

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

February 6, 2010

Next Meeting Topic

L.A.R.C. Executive

President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Vice-President

Pat Ross, VE3CNX

Past President

Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

Treasurer

Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB

Secretary

Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO

Director, Flea Market

Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

Director, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

Director

David Lambert, VE3KGK

Non-Voting

Director, ARES & CANWARN

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

Appointments

LARC Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

Repeater

Operator/Programmer

David Young, VE3EAY

Field Day Coordinator

Pat Ross, VE3CNX

Assistant - David Lambert, VE3KGK

Webmaster

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Newsletter Editor

John Visser, VA3MSV

Auditors

Rob Hockin, VA3HO

William Clothier, VE3BCU

The **next LARC meeting** will be on **Thursday, February 11** at **7:30 PM** with a presentation by **Bob Rice, VE3HKY** entitled "**The Pursuit of Simplicity**". Bob's presentation will detail his quest to build a "7-Band Semi Vertical Trap Antenna" and the support he received from fellow Amateur Radio Operators. His antenna was published in the Sept/Oct 2009 issue of the Canadian Amateur Magazine and meets the following criteria.

- can be built with simple hand tools
- requires minimal components
- doesn't require an antenna tuner
- low SWR
- can be placed on a small lot
- doesn't require climbing
- made from readily available materials
- construction costs less than \$100

Repeater Status

The new **VA3LON** is on the air! Thanks to major efforts on the part of our repeater coordinator, **Brad Seward, VE3NRJ** to repair and reconfigure the surplus repeaters, **VA3LON**, is installed and operating at the Arva pumping station with a standby backup system. Thanks also go to **London Hydro** for their donation of the surplus repeaters, **Jim Spicer, VE3CTS** for coordinating with them, and **Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT**, for assistance with the reinstallation.

Still at 147.060 MHz with a 114.8 PL tone, but with a stronger signal. Give it a try!

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on February 11, 2010 at 7:30 pm

All meetings are normally located at St. Judes Anglican Church, 1537 Adelaide Street North at Fanshawe Park Road East in London, Ontario.

The meetings 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).

Next Meeting will be March 11, 2010. Topic of this meeting will be "How They See Through You" by Mike Cook, VE3ZMC

Area Repeaters

LARC Repeaters

London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

SORT Repeaters

London

VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz

ULR Link repeater
"SORT" System

VE3SUE 444.400 + 114.8 Hz

ULR link repeater "SORT"
System, IRLP

Ipperwash

VE3TCB 146.940 - 123.0 Hz

Linked to VE3SUE

Grand Bend

VE3RGB 146.750 + 123.0 Hz

VE3SRT 442.050 + 123.0 Hz

Linked to VE3SUE

Goderich

VE3OBC 146.910 - 123.0 Hz

Whitechurch

VE3WWD 443.075 + 123.0 Hz

Other Area Repeaters

London

VA3SIX 53.470 - 114.8 Hz

VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz

CANWARN

Stratfordville

VE3DPL 146.655 - 131.8 Hz

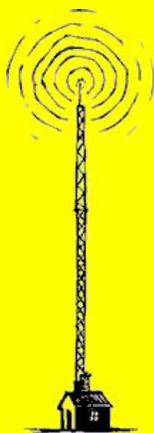
St. Thomas

VE3STR 147.330 + 114.8 Hz

Echolink Node: 72886

VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz

IRLP Node: 2482



If you have a repeater that should be listed here, please forward the information to John Visser, VA3MSV at va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll add it to the list.

Membership Certificates

The Club has created membership certificates for its current members. You can see your own certificate at the following link. <http://www.larc.ca/member-list.htm>

Simply click on your surname and it will bring up a PDF of your certificate suitable for printing.

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

Mutual Aid

Would you be willing to answer some questions if a fellow ham needed some advice? Got a problem you can't figure out? Want to try something new but need someone to show you the ropes? Check out our new [Mutual AID page \(http://www.larc.ca/mutual-aid.html\)](http://www.larc.ca/mutual-aid.html), a new way to get people who are looking for assistance together with the folks who can help supply the answers. **Let us know** what you think of this new facility.

Membership Report

As of February 6, 2010, the London Amateur Radio Club has 91 members. 11 members fall under the Honourary Membership category. Of the 80 paid members, 19 of them fall under the Family Membership category.

