

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



Apr 8th, 2008

MEETING TOPIC

- John Watson, VE3EZF will be making a presentation on microwaves, (and we don't think it will be a cooking class).

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

- ⇒ Flaunt Your Face - Show Your Shack
- ⇒ CANWARN Training
- ⇒ Hammond Museum Bus Trip
- ⇒ LARC Annual General Meeting
- ⇒ GOTA
- ⇒ Member Profiles
- ⇒ Larc Flea Market

NEXT MEETING IS WHERE AND WHEN?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, April 10th, 2008 @ 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

2007/2008 L.A.R.C. EXECUTIVE

Past President:	Gord Baker, VE3GB	
President:	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT	(Flea-market)
Treasurer:	Dave Steels, VE3UZ	
Secretary:	Ruth Dahl , VE3RBO	
Director:	Ann Rundle, VA3EOR	(Flea market)
Director:	Doug Elliott, VA3DAE	(ARES EC; Web-site)
Director:	Shirley McCall, VE3SMN	(Membership)
Director:	Pat Ross, VE3CNX	
Non-Voting:		
	Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG	(ARES DEC)
	Tom Stewart	(Canwarn)
Appointments:		
	Tony Drawmer, VE3SQU	(Field-Day)
	Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR	(Newsletter Editor)
		(LARC Repeater Coordinator)
	Dave Young, VE3EAY	(Repeater Operator/Programmer)

FLAUNT YOUR FACE - SHOW YOUR SHACK

In our hobby it's not always easy to put a face to all the fellow hams you talk to on the air. To help us all figure who's who, LARC invites its members to submit digital photos of yourself and/or your shack to be published on the membership page of our website. Purely voluntary of course, and if you prefer you can submit just one (depending on whether you think your face or your shack is more presentable).

How will it work? On the membership page, we'll attach your own picture where your first name appears, and the picture of your shack to your callsign. See the entry for Doug Elliott, VA3DAE for an example.

How do you submit your pictures?

Just email them to the LARC site webmaster address, which is: webmaster@larc.ca

MESSAGE FROM DOUG, VE3IDT

The Club is looking once more to try to organize a trip to the Hammond Museum, <http://www.hammondmuseumofradio.org/>

The date will be Saturday April 26. The cost has yet to be determined and will depend on the number going and the bus size needed (should be \$ 25). Keep checking the website for updates. Please contact Ann Rundle, VA3EOR (va3eor@hotmail.com or 519-238-1542) if interested. We need at least 25 paid commitments to make this possible, so bring money to the April meeting and see Ann.

The executive of the London Amateur Radio Club would like to express their thanks and appreciation to Bill Clothier, VE3BCU of Nisbett [Clothier](#) Chartered Accountants who has performed an audit of the LARC financial statements for the years ending June 30, 2004,2005 and 2006.

CANWARN TRAINING

Canwarn Training session will be offered on Wednesday, April 16th 7 PM – at the London - Four Points Sheraton Hotel - 1150 Wellington Road, London

GENERAL MEETING FOR LARC

The month of May is traditionally the General Meeting for LARC where elections are held if needed. If you are interested in joining the LARC executive please contact any executive member for information.

On Saturday February 16, 2008 we welcomed six Girl Guides and two Girl Guide Leaders into our radio station to learn about Amateur Radio in conjunction with "Guides on the Air (GOTA)".

GOTA is an opportunity for girls to talk to other members of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world via Amateur Radio. Outside Canada, GOTA is known as Thinking Day on the Air (TDOTA). GOTA and TDOTA are held every year on the third weekend in February.

GOTA Amateur Radio stations, under control of a licensed radio amateur, will attempt to contact other GOTA stations over short-wave radio. Once contact is made, the girls at each station can have the opportunity to speak into the microphone and "make a contact" with a girl at another station.

GOTA began in 1985 to celebrate 75 years of Guiding in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia. GOTA has grown each year with more countries taking part.

This year we were unable to contact any other GOTA stations, but we did have the opportunity to talk to some very friendly hams that were willing to spend time talking to each of the girls individually.

First we spoke to FP5CJ, Jean-Pierre from St. Pierre and Miquelon. He welcomed the idea of introducing Amateur Radio to the girls. Each girl spelt their name phonetically to him and he was able to respond to them by name. It really amazed the girls that he was able to figure out their names so quickly!

With no further luck finding anyone on SSB to talk to the girls, we introduced them to PSK31 and "listened in" on a few different conversations. PSK31 is a digital mode of communication where a transceiver is connected to a computer. The communication is typed onto a computer keyboard and computer software converts the text into a tone. The tone is fed into the transceiver and then transmitted over the airwaves. After spending some time listening, we sent out a CQ and VA6FUN responded. Mike was very willing to spend time talking to the girls. He was having a leisurely morning sipping his coffee and thought this was a great opportunity to share our hobby with a younger generation. Each girl had the chance to type a short message to Mike and he responded to each girl individually. Mike asked us to look him up on QRZ.com so the girls could see his QSL card. He told them a little bit about the picture on his card.

