

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

October 10, 2010

L.A.R.C. Executive

President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Vice-President

David Lambert, VE3K GK

Past President

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Treasurer

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Secretary

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Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

Director, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

Director

Mike Watts, VE3ACW

Non-Voting

Director, ARES & CANWARN

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

Appointments

LARC Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

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, October 14**, at 7:30 PM. The October meeting will feature a presentation by Mark Bramwell on the new wave of low cost, high quality radios produced in Asia.

These radios are a hot topic on QRZ.com and other ham related web sites. You too can have a sexy new dual-band handy for less than the price of a replacement battery in Toronto... AIR-MAIL shipping included in the price!!

2010 L.A.R.C. Flea Market

The Annual Flea Market was a great success, with lots of gear changing hands and quite a few stories exchanged as well. The winner of the Bob Rice, VE3HKY semi-vertical antenna was Jim Spicer, VE3CTS.

Thanks to everyone for participating and to **Ann Rundle** for putting in many hours behind the scenes doing the organizing that makes this event a success.

Radio Support for a Search and Rescue Competition

We've been asked to provide communications support for a Search and Rescue competition to be held outdoors at the Fanshawe Sugarbush, north east of the lake. Since our effort for the Rona MS Tour went so well, our response was quick and positive, so stay tuned for more information. What will make it interesting is that the competition is on Saturday February 5, right in the middle of winter.

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on October 14, 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 November 11, 2010. The meeting topic is still to be determined.

Area Repeaters

LARC Repeaters

London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

SHORT 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

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

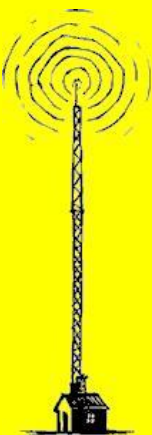
VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz
IRLP Node: 2482

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

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.

Goblin Patrol



Every year we assist the **London Police** with surveillance on Devils Night (Saturday Oct 30) and Halloween (Sunday Oct 31). This service is appreciated by the police, and we work closely with their dispatchers. Everyone is invited to take part in one or both evenings, and the more help we have, the better we can cover the city.

What Is It?

Goblin Patrol is a community service we provide to assist the London Police on Devils Night (the evening before Halloween) and Halloween. Volunteer HAM operators patrol various parts of London by car, bicycle and foot, providing extra eyes for the police. Any suspicious activity such as vandalism is reported via a network on a local repeater, with a net controller who is physically present in the central Police station. Significant events are reported to the police for follow-up. HAMS do NOT do any follow up, or take any action at all other than observing from a safe distance.

What Is required?

Your time, and your willingness to follow the procedures of a formal net, and patrol a designated area. Most patrolling is done by car, and it's a good idea to bring someone else along to be the driver while you do the radio work. It's safer to have one set of eyes on the road, and also a good way to introduce someone who's interested in HAM radio to our hobby. Not a problem if you arrive late, or need to leave early, as long as you inform the net controller

Sounds Interesting - How Do I Sign Up?

Couldn't be easier. Just have the information below ready, and tune to the OME repeater (145.450) around 18:30 on either October 30 or 31 (ideally both!), or as soon as you are available after that time. We'll use VE3MGI (145.390) as a talk around repeater. The net controller will be providing instructions and will ask you for these details when you check in:

- Callsign
- Make, year, colour and license of vehicle
- Starting mileage (easy if you zero your trip odometer)
- Preferred patrol area, if any

Please make sure to check out of the net when you're done for the night, and report your mileage at that time.

If you'd be willing to take an interested passenger along, or if you'd like to participate, but don't have a ride, please let one of the executive know, ([email](#) is good) and we'll try and help you out.

Remember, **SAFETY** is the top priority. Drive carefully, and observe and report only - leave the follow up to the police.

This year we are looking for volunteers to take our course students on a ride along. If you are interested, please contact one of the executive and we'll try set you up with someone in your area.

Upcoming Events **The RAC Blog Has Moved**

Thu., Oct. 14, 2010

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

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

Sat., Oct. 16, 2010

[Hamfest 2010 – Hamilton Amateur Radio Club](#)

Located at the Ancaster Fairgrounds at corner of Highway 53 and Highway 52.