Nets



Daily

Trans Provincial Net
7.055 MHz 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday

Swap Net
7.055 MHz LSB 12:00 pm
ARES Ontario Net
7.153 MHz 1:00 pm
7.055 MHz 3:00 pm
3.742 MHz 7:15 pm
IRLP Reflector 9005 8:00 pm

Monday

LARC 2m Net 8:00 pm

Wednesday

ARES Net
145.450 + VE3OME 7:30 pm
ARES Ontario Net
IRLP Reflector 9005 8:00 pm

Thursday

PROCOMM Net
147.180 + VE3TTT 8:00 pm
444.400 + VE3SUE 8:00 pm

Friday

Tech Net
147.180 + VE3TTT 8:00 pm
444.400 + VE3SUE 8:00 pm

Saturday

VE3TTT 2m Net
147.180 + VE3TTT 7:30 pm
444.400 + VE3SUE 7:30 pm
146.940 - VE3TCB 7:30 pm
442.300 + VE3TCB 7:30 pm
447.050 - VE3SRT 7:30 pm
447.075 - VE3BHR 7:30 pm

If you have a Net that should be listed here, please forward the information to John Visser, VA3MSV at va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll add it to the list.

ARRL Audio News Temporarily Suspended

February 5, 2010

The American Radio Relay League has temporarily suspend its ARRL Audio News operation. According to the League, the suspension was brought about by the planned introduction of the ARRL's new and redesigned website. It said that in order to do this properly, the League was suspending the ARRL Audio News operations while

it looks for solutions that will enable it to provide the technical quality and distribution channels expected of that organization. The last newscast in the current ARRL Audio News series was issued on Thursday, January 28th. At our airtime the League has not set a date for the return of its audio news service. (ARRL)

Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy - the book

This book is the result of several years of experience in amateur radiotelegraphy. It suggests, for the first time, a learning methodology based on an integrated and multidisciplinary approach designed to accompany the apprentice from the first steps in ham radio all the way to a world-class proficiency in telegraphy.

The book introduces, ad-hoc tailored to amateur radio, techniques used successfully by competitive athletes, including extreme sports such as free diving, adapted to the difficult process of learning telegraphy.

You can download it here: <http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygj/enu/index.html>

73 de Carlo IK0YGJ

Free online magazine

January 20, 2010

By Peter West

The new issue of [WorldRadio Online magazine](http://www.worldradiomagazine.com/wro_issues/2010/WRO_02_2010.pdf) (http://www.worldradiomagazine.com/wro_issues/2010/WRO_02_2010.pdf) is available as a free PDF download. This is a great service from the good folks at [CO Magazine](http://www.co-magazine.com) and a great way to get the latest information and commentary about amateur radio topics of interest.

BTW Haiti was hit by another 6+ magnitude earthquake this morning. There's been some online chatter about why Amateur Radio isn't being used by the helping agencies who are on the ground and the answers are obvious:

4. The levels of safety and security are still too low to allow wide-spread influx of volunteers;
5. The helping agencies are overwhelmed and understaffed

and any additional burden of non-essential staff is unwarranted;

1. Broken as it may be, Haiti is still ruled by the Haitians. Like it or not, we can't just descend on Haiti without some official process and right now, there is none;
2. Without sufficient training and an ability to feed and shelter volunteers, any amateur radio involvement at this time would be an unnecessary burden;
3. Our time to help will come. There's lots to be done and amateur radio will play an important supportive role in the near future. We need to be making preparations and growing our memberships in serving organizations such as [ARES](http://www.ares.org).

Upcoming Events

Thu., Feb. 11, 2010

L.A.R.C. Meeting – A presentation by **Bob Rice, VE3HKY** entitled "The Pursuit of Simplicity"

Sat., Feb. 27, 2010

[Burlington Spring Flea Market](#)

Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Royal Canadian Legion - 828 Legion Rd.,
Burlington

Sat., Feb 27, Sat., Mar 13,

Sat., Mar 27, Sat., Apr 10,

Exam - Sat., May 8, 2010

[Ham Radio Basic Certification Course](#)

Lambton County Radio Club
Sarnia Police Headquarters, 555
Christina Street North, Sarnia, Ontario.
To register or for more info, contact
Keith Baker, VA3KSF, Course
Administrator, at va3ksf@rac.ca or call
519-481-0153. More information is also
available via the club's website at
www.ve3sar.org.

Thu., Mar. 11, 2010

L.A.R.C. Meeting – A presentation by Mike Cook, VE3ZMC entitled "How They See Through You"

Sat., Mar. 27, 2010

Ham-Ex 2010

Peel and Mississauga Radio Clubs
Brampton Fair Grounds, Hearth Lake Rd.

