wait another 20 minutes before transmitting acknowledgements. A special QSL card will be available. Williams said operational details will be announced as they become available.

The HI-SEAS participants will simulate living and working within a Martian outpost -- a solar-powered dome at a remote site some 8000 feet up on the slopes of Mauna Loa. The experiment is being conducted by the University of Hawaii and Cornell University.

At 60, Williams, a clinical neuropsychologist from Indiana, is the oldest member of the team and one of two hams on this crew increment. The other is Ross Lockwood, VA6RLW, of Alberta.

***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## **HRD Software Acquires Rights To SAM Callbook**

March 7, 2014

HRD Software has announced that it has acquired the rights to the SAM Callbook CD. HRD says that it will honor the current subscriber base and continue to send out the monthly CD's starting in March.

HRD says that it will also be developing a Windows interface for the Callbook. Windows 32, 64 bit and Windows RT versions are planned, as well as incorporating the Callbook data into HRD Logbook. This will provide immediate downloads for United States and Canadian calls from the internet inside of

HRD Logbook. More information about the SAM Callbook CD will be on the HRD Website in late March.

HRD Software has also announced the release of Ham Radio Deluxe 6.2 Preview/Beta 2. This includes many fixes for issues the user-base has found. The list of the fixes and enhancements for Beta 2 is on the HRD website at [www.ham-radio-deluxe.com](http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com).  
*(HRD Software)*

## RadioShack Announces 1100 Store Closings

March 6, 2014

Once a staple of electronics retailing and a ready source of small parts for ham radio homebrewers and electronics enthusiasts, [RadioShack](#) has fallen on tough times. In the wake of a substantial drop in holiday sales and a big fourth-quarter loss, the Fort Worth, Texas-based retailer has announced that it is closing 1100 of its outlets, leaving it with some 4000 stores, including more than 900 dealer franchises. RadioShack's stock has fallen by nearly 28 percent on the news.

Reported weak customer traffic at electronics retailers in general over the holiday season was reflected in a 19 percent drop in sales at RadioShack. Now market analysts have begun sounding the death knell for RadioShack, with some comparing the retailer's numbers to those of Circuit City before it went under in 2008.

RadioShack once offered entry-level short-wave receivers, Citizens Band gear, and a wide array of discrete components -- including transistors, resistors, and capacitors. For a time, RadioShack marketed a fairly popular 2 meter hand-held transceiver, as well as two different models of 10 meter single-band transceivers. It failed, however, in its effort to market a dual band VHF/UHF hand-held radio. Over the years, RadioShack has offered fewer discrete components in its brick-and-mortar stores, moving that stock and other products to its online outlet, as it shifted its marketing focus to cell phones, consumer electronics, and various battery-operated gadgets. -- *Thanks to Reuters, Yahoo! Finance*

***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## JK Antennas And 2X Arrays Announce Strategic Partnership

March 21, 2014

JK Antennas and 2X Arrays have announced a strategic partnership which will combine both design and manufacturing processes between the two organizations.

JK Antennas has fundamentally focused on producing high quality long boom mono-band and duo-band antenna designs that are mechanically robust, with quick time to market of both new and custom designed models directly from their in-house manufacturing facility.

2X Arrays has been focused on developing proprietary antenna design processes ranging from electrical optimization to physical model electrical testing and tuning.

As part of this strategic partnership, the 2X Arrays antenna line will now be manufactured at the JK Antennas facility in Connecticut, USA. JK Antennas will also sell and distribute both lines through its direct sales and distributorship. For more information please visit JK Antennas on Facebook. (*JK Antennas, 2X Arrays*)

## Winamp To Continue

February 28, 2014

Media player Winamp which is a very popular free program used by many hams to recreate MP3 files is not be dead after all. This after America Online offers up some more detail on the fate of both Winamp and Shoutcast that it owns

