

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
and surrounding areas since 1920



April 1, 2006

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- Next Meeting...
  - Meeting Topic – HF Antenna - Simple, Effective Designs and Practical Tips, VE3EZP

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## Other Items of Interest...

- ⇒ LARC Executive 2005/2006 lineup
- ⇒ St Thomas Club meetings
- ⇒ CANWARN training this month
- ⇒ Frequencies in use...
- ⇒ Emergency Preparedness Seminar
- ⇒ LARC 2006/2007 Election notification
- ⇒ William Edward "Ed" Dutton, VE3EWO (SK)
- ⇒ LARC to offer Ham Radio licensing course, spring 2006
- ⇒ Instructors required for Ham Radio course
- ⇒ 2006 LARC Flea Market
- ⇒ 2005/2006 LARC Membership Application Form

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## The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, **April 6th**, 2006 @ 7:30pm

The April Meeting has been moved to **April 6** because of "Holy Week" on our regular meeting night.

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).

## Other Items of Interest

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

[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, VA3ATB	(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)

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### St Thomas Club meetings – by AL VA3LX

Here are 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 Wal\*Mart.

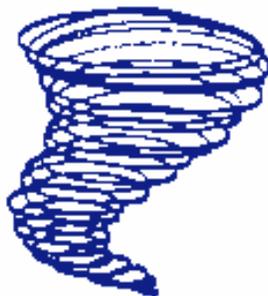
The community room is located on the second floor, with access via stairs or elevator.

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

## **CANWARN TRAINING this month...**



CANWARN training has been arranged for Thursday April 13th starting at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in London - 817 Exeter Road (Wellington Road at Hwy # 401).

Refreshments will be served and there will be a draw for a weather-radio.

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## **Frequencies in use? By Gerd VA3BGR**

Would it be possible to publish a collection of the various small nets in the area of London and any additional regular gathering of interested groups (2 meters and up)

ie: "London Seniors net: Daily at 7PM on 145360 simplex also meeting on Saturday at Cherry Hill Mall at 8AM."

I am sure it would be of some help to further interest in the various groups. It would also be nice if we would be able to publish the frequencies used by a lot of commercial traffic (highways 401 402 403 ect.)

I am not referring to repeater traffic as there are good publications on the market. It would be comforting to many drivers to know these as it can be very lonely at times on the roads as well as the safety aspect.

Gerd, VA3BGR

## **EDITORS NOTE:**

If anyone has anything to submit, reply to this message and I'll post it.

A good site that I use for commercial frequencies in Ontario is: [www.radioreference.com](http://www.radioreference.com)

I am not aware of when and where the various sub groups meet in London. If you belong to a group that meets with regularity, send me an email and I'll post it in this bulletin.

## SUNSPOTS:

Submitted by Al Putman, VA3LX,  
(copied this from the [grz.com](http://grz.com))

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**BOULDER**— The next sunspot cycle will be 30-50% stronger than the last one and begin as much as a year late, according to a breakthrough forecast using a computer model of solar dynamics developed by scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Predicting the Sun's cycles accurately, years in advance, will help societies plan for active bouts of solar storms, which can slow satellite orbits, disrupt communications, and bring down power systems.

The scientists have confidence in the forecast because, in a series of test runs, the newly developed model simulated the strength of the past eight solar cycles with more than 98% accuracy. The forecasts are generated, in part, by tracking the subsurface movements of the sunspot remnants of the previous two solar cycles. The team is publishing its forecast in the current issue of Geophysical Research Letters.

“Our model has demonstrated the necessary skill to be used as a forecasting tool,” says NCAR scientist Mausumi Dikpati, the leader of the forecast team at NCAR’s High Altitude Observatory that also includes Peter Gilman and Giuliana de Toma.

### -----Understanding the cycles -----

The Sun goes through approximately 11-year cycles, from peak storm activity to quiet and back again. Solar scientists have tracked them for some time without being able to predict their relative intensity or timing.

Forecasting the cycle may help society anticipate solar storms, which can disrupt communications and power systems and affect the orbits of satellites. The storms are linked to twisted magnetic fields in the Sun that suddenly snap and release tremendous amounts of energy. They tend to occur near dark regions of concentrated magnetic fields, known as sunspots.

The NCAR team’s computer model, known as the Predictive Flux-transport Dynamo Model, draws on research by NCAR scientists indicating that the evolution of sunspots is caused by a current of plasma, or electrified gas, that circulates between the Sun's equator and its poles over a period of 17 to 22 years. This current acts like a conveyor belt of sunspots.

The sunspot process begins with tightly concentrated magnetic field lines in the solar convection zone (the outermost layer of the Sun’s interior). The field lines rise to the surface at low latitudes and form bipolar sunspots, which are regions of concentrated magnetic fields.

Cont’d...

