

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



May 7th, 2008

MEETING TOPIC

- The next **LARC Meeting** will be on **Thursday May 8**, and will include our Annual General Meeting, with election of our directors for the next year. The current executive have all agreed to stand for re-election. Anyone wishing to make a nomination should contact the [club secretary](#).

The main meeting topic will be a video presentation **Getting started in DXing**: Veteran operators share their secrets for successful DXing. Includes discussion of equipment and skills needed for success, a segment on using Packet Cluster as a DX aid, proof that you can work DX with a modest station and -- for the first time on videotape -- "the bite of the DX Bug." (Finalist in 1993 International Television Assn. Golden Reel Awards competition.) (51:50)

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

- ⇒ Hammond Museum Bus Trip
- ⇒ Field Day 2008
- ⇒ ARES Callout to Support Red Cross Evacuation Shelters
- ⇒ Larc Flea Market

NEXT MEETING IS WHERE AND WHEN?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, May 8th, 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

HAMMOND MUSEUM BUS TRIP

On Saturday April 26th we left London heading to the Hammond Museum in Guelph. With a few little hiccups along the way we made it. (I wonder if they got that left turn signal working?)



We had a turnout of 24 people. Everyone from the people who have been there before to the first time visitors enjoyed the museum very much.

The three volunteers that were there were quite knowledgeable about the various radios from a very simple transistor radio to one of the first remote controlled radio (on the 3rd page of this article, Ruth Dahl is holding the remote in the picture – looks like a telephone) .



In an old copy of Popular Electronics we found an ad for a Marlboro Cigarette Radio with they had on display.



There was even a radio made from an old Quaker Oatmeal can along with the instructions on how to make it.

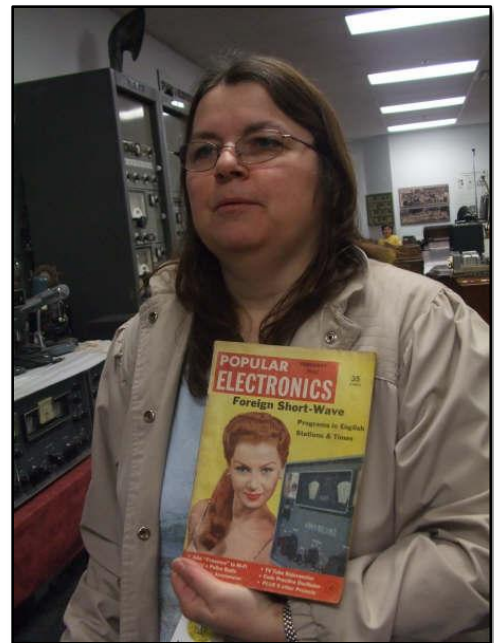




Spread throughout the museum there were various types of tubes, antennas, old keyers and very decorative speakers.

This is an early remote controlled radio, not a telephone.

In various areas of the museum they had albums on display of QSL cards, pictures of many different types of antennas and many other things.



All in all I think that we had a great trip and I would like to thank everyone who came and who helped me with the trip.

73's

Ann VA3EOR

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.

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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, 28th June and operations extend through to 2:00 pm Sunday, 29th 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) See you there!

73 and Good DX,

Pat Ross – VE3CNX

When the Albany River on the West side of James bay had record high levels, and extensive flooding around April 25, the community of Kashechewan faced its fourth evacuation since 2005. Also affected were Fort Albany and Attawapiskat. The weather wasn't very co-operative, and with a flooded runway and no visibility due to snowstorms and fog, both airplane and helicopter operations were initially very limited. The first evacuations took medical cases and elderly to the closest facilities in Cochrane, Greenstone, Sudbury, Kapuskasing, Hearst, and Sault Ste. Marie. Eventually, it was decided to evacuate the remaining population to southern Ontario. According to a plan that had been carefully prepared a year ago, the bulk of the evacuees would be flown to the Stratford area, and housed in emergency shelters prepared by the Red Cross.

And so it was that on the afternoon of Saturday April 26, Stratford/Perth ARES was activated by the Red Cross to support communications from multiple shelters.

Here's a summary of the events:

- Saturday April 26: Stratford/Perth ARES was activated by Terry Hillier, VE3TEH, on behalf of John Osborn, Red Cross Co-ordinator of Disaster Management, by a phone call to Scott Carter, VE3CGN. Scott relayed the callout message to DEC Brett Gilbank VE3ZBG, who notified the Stratford/Perth EC Alle Brander. The callout was in support of potential shelters in Stratford, St Marys, Milverton, Mitchell and Tillsonburg, with the initial shelter in Stratford. A web page with maps and current status information was started by Doug Elliott VA3DAE at <http://www.larc.ca/ares1.htm#albany>. Scott Carter, Doug Elliott, and Steve Struthers VA3TDZ went on standby in case Ham stations were needed at the London Red Cross and a Tillsonburg shelter.
- Sunday April 27, 08:00: Alle Brander, VE3CWL, Stratford/Perth EC, and Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG, Tecumseh DEC arrive onsite in Stratford to assess and assist. Severe weather in the north is delaying evacuations, and ARES stands down. In mid afternoon, the media reports that evacuations will resume soon.
- Monday April 28: Stratford Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) activates Stratford/Perth ARES to support communications between shelters in Stratford and St Marys. Alle Brander's team responds and establishes communications using the Stratford VHF repeater, working in pairs for 6 hour shifts. Evacuation efforts involve Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Department of National Defense

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- Tuesday April 29: Red Cross is preparing to open a third shelter in Milverton. Hams in St Marys will move to Milverton, and operators from Thames Valley ARES will provide extra manpower to maintain the St Marys location.
- Wednesday April 30: Don Laird VA3DWB did a morning shift, and Al Bernier VE3LOD took part in the afternoon shift. Brett Gilbank and Dave Young VE3EAY arrived around 1PM. Falling water levels resulted in a halt of the evacuation, and the Milverton shelter opening was cancelled. At 3 PM it was announced that the St Marys evacuees were being returned to Stratford, and Hams would no longer be needed at St Marys. At 5 PM, Hams were no longer needed at the Stratford shelter, and Stratford/Perth ARES stood down, as efforts were refocused on returning the evacuees to their homes.

Overall this was a very productive callout providing a valuable service to the Red Cross. Congratulations to Alle Brander VE3CWL and all the Hams involved on a job well done. We strengthened our relationship with the Red Cross, and the working relationship between ARES units. It was also a learning opportunity, and we'll be able to do an even better job for the next callout as a result.



Alle Brander, Stratford/Perth ARES EC confers with Brett Gilbank VE3ZBG, Tecumseh DEC at the Red Cross shelter at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

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