As previously reported AOL had originally planned to shut down both services but then halted that pending a possible sale. Word is that both of these properties have now been acquired by Radionomy

which is an international collective of online radio stations headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

Radionomy has some 6,000 stations in its catalog already, with an emphasis on a do-it-yourself platform that anyone can use to create a channel. Shoutcast's 50,000-strong catalog of radio stations will be a major boost on that front. Winamp's media playing software will likely help program and distribute those radio stations and offer additional services. (*Tech.eu, TechSpot.com, others*)

## MDSR V2.8 Software Now Available

March 7, 2014

Modulator Demodulator Software Radio or MDSR has upgraded its software to bring radio amateurs the best audio quality out of your existing analog rig. This, by turning it into an Intermediate Frequency Software Defined Radio.

According to the MDSR team, a simple and reversible modification on many analog transceivers is all it

takes to connect the down converter to a sound card of the computer running Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8. MDSR works with any symmetrical HF transceiver. Best of all the MDSR version 2.8 software is free to use for amateur radio operators. More about it is at [tinyurl.com/mdsr-2014](http://tinyurl.com/mdsr-2014). Just click on MDSR kit and Installation. *(MDSR Team)*

## CCTV Replacing CB On I-80 In Omaha

March 7, 2014

And finally this week, is CB radio is giving way to emerging technology? In one area of the United States that appears to be the case.

It does appear that 11 meter Citizens Band radio is taking a back seat with truckers on Interstate 80 in and around Omaha, Nebraska. This after the installation of road watching cameras tied to a control center that alerts those driving the corridor of problems that may lie ahead through high visibility electronic signs.

Tim Persing has been a truck driver for the past 24 years. He says that the new alerting system has taken the place of CB radio, at least in that geographic area. A half decade ago, CB radio was

the only way to warn truckers about upcoming problems on roadways. But thanks to new technology, they are seeing more than they can hear on CB.

Gary Forman is with the Nebraska Department of Roads. He says that truckers do pay attention to those signs. For example if word is put out not to use I-80 bypass on I-680, we see all the truck traffic in compliance.

While this might be true in that one area of Nebraska, 11 meter CB is still going strong with long-haul truckers across the length and breadth of this nation and our neighbors to the North and South. *(Omaha Now)*

## Hams' Experimental VLF Signals Heard in the UK, Europe

March 13, 2014

In what's believed to be a "first," a very low frequency (VLF) signal from a ham radio experimenter in New York was heard across the Atlantic. Bob Raide, W2ZM, was transmitting on 29.499 kHz under a Part 5 Experimental license, WH2XBA/1. His very slow-speed (QRSS) CW signal was initially detected in the UK just before 0000 UTC on March 3 by Paul Nicholson, an SWL, and later by Mike Dennison, G3XDV, and Markus Vester, DK6NM, in Germany. Nicholson also copied a 29.501 kHz transmission from Dex McIntyre, W4DEX, in North Carolina, operating as WH2XBA/4.

"In recent weeks a number of amateur tests have been running from the USA to Europe around 74 kHz and at 29.499 kHz using several hundred watts to large antennas," [blogged](#) Roger Laphorn, G3XBM. He said that signals on 74 kHz were "well copied," but that "the surprise" was detecting the 29.499 kHz signal. "As far as I know, these 29.499 kHz VLF signals are the first amateur VLF [transmissions] to

span the Atlantic -- fantastic results by well-equipped stations using suitable receivers and good software."

Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, who is on the Experimental license as WH2XBA/2, told ARRL that he and several other radio amateurs have obtained Part 5 licenses to experiment on 500 kHz and on 137 kHz. Ziegler, who has been a participant in the [ARRL-sponsored experimental operations](#) on 500 kHz as WD2XSH/23, said Raide wanted to be the first to span the Atlantic on VLF, which he defined as between 3 kHz and 30 kHz, so Ziegler applied for and received the WH2XBA Experimental grant, and included Raide and four others on the license.

