

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



December 6, 2004

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The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, Dec 9th, 2004 @ **7pm**

All meetings are located at St. Judes Anglican Church,
1537 Adelaide Street North at Fanshawe Park Road East in London, Ontario,

They are normally held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm EST
during the months of September to June (no meetings July and August).

Meeting Topic – Annual XMAS Pot-Luck Dinner



It is that time of the year again!

The December meeting is the annual Xmas Pot Luck dinner.

Everyone is welcomed. Simply bring along some food for everyone to enjoy.

Some notes:

Although we have always had the hall starting at 7:00pm, normally we would start the meeting at 7:30p to give everyone a chance to go home, have some dinner and get to the meeting.

This month we have decided to **start the 'meeting' at 7:00pm** since everyone will be very hungry.

The club will supply some drinks, buns, plates, knives/forks/spoons. I will be bringing lasagna!

Everyone is Welcomed, bring a friend and a container of food to share with everyone.

Other Items of Interest

VE3MGI Repeater Update

VE3MGI (145.390):

The VE3MGI repeater has gone through some changes recently. The old antenna and coax were removed and replaced with new. The old feed-line was in such bad shape that when cut, the water poured out onto the floor.

The receive sensitivity was very low. A trip to the site revealed that the 25db pre-amplifier on the receiver was blown. It has been removed and by-passed. Parts have been ordered and the unit will be repaired and re-installed at the site as soon as possible.

Some other audio modifications are planned to improve the squelch tail noise. More on that subject next month...

As it stands now, the transmitter seems to be fully functional and although not as sensitive as it could be, decent signal reports are coming in from both in and out of the city.

Is your Address Correct? (Industry Canada)



We have noticed that many of the addresses given on the Club Renewal Form do not match with the address in the RAC call-sign database.

RAC receives a monthly update of all Canadian Amateurs. Even though you are no longer required to pay yearly licensing fees, you are still required to notify Industry Canada of any address changes.

The Club will be printing a directory booklet containing the names and call-signs of the 1,000 or so London area hams. We will be using the addresses given to Industry Canada.

Visit the RAC website to lookup your own call-sign & address information: www.rac.ca

Membership Update...

We currently have 68 paid members. We finished off 2003/2004 with 135 paid members. According to the RAC website, there are over 1,000 callsigns in the greater London area. Please support the club; every dollar helps pay for the services we provide.

Time to renew your club membership



With the September meeting, we kick-off a new season with another year of activities. The startup also means it is time for everyone to renew their membership with the club.

Why become a paid-up member? The club is a collection of individuals that share a common interest. The hobby we enjoy is called Amateur (ham) Radio. Ham radio covers a multitude of topics and because of this simple fact; we are able to organize various activities during the year in support of that interest.

Unfortunately, all of those activities cost money. We pay the church every time we use the church hall (at least once a month). We pay for insurance for several sites including the repeater sites. We pay rent for the repeater site. We pay for the repeater equipment maintenance. We pay for equipment in the red-cross. We pay for the field day event. We pay for a telephone line for the repeater (phone-patch). We pay for the rental of the hall for the flea market. There are many other bills that we pay during the year for but I think you guys are getting the idea.

The club consists of you, me and some of our friends. Together we must pay for these services or stop offering these services.

Currently there are four methods of raising funds for the support of club activities:

1. membership dues
2. flea market revenue (table rentals and door admission tickets)
3. donations
4. raffle tickets

Items #1 & #2 carry the bulk of our revenue but each one barely covers half of our bills.

Items #3 and #4 are very small but for the first time in a few years, the LARC 2003-2004 executive managed to close the books at zero dollars. We brought in the same amount of dollars that we spent and we were not required to cash in the few club investments to meet our monthly commitments.

Every membership counts. Please support the club by paying the membership dues. We would like to continue as a club and that activity requires \$\$CASH\$\$.

Are your friends receiving this bulletin?



Last September we collected hundreds of email addresses from people interested in receiving the monthly club bulletin via email. Each month I received bounced email from accounts that are no longer active. With the availability of cheap (free) email addresses, many of us move around on the Internet leaving our old mailboxes behind. If someone you know is no longer receiving this bulletin, tell them to send a message to the club with their current email address.

Have anything to say?



If you have a comment or announcement that might be of interest to the club, feel free to send me a message and I'll include it in the next mail out.

Our Club Web page is: <http://www.larc.on.ca>

For list of upcoming events:

http://www.larc.on.ca/meet_2004_5.htm