

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

November 7, 2010

L.A.R.C. Executive

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Vice-President

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Director

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Non-Voting

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Appointments

LARC Repeater Coordinator

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Repeater

Operator/Programmer

David Young, VE3EAY

Field Day Coordinator

Dave Lambert, VE3K GK

Webmaster

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Newsletter Editor

John Visser, VA3MSV

Auditors

Rob Hockin, VA3HO
William Clothier, VE3BCU

Next Meeting Topic

The next **LARC meeting** will be on **Thursday, November 11**, at 7:30 PM. The November meeting will feature a presentation by **Mitch Powell, VE3OT** about his experiments and adventures in LF - where the frequencies and wavelengths both use the "kilo" prefix. Come on out and learn about an amateur band you've never tried.

Silent Key – Ethel Williamson, VE3DTW

The obituary for Ethel can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

To this editor's knowledge, Ethel was the oldest, active female ham in Ontario. She may have been heard locally on the YL Net found on VE3TTT/VE3SUE. Thanks to the ladies of that net for bringing to my attention of the passing of this wonderful woman. I know she will be missed by all that got to know her.

2010 L.A.R.C. Flea Market

Thanks for making our Flea Market another great success. We owe an amazing thank you to Ann Rundle, especially for her tireless efforts behind the scenes. She did a wonderful job. She knew most the vendors by name and what they had requested. Ann would also like to thank all of the people that helped out throughout the day. Our attendance was up from last year, our vendors tables was pretty close to last year, but we did make a bit of profit. So all in all our Flea Market is still doing great.

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on November 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.

Next Meeting will be December 10, 2010. This meeting will be our Annual Potluck Dinner. **Note: Start time will be 7:00 pm instead of 7:30 pm**

Area Repeaters

LARC Repeaters

London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

SORT Repeaters

London

VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz
Echolink Node 10741

VE3SUE 444.400 + 114.8 Hz
IRLP Node 2400

VE3TTT 442.200 + D-Star

Ipperwash

VE3TCB 146.940 - 114.8 Hz
Linked to VE3SUE

Grand Bend

VE3SRT 442.050 + 114.8 Hz
Linked to VE3SUE

Other Area Repeaters

London

VA3SIX 53.470 - 114.8 Hz

VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz
CANWARN

VA3FEZ 444.100 + 114.8 Hz

Grand Bend

VE3RGB 146.760 + 173.8 Hz

Stratfordville

VE3DPL 146.655 - 131.8 Hz

St. Thomas

VE3STR 147.330 + 114.8 Hz
Echolink Node: 72886

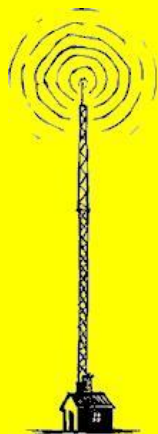
VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz
IRLP Node: 2482

Goderich

VE3OBC 146.910 - 123.0 Hz

Whitechurch

VE3WWD 443.075 + 123.0 Hz



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>), 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

Currently the membership is at 126 members however this number will drop at the end of October. As of the beginning of the 2009/2010 year we have gotten 24 new members to the club. Of the 18 Honorary Members brought in from the L.S.R.C., 3 have paid for the current 2010/2011 year.

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

147.060 MHz + 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

442.050 + VE3SRT 7:30 pm

Silent Key – Ethel Williamson, VE3DTW



With great sadness, we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved matriarch Ethel on October 29th in her 104th year at Niagara Ina Grafton Gage Village. Survived by her beloved son Douglas, daughter-in-law Beverley and grandchildren Douglas (Linda), Heather (Jim), Melinda (Wayne), Bruce (Melody), Greg, Jim and Sister-in-law Ugena Bardsley. Ethel was the proud great-grandmother of 13, great-great grandmother to 6 and adopted grandmother to Wendy (Brent) and the extended Williamson family. She will also be missed by her devoted nieces and nephews. Ethel was predeceased by