"I was ready," Raide told ARRL. His transmitter has a 3CX3000A7 tube in the final, running grounded grid and generating 800 W. The effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP), however, was estimated to be approximately 1 mW. To operate on 10,000 meters, Raide has a 90 foot vertical antenna using a

reconfigured Zepp, fed via a huge loading coil that is 4 feet tall, more than 1 foot across and comprised of some 2000 feet of #14 wire. He employs a few thousand feet of "chicken wire" for his radial system.

The transmission consisted of "XBA" sent at a rate of 120 seconds (2 minutes) per dot and 360 seconds (6 minutes) per dash of CW. In the UK Nicholson copied the signal on software using a PC sound card

with a preamplifier ahead of it. His antenna is a pair of orthogonal loops, each 20 meters square, at ground level, transformer coupled to the preamplifier. Read [more](#). -- *Thanks to Warren Ziegler, K2ORS, Bob Raide, W2ZM, and Joe Craig, VO1NA*

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## **Curiosity Now Has The Ability To Take Selfies**

March 21, 2014

NASA has installed an upgrade operating system on its Curiosity Martian rover and in the process it has given the far off explorer the ability to take selfies.

For those few of you who may not have ever heard the term, selfie is slang for a picture that one takes of him or herself and usually posts to some social media website. And while the rover now has the ability to take selfies, NASA explained the rationale behind this move is to permit it to examine the effects of wear-and-tear on the rover's wheels through photos radioed back to Earth.

Jim Erickson is with NASA's Jet Propulsion Center in Pasadena, California. He says that the reason for making this self-photographic system available is to help to better understand the impact that the Martian terrain type has on the rover's wheels to help with planning future drive systems.

The upgrade is the third such for Curiosity, which NASA says remains in working condition. Once the update is fully tested NASA says it will order the rover to do a series of test drives in smooth dirt to determine exactly how much wear the wheels are experiencing. (*NASA*)

## **2014 Ham Radio Digital Voice Survey**

March 21, 2014

In effort to understand how the ham radio community is currently using digital voice modes or their willingness to use them, we have put together a short survey, which will take about 5 minutes to complete. Your participation is important and the results will be published on the [VA3XPR website](#) for

all to see following the close of the survey on **March 29th**.

[Take the Survey!](#)

Cheers!

Don, VA3XFT

## **A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL**

February 20, 2014

America's "Roaring 20s" had passed and, with them, a period of roaring growth in radio technology. But a large problem had fallen on America, one that began on October 29, 1929 -- "Black Tuesday," the day the stock market crash triggered our Great Depression.

Like everyone else, hams had to tighten their belts during the 1930s. Typical ham didn't have enough disposable income to take advantage of the best advances in technology, so they learned to improvise. Amateur Radio continued to grow, both in numbers and accomplishments. Here are some Amateur Radio and ARRL tidbits from the 1930s:

- January 1930 *QST* announced that phone operation on 20 meters had been authorized.

- By the early 1930s most hams were using crystal-controlled transmitters, but most hams had only a small number of crystals. The usual procedure was to call long CQs and then tune up and down the band looking for long calls in reply.
- The first ARRL "International" Field Day was held in 1933. By 1938 more than 1000 stations were participating. The event had become as popular as the ARRL DX Contest and the Sweepstakes.
- The Communications Act of 1934 created the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which replaced the Federal Radio Commission.



Within a few years, the FCC was monitoring ham stations, to be certain everyone was following the rules and regulations. *QST* warned its readers to be sure their transmitters were operating within the ham bands, because the FCC could measure frequency with an accuracy of 10 cycles per second!

- By 1936 there were 46,000 radio amateurs in the US; by 1939 the number had risen to 51,000.
- The ARRL announced the start of the DXCC program in 1937. In 1938, W3CRA qualified for the first DXCC certificate -- quite a feat!
- League Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, died suddenly on February 17, 1936, at

age 66. After Maxim's death, the FCC issued the call sign W1AW to ARRL. The Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, in Newington, Connecticut, was [dedicated](#) on September 2, 1938, in his honor. The ceremony was broadcast nationwide by radio.