Sat., Nov. 6, 2010

[York Reg. ARC Hamfest 2010 - York Region Amateur Radio Club](#)

Located at the Markham Fairgrounds at 10801 McGowan Road on the North East corner of McGowan Road and Elgin Mills Road.

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

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

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.

The decision has been made, for a number of reasons to move the RAC Blog. The new URL is <http://blog.rac.ca>. This move makes it easier to resolve some problems which have arisen as a result in the change of ownership necessitated by the resignation of Peter West. It will also make the blog more easily managed and easier, I hope, for folks to find.

I know that there may be some inconvenience to many of you as you get used to going to a new location however I believe that the benefits both to RAC and also to its members and the Amateur Radio Community in general will make this change worthwhile in the long run.

While comments have now been turned off on the "old" blog all of the posts and your comments have been moved to <http://blog.rac.ca> where I look forward to seeing the various discussions continue.

73 de Jim.

James R. Hay, VE2VE

Vice President, Technical and Administrative Services
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Radio Politics: World Ham Radio License May Be On Its Way

October 8, 2010

In other news out of the conference, Radio Amateurs of Canada reports that a true worldwide ham radio license could be in the hobby's future.

Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, is the Vice President International Affairs for Radio Amateurs of Canada. He says that El Salvador's Superintendent of Communications surprised everyone at the end of his speech by announcing that his nation had decided to sign the International Amateur Radio Permit or IARP Agreement.

For those of you not aware, the IARP Agreement is designed to allow ham radio operation in certain countries of the Americas without seeking a special license or permit to enter and operate from that country. According to Lamoureux, this move by El Salvador is a very significant and means that in a short time the IARP and the pan-European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations or CEPT International Amateur licenses might be harmonized and become one. (RAC, VE2KA)

First JA-VE QSO on 2200m Claimed

September 28, 2010

Kunikazu Togashi, JA7NI and Scott Tilley, VE7TIL completed a trans-pacific QSO on 2200m (137KHz) this morning a first between Canada and Japan. The distance between CN89dk (TIL) to QM09fl (NI) is 7162km. While not the DX record for 2200m it comes in second to the distance achieved by ZM2E and UA0LE in 2004.

Things started off with a surprise as NI copied TIL's beacon signal 30min before his sunrise, something that had never happened before during previous tests. What followed was a 'quick' exchange of calls and NI's report was received by TIL. Then a very long and deep fade occurred. This happened before to us and we lost each other and an entire nights sleep! But that taught us a lesson and we adapted to the deep fading on this path by creating new QSO procedures to deal with the long times it takes to send information and the deep QSB. NI waited patiently not knowing TIL had copied the calls and his report. Our procedure was for him to simply wait until he copied something and respond accordingly... Three hours later RO appeared on NI's screen and during one of my crawls out of the operator's bunk to check the waterfall I saw a dot during a pause in transmission and stopped the transmitter. A few minutes later there was an R

and TU but not in DFCW but rather QRSS as a malfunction at NI's end had him scrambling to send QRSS30 by hand, a true test of a CW operators skill! He recovered with grace and the QSO was in the bag!

The mode used was dual frequency CW, a form of very slow frequency shift keying which offers a significant time advantage over standard slow morse code (QRSS). DFCW is read directly off a computer display using software such a ARGO by Alberto, I2PHD. The dot lengths used ranged from 30 to 60 seconds.

This QSO caps off months of work by both operators in improving their stations and beacon testing on the path to learn its characteristics. What is clear to me is the trans-pacific path on 2200m is a very viable communication path for amateur experimentation. I'm sure time will demonstrate this further as procedures and equipment improve on both sides of the ocean and the QSO count starts to rise and the time to complete drop.

Further information about the QSO and other LF tests by the operators can be viewed at:

<http://www3.telus.net/sthed/argo/>
<http://ja7ni.web.fc2.com/>

60 GHz and the Future

Monday, October 4, 2010

Posted by KB9MWR

In one of my earlier blogs, I pointed out that about 40 years ago 2 meters and 70 cm were basically uncharted areas. Now they are populated. Undoubtedly the future of ham radio is in our huge - virtually unused microwave allocations. They have the necessary bandspace to support wideband modes.

