

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



February 6, 2005

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The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, Feb 10th, 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: This month's meeting will be held UPSTAIRS, not in the basement.

Meeting Topic – Ham Radio Deluxe presented by Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR.



Have you ever wanted to connect your computer to your ham radio but were unsure about where to start?

Want to explore shortwave DX but do not know where to listen?

Curious about the locations of those Amsats?

Wished you had decent contact logging software?

This month is a continuation of some of the topics discussed last month.

In January we focused on the hardware of our ham shack. We discussed antennas, microphones and headsets as well as we touched on the subject of home-brewing circuit boards.



This month will focus on the use of a computer in the ham shack. We will briefly discuss some of the interface requirements as well as show some of the software available for ham use.



Using a suite of FREE software called “Ham Radio Deluxe”, various aspects will be demonstrated including: Rig Control, Contact logging with QRZ-callsign “internet” look-up integration, Shortwave listening with the ILG database, Map of the world with grey-line and contact mapping, audio recording and digital operations on HF using PSK31.



A cd-rom will be made available at the meeting for a cost of \$2.

The disc contains all of software that was demonstrated as well as various rig manuals and technical publications.

References:

<http://hrd.ham-radio.ch/>
<http://www.ilgradio.com/ilgradio.htm>

Ham Radio Deluxe homepage
Shortwave database

MEMBERSHIP MAIL BLITZ 2005

Early in the New Year, due to a decline in membership, LARC sent a request for members to selected amateurs in London and area. Some 100 letters were sent resulting in approximately 10 new and renewal members - not a spectacular response but the additional members are certainly welcome.

Additionally we received a number of replies declining membership. All were lengthy, well written and contained excellent, positive content and each indicated great sincerity. To those who took the time to reply, the directors appreciate your frank and polite replies and all comments will be taken under advisement.

The general consensus was the perceived direction of the Club functions especially at monthly meetings, i.e., the programs provided did not necessarily address the interest of those persons.

Rest assured that the interests of the directors are not totally fulfilled either but it is a matter of people who are knowledgeable in various areas to commit their time and effort and provide a program that is both informative and entertaining at our meetings.

We have contacted several recognized experts in different phases of the hobby and they either refused to participate or did not even give us the courtesy of a reply.

Obviously, Amateur radio has many, many facets especially in the light of some newer technologies.

It is a myth that computers have destroyed or replaced the Amateurs' interests. While it's not absolutely necessary to be computer literate, if anything, the computer has enhanced many of the traditional amateur radio activities.

The perception that the club caters to the new, UHF/VHF capable amateur is not so (half of the directors are involved almost exclusively in HF activity). The new Hams form a large percentage of the attendees at our meeting because of their enthusiasm and thirst for additional knowledge and acceptance.

These recently licensed people need to be exposed to some of the more traditional pursuits with the hope they will be inspired to upgrade and/or become involved accordingly. Someone with much experience who totally enjoys and believes in their personal activity can provoke a desire in the new Ham to share in 'their' particular facet of the hobby.

LARC's financial resources are obtained by revenue from the annual Flea Market and membership. The decline in membership limits our ability to provide 'paid' entertainment at the meetings, if indeed this is what's required - the expenses for repeater site rental, liability and property insurance and obligations for a meeting room leave very few funds for replacement of old equipment and repairs.

Someone once told me that if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. If the club is not satisfying your needs, speak to a director and let's see if we can't find a solution that benefits everyone.

The director's telephone numbers are listed in the front of the new (soon to be distributed) directory and we would all welcome positive, constructive dialog regarding the direction of LARC and its programs.

73 - Gord, VE3GB

Other Items of Interest

Employment opportunities / Help wanted



The London Amateur Radio Club is a not-for-profit organization (AKA volunteers) that has the mandate to promote amateur radio in London and surrounding areas. This is accomplished via monthly meetings and special club activities. Those activities can include: ham radio courses, weekly on-the-air nets, field-day and the annual flea-market.