- In May 1936, Eugene Woodruff, W8CMP, was elected by the ARRL Board of Directors as the League's second President. Woodruff was the head of the Departments of Electrical Railways and Radio at Pennsylvania State College.

But then, another World War was upon us. We'll look at hams and the war years next week.

***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

March 6, 2014

World War II began in September 1939 as a European war, just as World War I had. Suddenly 121 of the 250 countries on the DXCC list were off the air. At that point, the US was pursuing a course of neutrality, so American hams were allowed to remain on the air. The ARRL soon issued its own code of neutrality, which resulted in the federal government's appreciative support of Amateur Radio.

Canada, along with Britain and most of the British Commonwealth, immediately shut down ham radio, however. This created an odd situation: The US (and the ARRL), following their policies of neutrality, had to treat Canada as a belligerent; no mention of Canadian Amateur Radio appeared in *QST* until May 1941, when *QST* began publishing the column "The Month in Canada." It is noteworthy that, of the 3380 Canadian hams then licensed, half were in uniform by 1941, some 900 as officers.

In those early war years, before the US entered the fray, some interesting things happened. The state of the radio art had reached the point that long-haul DX could be worked even with modest, low-cost stations. The Byrd Antarctic expeditions put

KC4USA, KC4USB, and KC4USC on the air. Experimenters began to tinker with wideband FM at the upper end of 5 meters (58.5 to 60 MHz). The FCC revamped its amateur exams, eliminating essay questions (and the requirement that applicants draw schematic diagrams) and replacing them with a multiple-choice test. Exams could then be graded immediately at the examination point, sparing the applicant weeks of anxiety.

At the 1940 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors, George Bailey, W1KH, was elected League president.

In June 1940, World War II hit American hams harder, when the federal government prohibited US hams from contacting hams outside the country. The FCC also prohibited all mobile and portable operation below 56 MHz, with the notable exception of Field Day! At the League's request, this policy was soon modified to allow Amateur Radio Emergency Corps drills during daylight hours on weekends, and to allow true emergency communication at any time.

***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

March 13, 2014

As the US edged ever closer to entering World War II, more restrictions were placed on hams. They were still allowed to operate, but only to make contacts within the country -- no DX!

There was strong evidence of subversive activities and clandestine radio stations in America. The FCC ordered all radio licensees, both commercial operators and hams, to furnish a full set of

fingerprints, a passport-type photo, and proof of US citizenship by October 15, 1940.

It was necessary for the FCC to ramp up its monitoring activities, and the September 1940 issue of *QST* put out a call for amateurs to fill 500 new positions as FCC monitoring operators. Those 500 positions were quickly filled, almost entirely by hams. FCC's well-known Radio Intelligence Division was thus supervised and staffed mainly by hams, under the direction of George Sterling, W3DF.

The Navy Communications Reserve and the Army stepped up their recruitment of amateurs to enlist as radio operators and repairmen, and hams again responded in great numbers. In addition, the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration recruited hams to serve as radio instructors. During this period, ARRL inaugurated its code proficiency program, with more than 900 hams submitting W1AW copy of the first certificate run.

Our nation was still in the phase of "positive neutrality," but there were many efforts in which US hams helped the war effort before we entered the fray. One of those efforts was the Civilian Technical

Corps, which maintained and operated British radars, then operating in the upper HF and lower VHF range. One of those early radars was quite important -- Britain's [Chain Home](#) radar system, an early warning system to detect incoming German bombers early enough to scramble fighters to meet the enemy at altitude over the English Channel. Chain Home operated at 22 to 25 MHz. Although that frequency range presented problems, it could be built and put into service quickly, using existing technology and equipment.

