

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



April 11, 2005

-
- Next Meeting...
 - Meeting Topic – CANWARN Training

Other Items of Interest...

- ⇒ Foxhunting in London – May 1st
- ⇒ Wanted: Morse code equipment
- ⇒ New LARC executive for 2005/2006?
- ⇒ Field Day 2005
- ⇒ London Hamfest 2005
- ⇒ Adobe Acrobat Reader v7.0 for Windows XP
- ⇒ Is your address CORRECT?
- ⇒ New LARC email address
- ⇒ Are your friends receiving this bulletin?

The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, April 14th, 2005 @
7:30pm

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).

**NOTICE: Due to the out-of-town guest speaker, this month's meeting will
start at 7:30 with the presentation. Club business will be conducted at the
end of the meeting immediately following the presentation.**

Presenter: William Hepburn, Outreach Officer, Meteorological Service of
Canada, Environment Canada, Grimsby, ON.

Meeting Topic – CANWARN Training by William Hepburn



The next LARC meeting will be **CANWARN training**.

CANWARN is a volunteer organization of ham radio operators who report severe weather when they see it to Environment Canada.

What they do is called ground-truthing. They confirm on the ground what satellites and radars see in the atmosphere.

Environment Canada trains ham radio operators to spot and report severe weather. They learn about the structure of storms, the types of clouds to watch for and what the department's severe weather watches and warnings mean. All CANWARN volunteers are encouraged to sign up for the refresher courses which the department offers each year.

- Reference: <http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/severe-weather/canwarn-e.html>

Update on Canwarn 2005 by Tom, VE3OEP

As you probably know Canwarn has been operating in the London area to provide Environment Canada with visual information on severe weather as it passes through our region.

The severe weather season is approaching and Canwarn will begin operations for the summer of 2005 at the beginning of April.

It is currently planned that a training session will be held in April during one of the club meetings. This training is for both amateurs wishing to be spotters and experienced Canwarn members. I hope you will be able to attend.

Canwarn would also like to find some amateurs who are available to run nets in the event of a callout by Environment Canada. The controller would be expected to commit to being available for about 4 weeks during the period from April to October. The weeks will be selected at mutually convenient times. During those weeks the controller will be assigned a pager and will be required to report to the London Central Fire Hall to run the net in the event of a Severe Thunderstorm Warning. We usually try to have one on-call controller to cover the hours of 10 am to 5 pm and an evening controller to cover the hours of 5 pm – 11 pm. This is an ideal activity for a retired amateur who is comfortable with computers, the Internet, and 2m equipment. Experience running a net is not required and training will be provided for those selected.

For further information on being a controller or on joining Canwarn in another capacity please contact Tom Stewart at ve3oep@rac.ca

Other Items of Interest

Foxhunting in London – May 1st



LEARN about, BRUSH UP or just ENJOY the challenge of a LIVE FOXHUNT on 146.550 mhz sponsored by your local London amateur radio club and ARES group.

Foxhunting is the search for a hidden transmitter using Radio Direction Finding techniques.

For more information, contact:
Archie, VA3PTV <mailto:archie@execulink.com>

During the recent club executive meeting, some details were finalized for the first Fox Hunting exercise.

Here is a summary:

Date of event: May 1st (Sunday)
Timings: 1:30pm – 3:30pm
Tutorial: meet at 12:45pm for tutorial and review
Type of hunt: Live fox, not an automatic beacon
Frequency: 146.550 mhz = fox
Cost: FREE FREE FREE

The hunt will start with everyone meeting at the Parkwood Hospital. The foxhunt will be city-wide and will only be conducted on public grounds.

The fox will transmit 1 minute out of 5.

If a hunter finds the fox the hunter wins otherwise the fox wins.

Here are the 10 rules for the hunt.

1. Just to keep out of trouble, the foxhunt must take place ONLY on PUBLIC PROPERTY adhering to all laws, bylaws, rules and regulations.
2. For SAFETY sake, if using automobiles or any other means of transportation observe all traffic laws and above all never jeopardize your own or anyone else's safety, health or put any property in danger of destruction. This is an excellent time to get family or friends involved to concentrate on the driving and mapping tasks.