her beloved husband of 61 years Cyril, her cherished son Bruce (Booty), daughter-in-law Effie, her brother James and sisters Anne and Pearl. Ethel's longevity was matched by her boundless energy and zest for life, unfailing love for her family and tireless service to her community. Ethel inspired and brought joy to all she met throughout her remarkable life. Born in England in 1907, Ethel immigrated to St. Catharines with her family in 1911. When Cyril enlisted to serve in the RCAF in World War II, Ethel spent 5 years raising her sons and volunteering at the Red Cross and Air Force Canteen. During this time, she also penned "Hats off to England", an inspirational anthem that received frequent airplay on CKTB during the war. When the war ended, Cyril and Ethel became lighthouse keepers at Port Weller for the next 25 years. It was during this time Ethel earned her Amateur Radio License, VE3DTW, and began her long standing membership with the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club. Ethel was also a prolific writer of short stories and articles published in Canadian magazines. In 1972, "A Light on the Seaway", Ethel's best-selling book about their exciting life and times at the Port Weller lighthouse was published. In 1987, her children's story, "The Little Seamstress" was published. As much as she enjoyed writing, Ethel was happiest when she was sharing her wonderful tales with the countless number of school children and community groups she has spoken to over the last 50 years. Just earlier this year, Ethel spoke to the SK class at her public school, Alexandra, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. When she was well into her 80s, Ethel, a former hairdresser, volunteered with the John Howard Society and Bethlehem Place to provide haircuts for those in need. Never losing her incredible passion for service even as she reached the century mark, Ethel knitted over 1500 toques which she donated to the Red Cross and other local charities. In recent years she was very proud to christen a new vessel for the Coast Guard at her former Port Weller station. Ethel's outstanding record of service was formally recognized when she was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal. Ethel will be dearly missed. Her indomitable spirit will continue to inspire the many lives she touched. We love you, Dear Heart. Thank you for your life so well lived. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to the Red Cross and Bethlehem Place.

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.

Upcoming Events John McCrae House Special Event Station

Thu., Nov. 11, 2010

[L.A.R.C. General Meeting](#)

Located at the St. Judes Anglican Church, London, Ontario

Sat., Nov. 13, 2010

[Kingston ARC Breakfast and Tailgate Hamfest](#) - Kingston Amateur Radio Club and the Military Communications and Electronics Museum

Located at the Military Communications and Electronics Museum. 95 Craftsman Blvd, Kingston, ON

Thu., Dec. 9, 2010

[L.A.R.C. General Meeting](#)

Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner
Located at the St. Judes Anglican Church, London, Ontario

Thu., Jan. 13, 2010

[L.A.R.C. General Meeting](#)

Located at the St. Judes Anglican Church, London, Ontario

Thu., Feb. 10, 2010

[L.A.R.C. General Meeting](#)

Located at the St. Judes Anglican Church, London, Ontario

Sat., Feb. 13, 2011

[Big Event 33 - Flea Market and Hamfest](#) - Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club

Located at Merriton Community Centre
7 Park Ave. St. Catharines, Ontario

Sat., Feb. 26, 2011

[Burlington Spring Flea Market](#) - Burlington Amateur Radio Club

Located at Royal Canadian Legion - 828 Legion Rd., Burlington, Ontario

Sat., Mar. 26, 2011

[HamEx 2011](#) - Peel Amateur Radio Club and Mississauga Amateur Radio Club

Located at Brampton Fall Fairgrounds,
12942 Heart Lake Road, Brampton, Ontario

Sun., Jun. 5, 2011

[Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket](#) - Guelph ARC & Kitchener-Waterloo ARC

Located at the Waterloo Regional Police Association Recreation Centre
R.R. 2, 1128 Rife Rd. Beside Hwy 401,
between exits 268 & 275
Location: 43.344939, -80.418376

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.

November 2, 2010



McCrae House marks Remembrance season with return of Guelph Amateur Radio Club

Remembrance traditions continue at McCrae House with the Guelph Amateur Radio Club. Now in its 22nd season, the group has been sending and receiving Remembrance messages at the birthplace of John McCrae. They'll be there **every day** from Saturday, November 6 until Thursday, November 11th.