Jim, KC4BQK was first to repost this good video about 60 GHz and the future of LANs. Blogger Craig

Mathias from the Fairpoint Group does a good job explaining 60 GHz and the difference between WiGig and WiMedia. This could be something in the future that could include Ham Radio.

Link to the video

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid110968511001?bctid=109490630001>

Check out his blog

<http://www.networkworld.com/community/blog/3436>

Kids Wired To Learn To Operate Ham Radios

Article published October 09, 2010

Students connected to talk to space station

By JULIE M. MCKINNON
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Hoping to interest students in amateur radio and space, the Toledo Mobile Radio Association has installed a permanent ham radio at the Challenger Learning Center of Lucas County that will allow youngsters to communicate with the International Space Station.



The Blade
Steve Michalski tunes into the International Space Station on a ham radio at the Challenger Learning Center in Oregon.
(THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON)

Association members this week held a demonstration at the Oregon center for the \$4,300 system, which will be expanded with more capabilities if students are interested, said Steve Michalski, a mentor and control operator for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. The association plans to hold licensing classes at Challenger, he said.

"They can come in, learn amateur radio," Mr. Michalski said.

Added Steve Bellner, vice president of the Toledo Mobile Radio Association: "The wonderful thing is, you don't have to be 18 years old to hold an amateur radio license."

The partnership between the association and Challenger has been in the works for about two years, after members first brought in a portable ham radio for a demonstration three years ago, Reed Steele, Challenger's coordinator and flight supervisor, said.

Students at the time were impressed that they could make contact with the International Space Station, Mr. Bellner said. The station orbits Earth several times a day, he said.

Mr. Michalski said that because astronauts have to be certified amateur radio operators, one of the program's goals is to have students ask them technical questions while in training.

The radio station will help educate students about math, science, engineering, technology, and other topics, radio buffs said.

Besides the ability to talk with astronauts at the International Space Station, the permanent radio station will allow licensed students and other operators to communicate through orbiting amateur radio satellites to very distant stations.

Licensed operators not only will be able to communicate with area stations, but will be able to exchange photos and text as well.

Challenger, meanwhile, will provide lesson plans and activities on amateur radio, Morse code, and at International Space Station events.

It also will use the system during camps, workshops, and special events.

Ham Radio Field Day 2010

Father (Marc - W1LN) and son (Alex - W1AND) team up and go portable to Alberton, PEI for Field Day 2010. CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corp)

heard about the event and did a piece on it for the Evening News.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DLwHQFECCc&feature=youtube_gdata

Code Kids

October 08, 2010

Mark Spencer, WA8SME m Spencer@arrl.org

The "Cheaper-Beeper" brings communication to life for a classroom of kids.

Morse code is an attractive activity for kids. I think what they like about Morse code is the "secretiveness" of being able to send messages that their parents and teachers can't read. Summer school programs provide an excellent opportunity to introduce students to Amateur Radio through the use of Morse code. An added side benefit is that the instruction in how codes are used to transmit information is part of the "educational standards" or benchmarks that are required to be taught in our nation's classrooms. The Boy Scouts has also resurrected the Signaling Merit Badge that includes a requirement to send and receive Morse code. This presents some opportunities for local hams to get involved in their schools.

Ron Miles, N6PAA, and I introduced Morse code to some younger summer school students in a Sacramento suburb school. The opening activity (the hook) involved the students whispering their names and favorite colors in Ron's ear. Ron, in turn, did the magic of sending that information to me via Morse code and I wrote the message on the classroom board.



Students whisper "secrets" into N6PAA's ear to be sent via Morse code.

The instructional unit spanned 4 hours over 2 class days during which the students performed the following activities:

- constructed their own code practice oscillators (CPOs) from a partial kit
- constructed a Morse code translation sheet
- wrote out their names and other messages in Morse code using their translation sheets
- practiced sending their names and messages on their CPOs
- practiced sending their code to the *CWGet* computer program to refine their "fists"
- and finally, using different sized and color beads representing "dits" and "dahs," they constructed an arm bracelet with a Morse code message spelled out.

The "final exam" included sending their names with their CPOs to the instructor and the instructor reading the message beaded in their arm bands.

