

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
and surrounding areas since 1920



June 10th, 2008

## MEETING TOPIC

The next LARC meeting will be on **Thursday, June 12**. The topics will be:

1. An overview of the CLARA ([Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association](#)) operating awards by Kathy Steels VE3GYL
2. Field day, past and present, by Pat Ross, VE3CNX
3. Life as a CANWARN net controller, by Tom Stewart, VE3OEP

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

- Field Day 2008
- Larc Flea Market
- ARES Training Session
- U.S. Military Reinstates use of Morse Code on Amateur Auxiliary Service
- Chinese Earthquake Update – May 28
- D-Star
- Youtube
- Radioworld extends D-STAR promotion
- Gord Baker – VE3GB/VE3TGB

## NEXT MEETING IS WHERE AND WHEN?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, June 12th, 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](mailto:webmaster@larc.ca)

## FIELD DAY 2008- LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

BYRON RESERVOIR PARK

12 NOON JUNE 28 TO 2:00 PM JUNE 29



**Wikipedia** defines **Field Day** as *an annual amateur radio exercise sponsored by various amateur radio IARU regions and member organizations, in order to encourage emergency communications preparedness. In the United States, it is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country with over 30,000 ham radio operators participating each year.*

*Since the first ARRL Field Day in 1933, Amateur radio operators throughout the United States have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.*

*To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component and many clubs also engage in associated fun activities of camping out and having cookouts for the participants. Operations are typically for a continuous 24 hours requiring the scheduling of relief operators to keep the stations going through the night. Additional contest points are awarded for such things as experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts through space satellites and involving youth in the activity.*

*Cont'd on next page...*

By way of history, the London Amateur Radio Club (LARC) was formed in 1920 and incorporated in 1978 as a not-for-profit association. Regrettably, records as to when LARC first participated in Field Day activities are not readily available to the writer. However, in speaking to long-standing member John Watson, VE3EZF, who joined LARC circa 1960, he can recall LARC Field Day exercises taking place as far back as 1961 on a farm situated at the Southwest corner of Fanshawe Park Road and Wonderland Road, and which was owned by a fellow-member Captain Joe Jeffrey (SK) whose call, VE3GB, was reassigned to Gord Baker, a close friend of the family. Apparently there were about twelve (12) attendees, operating two stations on HF and one on VHF/UHF, which John co-worked. He recalls freezing temperatures in the middle of the night, while trying vigorously to make 2M CW/AM contacts!!



In subsequent years, LARC used the Parkwood Hospital (baseball diamonds), Byron Hill, and since 2003, the Byron Reservoir Park on Commissioners Road west of Wonderland Road.

A campsite consisting of tents, tables and a large trailer was setup for 24 hours of radio fun. St John's ambulance provided a mobile generator equipped with area lighting to illuminate the area, making for a very pleasant weekend of fun.

Over these many years John continued to be a faithful contributor to the LARC Field Day event, and could be seen/heard working CW alongside Dave Steels, VE3UZ. John Watson has been a ham for over 58 years and has attended many Field Day events over the span of 48 years with LARC. This year John has committed to be there again, and will be on 20M CW along with a few other stalwarts, namely Archie Van De Velde (VE3PTV) and John Cumming (VE3JC).



Anyone interested in ham radio as well as the general public are invited to attend and all are encouraged to participate on the air (under supervision, of course). Children are especially welcome as they represent the future of the hobby and are most impressed with the campout atmosphere and they rarely decline the opportunity to key the mike and be heard on the airwaves.



The highlight of the weekend is the pot luck barbecue dinner on Saturday evening, when family and friends join with the group in sharing good food, fond memories and quality time.





So won't you join us for the 2008 Field Day exercise? Once again the event will take place at Byron Reservoir Park, west of Wonderland Road on Commissioners Road. Set up will commence at 12:00 noon Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June and operations extend through to 2:00 pm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> June.

We anticipate putting at least four (4) stations on the air and operate continuously throughout the 24 hour period. And please, bring your family and a friend(s). There will never be a better opportunity to show them the advantages/capabilities of amateur radio in an emergency situation.

Don't forget to bring some food and lawn chairs and join us for the barbecue pot luck starting around 5:00 PM Saturday.



If you wish further information and/or wish to participate/operate one of the stations, please contact me. (E-mail: [plrconsult@rogers.com](mailto:plrconsult@rogers.com)) See you there!

73 and Good DX,

Pat Ross – VE3CNX

## ARES Training Session

By Doug Elliot, VA3DAE

The Thames Valley ARES Group held a training session on Saturday June 7. 14 people attended, including the 5 area Emergency coordinators. According to the attendees, the training was valuable and informative, and we may be repeating the presentation for ARES volunteers in Perth and Elgin counties.

The topics covered included:

- ARES structure, naming and leadership – presented by Scott Carter VE3CGN
- Incident Command System Overview – presented by Brett Gilbank VE3ZBG
- Callout Logistics and Variations – presented by Doug Elliott VA3DAE
- ARES Net Procedures – presented by Steve Struthers VA3TDZ
- NTS Message Handling – presented by Doug Elliott VA3DAE
- plus a bunch of miscellaneous topics.