The Radio Club looks forward to contacting ham radio enthusiasts around the world. This is their opportunity to acknowledge Remembrance Day and exchange thoughts on its significance.

Listen for our special call "VA3IF" for *In Flanders*, talk to us and our students, and receive our commemorative QSL card.

We can be found on the amateur radio bands of 80, 40 20, 15, 10 and 2 metres, and also on the IRLP node of 2260.

The normal hours of the Museum are 1-5 pm, however, with programs:

Monday Nov 8, the first program is at 9:30 am, and the last ends at 8:30 pm

Tuesday Nov 9, the first program is at 10 am, and the last ends at 8:30 pm

Wednesday Nov 10, the first program is at 10:30 am, and the last ends at 8:15 pm

Thursday, Nov 11, the flag raising ceremony with the Legion is in the memorial gardens at 9 am, with the John McCrae School service at 10:30 am

McCrae House is located at 108 Water Street, Guelph. Open daily 1-5 p.m. leading up to Remembrance Day and open Remembrance Day 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Regular admission to the museum is: Adults- \$4.00, Seniors & Students - \$3.00, Families \$10.00. Please contact Guelph Museums at 519-836-1221, ext. 2773 for more information, or visit them on line: <http://guelpharts.ca/mccraehouse/>



Lest We Forget !

For In Flanders Field's, see: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_x0M5y-EWo

GlobalSet 2010 - November 13, 2010

October 28, 2010

A reminder that the next GlobalSet runs from 1100 until 1500 local time November 13, 2010. This is a great chance to practice your emergency +traffic passing skills. For a full list of frequencies and rules, please visit the IARU Region 2 website.

During GlobalSet, the Radio Club Peruano (RCP) will celebrate it's 80th anniversary, and will be the Region 2 HQ station with the special +call sign OC80A. Look for them on the IARU

Center of Activity frequencies on 15,17,20,40 and 80 meters.

Don't forget, to participate you must register with the VPFS.

73

Doug Mercer VO1DTM

Vice President Field Services - Radio Amateurs of Canada

e-mail: vo1dtm@hotmail.com

FCC Crunches Numbers On Spectrum Crisis

October 25, 2010



by [Marguerite Reardon](#)



The Federal Communications Commission is laying the groundwork for freeing up wireless spectrum.

Last week, the FCC held a workshop that examined the looming spectrum crisis. In a report published as part of the meeting, the FCC indicated that over the next five years, data usage will increase 35 times, compared to rates of today. While the wireless industry is working to make devices and network infrastructure equipment more efficient, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said last week at the meeting that it would not be enough to keep up with growth.

"Even if spectrum and device efficiency doubles, and the number of cell towers continues to grow at its current pace, we will need around 300 additional megahertz of spectrum by 2014," Genachowski said during a speech.

The FCC's technical paper looked at recent trends in mobile usage. The FCC's own data suggests that between the first quarter of 2009

and the second quarter of 2010, data use per individual mobile user increased 450 percent. This is consistent with wireless carriers, which have also reported heavy increases in data usage. AT&T, the exclusive U.S. provider of the [Apple iPhone](#), has said it saw Internet usage grow 5,000 percent in three years. Clearwire, which is building a national 4G wireless broadband network using WiMax, has also said publicly that its mobile customers, on average, consume about 7 gigabytes' worth of data per month.

The FCC also said that today, about 42 percent of U.S. mobile customers own a smartphone. This is up from about 16 percent three years ago. The FCC expects smartphone use to continue to grow, thus fueling growth in mobile broadband.

For nearly a year, the FCC has been [talking about the impending spectrum crisis and has been pushing for more spectrum to be made available](#). In the National Broadband Plan presented to Congress earlier this year, the agency outlined a plan for [freeing up 500MHz of spectrum over the next decade, with 300MHz being freed up within five years](#).

The agency expects to get the spectrum from various places, including some from TV broadcasters, which are no longer using spectrum that has been allocated to them. Genachowski has proposed a voluntary auction in which broadcasters could give up spectrum in exchange for sharing in the profits of the auction with the government. The FCC report indicates that spectrum could be worth more than \$120 billion at auction, which is twice what excess spectrum was worth in 2008.

