

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



Jan 8, 2006

This month's meeting topic:

Logbook software by Doug, VE3IDT

I will be discussing win-eqf logging software, eqsl and ARRL log book of the world next Thursday

References:

- <http://www.eqsl.cc/qslcard/Presentation.cfm>
- <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>

The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, January 11th, 2006 @ 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).

Other Items of Interest

2006/2007 L.A.R.C. Executive

Here is the lineup for the LARC Executive Team 2006/2007:

Past President:	Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR	(LARC Repeater Coordinator) (Newsletter Editor)
President:	Gord Baker, VE3GB	
VP & Treasurer:	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT	(flea-market)
Secretary:	Ruth Dahl , VE3RBO	
Director:	Tony Drawmer, VE3SQU	(field-day)
Director:	Doug Elliott, VA3DAE	(web site)
Director:	Shirley McCall-Nicholson, VE3SMN	(membership)
Director:	Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG	(emergency services)
Repeater Operator:	Dave Young, VE3EAY	

St Thomas Radio Club Information:

Elgin Amateur Radio Society

Meeting is held the first Wednesday evening each month

September to June
8:00 p.m.

Community Room, Real Canadian Super Store
1063 Talbot Street St. Thomas, Ontario.



<http://www.elginars.ca/>

FCC to Drop Morse Testing for All Amateur License Classes

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2006 -- In an historic move, the FCC has acted to drop the Morse code requirement for *all* Amateur Radio license classes. The Commission adopted the long-awaited *Report and Order (R&O)* in WT Docket 05-235, the "Morse code" proceeding, and released it December 19. The FCC *R&O* also includes an *Order on Reconsideration* in WT Docket 04-140 -- the "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify the Amateur Service rules in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of rule changes that became effective December 15. The Commission designated the 3585 to 3600 kHz frequency segment for such operations, although the segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. ***The effective date of the FCC's R&O will be 30 days after publication in the Federal Register -- most likely in February.*** Currently, Amateur Radio applicants must pass a 5 WPM Morse code test to operate on HF. The FCC's action will eliminate that requirement all around.

Full text: <http://www.arrl.org:80/news/stories/2006/12/15/104/?nc=1>



Codeless Canadian "Basic Plus" amateurs may operate HF in the US (Dec 8, 2006) -- Canadian licensees holding "Basic Plus" tickets may operate HF in the US, whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, according to the Radio Amateurs of Canada ([RAC](#)).

Since Canada removed its mandatory Morse requirement in 2005, the impression has persisted that the US still required visiting ops to have Morse credit for HF operation under the [reciprocal operating agreement](#) between the two countries.

The issue came to a head when a Canadian [Winlink](#) mailbox reportedly denied access to Canadian Basic Plus licensees operating from US territory. Basic Plus licensees have scored at least 80 percent on the written examination, [obviating the need to pass a Morse examination](#). According to §97.107 of the FCC rules, operator privileges in the US are those authorized by the alien licensee's government, not to exceed Amateur Extra class privileges, but visitors must operate according to US frequency allocations.

The situation may not be the same for Canadians operating in other countries. "Many countries have still retained the Morse requirement for HF, and some countries continue to require a Morse qualification for HF operation by amateurs visiting from other countries," RAC advised in this week's bulletin.

Radio amateurs from countries with which the US has reciprocal operating agreements also may be HF station control operators when transmitting from territory where the FCC regulates Amateur Radio.

Link to story: <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=7013>

End of 220mhz in London?

The situation:

To recap the 220mhz situation in London, during the month of December, the 2 London repeaters on 220mhz were removed from service. One of the machines was removed for shipment to BC (the owner has permanently relocated to BC). The LARC owned machine was removed for repair.

The debate:

The current debate stems from the basic question of: *Should the club pay to have the machine repaired?* It is the belief of the club EXEC that very few people are capable of using 220mhz (many hams do not own 220mhz radios); and those that might transmit on 220mhz are using simplex (and not the repeater).

Questions:

1. How many hams in the club feel that the club should sponsor a 220mhz repeater?
2. For those of you that said yes to question #1, are you willing to pay an additional amount to cover the cost of repair (which might be \$1000 divided by the number of people saying YES to Question #1)

Options:

As a club, we have many options available (and there might be others)

1. We leave the machine off the air until such time the club is interested in resurrecting the machine
2. The Interested club members decide to fund-raise to get the machine back on the air.
3. We sell the machine as-is on eBay and take our chances that someone will pay a decent amount of cash for a non-functioning repeater.
4. Sell the machine to a local ham that is willing to pay to have the machine repaired and placed back on the air in London (at no cost to the club)

Closing Comments:

The 220mhz decision is one that we do not make lightly. Vacating a band is very dangerous because Industry Canada is always looking for available spectrum. If we do not use it, someone else might be willing to pay to have it removed from our inventory.

We should decide on a plan of action and be willing to move on it ASAP. I hope that you can give the 220mhz issue some thought and express your views at the next general meeting in January.