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After our PSK31 contact we went to QRZ.com and looked up VA6FUN. This is a call sign database on the internet where you can search the address of Amateur Radio operators around the world. Each Amateur Radio Operator can post a photo, QSL card or biography. The Girl Guides were amazed by VA6FUN's QSL card with all the pumpkins! We looked up more call signs to see what different QSL cards look like.

The girls were introduced to the grey-line and enjoyed seeing what parts of the world were in day-light and what parts were not. During their time at our house they were able to see the grey-line move across the world on our computer screen.

We showed the girls various Amateur Radio certificates that could be earned and how one goes about earning them. We talked about the Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (CLARA) and they were shown the different certificates CLARA awards.

After our time on the radio the girls watched a DXpedition video and were able to see what was involved in setting up a station in a remote location.

It was a great day and a wonderful experience for the girls.

Kathy and David Steels
VE3GYL and VE3UZ



Ann Rundle – VA3EOR has been a LARC member for one year, and is currently serving on the Executive as Flea Market coordinator. When asked as to whom her Elmer might be, Ann is quick to report that she doesn't really have just one, but rather could say that she has the "whole club", as everyone she asked "was/is willing to answer any questions" she might have. Her only regret is "not getting her ticket earlier".

Ann's husband, Chris is also an amateur radio operator (VA3ZWT) and a member of LARC. Ann and Chris have been married for eighteen (18) years and they have four children, ranging in age from five (5) to eighteen (18).

Her youngest son, Graham, has also shown an interest and has attended the LARC monthly meetings on occasion.

For Ann, Field Day activities and developing new friendships are the highlight of her amateur radio experiences, as this gives her the opportunity to work all the different bands which she does not normally have access to. She also enjoys setting up and helping with the food and take down. This provides an opportunity to meet new people and mingle with those that she doesn't see often. It was during her first Field Day where she met fellow LARC member Ruth Dahl- VE3RBO, and became "great friends". Ann also enjoys monitoring/working 2 meters with her Vertex HT 150 followed closely by monitoring 2 meters.

When questioned as to her most exciting/memorable QSO, Ann reports that it was working a station in Australia while participating in a HF net one Saturday night.

In terms of her future pursuits, Ann is interested in getting her Morse Code endorsement, but, she says, family commitments/obligations may delay her accomplishing that for awhile. Ann is not deterred though, for, in her words, "it has taken me 16 years to get my licence. I don't think a little longer to get the code is going to hurt".



Dave Steels – VE3UZ – qualified as an amateur radio operator (VE3HVZ) in 1975 when he was only seventeen (17) years of age and has been an active LARC member since that time.

His Elmer was Fred Gregory (SK), who held the call VE3UZ before Dave. Dave currently serves with the LARC Executive as Treasurer.

Dave works all the HF amateur bands, and is quick to note that “favourable propagation conditions, followed by antennas, are the most important things.”

Over the years, Dave has become a very proficient CW/SSB operator and his cool on-the-air manner, quiet demeanor and exceptional operating skills serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Dave has a passion for chasing DX, building antennas, contesting, ragchews on CW and “hunting” operating awards. Indeed, Dave has done very well, by any standard of measurement, having achieved:

- Worked All Zones (WAZ) CW;
- Worked All Zones SSB;
- Five Band DXCC and;
- 330 countries/entities confirmed; (Of a possible 338!)
- Worked All States (WAS) on 160 meters!

Dave is a big Field Day enthusiast, and can be relied on to admirably represent the Club by consistently logging several hundred CW contacts each year – with few breaks for rest/meals and/or refreshments! A real contester and top performer by any standard of comparison.

Dave’s XYL, Kathy, is also an amateur radio operator (VE3GYL) and more will be said on that in her profile.

When asked as to his most exciting/interesting QSO, Dave recounts having worked KH6CC (Hawaii) on 160 Meters on CW one September morning. This grey line band opening only lasted about 10 minutes. Dave says, “ Heard him at 6:25 am local time, worked him at 6:32 am. By 6:45 am his signal faded away to nothing.”

Most of Dave’s career has been spent in the Telecom and Electronics field. Ham radio was the main driver that got him into this line of work.



Shirley McCall – VE3SMN has been a LARC member since 1997, has served on the Executive since 2004 and as Director, Membership, since 2005.

Shirley achieved her Basic Licence in 1997 and also holds the Morse Code endorsement.

Shirley is also a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) as well as the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

Shirley is grateful for the time/effort expended in helping her grow in the hobby from her various Elmers, namely, Bob Morden, Gord Baker and Doug Tompkins.