Some critics of the FCC have [complained that the agency is taking too long to introduce measures](#) that would free up the spectrum quickly. They argue that the agency has spent too much time dealing with Net neutrality and possibly changing the classification of broadband to ensure its jurisdiction.

Even though critics say the FCC is moving slowly, the agency has begun to check off items to free up more spectrum. For example, it recently [approved the use of "white spaces" spectrum](#). White spaces sit between TV channels, and the FCC has now paved the way for device makers to start developing products for this spectrum. The agency has also freed up about 25MHz from the wireless communications services and is working to

make another 90MHz of mobile satellite spectrum available.

Next month, the FCC will begin examining how to free up more spectrum from broadcasters. Under Chairman Genachowski's plan, broadcasters would be able to share spectrum with other stations or return some of the spectrum for the voluntary auctions. The broadcasters would then be allowed to share in the profits of auctions.

The National Association of Broadcasters said it's still evaluating the issue.

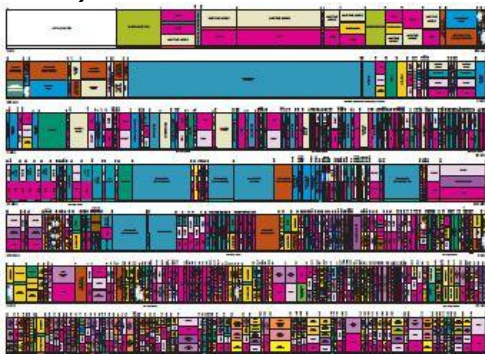
The FCC is likely to open the issue up for comment from the public and the industry at the November meeting, during which it is expected to tackle other wireless-spectrum issues, including a measure that would help speed up the process for getting an FCC experimental-spectrum license. This would help researchers accelerate development of innovative uses for spectrum. The FCC is also expected to look at ways to ensure that unused--and underused--spectrum gets used to its fullest potential.

Marguerite Reardon has been a CNET News reporter since 2004, covering cell phone services, broadband, citywide Wi-Fi, the Net neutrality debate, as well as the ongoing consolidation of the phone companies.

The Trouble With Spectrum

October 25th, 2010 by [Richard Bennett](#)

You can get a good idea of the problem with America's current spectrum situation from the NTIA Spectrum Map (click through for a full-size picture.)



Since the initial allocations were made back at the beginning of time (1934) until quite recently, the thinking behind spectrum

allocations has been guided by the unspoken assumption that technology doesn't change. Proponents of the spectrum commons are right about the fact that advances in technology since the early days have been so dramatic – the analog to digital transition by itself is staggering – that the assumptions that reigned in the 1930s are no longer relevant. Almost right, that is.

In a world of analog devices, the logic for stove-piping spectrum into separately owned and operated frequencies with guard bands in between and reuse governed by power limits, propagation models, and the effectiveness of filters was compelling. We're transitioning to a

regime in which most uses will be digital (not all, there are always going to be some things like radio astronomy where a purely digital approach doesn't work,) but we're not there yet. In the interim, analog rules about power limits and frequencies are still extremely relevant.

The analog rules will continue to be relevant in the future, but in a modified form. Digital communication over the air still has an analog component, and assumptions about the analog part of the picture in terms of interference and reuse, all over the current crop of wireless communication standards. Wi-Fi access points don't coordinate with each other, except in the very minimal ways that APs announce connections by older devices to each other. They don't negotiate with each other about the sharing of common frequencies, they simply try to avoid frequencies that carry a lot of traffic.

The load-sensing logic in Wi-Fi access points is typically less than ideal. If you think about how to go about assessing the load on a set of Wi-Fi channels would begin by counting the packets per second on each of the relevant channels and then going to the least-heavily-loaded one, and then periodically re-checking for serious changes in conditions. That's a common technique for enterprise-grade Wi-Fi systems such as the ones sold by Cisco, Aruba, and Trapeze (Meru does it in a completely different way) but it's foreign to consumer-grade Wi-Fi routers, which tend to count the number of Access Points on each channel, or even worse, to measure analog energy on each channel.