3. Although the fox may use any equipment set on the pre chosen frequency (146.550 mhz) and he or she may change output power level at any time, he or she shall not change location once the first transmission has been made.
4. The fox will transmit a signal for one minute and then hold radio silence for four minutes after which he or she will again transmit a signal for one minute followed by four minutes of radio silence. This sequence will be repeated until the hunt has ended.
5. Hunters may hunt as individuals or team up in groups as desired. Hunters also may use any type of equipment or devices for attempting to locate the fox. Of course here again all safety rules must be observed paying special attention when swinging antennas around. A talk around freq. will be set up for hunters to communicate if they so desire.
6. The first hunter to find the fox within the time limit will be the winner. If needed mileage will be considered to determine the winner.
7. Now would be a good time to remind the hunters they too need to observe rule one and two in order to ensure a safe trouble free and enjoyable hunt.
8. If the fox is not found within the preset time limits, then the fox will be declared the winner.
9. At the end of the hunt the participants will agree upon a suitable coffee shop where they will meet and probably discuss the fox they caught or the fox that got away.
10. Have fun and enjoy

Some interesting web links on Fox Hunting:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. http://members.aol.com/homingin/SCalStyle.html | Let's go hunting |
| 2. http://members.aol.com/homingin/equipment.html | Equipment ideas |
| 3. http://members.aol.com/homingin/farsnews.html | Foxhunting News |

Wanted: Morse code keys and oscillators – by Terrence Edward Hillier



To any one who might have some old morse code keys and oscillators laying about, currently myself VE3TEH and Floyd Donald VE3ONF, Allen McRorie VE3GAM, are teaching morse code to developmentally challenged adults and are in need of morse code keys and oscillators.

This project is going so well it looks like it will be a full time function at the school.

We need morse code keys and oscillators that can be left at the school permanently for them to practice on as well as the fact that the staff will be eventually doing the teaching in other schools as this is working so well for their hand eye coordination.

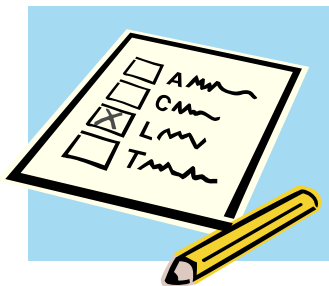
We are not concerned that they get their morse ticket as much that they get the use of their hands back. I can tell you tough we have about 3 or 4 that will not only get the 5wpm but the basic as well.

They really enjoy doing it and we do as well, just ask Allen, he came out once to see what we were doing and hasn't missed a day since.

For more info call me 519-637-2032

EDITORS Note: This looks like a good project for some 1st time builders. If there is some interest, I can etch some simple oscillator boards if some guys want to try putting them together (mark@foxhollow.ca).

New LARC executive?



It is that time of year again for us to think about the lineup for the club's executive members for 2005-2006.

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 at the Red Cross building from 7:30pm to about 9pm. All club members are invited to attend any executive meeting. If you have some interest but are unsure, drop by and see what we do.

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

Cont'd on next page...

2005/2006 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections

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

3. Board of Directors

- 3.1 The day-to-day affairs of the Corporation shall be arranged by a Board of Directors composed of 7 selected Directors, 1 non-voting Director appointed by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Past President of the Corporation.
- 3.3 To be eligible to stand for election to the Board of Directors one must be a member in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting at which members of the Board of Directors will be elected.

This year's Annual Meeting will be held May 12, 2005.

- 3.4 A Nominating Committee shall be struck by the President at least 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting and it shall begin its activities immediately upon being appointed.
 - 3.4.1 The Committee shall be composed of three members in good standing. The Past President shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.
- 3.5 The recommendations of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board shall cause such report to be published in the LARC Bulletin that will be sent to all members in good standing as notice of the Annual Meeting. Such report shall also outline the procedure pertaining to additional nominations.
- 3.6 Additional nominations may be received by the Secretary up to 12 hours prior to the Annual Meeting if submitted by a member in good standing supported by the written agreement of 4 other members and the written acceptance of the nominee.
- 3.7 The election of the Board of Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting of LARC. The Directors shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members. The Directors shall take office on July 1 of that year.

