

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



September 2, 2004

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The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, Sept 9th, 2004

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 – Wireless Networking & Mobile Computing



The next LARC meeting will be held on Sept 9th, 2004 and will feature a talk on Wireless Networking by Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR.

Beyond Packet Radio.... For a short period of time Amateur Radio Operators were enthralled with the concept of linking two or more computers together via data radio. 'Packet Radio' was slow (1200 baud) but it worked and proved that reliable data communications via radio was possible.



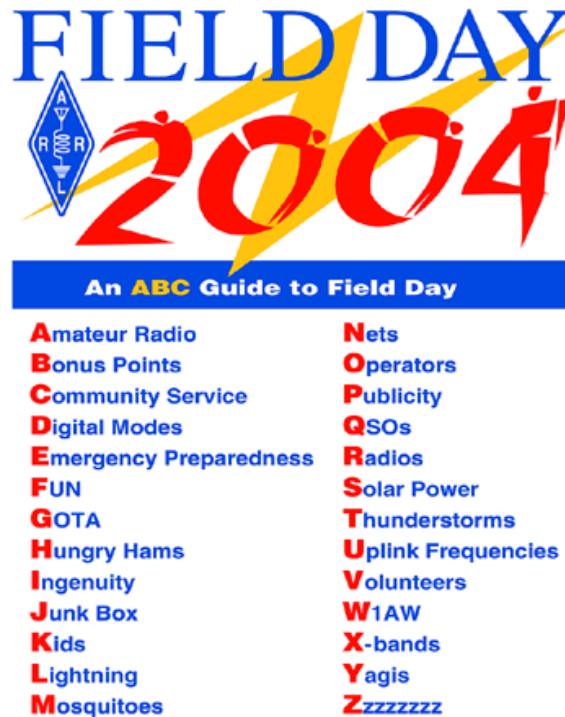
The computer industry embraced the concept with open arms and has continually refined the technology to the point that sub-\$100 equipment is now available capable of sending 11 million bits/sec in the 2.4 GHz band.

The presentation will introduce the audience to the World of Wireless computing using 802.11 (also known as WiFi). The A,B,C's of wireless networking will be discussed (A,B,G actually!) and we will touch on important security issues including the hot topic of 'War Driving in London Ontario'.

- Reference: <http://computer.howstuffworks.com/wireless-network.htm>

Other Items of Interest

Results of the Field Day



During the week-end of June 26-27, several members from the London Amateur Radio Club converged at Reservoir Hill Park in Byron.

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 to keep everything alive and well for the week-end.

Thanks to all involved and special thanks to the computer guys who stayed up throughout the night providing on-the-spot IT support for the wireless network used by the logging computers.

The VE3LON Field Day log for 2004 has been submitted to ARRL; the total score was 1342.

- Reference: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/claimed/>

Local Ham honored by LARC

On July 17th, at the Saturday morning breakfast gathering at the Cottage Restaurant, the London Amateur Radio Club presented Bob King, VE3LSQ, with a Special Achievement Award to recognize his support of and encouragement to the local Amateur Radio Community - London & Middlesex.

Over the years Bob has been a positive force behind ham radio in the London area. He founded the VE3MGI repeater group and has also been a strong supporter of the LARC group.

Present were:

Bob King (VE3LSQ) [the recipient]
Phil King (VE3ZPK) and his wife, Manny
Rob King (VE3RLK) and his family

Mark Bramwell (VE3PZR) }
Tony Drawmer (VE3SQU) } LARC
Brian Bouckley (VA3ATB) }

Al Bernier (VE3LOD) and his wife, Anne
Norm Campbell (VA3XCN)
Marlene Campbell (VA3MNC)
John Pederson (VE3MGR)
John Visser (VA3MSV)
Rob Leroy (VE3MGQ)
Mike Doncaster (VE3NLP)



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\$\$**.

Additionally, I strongly urge every member to support YOUR flea market. The next section will give some details.

Your Flea market is fast approaching – LARC Hamfest 2004

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 27TH ANNUAL 2004 FLEAMARKET

Every year at the end of September, the London Amateur Radio Club sponsors a technology flea market. This year the flea market will be held on Sunday Sept 26th at the “London Western Fair Grounds”.