Sat., Mar. 27, 2010

[The 34th Durham Amateur Radio Hamfest](#)

The North Shore ARC and the South
Pickering ARC
Iroquois Park Recreation Center in
Whitby, Ontario. The site is located on
Victoria Street at the corner of Henry
Street and is wheelchair accessible.

Sun., Jun. 6, 2010

[Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket](#)

GARC & KWARC
Waterloo Regional Police Association,
R.R. 2, 1128 Rife Rd. North Dumfries
Township. Beside Hwy 401, between
exits 268 & 275. Lat: 43° 20' 51.20" N,
Long: 80° 24' 58.89" W

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to have listed here, please forward the information to John Visser, VA3MSV at va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll add it to the list.

Sarnia Hams Hit The Headlines

January 12, 2010

By Peter West

Great story about amateur radio in Sarnia, Ontario as published in The Observer newspaper. Congrats to the Lambton County Radio Club and good luck in attracting new hams to your training course starting on Feb. 27.

Hamming it up

**Posted By Neil Bowen, The Observer
Posted January 11, 2010**

A light-bulb's worth of power lets Keith Baker talk with astronauts in orbit and people anywhere on the planet because he's an amateur radio operator.

The past president of the Lambton County Radio Club wants others to join him in free global communication and a training course starts Feb. 27.

"I have stood in my backyard with a (battery-powered five-watt) hand-held radio and talked to somebody in space," said Baker.

His inside radio only draws 100 watts of power.

A beginner can get borrowed equipment or buy used equipment for \$100 to \$200. Once they pass the government-mandated course, they can go on the air.

Amateur or ham radio operators have access to assigned frequency bands. The bands begin near the AM radio frequencies but they have internationally assigned slivers of the band scattered across the spectrum.

"It's like fishing. You never know who you are going to connect with," he said.

He can pick a frequency and issue a CQ which is a connection request. CQ is shorthand from the time when Morse Code was the language of radio.

His recent logbook indicates

conversations with operators in Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, Bosnia and the Galapagos Islands.

But there can also be schedules devised among operators for specific times and frequencies. While atmospheric conditions can be difficult, a prearranged contact can be made faster than dialing a phone number.

It is not restricted to voice communication. Operators can connect their computer to send digital communications and include web cam shots.

It differs from cell phones and the internet because it is not a commercial operation. There is no connection or access fee and there's no need to tie into wired communication systems.

This aspect makes operators a valued emergency communication system.

The Lambton club is part of the Sarnia emergency plan. Volunteer operators can establish communications when phones lines become overloaded.

It's also a interesting hobby for Baker who been an operator for more than 30 years.

It has allowed him to get involved in amateur-built communication satellite that is currently in orbit as well as being a card collector. It is common practice among operators to mail cards confirming a radio contact.

He has cards from around the world. Anyone interested in the becoming an operator can get course registration information on the club's website, <http://www.ve3sar.org>.

The registration deadline is Feb. 22. The cost for the five-session course is \$35 to cover expenses. There is also a \$45 textbook required.

Once licensed by Industry Canada operators are free to roam the world.

2010/2011 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections

It is that time of year again for us to think about the lineup for the club's executive members for 2010-2011.

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 4th Thursday of the month from 7:30 pm to about 9:00 pm. All club members are invited to attend any executive meeting. If you have some interest but are unsure, and want to come and see what we do, just check with one of the executive as to where we are meeting.

The next page is a snip from the club's by-laws that specifically deal with the election process.

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 (A.R.E.S.) 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 May 13, 2010

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 L.A.R.C. Newsletter, which 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.

Please contact the L.A.R.C. Secretary Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO, if you have any nominees or questions. You can reach me at ragann61@hotmail.com.

Police Get Bill 118 Wrong

February 4, 2010

By Peter West

An article in **The Lindsay Post** quotes an acting Staff Sergeant with the City of Kawartha Lakes Police saying that amateur radio was not covered by the ban on hand-held devices as mandated by Ontario's Bill 118.

Of course, the officer has misspoken however this may not be the first or last time we will be faced with this sort of misinformation.

Radio Amateurs of Canada is contacting the police service and would encourage amateurs in other communities who face similar erroneous understanding of Bill 118 or similar legislation in their province to immediate contact their local police service and offer a clarification.

Here's a PDF of Bill 118 [HTA- ON. Reg 366.09 \(http://racblog.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/hta-on-reg-366-09.pdf\)](http://racblog.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/hta-on-reg-366-09.pdf) with the amateur radio exemption clearly noted.