Why so primitive? The early Wi-Fi standards didn't have a way for an AP to change channels without disrupting in-progress communication, so the load assessment had to try and guess which channel was likely to be most loaded at the worst time of the day rather than simply measure the one that was most heavily loaded at the time when the measurement was taken. The idea was that an AP might be installed by a professional during the 9-5 workday that had to function

well during prime time. It makes a certain amount of sense, accepting the limitations on a more dynamic approach.

The current crop of open spectrum standards don't include coordination, bargaining, and scheduling, and they don't motivate users to be efficient. This oversight can be overcome, but it's hard.

In the meanwhile, open spectrum approaches emphasize the hunt for unused spectrum, and even for that to be effective, the systems need the ability to recalibrate as conditions change. Neither of these things, bargaining and recalibration, is impossible, but there needs to be motivation for adding a layer of complexity to wireless systems to make them happen.

Getting back to the spectrum map, if we had wireless systems that were fully capable of bargaining and recalibration, we would have a way to transition from the current status quo of swiss cheese spectrum assignments to a world where the spectrum map is much more uniform. The current map would describe primary uses, and there would be a secondary map that would kick in when the primary use wasn't happening. Probably 100 years from now, the map will be all one color and the FCC will be out of business. It's getting there that's the trick, as each of the historic allocations needs to be phased out one by one.

And what happens to spectrum that's been sold at auction to a good-faith bidder who's counting on the ability to use it to make money, repay the auction costs, cover equipment costs, and the like? They can't be left out in the cold, of course.

Opportunistic systems and frequency avoidance don't get us where we need to be, however. So rather than declaring all spectrum allocations obsolete – which is simply jumping the gun – the open spectrum approach would be more credible if it declared the intention of making them obsolete. That would generate some real progress and not prevent people from getting the benefits of wireless networking today.

Radio In Space: The ISS Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

November 5, 2010

The International Space Station marked a major milestone on Tuesday, November 2nd. This, as it celebrated the 10-year anniversary of human beings living aboard the orbital outpost.

The story of the International Space Stations manned operations began on November 2, 2000. That's when an American astronaut and a Russian cosmonaut floated side by side into the station that sits in orbit at about than 300 km above Earth's surface.

The station's first crew was made up of Russians Yuri Gidzenko, Sergei Krikalev and American commander Bill Shepherd. In the intervening decade close to 200 people, many of them licensed radio amateurs have spent time on board the ISS and operated the ARISS ham station.

The Current Expedition 25 crew is made up of Commander Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC along with NASA astronauts Scott Kelly and Shannon Walker, KD5DXB. Also on-orbit with them are Russian cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, Alexander Kaleri, U8MIR and Oleg Skripochka, RN3FU.

The I-S-S has also been a hotel on-orbit for several visiting space tourists including Richard Garriott, W5KWQ. He is the son of Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who was the first ham radio operator to take to the airwaves back in 1982 from the space shuttle Columbia.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden was to have begun the event, speaking live to the I-S-S crew at 9:15 a.m. EDT from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. His remarks and the following news conference were broadcast live on NASA Television.

In addition to the crew news conference, NASA is updating the content of the International Space Station section of its website in recognition of the 10th anniversary. The update supports the on-going transition from station assembly to utilization. It now will focus on the research in the unique microgravity environment of low Earth orbit as found on-board the I-S-S.

(ARNewsline Archive, NASA News and various other sources)

Ham Radio In Space: Second Ham Station For The ISS

November 5, 2010

A second ham radio station will soon be on the air from on board the International Space Station. This, after NASA approves use of the original VHF and UHF Ericsson handheld radios from the Russian module for use in the US segment of the orbital outpost.

A new power cable for the Ericsson radios is being delivered to the I-S-S. The second

station is planned to initially use the same frequencies currently used by the Kenwood D-700 amateur radio transceiver. Studies are underway to determine a compatible operating plan which would allow both stations to operate simultaneously.