Preparing a Successful Lesson

If you think you might be interested in doing a similar activity in your local school, here are some things to consider:

- Prepare, prepare, prepare. Teaching is not a trivial activity and it doesn't take long to lose control of the class when you are not prepared.
- You are the teacher and it is important to dress and act like a teacher.
- Consider the age of your audience. The attention span of the students depends on their age and a million other things. (Younger doesn't necessarily mean less attention span. Many times the older students are more difficult to keep engaged.) In this case, with the younger audience, soldering of the CPOs was out of the question so the units were presoldered and all that was required was to mount the circuit boards on the mounting board. This simple construction allowed the students to say: "look what I made in school today" when they went home. For a more mature student audience, or Scouts, you might consider a full blown "Solder 101" activity with the appropriate logistic planning for such a construction project. The ARRL will be offering a new CPO kit that is ideal for Scouts.
- Not all students learn the same way (called learning modalities); there are visual, auditory,

tactile and combination learners. When you are preparing your lesson, try to approach the content from all the modality directions you can. That is why in our learning activity we had the students copy the code translation chart off the board (tactile and visual), we verbalized the chart using the words "dit" and "dah" (verbal), we had them construct their CPOs (tactile), used their CPOs to send code (visual, tactile, auditory) and translate the coded messages into beads for the arm bands (visual, tactile).

- We live in a society that is driven by the television media with commercial breaks at specific intervals. Unfortunately, this translates into how much time a student will stay attentive to one topic or presentation mode during a lesson period, which determines how long a lesson can last. A good instructor will be sensitive to this "cultural" fact and adjust the lesson accordingly by "changing up" during the lesson.



Students work individually and in groups to "change up" the activity during the lesson. Note the Morse code written out on the white board to the left.

For instance, you might consider frontal instruction (lecture) for a few minutes, switch to seat work (copying off the board), then asking questions for a few minutes. Next, divide the students into small working groups to work on problems and report back their results to the class as a whole by writing on the board. Along these lines you can add other related activities as appropriate. For the youngest audience the changes should be approximately

every 5 minutes, for the middle audience you might get away with 10-15 minutes. An adult audience will stay awake for 20-30 minutes. After that you'll start hearing snores.

Cheap Beeps

The CPO circuit used was the "Cheaper Beeper" designed by William Gardner, W8WG. It is one of the most affordable, simple and reliable CPO circuits I have seen. The CPOs were constructed on scrap circuit board material that was cut to include the key as well as an area to mount the components. The mounting base was made out of some scrap plastic. The major expense of the CPO is the speaker (the speaker impedance is critical for the CPO operation) and the 9 V battery. I have found a contemporary 8 Ω speaker that works well is the RadioShack part number 273-092. [Construction Information on the [CPO](#) can be found at this link. — Ed.]



Students with smiles of success after completing their code practice oscillators.

So I hope that you will consider this method of supporting your school while also advancing the Amateur Radio Service. With the proper amount of planning on your part, you will have a rewarding experience watching the "light bulbs" illuminate in the young students the first time they "get it" and are able to send their names in Morse code.

If you want additional information, you can contact Mark Spencer, WA8SME, the ARRL Education & Technology Program Coordinator, at 530-495-9150 (Pacific Time Zone) or at 774 Eastside Rd, Coleville, CA 96107.

No Sunspots for Decades?

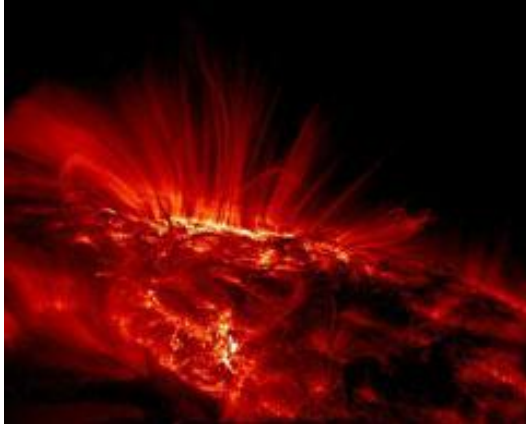
By Dan KB6NU, On October 6th, 2010

Two solar scientists—Matthew Penn and William Livingston, with the National Solar Observatory (NSO) in Tucson, Arizona—are predicting that by 2016 there may be no remaining sunspots, and the sun may stay spotless for several decades. They're

Sunspots Could Soon Disappear For Decades: Study

September 15, 2010 by Lin Edwards

Photo Credit: NASA/TRACE



(PhysOrg.com) -- Sunspot formation is triggered by a magnetic field, which scientists say is steadily declining. They predict that by 2016 there may be no remaining sunspots, and the sun may stay spotless for several decades. The last time the sunspots disappeared altogether was in the 17th and 18th century, and coincided with a lengthy cool period on the planet known as the Little Ice Age.