This training qualified for purposes of the ARES ID card, and as a result most of the attendees will be receiving their cards in the near future.

The course included a 50 page printed training manual, and a 130 slide Powerpoint presentation, both which will be posted on the LARC website, and emergencyteam.ca in the near future.

Our thanks to the ARES volunteers who invested their time to take this training so they'll be better able to serve our communities in time of need.

## U.S. MILITARY REINSTATES USE OF MORSE CODE ON AMATEUR AUXILIARY SERVICE

By Doug Elliot, VA3DAE

The US Military has [reinstated the use of Morse Code](#) on the MARS (Military Amateur Radio Service) after a 10-year absence. The original prohibition of Morse use on the special MARS frequencies was seen as an encouragement to FCC to drop U.S. code requirements for Amateur Radio exams, which it eventually did. But Morse Code is sometimes useful on the air, even if it doesn't belong on the test. Apparently, there were some emergency operations where they would have liked to use it, and their own regulations prohibited it - unlike on ham frequencies where it remains fine to use.

By Doug Elliot, VA3DAE

### [Chinese Officials Give Kudos to Amateur Radio Operators](#)

As disaster recovery efforts continue following the earthquake in the Wenchuan area of China's Sichuan province on May 12, China's [Information Office of the State Council](#) reports that the death toll has reached 67,183 persons as of May 27. Communications in some of the surrounding areas were cut off, and communications in some other areas experienced network congestion due to drastically increased traffic. According to the Chinese Radio Sports Association ([CRSA](#)) -- the Chinese [IARU](#) Member-Society -- Chinese government officials and the news media have recognized that when communications failed after the earthquake, Amateur Radio operators stepped in to provide vital links.

CRSA designated 14.270, 7.050 and 7.060 MHz for emergency communications use during the quake, but these frequencies are now no longer restricted for this use; however, should a severe aftershock occur, CRSA said it will make the call for them to be kept clear again.

On Monday, May 26, [China Central Television \(CCTV\)](#) reported that, "When all other communication means failed, Amateur Radio operators came out! An Amateur Radio emergency communication network was set up, and one of the commanders, Liu Hu [[BG8AAS](#)], called for Amateur Radio operators on air to provide services for disaster relief."

Fan Bin, [BA1RB](#), on behalf of CRSA, said, "Thankfully, one main repeater survived during the earthquake. This repeater provided 100 km coverage to Mianyang. [Amateur Radio operators from Chengdu, Shenzhen, He'nan went to the center of the disaster area, set up repeaters in Beichuan County and provided various valuable first hand information from the center.](#)"

CRSA officials said they hoped to report more detailed information on the role of Amateur Radio emergency communications in the big earthquake at a later date. In the meantime, Fan said, CRSA acknowledged that the main organizer of local Amateur Radio traffic, Luo Minglin, [BY8AA](#), "continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang -- among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter -- to form an effective Amateur Radio communication network."



Zhang Zhen, BG8DOU, said that right after the earthquake, "Two hamradio operators drove to the center of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of May 13. This repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions and status reports, and was a main communication channel for public use. The repeater carried communications for the Mayor of Mianzhu City who gave orders to those on the front line rescue and recovery activity."

The CRSA said it appreciates the support given by the Amateur Radio community in helping to keep clear the emergency communication frequencies of 7050 kHz, 7060 kHz and 14270 kHz during the critical period after the earthquake: "Thanks for the cooperation and efforts made by all Amateur Radio societies." The radio society also acknowledged having received inquiries and the "warm concerns" of Amateur Radio societies worldwide. -- INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FAN BIN, BA1RB, ON BEHALF OF CRSA, VIA IARU REGION 3 DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JIM LINTON VK3PC

SOURCE: [WWW.ARRL.ORG/](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG/)

## RADIOWORLD EXTENDS ICOM D-STAR PROMOTION

BY PATRICK MACKINNON, VE3PMK

The ICOM D-STAR system is a digital audio modulation protocol that supports simultaneous slow speed ( ~950bps ) data transfer on 2m and 70cm as well as dual rate ( ~950bps / 128kbps ) on 23cm. There are numerous mobiles and handies that support D-STAR either natively or via an installable internal option board.

About a year ago, ICOM offered a promotion to help launch D-STAR technology in the ham radio community. Radioworld has renewed this promotion and is looking for interested groups of amateurs who want to get a D-STAR repeater in their area.

The heart of the promotion a free D-STAR repeater for any group which purchases thirty D-STAR compliant ICOM radios. The purpose of the program is to raise the profile and awareness of the new technology.

This is a corporate promo video clearly from ICOM. Ignoring the musical hype, it does get a lot of feature information across:

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvyc\\_XxajB4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvyc_XxajB4)

A Dayton demo is here:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1XpiR9-WWM>

There are various 3rd party materials on the internet describing and demonstrating D-STAR, a few of which may be found here:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvzvMpoLRHE>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v--nSTCSO64>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEllswieLJs>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAFIkotDfKQ>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z68aSuQnhDE>

An example of what's available from ICOM can be found here:

- <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/dstar/2820h/default.aspx>
- <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/dstar/id800h/default.aspx>
- [http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/dstar/91a\\_91ad/default.aspx](http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/dstar/91a_91ad/default.aspx)

Any hams interested in joining an effort to get this new technology in London can contact me ([ve3pmk@rac.ca](mailto:ve3pmk@rac.ca)) or come to the club meeting this Thursday night. If there's enough interest, we can take advantage of this promotion while it's still available.

## EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS WITH YOUTUBE

BY PATRICK MACKINNON, VE3PMK

There are several video sharing site on the internet, and they're not just for finding car crashes and incredible crosswind landings made by commercial airline test pilots. One of the more popular sites is [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and on it you'll find a treasure trove of instructional videos and demonstrations if you can control your urge to click on the dozens of off-topic suggestions they throw at you. Some of their recommended videos can be similar in nature, but beware, if you're not careful, even that HF digital mode primer can be three suggested mouse clicks away from kids putting mentos candy mints into diet coke or some crazed experimenter playing with homebrew lightening from his backyard tesla coil...

Here are two nice videos about computer control and remote computer transceiver control.

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzR2PVA-s\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzR2PVA-s_o)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whe9nV9InnQ>

You can find all sorts of tidbits to spark new interests and facets of our ham radio hobby!

This is a very informative demo of Hellschreiber mode:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yR-EmyEBVqA>

Or perhaps, like me, you're fascinated with scanning satellites, satellite mil-comms, and wireless video cameras:

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qR\\_CpH1ekRo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qR_CpH1ekRo)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATvXoWBU2Y8>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAAg6RFkH-o>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GI-k3QSnIQQ>

cont'd...

Think moonbounce is only possible with VHF & UHF ? Think again!

(okay, so it takes a megawatt or two...)

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5E2ntlXAsc>

Using the terms "field day ham radio" in the search box quickly locates:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rg6tB-vCbVU>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDqIbtM8V0c&NR>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=varHL752Odk>

In closing, remember these video sharing sites can be a very efficient way to have several hours disappear from your evening before you realize it's half-past midnight! And speaking of which (it is 00:30 as I write this) I recommend one of my personal favourites. A truly master craftsman from France who manufactures his own vacuum tubes!

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl-QMuUQhVM>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9S5OwqOXen8>

and yet, as you watch those previous two links, what should you find among the recommended videos but yet another video from another author of making tubes. I'm sure you will agree, this next setting has a bit more high tech equipment, but the art is none the less the same. Enjoy!

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8\\_eLO0exato](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_eLO0exato)

## LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - MEMBER PROFILE



**Gord Baker – VE3GB/VE3TGB** has been a LARC member since 1990, currently serves as a Director (2002-2008) and is a Past President (2007-2008). Gord is also a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) as well as the ARRL.

Gord is very active on the VHF/UHF and HF bands, operating from his Home QTH, Mobile and Portable (Goderich). Gord's radio arsenal includes an ICOM IC-781 and Cushcraft A3S three element yagi as well as a Radio Works Carolina Windom80 (Home QTH).

Mobile – Gord uses an IC-7000 and a Tarheel 75/Turbotuner in summer, and a Hustler RM/LDG AT7000 during winter months.

The Portable Ham Shack is equipped with an ICOM IC-706 with a Hustler 6BTV Vertical and Z-100 tuner.

Gord's interest in Amateur Radio started when he was a young boy of twelve (12), having been introduced to the hobby by one of his father's associates, involved in the post-war Civil Defense effort. Gord was especially impressed with the spirit of Amateur Radio enthusiasts, their knowledge, dedication and the unlimited potential of Amateur communications.

Gord reports that most of the hams who participated are now Silent Keys (SK), however, there are still a few who are still active.

In the meantime, while Gord's interest did not wane, the rigors/demands of an education, coupled with raising a family and making a living wage, all served to impact on his ability to pursue an Amateur Radio Certificate. Further, Gord was employed in an electronic communications business, owned by a Radio Amateur, (no pressure) which served to satisfy Gord's curiosity for things electronic.

However, some forty (40) years after Gord's introduction to Amateur Radio, Gord's interest remained, and timing of his retirement presented an opportunity/motivation to follow through.

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With the advantage of some technical experience and patience of Mitch Powell, in 1992, Gord sat the written and Morse Code test (CW 12 WPM) in 1992 and was rewarded with callsign VE3TGB. The following year Gord achieved the Advanced Rating.

Gord's then followed up by becoming a Director on the LARC Board in 1992, where he remains to this day. Gord volunteered his services in the hope that some of his re-invigorated enthusiasm for Amateur Radio would be of some assistance in "growing the membership", which participation had diminished somewhat due to competing technologies, namely; computers. From all indications, Gord succeeded in doing so.

Having joined LARC in 2003, it has been the writer's (VE3CNX) observations that Gord's leadership, enthusiasm, sense of "stay-to-it-iveness", candor, wit, humour and sincere commitment to advancement of the hobby has been instrumental keeping LARC alive and well.

Well done, Gord, and Thank You.

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

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or

519-238-1542