The flea market is extremely important to the club. It is a major source of revenue and allows us to continue with our various functions and services without raising the membership dues or to put it another way, it stops us from closing the doors due to lack of funds.

The full brochure: <http://www.larc.on.ca/pdf/LARC-HAMFEST-2004.pdf>

How to support YOUR flea market:



The most obvious way to support your hamfest is to **attend**. We charge a small admission for people to enter the flea market. Bring a friend or two. The standard ham-radio flea market of today contains several non-hamradio items and has the interest of a broader audience.

Rent a table. Many of you have high-quality, under-used equipment that is begging to be updated. Seize the opportunity to sell your old equipment and of course buy new stuff! Start cleaning out your closets and garages NOW and have your goods ready for sale on Sept 26th.

Another way to support the flea market is to **volunteer**. We need some people for various activities such as security and setup/teardown on the day of the hamfest. Please send me an email letting me know you are interested in helping.

The real measure of success of a flea market is what happens ‘next’ year. Many of the SW-Ontario area hamfests are dying due to lack of vendors which has the side-effect of buyers not willing to show-up in subsequent years. We are lucky because some large vendors such as Radioworld have already committed to be a vendor for our 2004 hamfest. Radioworld (and other larger commercial vendors) no longer appear at many of the ‘smaller’ hamfests which in essence was the last nail in the coffin of those hamfests.

Bring-and-Buy



This year we are trying a new concept. First let me explain the situation. Many people like to come to our hamfest and look around and have a good time. Not many are willing to rent a table because they might only have 1 or 2 items for sale or they simply do not want to sit there all morning dealing with the endless stream of people asking the same questions over and over again.

Solution: This year the club will have a bring-and-buy table.

Here is how it works....

You do not rent a table but you come to the hamfest as a buyer. You also bring your 1 or 2 items and go the LARC table. We will take the item(s) and fill out a for-sale card that describes the item plus your asking price. It will cost you a loonie (\$1) to leave your item on the club table. When the item sells, you will pay us 5% as a commission. If your item does not sell, you pick it up at the end of the hamfest and the only cost to you was the \$1 that you left earlier in the day.

For example: If you asked us to sell your mobile radio, you might put a \$200 price tag on the unit. You left a dollar behind as payment. When we sold your radio, we keep a total of 5% which is normally \$10. Since you already paid a buck, we only keep \$9 giving you back \$191.00.

The rules are simple:

- We are only willing to sell one or two items per person. We are not trying to displace our normal table rentals.
- It costs a dollar per item to have it placed on our table
- We will retain 5% as a sales commission when the item sells.
- Please be reasonable with your pricing; it doesn't do either of us any good if you are asking an extremely high price for boat anchors. Radioworld is a good place to compare prices because they have both a new and used section on their webpage.

Armchair DX-ing



Many of us have read about the wonderful radio conditions of some far-away place as a bunch of hams loaded up their equipment and headed up for a DXpedition. Wouldn't it be nice to hop on an aircraft and fly to the other side of the world in order to get that rare (rare to you) DX station? Unfortunately, many of us do not have the time or money to go on such a trip.

However there is an alternative... A group of people around the world have setup Web Accessible receivers allowing someone to log into the web site, select the frequency and mode and listen to streaming audio via the Internet. Many of those receivers are both HF & V/UHF capable and can clearly pickup signals that are next to impossible to receive in our part of the planet.

Some local hams, Pat VE3PMK and Mark VE3PZR, have created a London Ontario node on the system although you would probably be more interested in audio from a local receiver in a location a wee bit further away. Check out the website below for more information.

- Reference <http://www.dxtuners.com>

You might have a virus:



Each month I send out this newsletter to about 300 people. Within minutes I start receiving viruses in my email. Luckily I never open the attachments addressed to LARC plus I have **anti-virus software** installed.

This tells me that someone in our group is infected. One of the major anti-virus software makers offers a FREE service that will scan your hard drive. You go to their web page, download the program, and start the scanning process. It might take 5 – 15 minutes to scan your machine so please be patient. It will then list your infected files and ask if you want to clean or delete them. We use this service at the University when someone brings in a 'strange' machine. Here is the link to the site, when the page loads, click on the "**Scan Now, It's Free!**" link...

- Reference: <http://housecall.trendmicro.com/>

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