(ARISS)

Radio Politics - RAC And IC Meet To Discuss Canadian Ham Radio

November 5, 2010

The 35th meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board took place on Thursday October 28th. CARAB as it's sometimes known, is composed of representatives from both Radio Amateurs of Canada and Industry Canada. The latter is the regulator of amateur radio in that nation.

Among key issues discussed at the meeting was Industry Canada's policy regarding temporary authorization of frequency assignments in amateur bands to non-amateur services such as last September's Pro Tour race in Quebec. Radio Amateurs of Canada did all it could to impress upon the Industry Canada officials that Canadian amateurs, objected to intrusion into amateur bands by non-amateur services, especially for non-emergency purposes. For its part, Industry Canada noted the objection. It also committed to improve coordination and cooperation and advised that they were sensitive to Radio Amateurs of Canada's concerns. Industry Canada committed to continue to work with Radio Amateurs of Canada on the national societies request for an allocation in the 60

Meter band which mirror those frequencies available to United States amateurs. Radio Amateurs of Canada emphasized the importance of this request as seen by Canadian amateurs.

Industry Canada and Radio Amateurs of Canada also discussed the positive role that amateur radio played in emergency situations. Industry Canada noted that there would be value in more cooperation and planning between it and Radio Amateurs of Canada in this area. Follow-up meetings between the two will be arranged over the coming month's.

Lastly, the value of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board as a consultative body between Radio Amateurs of Canada and Industry Canada was reaffirmed by both parties and the Terms of Reference between the two were updated.

The next meeting of Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board is anticipated for April, of 2011 and to be held concurrent with the Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors meeting. (RAC)

Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board Meeting

October 13, 2010

The 35th meeting of the **Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board** [CARAB] took place on Thursday Oct. 28th.

CARAB is composed of representatives from both **Radio Amateurs of Canada** [RAC] representing Canadian Amateurs, and Industry Canada, as the regulator of amateur radio. The Chair of the Board rotates between the two organizations and this meeting was chaired by the President of RAC, Mr. Geoffrey Bawden, VE4BAW. The principle IC representative was Mr. Peter Hill, Senior Director, Spectrum Management Operations. IC was also represented by Rene Guerrette,

Co-Director, Amateur Radio Service, Gilles Rathier, Manager, Operational Policies and Joanne Poulin, Technical Policy Analyst. Contributing from RAC were: J. T. [Mitch] Mitchell, VE6OH, Director for Alberta, NWT and Nunavut, Richard Ferch, VE3KI, Vice President Regulatory Affairs, and Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, Vice President Industrial Liason.

At the CARAB meeting it was agreed to modernize and improve communication between the regulator and Canadian amateurs as represented by RAC. The value of CARAB as a consultative body between RAC and IC

was reaffirmed by both parties and the Terms of Reference were updated.

Among key issues discussed at the meeting was IC's policy regarding temporary authorization of frequency assignments in amateur bands to non-amateur services [e.g. September 10th and 12th Pro Tour race in Quebec].

RAC impressed upon the IC officials that RAC, on behalf of Canadian amateurs, objected to intrusion into amateur bands by non-amateur services, especially for non-emergency purposes. IC noted the objection, committed to improve coordination and cooperation and advised that they were sensitive to RAC's concerns.

IC committed to continue to work with RAC on our request for allocation[s] in the 60M band which mirror those available to US amateurs. RAC emphasized the importance of this request to Canadian amateurs.

IC briefed RAC officials on the status of the web access project designed to allow amateurs

direct access to the IC callsign and certificate database thus allowing such activities as applications for callsigns, and change of address. It is anticipated that the system will be live no later than Nov., 2011. Articles on the new system will be published in upcoming TCA's. IC asked RAC to serve as 'acceptance testers' to help the developers ensure that the system would work as designed.

IC and RAC discussed the positive role that amateur radio played in emergency situations and IC noted that there would be value in more cooperation and planning between IC and RAC in this area. Follow-up meetings between RAC and IC will be arranged over the coming months.

RAC is already linked with the ARRL and the US regulator [FCC] on emergency issues and welcomes this initiative of IC.