Microphone No Different Than Cell Phone: Police CB and HAM radio users must conform to new legislation

Posted By Lisa Gervais, Lindsay Post Reporter

Posted February 3, 2010

KAWARTHA LAKES - Local police are advising amateur CB and ham radio users to adhere to the new driver distraction legislation, saying a microphone is no different than a cellphone. However, the MTO said if those radios are being used to assist in an emergency situation, users are covered under three-year exemption until January 1, 2013.

City of Kawartha Lakes Police Service Acting Staff Sergeant Kirk Robertson told the Lindsay Post on Tuesday (Feb. 2) that in non-emergency situations "they should be pulling over to the side of the road."

He said there was a three-year phase out on the use of hand-held two-way radios for police, fire, emergency medical services, the public service and commercial vehicles, such as transport trucks - to allow for the development of hands-free solutions - but that did not extend to amateur radio users who are simply communicating.

Ernie Roylance, treasurer of the Victoria Haliburton Amateur Radio Association, said that was his understanding as well.

"It's the same as a cell phone. A microphone is a hand-held device," he said.

He said ham radio and CB operators will also have to wait until hands-free solutions are developed for their older radios.

He isn't necessarily happy about it, though, saying amateur radio is regulated by the federal, not the provincial government. He added amateur radio operators have been successful in getting exemptions in some other provinces and the Radio Association of Canada is expected to take up the fight in Ontario.

In the meantime, he says "I can pull over and use the radio." But as the MTO clarified on Tuesday, Feb 2 for the Lindsay Post, he can use it in an emergency.

[-lgervais@thepost.ca](mailto:lgervais@thepost.ca)

Police Get Bill 118 Wrong cont.

2 Responses to "Police get Bill 118 wrong"

1. On February 5, 2010, Brian Dixon Says:
So it's OUR job to inform police?
2. On February 5, 2010, A little bit more on bill C118 « VA3QV's Weblog Says:

By VA3QV

From the **RAC Blog** comes a report that some Ontario Police Departments are slightly confused about our 3 year exemption for Amateur Radio Gear as far as the Electronic Devices Ban goes...



Speaking from experience (No, I was not stopped for this one but...) I would strongly recommend that if you find an officer who thinks you are not exempt do not argue with him.



You could mention that you were of the understanding that the bill exempted Amateur Radio Equipment and its operation for 3 years and as a licensed Amateur

Operator (show him your license) that you are exempt for that period of time.

BUT>>>> A police officer is very much like a hockey referee or a baseball umpire... You are not



going to win an argument with one so why raise everyone's blood pressure by screaming at him and calling him all the nasties in the book.. All you will do is firstly annoy him to the

point of looking for other infractions you or your vehicle might be guilty of and secondly he won't be very impressed with the next amateur who drives by his location and that might be me...

SO>>> If he won't listen to your calm explanations just shut your yap and take the damn ticket. You will beat it in court anyway.... But if he has his mind set on writing the ticket any loud arguments on your part is just an invitation for him to find something else to write you up on.... No one

wins an argument with a referee but you can appeal the ref's bad call. You are not going to win an argument with the officer but the crown attorney will toss out the charge if you explain things to him...



The standard disclaimer applies>>> You might have the bad luck to have a misinformed officer and an unsympathetic Crown Attorney and actually might have to go to court to beat the charge but the Bill is in Black and White and as long as the secondary charge of Dangerous Driving is not involved (you are not exempt from that) you will be (should be) successful.

The standard disclaimer also applies>>> I am a blogger not a legal expert. The opinions stated above are mine alone and if you have any questions you should contact a professional. You take any information in this blog at your own risk... Your situation/circumstances could vary depending on various factors...

So remember a "P!ssed off" Officer writes more tickets than one who hears the words "yes sir"....

73 bob

One Response to "A little bit more on bill C118"

1. On February 5, 2010, Tim VE3UO Says:
In addition to your certificate, it would be a good idea to have a copy of the legislation in your glove compartment, to show the officer

that radio amateurs are exempt until Jan 1, 2013.

http://www.lois-en-ligne.gouv.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2009/elaws_src_regs_r09366_e.htm

Hams in Haiti

By Peter West

[IEEE Spectrum magazine](#) has a great article available online about the success of ham radio operations in Haiti. The article comes to us thanks to the ARRL's media and PR manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. The photo here is from the ARRL and appeared in the IEEE Spectrum article.



The Haitian earthquake presented unique challenges to the deployment of international amateur radio resources. Amateur radio communities in many countries will be looking at the Haitian experience for guidance on how to grow their own emergency response capabilities.