Sets of three or four 360-foot towers were built at various locations on the English Channel's coast to support the very large wire antenna arrays. Some of those towers still exist, now supporting commercial antennas.

Next week: I'll tell the tale of a war effort that I became very familiar with by working with some of the hams who developed and put the Proximity Fuze into action. -- *Thanks to Al Brogdon, W1AB*

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## **A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL**

March 20, 2014

One very important, but lesser-known, advance in weaponry developed during World War II was the proximity fuze. Its cover name during the war years was the "[variable time fuze](#)" or VT fuze. Many of the engineers who developed the fuze were hams whom I knew during the post-war years, when I worked at the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University. The following comments are from my conversations with two APL hams who played significant roles in the development of the VT fuze - - Lorry Fraser, W3LMZ, and Ralph Robinson, W5FDF.

When WW II began, anti-aircraft artillery fire was a game of chance. Rounds seldom made direct hits on aircraft. Modern aircraft of that day had a great advantage over the defense provided by AAA. The Navy needed a fuze that would detonate when it was close enough to attacking aircraft to cause major damage. Enter the VT fuze.

The concept of the VT was simple: Build a range-only radar small enough to fit inside the fuze of a 5 inch naval gun, and make it rugged enough to be fired from that gun. But it had to be done with components available in the early 1940s.

APL found that ruggedized hearing aid vacuum tubes could be fired from a 5 inch Navy gun and survive. They designed a radar employing those tubes, which would detect the Doppler shift of the signal reflected from a target, determine when the shell was nearest the target, and trigger the explosive charge. Powering the VT fuze was a wet-cell battery without its electrolyte. When the round was fired, G forces would break an ampule of electrolyte, flooding the battery, and bringing it and the electronics to life.

After many months of development, tests, and trials, the VT fuze was ready for deployment. Robinson received a direct Navy commission, so he could deliver and put into action the first batch of fuzes. The Crosley Corporation was then chosen to manufacture VT fuzes on a production-line basis. VT fuzes had tipped the balance of power from attacking enemy aircraft to the Navy gunners, just in time.

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

March 27, 2014

In 1940 and 1941, the US Army continued its road to full mobilization, holding large-scale "maneuvers" in various parts of the country. The Army needed more frequencies on HF, and plans were made to turn over the entire 80 meter band to the Army. In return, US hams were allowed to use voice on 40 meters for the first time.

Then, on December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered his famous "date which will live in infamy" speech, asking Congress to declare war against Japan. Soon, the US was fully involved in World War II. Amateurs were immediately ordered off the air, with a special exception for W1AW to alert the few hams who were unaware of the FCC order. On January 10, 1942, all stations, including W1AW, were put off the air for the war's duration. ARRL continued to lobby for permission for hams to operate for civil defense purposes, however.

In June 1942, the FCC established the War Emergency Radio Service (WERS). It allowed radio amateurs to supply communication for their communities. An interesting sidelight is that the Government Printing Office was so overwhelmed at the time that the WERS order and information were promulgated via the ARRL and *QST*.

ARRL again offered its and its members' support to the war effort, but this time, Amateur Radio had become a well-known and respected entity within government circles, and the government quickly took advantage of the offers. Because radio manufacturers weren't able to keep up with the military's demands for new equipment, the ARRL put together lists of equipment that hams were willing to sell to the government. Many hams volunteered for military duty, and more than a few times a newly sworn-in military operator would find himself sitting down in front of the equipment he had recently sold to the government!

By March 15, 1942, about 15,000 hams were known to be in the military. Many other hams were working in critical defense jobs. Once again, hams answered the call!

The ARRL and *QST* were soon working hard to issue publications used by the military, by training schools, and by radio clubs throughout our country to train more radio operators and repairmen. In addition, the ARRL started making plans to ensure the reappearance of Amateur Radio after the war ended.