The next meeting of CARAB is anticipated for next April, concurrent with the RAC Board meeting.

Indianapolis Police Show Up Again On Unauthorized Freqs

November 5, 2010

For a second time, Indianapolis police are investigating claims that officers are using radio frequencies assigned to an area school district without the proper permission to do so.

Apparently some members of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department are teaching a new lesson on how to abuse public airwaves and violate FCC rules. According to a report broadcast on one local Indianapolis TV station, some of Indy's finest are using illegal radios for chit chat on a local school systems bus frequency.

This abuse of police radio power has been recorded by a former police-fire dispatcher. According to John, who is a ham radio operator, the cops not only use the school radio channel but mix foul language with cross talk about cases on which they are working. John claims he has recorded about 72 hours of

what sounded like car-to-car conversations, some not fit for broadcast.

This is not the first report of this cop caper. Last year Amateur Radio Newsline investigated reports of I-M-P-D officers illegally using amateur radios and frequencies for talk around.

The police chief pulled the plug on all unofficial in-car-radios and ordered their communications people to develop a legal radio system that officers could use for casual talk. Most officers rejected that offer citing the out of pocket cost and the fact that any established radio channel could be monitored by the police brass.

In the past year, at least one other local Amateur Radio operator has filed complaints with FCC offices in Chicago and Washington citing improper use of radio frequencies by Indianapolis Metro Police Officers. Following

that complaint some officers took the high road by earning their amateur radio license. But, they soon realized they can't talk shop on amateur frequencies. The jury remains out on a solution to this touchy tactical dilemma.

I-M-P-D officials say they again are looking into the issue and will implement policy changes if needed. This is not the first time that

members of the Indianapolis Police Force have been found on radio frequencies where they do not belong. You may remember back to when hams found officers chatting on both the 2 meter and 70 centimeter FM sub-bands back in 2009.

(ARNewsline™ from published news reports)

Officers Under Fire For Radio Chatter

Ham Radio Operator Says Officers Using School's Frequency

Posted on November 1, 2010

Indianapolis – Indianapolis police and an area school district are investigating claims that officers are using radio frequencies without permission.

John, a licensed ham radio operator and former police, fire and ambulance dispatcher who wanted to remain anonymous, told 6News' Jack Rinehart that late at night, he hears officers have conversations on a frequency licensed to Greenfield Schools.

"It wasn't the type of conversation I would expect to hear on that frequency," John said. "They were talking about cases they were working on. They were running license numbers and talking about people coming and going from an east side apartment complex."

John said he's recorded 72 hours of what sounded like car-to-car conversations, some of them not fit for broadcast.

"Oh yeah, there's a lot of it when they're talking about certain people, like prostitutes. (It's) f-this, f-that," John said.

Police said officers often times use their own private two-way radios to communicate with each other about suspects or crimes, rather than tie up radio channels operated by police dispatchers.

After 6News first raised the issue with police in February 2009, the department created a

policy allowing for use of personally owned two-way radios, but only if officers seek written permission of a deputy chief and obtain the proper federal licenses.

The policy also requires that all radios must be installed by police fleet technicians.

"We do have provisions in place for them to be able to use them," said Sgt. Linda Jackson. "However, any officers that have gone through the steps to get them, I don't know."

Ann Vail, spokeswoman for Greenfield Schools, said the district was not aware that police officers were using its frequency.

We're going to investigate this further," she said.

At least one other Indianapolis-area licensed ham radio operator has filed formal complaints with Federal Communications Commission offices in Chicago and Washington against the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department citing improper use of radio frequencies.

John said police need to go through the proper channels.

"It's not legal," he said. "They're using illegal radios, transmitting on a frequency licensed to a school district."

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Emerging Ham Technology: VOACAP Adopts Google Maps

November 5, 2010

In the world of emerging ham radio technology, OH6BG has announced that the online H-F propagation prediction service VOACAP is now using Google Maps for coordinate entry. OH6BG says that this should make the service even more accessible, especially for a casual user.