As we all know (or should know), even in the midst of the devastation that struck Haiti, nobody can just

walk into another country and put on their highway safety vest declaring that they're here to help. In the case of Haiti, the situation on the ground remains way too volatile and unsafe. Even helping agencies are limiting who they send and to where. Civil (or in some cases military) government still functions in these situations. Authority needs to be consulted and permissions secured. Agreements need to be negotiated. This is especially true in Haiti where there isn't a robust native amateur radio community and a total lack of equipment and infrastructure organizations like Radio Amateurs of Canada or the ARRL existed before the disaster.

So what can we do here at home? Well I'm well on my way to creating a three-station two-meter network that fits into one medium-large size tool box. Containing older radios and one W/T that runs on AA batteries I'm making a shopping list of accessories to buy when I go to Dayton this year. Even if I never have to pull the box out of the basement during an emergency, it will come in handy at Field Day operations and other special events.

Oh yeah. The other thing you can do is join RAC and ARES right now. Get involved and make a positive contribution.

Repeaters Activated In Haiti and Dominican Republic

By Peter West

[The ARRL Letter](#) includes information that members of the Radio Club Donicano – the Dominican Republic's IARU member-society – and Union Dominicana de Radio Aficionados (UDRA) have been able to install two VHF repeaters – one in the Dominican Republic border town of Jumani and another in Port-au-Prince. These repeaters are being used by the Red Cross and civil defense authorities since, until just recently, there has been no other way to communicate except by these

amateur radio repeaters. A station at the US embassy in Haiti could not be activated.

The security situation within Haiti remains too uncertain for any wide-spread deployment of amateur radio operators and equipment. It appears that as the domestic situation stabilizes there will be greater need for amateur radio in Haiti in the immediate future and for months, perhaps years to come.

Flying Radio Station Broadcasts Help to Haiti

By **Mike Ahlers**, CNN
January 26, 2010



The Commando Solo crew make a run at dusk.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Commando Solo broadcasts guidance, in Creole, for about 10 hours a day over Haiti
- U.S. Air Force plane trails a vertical wire, with a 500-pound weight, to act as its AM antenna
- Broadcasts include Voice of America programming and announcements from Haitian officials
- The entire broadcast is in Creole, the most common language in Haiti

San Juan, Puerto Rico (CNN) -- Sixty miles west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, an Air Force C-130 makes slow and lazy ovals over the Golfe de la Gonzave, a 264-foot weighted wire dangling from its belly like a plumb line.

This is Commando Solo, a radio station in the sky. The long wire, kept vertical by a 500-pound lead weight, is helping transmit an AM radio signal to the people of Haiti. Four other antennas on the wings and fuselage are sending FM signals.

The U.S. government is using Commando Solo to deliver news and information to the survivors of the January 12 earthquake. During much of the day, the plane relays live broadcasts of Voice of America news call-in shows in Creole, the native tongue of Haiti.

During lulls in the VOA programming, it sends pre-recorded public service announcements, including advice on sanitation, what to do when encountering a dead body, and a warning from the Haitian government not to attempt dangerous and illegal ocean crossings to Florida in small boats.

None of the 10-member crew aboard Commander Solo speaks Creole. But the technician who monitors the broadcast says he nonetheless can get a sense of the impact of the quake.

"You can hear in people's voices a lot of emotion, sometimes a little bit of frustration, sometimes really anxiety," said Brian. (The Air Force asked CNN to identify crew members only by first name and rank.)

"We hear a lot of people calling in trying to check in with their relatives and find out where they're at. And so it's pretty interesting just to hear it, even though I don't understand the language, the message really does come through," he said.

Commando Solo, part of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, has engaged in special operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and other trouble spots around the world. The Haiti mission is a rare mission focused on humanitarian relief.

"I feel it's a very important mission. I feel very proud that we're a part of it," said Brian.

The plane's pilot, David, echoes the sentiment.

"I'm honored to be here. I mean anything we can do to actually help these people, I'm glad to do."

To insure that their message is being received, the Department of Defense has handed out tens of thousands of portable radios in Haiti. The radios are both solar and hand-crank operated, and don't need batteries.

Kathy, a first lieutenant and the mission control chief on the flight, says the plane is an effective way to communicate with the public in disasters.

"Anyone can turn on a radio, tune it up," she said. "We're able to reach all of Haiti right now with our message."

One of those messages is a dire warning from Raymond Joseph, Haiti's ambassador to the United States.