When these sunspots decay, they imprint the moving plasma with a type of magnetic signature. As the plasma nears the poles, it sinks about 200,000 kilometers (124,000 miles) back into the convection zone and starts returning toward the equator at a speed of about one meter (three feet) per second or slower. The increasingly concentrated fields become stretched and twisted by the internal rotation of the Sun as they near the equator, gradually becoming less stable than the surrounding plasma. This eventually causes coiled-up magnetic field lines to rise up, tear through the Sun's surface, and create new sunspots.

The subsurface plasma flow used in the model has been verified with the relatively new technique of helioseismology, based on observations from both NSF- and NASA-supported instruments. This technique tracks sound waves reverberating inside the Sun to reveal details about the interior, much as a doctor might use an ultrasound to see inside a patient.

#### -----Predicting Cycles 24 and 25 -----

The Predictive Flux-transport Dynamo Model is enabling NCAR scientists to predict that the next solar cycle, known as Cycle 24, will produce sunspots across an area slightly larger than 2.5% of the visible surface of the Sun. The scientists expect the cycle to begin in late 2007 or early 2008, which is about 6 to 12 months later than a cycle would normally start. Cycle 24 is likely to reach its peak about 2012.

By analyzing recent solar cycles, the scientists also hope to forecast sunspot activity two solar cycles, or 22 years, into the future. The NCAR team is planning in the next year to issue a forecast of Cycle 25, which will peak in the early 2020s.

"This is a significant breakthrough with important applications, especially for satellite-dependent sectors of society," explains NCAR scientist Peter Gilman.

The NCAR team received funding from the National Science Foundation and NASA's Living with a Star program. NCAR'S primary sponsor is the National Science Foundation. Opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

-The End-

## Field Day 2006



Just a reminder that field day is approaching. More information in next month's bulletin...

**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.

## New LARC executive?



It is that time of year again for us to think about the lineup for the club's executive members for 2006-2007.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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...**

## **2006/2007 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 Thursday May 11, 2006.***

- 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.

## William Edward “Ed” Dutton, VE3EWO (SK)



With great sadness, we report the passing of Ed Dutton, VE3EWO on March 9, 2006 at the age of 86.

Ed was licensed in 1960, advanced in 1962 and was the president of the London Amateur Radio Club from 1963 to 1966.

He acquired the position of LARC HF “swap” manager from Leroy Blinn, VE3AJQ and was active for 34 years in that capacity.

Ed was active on HF from his home in London and summer residence on the Manitoulin Island. Additionally he was involved locally with ATV.

His droll humour and dedication to Amateur Radio will be missed by all.



## EXHIBITORS

Canadian Red Cross

City of London  
(Emergency Management Program)

County of Middlesex  
(Emergency Management Program)

Critical Incident Stress Management Team

Emergency Management Ontario

Emergency Medical Services

London & Area Food Bank

London Fire Department

London Health Sciences Centre

London Police Service

Middlesex-London Health Unit

Novack's

Salvation Army

St. John Ambulance

3M

University of Western Ontario

Western Funeral Directors Association

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This event will provide a context for leadership, ensuring that we approach emergency management in a pandemic in the most effective and practical ways.

Natural and man-made threats are greater than ever, dynamics keep changing and growing in scale bringing new and greater challenges to the response of emergencies. This event will foster and promote the essence of maximizing the ability of different organizations to prepare together and build partnerships.

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Emergency Preparedness Week  
is  
May 7 – 13, 2006

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Preparing for the  
unthinkable ...

Are we ready?

**PANDEMIC  
INFLUENZA  
PLANNING**

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Choose the Day or Evening Session

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
or  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

CENTENNIAL HALL  
550 WELLINGTON ROAD  
LONDON, ONTARIO



[www.healthunit.com](http://www.healthunit.com)

Success depends on continuous regional planning, commitment and the ability to work together to meet the needs of our communities. Communicating such plans to the public is paramount!

## PROGRAM

### EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITY

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### WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

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#### *“Pandemic Influenza Preparedness – Today’s Challenge, the New Reality”*

Dr. Graham Pollett  
and  
Dr. Bryna Warshawsky

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#### *“Personal Preparedness”*

Mr. Dave Colvin  
and  
Ms. Bettina Weber

\*\*\*\*\***BREAK**\*\*\*\*\*

#### *Panel Discussion*

Moderator: Dr. Graham Pollett

Panel Members:  
London Police Service  
London Fire Department  
Emergency Medical Services  
Middlesex-London Health Unit  
Emergency Management Ontario

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### CLOSING REMARKS

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### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## REGISTRATION FORM

### Emergency Preparedness Week Pandemic Influenza Planning

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

1:00-4:00 p.m. or  6:00-9:00 p.m.