Like any organization, the various activities require some coordination to make sure they occur with minimal difficulty. We need some volunteers to step up and help with the planning and execution of two important activities, the field-day and the flea market.

Field-Day band-captains: Dave VE3EAY has volunteered to be the field-day 2005 coordinator but we still need some people to be the band-captains. Starting in Feb, I will list the various people that will be involved in the setup of the field-day activities. If you are interested in participating, pass on a message to Dave or any of the club executive.

Flea-market (hamfest) coordinator: We have the immediate need of a flea market coordinator. This person would work with the club executive over the next few months to make sure the various aspects of the flea-market are being handled. Much of this is done via email, especially when non-London hams make inquiries to the club. It is recommended that the coordinator has a working computer and reads email on a semi-regular basis.

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.
We are now: www.LARC.ca

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

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

Reference:

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

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.

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.

Field Day Committee:

VE3EAY, Dave Young (Coordinator)
VA3ARC, Glenn Lee
VA3MSV, John Visser

VE3SQU, Tony Drawmer
VE3NLP, Mike Doncaster
VA3PTV, Archie Van De Velde

Activities requiring volunteers:

Band Captains, Tents/lodging, Power, Food

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.on.ca/newsletter/HAMFEST2005.pdf>

**The brochure will be unavailable until the flea market
Co-coordinator position has been filled**

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!



Adobe acrobat reader version 7 has been released and to make it easier for our club members, the following link will allow you to download it directly from our server. The file is quite large, and will take a significant period of time via dialup. The cd-rom at this month's meeting will contain a copy of acrobat7.

The software is here: <http://hamster.foxhollow.ca/acrobat7.zip>

Phone Patch disconnected from repeater



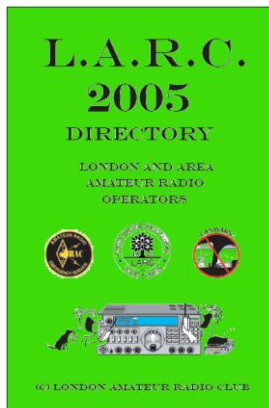
Due to rising costs, shortage of funds and general lack of interest, the LARC telephone auto-patch on 147.06 has been disconnected.

In a world of cell-phones and fiscal restraints, the high cost of a commercial phone line no longer makes sense.

Membership Update...

We currently have 90 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.

LARC 2005 Directory



The 2005 edition of the LARC directory will be made available at the February meeting.

A single copy of directory will be given to all paid-up members at no charge.

Additional copies will be made available to anyone that is interested for \$5.

The directory contains the over 1,000 names, addresses and call-signs of hams from London and surrounding areas.

Occasionally we get asked (a) where do we get the call-sign information and (b) who gave us the right to disclose this information?

The answers are:

(a) We got the information from the RAC database which is freely downloadable from their webpage: www.rac.ca

(b) Who gave us permission, YOU DID! As a requirement of the privilege of obtaining an Amateur Radio license, you signed on your application form the following consent:

I certify that the statements made in this application are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and that the stations will be used only for the purposes authorized by the Minister of Industry and the Regulations made under the Radiocommunication Act, and I agree that Industry Canada may use, disclose and share the information that it has collected about me in relation to this application, regarding my certificate qualifications, name, address and call signs, for the purpose of establishing a database that will be made public in order that other amateurs are aware of the frequencies and emissions that I have been authorized to utilize.

IC Form: 2381BD (2000/06)

Some questions and answers dealing with Ham Radio from the Canadian Government: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf01812e.html>

Questions or concerns about the privacy of your information should be directed towards Industry Canada, not LARC.

On a personal note, if you feel the need to work and live in secret including transmitting from a non-disclosed location, perhaps Ham Radio is not for you and I suggest finding another radio service that best suits your needs.

Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR
Feb 6, 2005.

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

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**