"Listen, don't rush on boats to leave the country," Joseph says in Creole. "If you do that, we'll all have even worse problems. Because I'll be honest with you: If you think you will reach the U.S. and all the doors will be wide open to you, that's not at all the case."

"And they will intercept you right on the water and send you back home where you came from."

U.S. Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Christopher O'Neil said there is no evidence of people fleeing Haiti for Florida, and officials do not expect a mass migration. Previous mass migrations were caused

by geopolitical turmoil, not by natural disasters, O'Neil said.

In addition, there is a large U.S. government presence on the ground in Haiti, on the water, and in the air -- which is likely to deter migrants, authorities say.

Commando Solo is part of that presence.

Altogether, the Pennsylvania guard unit has three Commando Solo planes, two of which are deployed to the Haiti mission.

During the first week of operation, missions lasted about eight hours, but the flights have since been lengthened to 14 hours, allowing 10 hours a day of broadcast time. The flights are so long it requires aerial refueling of the plane.

The airplane flew an estimated 3,200 miles on Saturday, most of it in a loop above Haitian waters.

Commando Solo crew members say they are uncertain how long they will continue operations in Haiti. Several commercial radio stations damaged by the quake have resumed operations.

But they say their efforts are worthwhile.

"When people think of the military they think about going out, blowing things up, destroying," said Barry. "We're at the other end of it. We are there to assist people, to help people, to save people."

Why ARES Needs You and You Need ARES

January 16, 2010

By Peter West

The disaster unfolding in Haiti has just begun. Tuesday's devastating earthquake was only the beginning of the misery that will befall the Haitian nation over the next months and years. As vice-president of public relations for Radio Amateurs of Canada I've been busy keeping in touch with other amateur radio and non-governmental agencies here in Canada and internationally who are involved in Haiti. There's lots happening behind the scenes and I trust we'll be hearing a lot more about amateur radio involvement in the coming days and weeks.

I'm learning lots of lessons that I'd like to share some of my thoughts:

1. Disasters come in many forms and we are not immune. It, whatever it is, could happen here tomorrow;
2. When it happens here we need to be absolutely self-sufficient for at least 72 hours;
3. Before it happens here we need to have developed some sort of a command structure* and loose infrastructure of participants;
4. As it happens here we need to be capable of deploying ourselves rapidly and in an organized fashion;
5. Deployment means we need to be able to support ourselves in the field and create a working radio network that serves those afflicted;

6. Supporting ourselves includes food, water, shelter and, of course, equipment**. Safety of personnel must remain a top priority***;
7. Equipment includes a flashlight, GPS hand unit, multi-tool, 2-meter rig (or dual-band) and 12-volt power plug, and maybe an HF rig****;
8. Prior to any of these plans we need a competent leadership that can work with non-governmental agencies, the military and civil authorities*****;
9. We also need lots and lots of semi-trained and willing hams. This is not a time for on-the-job training;
10. To accomplish the above we need to join the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in our local communities today.

* This is where ARES comes in. Like it or not, it's the best initiative we have.

** I've got a couple of 2-meter rigs sitting around. I'm going out today to buy a tool box to start a ["GO" kit](#).

*** Many well-intentioned hams want to go to Haiti to help but right now the country is not safe enough.

**** Rural Haiti is semi-mountainous. VHF/UHF may not work outside of the cities. HF maybe needed.

***** Well-meaning but unknown groups aren't likely to be included in the official relief effort.

So to conclude: I am a member of my local ARES group. But I've been a non-participating member for some years not. Back in the "old days" I was an active ARES member and was a volunteer with Emergency Measures Ontario. The Haitian disaster reminds me of just how much I need to be an

active ARES member and how much ARES needs amateurs just like me. If you want to help out during times of need, you can start today by joining [your local ARES group](#). They'd love to hear from you.

5 Responses to "Why ARES needs you and you need ARES"

1. On January 16, 2010, Peter Gamble Says:

Peter

Your post is excellent. You have captured the key elements that are required for Amateur radio to be accepted and used; planning and building relationships in advance is the starting point.

I liked your comment about "create a working radio network that serves those afflicted". Too many Amateurs want to do what they want to do, which is often not what is needed or wanted.

Your comment "This is where ARES comes in. Like it or not, it's the best initiative we have" is very true. Amateurs who are not part of their local AERS or other Amateur emergency communications group are invisible to the clients they claim they will serve and to the Amateurs who will actually be activating in an emergency.

ARES needs people who can and will do things. Some need to be leaders, but most need to be committed to working. The results of the group depend on the input of the group.

Once again, great post!