Sunspots are regions of electrically charged, superheated gas (plasma) on the surface of the [sun](#), formed when upwellings of the magnetic field trap the ionized plasma. The magnetic field prevents the gas from releasing the heat and sinking back below the sun's surface. These areas are somewhat cooler than the surrounding [sun surface](#) and so appear to us as dark spots.

Sunspots have been observed at least since the early 17th century, and they are known to follow an 11 year cycle from [solar maximum](#) to [solar minimum](#). The [solar](#) minimum usually lasts around 16 months, but the current minimum has already lasted 26 months, which is the longest minimum in a hundred years.

Since 1990, Matthew Penn and William Livingston, solar astronomers with the National Solar Observatory (NSO) in Tucson, Arizona, have been using a measurement known as Zeeman splitting to study the magnetic strength of sunspots. The

basing their prediction on the measurement of the magnetic field strength of 1,500 sunspots since 1990. What they have found is that the average strength of the magnetic fields is declining. When the magnetic field strength falls below a particular value, sunspots are unable to form.

Zeeman splitting is the distance between a pair of infrared spectral lines in a [spectrograph](#) taken of the light emitted by iron atoms in the atmosphere of the sun. The wider the distance, the greater is the intensity of the magnetic field.

Penn and Livingston examined 1500 sunspots and found that the average strength of the magnetic field of the sunspots has dropped from around 2700 gauss to 2000 gauss. (In comparison, the Earth's magnetic field is below one gauss.) The reasons for the decline are unknown, but Livingston said that if the strength continues to decrease at the same rate it will drop to 1500 gauss by 2016, and below this strength the formation of sunspots appears to be impossible.

During the period from 1645 to 1715, a time known as the Maunder Minimum, there were almost no sunspots. This period coincided with the Little Ice Age, which produced lower than average temperatures in Europe. Livingston said their results should be treated with caution as their techniques are relatively new and it is not yet known if the decline in magnetic field strength will continue, and that "only the passage of time will tell whether the solar cycle will pick up."

David Hathaway, a solar physicist with the Marshall Space [Flight Center](#) in Huntsville, Alabama, also cautioned the calculations do not take into account that many small sunspots with relatively weak magnetic fields appeared during the last solar maximum, and if these are not included in the calculations the average [magnetic field](#) strength would seem higher than it actually was.

Penn and Livingston's paper has been submitted to the online colloquium, *International Astronomical Union Symposium No. 273*.

More information: Long-term Evolution of Sunspot Magnetic Fields, Matthew Penn and William Livingston, [arXiv:1009.0784v1](#) [astro-ph.SR]

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Radio Law: Senate Backs House On TV Volume Law

October 8, 2010

The United States Senate unanimously passed a bill late Wednesday, September 27th to require television stations and cable companies to keep commercials at the same volume as the programs they interrupt. The legislation, sponsored by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island requires the FCC to adopt its recommendations as regulations within a year and begin enforcing them a year later.

The House of Representatives had already passed similar legislation. Before it can become law, minor differences between the two versions have to be worked out when Congress returns to Washington after the November 2nd election.

Oh yes, the title of this law is the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act, better known by the acronym CALM. (Published reports)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

Talk Radio Host Art Bell W6OBB Reported Active From Manila

October 8, 2010

Some names in the news. First up this week is famed overnight talk radio host Art Bell, W6OBB. The Ohio Penn DX Newsletter reports that Bell has recently been heard as 4F1AB from Manila, in the Philippines where he now lives. His activity seems

to be on 20 and 15 meters SSB after 1200 UTC. Information on QRZ.com states that he is active on 40 through 10 meters, and he often listens on 14.315 MHz. QSL's go to W6OBB via his Nevada address. (OPDX)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

Ham Radio In Space: AO-51 Back On Line

October 8, 2010

The AMSAT OSCAR 51 ham satellite is back on the air following a software crash on September 26th. According to control station Mark Hammond, N8MH, reloading software was completed and as of September 29th, and the bird is in good operating condition.

operation of both the S-band and U-band transmitters. The tradeoff is that U-band will be low in power at around 250 milliwatts.