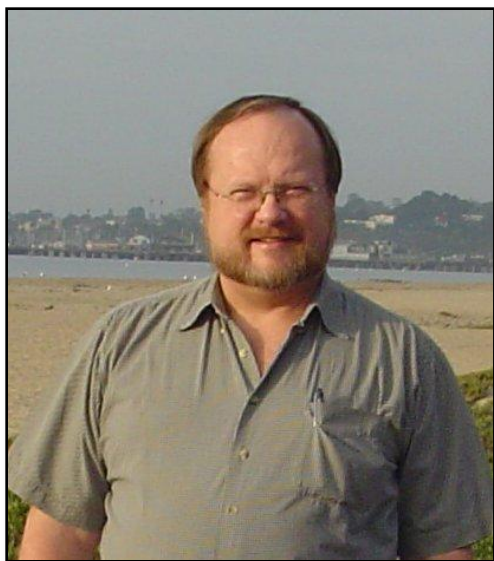
Shirley operates VHF, UHF mobile using an ICOM IC-270H and on HF using an ICOM IC-746 Pro. For antennas, she has installed a Carolina Windom 80 Special, and plans to erect a Comet GP-15 High Gain tri-bander when the weather warms a bit.

Shirley enjoys chasing DX, contesting, listening, special events and collecting QSL cards. She can be heard most on the 20M and 40M bands.

For Shirley, the London Amateur Radio Club provides a good opportunity to learn about the hobby through guest speakers as well as enjoy the fellowship of other hams.

Shirley has two children, (son and daughter) and six grandchildren. Shirley retired in 2004 and wasn't sure how well she would adjust to retirement, but has found lots to do and she thoroughly enjoys being retired.





Doug Elliot – VA3DAE was licenced in 2002 and an active LARC member since. Doug currently serves on the Board of Directors and has been the club webmaster for the past year and a half.

Doug is very involved in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and is the ARES London Emergency Co-Ordinator.

When questioned as to who his Elmer is, he quickly points to fellow LARC member and oft-time speaker, Eric Pierce (VA3EP). Eric also introduced Doug to hobby electronics (Doug and Eric are self-proclaimed “nerds” in every sense of the word, Hi Hi). Doug is very knowledgeable and finds/exudes humour where/when most needed and least expected. Doug has taught the regulations portion of a recent Ham course, but is quick to say that he “can’t claim to be an Elmer”.

Doug does some VHF/UHF, including ARES net controller tasks, and “a little bit of HF”.

Doug has a demanding work schedule. In his words, he is “very jealous of retired hams, and wish that business travel didn’t take me away from my ham shack as often as it does”. Doug’s takes his Kenwood TH-F6A handheld with him in his travels. When at home base, he uses a Yaesu FT857-D connected to a Carolina Windom Special 80 and utilizes a LDG IZ-11 pro-tuner. He is most active on 20, 40 and 80 meters. While on the road in his van, Doug says he uses a mobile Radio Shack HTX-212 loaned to him “by a generous ham”. (It should be noted here that that same “generous ham”, being the writer, had the loan of Doug’s one and only amateur radio at the time for about six weeks when the writer was first licensed. This to allow me to trial it before deciding which to purchase elsewhere. All the while, Doug sacrificed and went without any radio at all...many thanks Doug – de Pat (VE3CNX).

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Doug's role in ARES keeps him very busy, and he considers it a great learning experience and something very worthwhile. Although Doug hasn't gotten around to formal WSO logging or QSL cards, he really enjoys overseas contacts on HF. Doug has built a few simple antennas and looks for opportunities to combine his electronics and amateur radio hobbies, which sometimes results in "sparks and smoke".

When asked as to what he would do differently if he had to start over again, Doug says that he would have pursued his amateur radio license at a much earlier age, and would have considered matters such as antenna support structure and height of land when purchasing his home.

Doug enjoys Field Day and attends whenever he can. His first experience on HF took place during Field Day, and this inspired Doug as the next Field Day he had HF privileges and a HF radio. Being an avid camper, spending a weekend outside with like-minded friends has a major appeal for Doug, as "it's a great chance to get to know area hams and also explain our hobby to the public".

When asked as to what was his most exciting/memorable QSO, Doug is quick to point out the time he first made contact with another ham on a different continent. This was with 9A5E in Zagreb, Croatia. He was using his shiny, new FT-857D and a 40 meter dipole he had borrowed from his Elmer, Eric Pierce. The dipole was "barely off the ground" in his back yard. Up until that point, DX QSO's were a fascinating goal he expected to reach sometime in the future, but it was suddenly quite real when he found himself talking to a gentleman with a strong foreign accent "across the pond".

In terms of what he enjoys most about LARC, Doug says:

"I really like the sharing of ideas, suggestions, techniques, etc among the members - maybe because I don't have as much ham experience as most of our members, so I usually gain more info than I can provide. A lot of this happens at field day, which is one of the reasons I enjoy it. And I have to admit that the presentations I've made to LARC meetings have been a lot of fun, probably because I'm a ham in more ways than one."

In terms of other interests, Doug had this to say:

"I'm a professional nerd by trade - I work in Tech Support in the same Interactive Television company that Scott Carter VE3CGN and Tim Spicer VE3TJS do.

My other interests include canoe tripping, hobby electronics and robotics, playing trombone, bragging about my daughters, calligraphy, and yoga"

It's that time of year again!

You guessed it.

It's time to book your table

for the

31st annual

LARC FLEA MARKET

September 21, 2008

book early and save

contact

Ann Rundle VA3EOR

@

va3eor@hotmail.com

or

519-238-1542