With this new interface, the transmitter and receiver coordinates are now defined by

dragging two location markers on the map. The mouse wheel or keyboard keys can be used for zooming in and out so placing the markers at the exact points as accurately as is possible. This makes the predictions as accurate as today's science allows.

You can find the site at <http://www.voacap.com/>.
(OH6BG)

Developing A Lead Free Piezoelectric

October 29 2010

Researchers in Europe may have found a way to make a lead free piezoelectric that could pave the way to lead free electronic components.

Research published October 4th by materials engineers from the University of Leeds could help pave the way towards 100% lead-free electronics. The work, carried out at the United Kingdom's Diamond Light Source synchrotron facility, reveals the potential of a new artificial material to replace lead-based ceramics in countless electronic devices, ranging from digital cameras to hospital ultrasound scanners.

European regulations now bar the use of most lead containing materials in electronic and electrical devices. Ceramic crystals known as piezoelectrics are currently exempt from these regulations but this may change in the future, owing to growing concerns over the disposal of lead based materials.

Piezoelectric materials generate an electrical field when pressure is applied, and vice-versa. The most common piezoelectric material is a ceramic crystal called lead zirconium titanate,

or PZT. Using a high intensity X-ray beam at the Diamond Light Source, the University of Leeds researchers have now shown that a simple, lead-free ceramic could potentially do the same job as PZT.

Tim Comyn, lead investigator on the project noted that with the extreme conditions beamline at Diamond Light, his team was able to probe the interior of the lead-free ceramic known as Potassium Sodium Bismuth Titanate to learn more about its piezoelectric properties. He noted that the researchers could see the changes in crystal structure actually happening while they applied an electrical field to the chemical structure. And that's a giant step forward in eliminating lead as a component in electronic components, worldwide.

The Leeds team says that it will continue to work at the Diamond facility to study the transformation induced by an electric field at high speed and under various conditions using state of the art detectors. Meantime, the results of the work so far has been published online in the journal Applied Physics Letters. (ScienceOnline)

More China Built Ham Gear On Its Way

October 22 2010

The sales success of the low priced Wouxon dual band hand held transceivers has apparently not been lost on the well established ham radio retail trade. This with the announcement by the five member buying group Ham Pros will be selling both the Wouxon and other made-in-China ham radio gear under the banner of www.nowchinadirect.com.

In addition to the Wouxon HT, other gear in their full page ad in the November QST Magazine include several metered power supplies, a pair of SWR and power meters and two hand held transceivers from TYT. These are the TH-F5 single-bander that covers 2 meters and the UV-F1 that covers both 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

The ad notes that all of the H-T's carry Part 90 FCC certification. According to ARRL Counsel Christopher Imlay, W3KD, writing elsewhere in the same issue of QST, Wouxon and

presumably other mainland China manufacturers who have obtained Part 90 certification for their equipment can legally sell these units and hams. Also that hams can use them as long as they are operated strictly in the ham radio bands.

Imlay also notes that Wouxon U.S. has chosen to limit the range in which their HT's can transmit to the ham radio bands. He says that this is akin to good fences making for good neighbors.

You can read the entire text of Attorney Imlay's regulatory interpretation along with a full review of the Wouxon dual band HT beginning on Page 52 of the November issue of QST. More on the new mainland China manufactured equipment from Ham Pro's is on-line at www.nowchinadirect.com. (ARNewsline™ from nowchinadirect.com, QST, others)

Intruder Watch: New Way To Report Ham-Band Intruders

October 15 2010

The latest issue of the International Amateur Radio Union's Region 1 Monitoring System newsletter is asking hams to use its new online 'Intruder Logger' and 'Intruder Alert System' to file reports of unwanted users of the ham radio bands. Those providing input should include source, time in UTC and mode being used. Short time intruders should be sent to the Intruder Logger.

More on this including on-line reporting forms can be found at the following URL's: IARU R1 Intruder Logger: <http://peditio.net/intruder/bluechat.cgi>
IARU R1 Intruder Alert System Email Reflector: http://iaru-r1.org/mailman/listinfo/...rt_iaru-r1.org (IARU Region 1)

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).

