

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
and surrounding areas since 1920



June 6, 2005

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- Next Meeting...
  - Meeting Topic – Alternate Power Systems by Bruce McCreath, VE3EAR

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## Other Items of Interest...

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## The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, June 9th, 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).

**Meeting Topic: Alternate Power Systems  
by Bruce McCreath, VE3EAR**

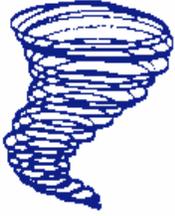


Bruce will be joining us from Solwind Energo Inc., Goderich and is a member of the Bluewater Amateur Radio Club.

**References:**

[http://www.betterfarming.com/archive/cov\\_apr01.htm](http://www.betterfarming.com/archive/cov_apr01.htm)  
<http://www.web.net/~cfre/Newsletters/news18.htm>

## Update on Canwarn – June 2005 by Tom, VE3OEP



Many thanks to those of you who attended the training session in April given by Environment Canada.

For those of you who saw the presentation for the first time you are welcome to now join a Canwarn net as a weather spotter.

When a severe thunderstorm warning is given a net will be activated on the VE3OME repeater at 145.450. The Canwarn controller also has the ability to change the tones on several of the other local repeaters. This informs users of the other repeaters that a net is in progress on OME. Should OME be unavailable the net can be found on VE3LON at 147.060.

Follow the directions of the controller and sign onto the net. The controller will record your call and location. The net has three condition codes (Green, Yellow, and Red) based on weather conditions. The controller will advise what information is to be reported and whether or not the repeater can be used for normal traffic.

Your help in keeping transmissions short whenever a net is in progress is very important.

Information received from you is reviewed by the controller and in certain cases forwarded onto the Severe Weather Desk in Toronto. From there reports of severe weather can be in the hands of the public in minutes.

During a net the controller will also be passing information back to the spotters on what is happening on the radar screen and what information they are receiving from Environment Canada.

We are also looking for two or three more individuals who would be willing to act as controllers for Canwarn nets. If you have an interest in Canwarn and comfort with using computers and 2M radios, please get in touch with me.

For further information on being a controller or on Canwarn in general please contact Tom Stewart at [ve3oep@rac.ca](mailto:ve3oep@rac.ca)

## Other Items of Interest

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

Here is the lineup for the LARC Executive Team 2005/2006:

Past President:	Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR	(LARC Repeater Coordinator)
President:	Gord Baker, VE3GB	(the boss!)
Vice President:	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT	(flea-market)
Secretary:	Brian Bouckley, VE3ATB	(only 1 that can spel goud)
Treasurer:	Tony Drawmer, VE3SQU	(money-man & field-day)
Director:	Shirley McCall-Nicholson, VE3SMN	(membership)
Director:	Al Bernier, VE3LOD	(keeps us honest)
Director:	Archie Van de Velde, VE3PTV	(ARES & Fox-hunts)
Repeater Operator:	Dave Young, VE3EAY	(knows ALL the codes)

## RECENT FLEA-MARETS by Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR

**Dayton:** Well, it has been almost 10 years since my last visit to the Dayton but I took the plunge and did the trip.

I would like to say that it was actually the same as 10 years ago but I did notice some changes. Dayton is still a huge flea market! However, there were many large empty spaces that were turned into rest-spots. I did not get the feeling of elbow-to-elbow crowds from 10 years ago; if you entered the arena during the morning, you had easy access to any vendor stall albeit the room quickly filled as the day progressed.

All of the usual vendors were there selling their wares. Below is a typical scene of some fine gentlemen making some suggestions to their love-ones for possible Father's Day gifts:



I'll take 2 please!

**Rochester:** This is a 3 day flea market located in Rochester NY that costs \$9USD per head to attend (ouch!). A bunch of us did the trip on Friday (opening day) and here is my recommendation. Don't bother going on a Friday. When we arrived at 9am, the parking lot (and vendor booths) was so sparse we felt we arrived on the wrong day. By afternoon many of the vendors started to arrive and get setup. After discussing the situation with many people, we were told that Saturday is a busy day with many vendors gone by Sunday AM. I believe Rochester is quickly changing from a 3 day flea-market into a single day (about ¼ the size of the Dayton hamfest). I noticed the lack of security guards asking to show your ticket (financial cuts?) Next year we will consider a Saturday trip instead of our normal Friday pilgrimage.

**Fergus/Kitchener:** This Saturday (June 11<sup>th</sup>) is the Kitchener Radio Club flea-market which is held at the Fergus Arena. Always a good day-trip with a nice market downtown for additional activities.

**Personal Note:** The attendance of the flea-markets is definitely on the down turn. Perhaps the age of ham-radio oriented swap-meets is coming to an end. If you disagree, supports the various clubs by attending (and bring 2 friends!).

## **!! Field Day 2005 is this month !!**



### **We are just a few weeks from Field Day.**

In addition to the normal activities, we will also hold on Saturday a fox-hunt as well as a pot-luck BBQ.

A special edition of the LARC newsletter will be sent a week before field-day with detailed timings for the week-end.

For obvious reasons, the interest in field-day has increased over the past few weeks. If you are interested in helping out with a specific activity or simply want to be in-the-loop for any activity, send an email to: [mark@foxhollow.ca](mailto:mark@foxhollow.ca) and you will be added to our mini "field-day 2005 only" mailing list.

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### **St Thomas Club meetings – by AL VA3LX**

Here's the details of the EARS meetings for St.Thomas.

We now meet the First Wednesday of each month, at 8:00 PM, in the Community Room of the "Real Canadian Superstore".

The Superstore is located at the corner of Talbot Street, and First Avenue beside Wall\*Mart. The community room is located on the second floor, with access via stairs or elevator. No outside food or beverages are allowed, but may be purchased at the Superstore. Please retain your receipt as we are asked to submit them to the store. All are welcome, as we have lots of seating.

Talk-in on VE3STR-R, 147.330 + (114.8 PL)

Thank you,  
VA3LX

## 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.

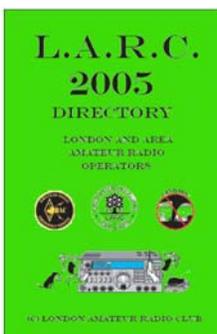
They really enjoy doing it and we do as well, just ask Allen, he came out once to see what we were doing and hasn't missed a day since.

For more info call me 519-637-2032

**EDITORS Note: COUNTER PARTS in London has for sale some electronic kits, one kit in particular is a code oscillator (board + parts) for about \$10.**

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## Did You Pick-Up Your Directory Yet?



We still have a sizable number of LARC directories (booklets) that have not been picked up.

They are available at each club meeting.

## LARC HAMFEST 2005 - September 25

# LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 28<sup>TH</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup>.

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 LARC email and Web addresses



I have retired the old LARC email address of:  
[LARC@hamster.foxhollow.ca](mailto:LARC@hamster.foxhollow.ca)

It was receiving more spam than real email.

The new email address is: [LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca](mailto: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](http://www.LARC.ca)

The old name of: [www.LARC.on.ca](http://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](mailto: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](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](mailto:mark@foxhollow.ca)