Peter – VE3BQP
EC Ottawa ARES

2. On January 17, 2010, Wayne Davies VA3GRP Says:

Oregon has now placed its new laws in effect, regarding to 2-way mobile radio use. Website:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2300.dir/hb2377.a.pdf>

Getting rid of our older hands mikes while driving, is spreading fast. It's now hit the U.S.A. in the state of Oregon. They now require the usage of all 2-way mobile radios, to operate "Hands Free". It's spreading, and spreading fast, unless we start pulling

together as one, and pushing for exemptions from these new laws. Those in Canada, that are now exempted, and allowed to use their regular hand mikes, will soon see their exemptions overturned, and laws such as that in Ontario will be the same all across Canada. Either begin pulling together as one, or all of us will have to operate a mobile in a Hands free mode. 73's Wayne

3. On January 18, 2010, Joseph Verdirame Says:

Peter, you are to be commended for helping to heighten awareness of what is certainly the most important role that Amateur Radio can fulfill. Emergency Management Ontario (formerly Emergency Measures Ontario) operates an amateur radio station in the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre and is fully aware of the importance of ARES. In fact, ARES operators are employed during various emergency exercises carried out through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre. Now, EMO even has licensed Amateur Radio operations among its staff.

The main point here, which you make very well, is that if we truly wish to live up to the spirit of Amateur Radio, we should all be personally prepared for emergencies AND be ready to serve ARES.

Kudos on your own personal preparations. You have prompted me to do some thinking...

73
Joe, VE3LNU

4. January 18, 2010, Wayne Davies VA3GRP Says:

Thanks to another amateur, that gave me reason to search farther, and deeper into the internet on Oregon's new cell phone and 2-way radio laws, I found this website, that says the complete opposite of the other

listing I posted. Not wanting to give false information here on RAC's blog, I thought it best to post it as well, and let those of you decide which site is the true cell phone and 2-way radio laws of Oregon. The fact still remains, we must all work together and get Ontario to exempt those of us in amateur radio in Bill 118, who use mobile transmitters. We still need to stand together as one large body, and get Ontario to change their past decision, to allow us to remain using our standard old mikes, the same as we always have.

73 Wayne

http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/docs/OSP_Cell_law.pdf

5. On February 4, 2010, dave Says:

Sent an app to the local ARES to join several months ago. Haven't heard from them. Mute point now as my employment changed and I may be moving to USA later this year. Maybe ARES have too many in this area and don't need my/more help? When I get to the states I will join ARES there and help out in that region. ARES is a very good and worthwhile addition to amateur radio activities. (As is CanWarn and SkyWarn) personally I believe some form of ARES emergency communications training should be part of the basic exam. Once licensed then the individual decides to continue with ARES or not. Then when the BIG one comes WE are ALL ready. VE3ZUZ-KD8ZUZ

Petition Filed For Creation of U.S. 4 Meter Band

February 5, 2010

QRZ.com lead moderator Glen Zook, K9STH, of Richardson, Texas has filed a Petition for Rulemaking to the FCC. One aimed at creating a 70.000 MHz to 70.500 MHz amateur radio band in the United States.

In his January 27th filing, Glen Zook, K9STH, notes that the 4 meter band spectrum has been authorized in a growing number of European and African nations. He says that by establishing such privileges for amateur radio operators in the United States and other areas over which the Commission has jurisdiction that it would be of great benefit to those operators residing in such areas.

According to Zook, the recent migration of broadcast television stations to primarily the UHF frequencies has basically eliminated any probable interference to television channels 4 or 5 which otherwise might have occurred. This is because the 4-meter band is located on frequencies that were allocated to television channel 4. Since the 4-meter amateur radio band does not fall in the 72.0 MHz to 76.0 MHz segment which is allocated to Operational Fixed and various mobile services there would be no potential co-channel or adjacent channel interference.

In his proposal Zook suggests that the FCC allow all classes of amateur radio operators operating privileges on this new band. However, he also suggests that Novice Class licensees be restricted to

a lower output level than those allowed for Technician, General, Advanced and Extra Class licensees. He says that if the present maximum power output limitation of 1500 watts P-E-P is granted to the higher class licensees then the Novice Class licensees should be restricted to no more than 200 watts power output as per most of the privileges granted those operators who hold a Novice Class license.

It should be noted that there are still a small number of low-band VHF television transmitters in operation and their owners will likely oppose the creation of a new ham band at 70 MHz. That said, the level of opposition from broadcasters will likely be far less than it would have been before the Digital Television transition of June 2009. That's when most of the nations VHF low band stations on channels 2 through 7 migrated to channels in the UHF range.