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

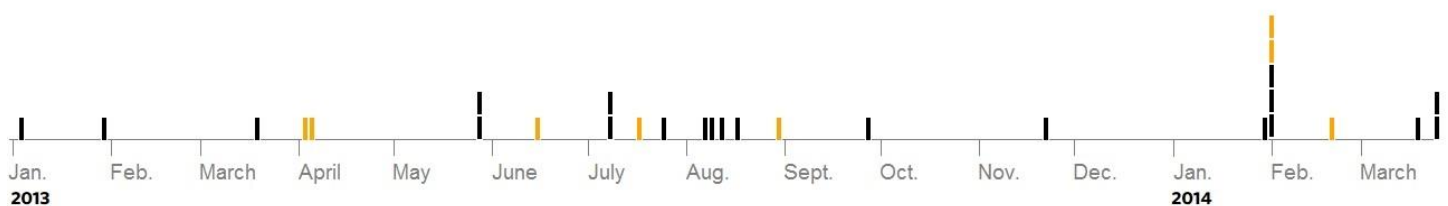
## A Deadly Surge in Tower Climber Accidents

by [Liz Day](#) and [Sisi Wei](#), ProPublica

April 1, 2014

Nineteen workers have died in communication tower accidents since 2013, a sharp rise from recent years. OSHA has announced new changes in how it polices

Key: | Worker Died | Worker Injured



the industry, including tracking what cell carrier or tower owner subcontractors had been working for when accidents occurred. [Related Story »](#)

### **Workers' Names, Ages and Who They Were Working For the Day of the Accident**

In communication tower jobs, workers can be working on T.V., radio or cell equipment. After an accident occurs, OSHA generally investigates the worker's direct employer, who is often subcontracting for another entity, such as a cell carrier. When known, the carrier or entity is displayed. In many cases, OSHA's investigation is still open, making details limited.

Jan. 4, 2013	Michael Rongey, 32, while working for Clearwire
Jan. 30, 2013	Richard 'Ricky' Phillips*, 54
March 19, 2013	Cesar Ortiz, 37
April 3, 2013	Johnny Colby West, 25, while working for T-Mobile
April 5, 2013	Unknown, while working for AT&T

May 28, 2013 Michael A. Castelli, 42; Johnny Martone, 32, while working for Verizon

June 15, 2013 Thomas Jeglum, 24, while working for AT&T

July 8, 2013 Namon Smith, 42; Zachary Roberts, 25, while working for Basin Electric Power Cooperative

July 17, 2013 Todd Hansel, 29

July 25, 2013 Michael Frontiero Cortes, 41, while working for Sprint

Aug. 7, 2013 Payman Biazarikari, 37, while working for nTelos

Aug. 9, 2013 David Huynh, 31, while working for Sprint

Aug. 12, 2013 John Dailey, Jr., 49, while working for Sprint

Aug. 17, 2013 Shelton James Cormier, Jr., 44, while working for Verizon

Aug. 30, 2013 Justin Mayfield\*, 23, while working for Sprint

Sept. 27, 2013 Mitchell Ray Morgan, 25

Nov. 22, 2013 Douglas Klein, 25, while working for Sprint

Jan. 31, 2014 Ronaldo Eduard Smith, 62

Feb. 1, 2014 Kyle Kirkpatrick, 32; Terry Lee Richard, Jr., 27; Michael Dale Garrett (Garrett was a fireman responding to the accident), 28; Unknown; Unknown, while working for SBA Communications

Feb. 20, 2014 Anthony Greco, 20

March 19, 2014 Chad Weller, 21, while working for Sprint

March 25, 2014 Seth Garner, 25; Martin Powers, 38, while working for Union Pacific

Sources: Federal and state OSHA, ProPublica research, [www.wirelessestimator.com](http://www.wirelessestimator.com), News reports

Notes: For injured, workers' age is age at the date of the accident; The date shown is the date of the accident, in a few cases workers died shortly after. B Mac Wireless is not included in OSHA's death count because OSHA classifies it as a crane related fatality.