Name

Position

Organizaton

Address

e-mail

Phone

Ext

Please register **PRIOR TO MAY 5, 2006**  
by one of the following methods:

Mail: Manager, Emergency Planning  
Middlesex-London Health Unit  
50 King Street  
London, Ont. N6A 5L7

Fax: (519) 663-9413

Phone: (519) 663-5317 extension 2371

e-mail: [pat.simone@mlhu.on.ca](mailto:pat.simone@mlhu.on.ca)

**Registration is Free,  
but canned goods or a monetary donation  
for the London & Area Food Bank  
would be greatly appreciated!**

*“Our future depends on how well we do collectively as a society to address threats, prepare for and respond to emergencies – whatever their source and wherever they occur. If not us, then who? If not now, then when?”*

*(Commissioner Julian Fantino,  
World Conference on Disaster  
Management, 2005)*

*“Investing in pandemic preparedness is essentially like investing in an insurance policy...hope we will never have to make a claim”*

*(Dr. Margaret Chan,  
World Health Organization, 2005)*

## **LARC to offer BASIC Amateur Radio Licensing course**

**The London Amateur Radio Club** has been discussing the possibility of commencing a Basic Amateur Licence course.

Unfortunately, the plans don't always come together as quickly as we would like. Would you be kind enough to reply by return and indicate if you are interested...

(Include your name, telephone number and current email address on all correspondence)

Tentatively, it would commence as soon as possible, most likely within a month if the interest is there.

- Cost: \$80.00 (approximately) including Basic Amateur Licence Study Guide
- Intended to be primarily a guided, self-study effort i.e. you will be expected to do some reading prior to class. Classes will be supported by enough guidance in order to provide individual attention where required.
- Study period would be about 8 weeks with 4, 'classroom' sessions on alternate Saturdays (more if required however, it's in everybody's best interest if we conclude any formal sessions not later than the end of May.
- An examination would be scheduled when the likelihood of obtaining a passing grade is sufficient.

Our immediate concerns are:

- obtaining enough qualified instructors to properly explain the text material
- a convenient site
- a reasonably firm commitment from both the students & instructors

If you have any questions and/or wish to commit to this program, kindly reply to the writer or contact any LARC Director (Directors names and 'phone numbers are at [www.larc.ca](http://www.larc.ca))

**Cont'd on next page...**

The success of the proposed program will be determined by an adequate number of course instructors and 'proctors'.

**The instructor** should be thoroughly versed in a particular subject(s) in the training manual and be comfortable with a 'lecture' and discussion of the previously read material. If you qualify with the necessary knowledge, lesson/lecture preparation guidance is available.

**Proctors** are support persons who are reasonably well informed about the subject material and capable of supporting the lecturer and providing individual student explanation and assistance where required. Two or three Proctors will be required at each class session depending on the number of candidates (a great opportunity to refresh your knowledge).

A list of the lesson topics (subjects) and space for your preferences is attached (next page).

We are optimistic that a large number of members will volunteer to instruct or assist in this endeavor with the hope that we can all learn from it and provide a satisfying experience for both student and instructor. Overall, this exercise will allow us to provide future courses as the need arises, content that the students are **well** prepared to begin their adventures into Amateur Radio.

Gord Baker, President LARC, 2006

## London Amateur Radio Club Basic Radio Licence Course Spring 2006

The London Amateur Radio Club is interested in providing a Basic "Amateur Radio Licence" course during the spring of 2006. Tentatively the course would be approximately 4 to 8 weeks in length (still under review) and would cover the 16 chapters from the RAC Study Guide.

Each week would be considered a module covering several chapters. The material will cover Theory, Operation and Regulations.

At the end of the course, the students will write the Licensing exam.

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Instructors and helpers are required to present the material. We prefer to have a large number of instructors; each one would be responsible for specific topics. Their involvement would only be required on the week-end(s) that their material is being covered.

Here is a summary of the list of topics that will require an instructor:  
(Please indicate your interest level - 1=less interested, 5=more interested)

- Introduction to Amateur Radio
- Getting Down to Basics
- Ohm's LAW and POWER
- Inductors and Capacitors
- Waves, Wavelength, Frequency and Bands
- Propagation
- Transmission Lines
- Antennas
- Active Devices: Diodes, Transistors, and Tubes
- Power Supplies
- Establishing and Equipping an Amateur Station
- Routine Operation of an Amateur Station
- Modulation and Transmitters
- Receivers
- Radio Frequency Interference
- Safety
- Regulations

Please review the list & specify those areas that are of interest to you. If you are interested in multiple areas but are stronger in some as compared to others, please rank them so we can determine overlapping coverage.

For more Information contact:

Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR  
Day: 661-3714  
Night: 473-3618

Email: [mark@foxhollow.ca](mailto:mark@foxhollow.ca)

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
2006 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 24<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-2006.pdf>

Inquiries can be sent to: hamfest2006@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 24<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, Durham Radio and Maple-Leaf Communications have already committed to be a vendor for our 2006 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.



## **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: [LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca](mailto:LARC2005@hamster.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:**

[LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca](mailto:LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca) (Mark, VE3PZR)