If the FCC decides to issue it a Rule Making designation, Glen Zook's petition to create a ham radio allocation at 70 MHz is likely to garner a lot of support from within the ham radio community. Especially from those who operate in the world above 50 MHz.

You can read the entire K9STH filing on-line at <http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=234707> (QRZ.com, ARNewsline™)

2010 Field Day Packets Now Available

-- It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010!

ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now [available for download](http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2010-packet.pdf) ([http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/](http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2010-packet.pdf)

[fd-2010-packet.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2010-packet.pdf)) and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.



ARRL Elects First Female President

Posted: Jan 26, 2010



The ARRL Board of Directors has elected First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as the organization's new president, succeeding Joel Harrison, W5ZN, who did not seek re-election. Craigie is the first woman to hold the League's top position. According to the *ARRL Letter*, Rick Roderick, K5UR, is the new First Vice

President; Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, KOBJ, was elected an additional vice president and Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, KOQB, is the new VP for International Affairs. Their respective vice directors moved up to the directors' seats, and Craigie will appoint new vice directors. In addition, Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, was named ARRL Chief Technology Officer.

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, lives in Blacksburg, Virginia, with her husband Carter Craigie, N3AO, and their Jack Russell Terrier, Frodo.

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Kay graduated from Georgia State College (now Georgia State University) in 1968 and then moved to Pennsylvania to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She taught at the University of Maryland for three years in the 1970s. Later, she taught part-time at Cabrini College in Pennsylvania and worked on the non-instructional staff at a high school. She moved to Virginia in 2007.

First licensed in 1983, Kay became the editor of her radio club's newsletter, a position she held for 24

years. She has been a Volunteer Examiner for more than 20 years, now working with the New River Valley Amateur Radio Club's team. In 1986, she became ARRL Section Manager for Eastern Pennsylvania, moving up to Atlantic Division Vice Director in 1990. Six years later, she became Atlantic Division Director, and in 2006 she was elected First Vice President of the ARRL.

Kay has served on all the standing committees of the ARRL Board of Directors and also worked on the League's Enforcement Task Force, the committee whose pressure finally resulted in the FCC's assigning Riley Hollingsworth to clean up the ham bands.

Kay's first assignment as Vice President was to design what became the ARRL Education and Technology Program. Later, she chaired the National Emergency Response Planning Committee, tasked with recommendations on the League's readiness at the national level to respond to extraordinary disasters.

On the air, Kay enjoys DXing -- that's what attracted her to ham radio in the first place -- award-hunting, and contesting. She holds VUCC on 6 meters, 5BDXCC (endorsed for 12, 17, and 30 meters), the DXCC Challenge award, WAZ, and WAE Class 1 CW. She enjoys digital modes such as RTTY and PSK31, as well as CW and phone. She is involved with Skywarn through the Blacksburg, Virginia, National Weather Service Forecast Office.

Kay's husband Carter is a retired college professor. He has served as a Section Traffic Manager and as an ARES Emergency Coordinator. He especially enjoys QRP and operating outdoors on the Appalachian Trail. He is also a Skywarn volunteer. Their daughter Jenny Riffe, KA3WVD, lives in Virginia with her husband and two children.

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

-- Membership application and dues are currently requested.

Our term of membership runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. Each and every year it is increasingly more difficult to get Amateurs to commit to membership in their local club due to the alternate functions we are asked to fund.

*The **London Amateur Radio Club** has a long history of providing technical support, social support and repeater facilities. Public service efforts are currently provided by a club affiliation with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (**ARES**) and **Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)**.*

Your Directors work tirelessly to provide meeting topics that are informative and entertaining, events that are timely (Christmas meeting, field day, bus trip) and participate in events that display and promote Amateur Radio in the community.

To be effective in its pursuits, the Club needs the support of the local Amateur fraternity through membership.

While we obtain financial support from our Annual Flea Market, we require membership support to fund such things as meeting hall rent, repeater sites rent and maintenance, web site fees, membership cards and liability insurance. For what it's worth, none of these things are getting any cheaper.

The cost of membership has not changed for a number of years and even in the face of increased cost, we would like to keep it that way.

With more than 1000 'hams' in the London area, it's inconceivable that less than 10% support a pastime about which most of us are passionate.

PLEASE, make a choice and do your part to keep the **London Amateur Radio Club** alive and well by purchasing your membership at our next meeting (or by mail – details on our web site). The cost is still only \$25.00 (single) or \$30.00 (family residing at the same address).