\* OSHA did not investigate the accident.

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPEN HOUSE

**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014 – 10 AM TO 4 PM**

- *Tour London's Emergency Operations Centre*
- *Check out emergency vehicles and displays*
- *Learn how to prepare your family for the first 72 hours*

**Location:**  
**Byron Fire Hall # 12**  
**275 Boler Rd.**



Preparation you can't live without.

[london.ca/emergency](http://london.ca/emergency)





## International Emergency Response Day

C/O 299 Frances Street, Strathroy, ON N7G 4G9

Phone: (519) 245-1250 Fax: (519) 245-6264

*(Address all correspondence to: IERD 2014)*

**24<sup>th</sup>. Annual International Emergency Response Day**  
**Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**West Middlesex Memorial Centre**  
**Strathroy, Ontario, Canada**

It is my pleasure to extend to you a personal invitation to join me at the 24<sup>th</sup>, *International Emergency Response Day (IERD)*, being held this year on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., rain or shine.

For the first time in twelve years we will be returning to the newly renovated West Middlesex Memorial Centre. This will be an outdoor event so please come prepared for the weather. This change of venue will allow for a greater number of local students to attend without the necessity of being bused.

*As in previous years, IERD* gathers professionals from police, fire, EMS, victim services, and from other front line emergency service providers, allowing area students an opportunity to interact and learn from them about the importance of their jobs in the community.

The day begins with a parade of emergency vehicles that is typically 2- 3 km in length through the greater part of Strathroy-Caradoc. Children of all ages assemble outside of their schools as the parade passes. The parade culminates in static displays at the West Middlesex Memorial Centre. Local children arrive at the Memorial Centre where, with the help of volunteers, they are given timed tours of the individual displays. Students listen, ask questions and interact with staff members at each display before receiving a stamp, signature or sticker on their *IERD* passport from an emergency services worker.

The displays are your opportunity to showcase the very best of your emergency equipment and services to the community. A large group of antique emergency vehicles are always present.

IERD is truly an international event. Many of our USA partner agencies, some from as far away as Pennsylvania, Michigan and New York are regular attendees. I appreciate your support. Most of all I enjoy seeing old friends, and meeting new ones. All are welcome.

For more information, please see the attached map, agenda and registration form.



Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

# **MEMBERSHIP INVITATION**

Our term of membership runs from November 1 to October 31 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).



<b>Office Use Only</b>	
<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

<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER

---

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

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

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

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

---

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



**LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
37TH ANNUAL  
HAMFEST**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 2014**

**9.00 AM TO 12.00 PM**

**VENDOR SETUP: 8AM**

**ADMISSION: \$8.00, (Age 10 and up)**

**TABLES : \$20.00**

**Extra Tables : \$15.00**



**Special Draws: 2 Radioworld Gift Certificates**



**HELLENIC**

**COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Free Parking ~ Air Conditioned

Commercial Dealers

Wheelchair Accessible with Handicap Washrooms

Bring & Buy: Let LARC sell your item(s) at our club table.

**Inquiries: Email**

**[LARChamfest@gmail.com](mailto:LARChamfest@gmail.com)**

**Note: All email answered within  
72 hrs**

**Make Cheque or Money Order Payable to**

**"London Amateur Radio Club Inc"**

**(not to Ruth Dahl) and mail to:**

**Ruth Dahl VE3RBO**

**Apt #805 700 Wonderland Rd N**

## ATTENTION HAMFEST VENDORS

Book early, tables are booked on first come first served basis. 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.