Field Day 2005



Just to keep everyone in the information loop, the current plan is to once again have field day at Reservoir Hill Park in Byron. It was the location used last year and every one was happy with the location.

Some of the rules have changed for stations participating in field-day 2005.

The following links give some information on the changes:

1. <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/> ARRL Contest forms and rules
2. <http://www.hfradio.net/bulletin/feb2705i.html#Contest> Contest News

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the global event, here is a brief description:

Ham Radio operators from all over the US and Canada as well as all other parts of the world, take their radios, antennas and equipment into the great outdoors to set up and operate away from electrical power mains.

Purpose: an annual exercise where ham's set up and operate radio communications in the event of emergency or disaster conditions. Priority is placed on skills and equipment developed to meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio. Hams work as many stations as possible on any or all amateur bands and, in doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations under less-than-optimum conditions.

Who can attend: the event operates under the supervision of the local radio club (LARC). That means any person, even those with out a valid radio license, are permitted to show up and operate any radio on any band. For those of you that have thought about working HF, here is your opportunity to get on the air.

Cont'd on next page...

Field Day Committee:

The following people are currently on the mailing list called:
fieldday2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca

VE3EAY, Dave Young (Coordinator)	mooseve3eay@hotmail.com
VE3SQU, Tony Drawmer	drawmer@odyssey.on.ca
VE3NLP, Mike Doncaster	ve3nlp@rogers.com
VA3MSV, John Visser	va3msv@hotmail.com
VA3PTV, Archie Van De Velde	archie@execulink.com
VE3PZR, Mark Bramwell	mark@foxhollow.ca
VE3GB, Gord Baker	gord.baker@rogers.com
VA3ATB, Brian Bouckley	brian.bouckley@sympatico.ca

If someone wants to be part of the process and is not listed in the above group, they should send me an email to be added to the email list as well as you will receive a copy of the planning document.

Activities requiring volunteers:

Band Captains, Tents/lodging, Power, Food

Band Captains: None at this time

Tents/Lodging: None at this time

Power: None at this time

Food: None at this time

Extra Activities: This year we will hold a foxhunt and a BBQ on the same week-end as field-day.

For more information, send email to: fieldday2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca

London Amateur Radio Club
28th Annual
2005 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 25th 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.ca/newsletter/LARC-HAMFEST-2005.pdf>

Inquiries can be sent to: hamfest2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca

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 25th.

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 2005 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



Based on the success of last year's bring-and-buy table, we have decided to offer it again this year!

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.

New Adobe Acrobat reader available! (for Windows 2000 & XP users)



The latest update requires Windows 2000 or Windows XP. If you are running an older version of Windows, you must stay with an older version of Adobe Reader.

Although you could go to the Adobe Website and find the update yourself, I have downloaded the various versions and have placed them on a London server.

Here are quick links to the versions of adobe and their required operating systems:

Windows 95 & 98

<http://hamster.foxbollow.ca/acrobat505.exe>

Windows 98SE & 98ME

<http://hamster.foxbollow.ca/acrobat601.exe>

Windows 2000/XP

<http://hamster.foxbollow.ca/acrobat7.zip>

Is your Address Correct? (Industry Canada)



We have noticed that many of the addresses given on the Club Renewal Form do not mach 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 fess, you are still required to notify Industry Canada of any address changes.

Excerpt from RIC-2

14. Change of Address

The holder of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate shall notify the Department within thirty (30) days with respect to a change of mailing address.

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

New LARC email and Web addresses



I have retired the old LARC email address of:
LARC@hamster.foxhollow.ca

It was receiving more spam than real email.

The new email address is: LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca

Hopefully this will not confuse any inbox filters some of you may be using. The old address will continue to operate for 30 days; after that period the email will be bounced back to the sender.

The LARC web site now has a new shorter name: www.LARC.ca

The old name of: www.LARC.on.ca will continue to work until August, 2005

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.

My email address is: mark@foxhollow.ca

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

For list of upcoming events:
http://www.larc.ca/meet_2004_5.htm

If you want to be added or removed from our
Mailing list, send an email to: mark@foxhollow.ca