Talk in VA3LON, 147.060 PL 114.8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Admission: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
**Maximum of 2 admissions only**

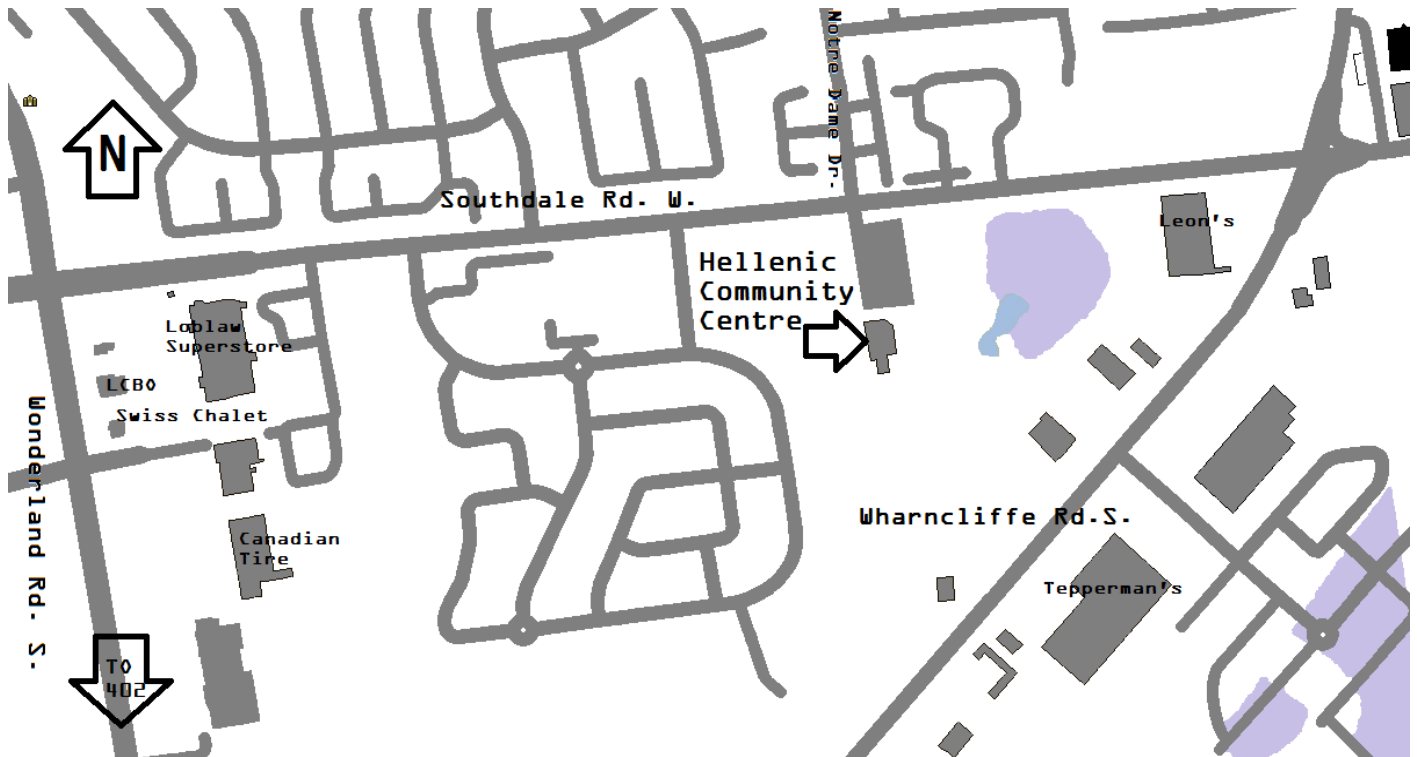
Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra Tables \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: = \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



**Coming from Hwy 402**, exit on to Wonderland Road (Exit 100) and go North to Southdale Road and turn Right. Go East until Notre Dame Drive and entrance of Hellenic Centre on the right.

**Coming from the West on Hwy 401**, exit onto Colonel Talbot Road and go North until Main Street in Lambeth. Turn Right and go East until Wonderland Road South. Turn Left and follow directions above.

**Coming from the East on Hwy 401**, exit on to Wellington Road and go North until Southdale Road. Turn Left and head West until Notre Dame Drive and entrance to the Hellenic Centre on the Left.