Also, please notice that 145.880 MHz is being used as the uplink. However, the satellites operational configuration could be updated or changed without much advance notice. (AMSAT)

According to AMSAT, the AO-51 Command Team has configured the satellite for simultaneous

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

New Web-Based HF SDR Receiver

October 4, 2010

Atlanta radio ham **Mack WB4MAK** has made available a web-based 3-band (80, 40 and 20) SDR receiver, it comes in handy to check how strong your signal is being heard in the States.

The President of the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (ARCI) Ken Evans, W4DU, writes:

The QRP ARCI is endorsing it as a good way to hear your own QRP signal. Be prepared for some latency. But it is interesting to change power and

see exactly how far you can go before you are in the noise.

So if you are curious as to how you sound in Atlanta, give it a try. The link is <http://wb4mak.com/>.

Our webmaster, Steve, G4GXL used it on Saturday to listen to the iHAB balloon beacon.

QRP Amateur Radio Club International (ARCI) <http://www.qrparci.org/>

Atlanta 80/40/20 Web SDR Receiver <http://wb4mak.com/>

Communications Scams: The Malware Scam Down Under

October 1 2010

A computer scam involving criminals targeting random computer users has been discovered in Australia, but could easily spread world-wide.

The scam involves a victim receiving a phone call from a person purporting to represent well known computer company, most commonly Microsoft or a company contracted by Microsoft telling the person they have a problem with their computer. The caller outlines the victim's computer is infected with a virus that has been brought to the company's attention - often via the Microsoft fault reporting process.

The caller then offers to assist the victim and will "fix the problem" by directing them to a website where the caller remotely takes over the victim's computer. The representative then shows the victim the "issues" with their computer and suggests they pay a fee to have the problem fixed or need to purchase software to prevent this from happening in the future.

This is all just a scam. Microsoft has confirmed they are not cold-calling members of the community

regarding viruses, computer problems or any other issue.

Quite simply, these offenders are just looking to trick you into giving them money," Detective Superintendent Brian Hay of the Queensland Crime Operations Command's Fraud and Corporate Crime Group said.

Giving someone you don't know remote access to your computer is basically the same as handing your credit card details over to them. With this access, an offender can easily search your computer for banking or personal details or quite easily load Malware or Trojan software onto your computer.

The bottom line: No matter where you are in the world, if you get a call from anyone telling you that your computer has a virus or some other problem with it, just tell them to get lost and hang up the phone. And if such a warning comes in the form of an e-mail, never under any circumstances click on a provided link. Instead, simply delete the message. You, your computer and your wallet will be happy that you did. (WIA News)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

On The Air: VC1J To Celebrate The 65th Anniversary Of The UN

September 24 2010

On the air, word from up North that Canada's Westcumb Amateur Radio Club in Amherst, Nova Scotia has been granted the callsign VC1J. This for the special event station celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the United Nations and UNESCO. The club will be activating VC1J from the Joggins

Fossil Cliffs which became a UNESCO site last year. Operations will be on Sunday October 24th on various bands and modes. A special event QSL card will be available for those who contact VC1J on that date. (RAC)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

On The Air: Canadian Coastal Station CG3MUG

September 24 2010

The Thunder Bay MCTS Centre of the Canadian Coast Guard Radio system will celebrate 100 years of service in November and ham radio will be a part of the celebration.

Constructed by the Canadian Marconi Company wireless station, MUG Port Arthur was the first

Canadian Great Lakes Marconi station built. In 1912, following the success of MUG, the Canadian government constructed a chain of marine radio stations from Port Arthur down to Kingston, Ontario.

Now, during November of 2010, radio amateurs at the Center will be operating special event station CG3MUG to celebrate this achievement.

Throughout this period there will be several chances for both ham's and SWL's to obtain a special 100th anniversary CG3MUG QSL card. For

more information, please visit tinyurl.com/38k8mc on the World Wide Web. (VA3ROM, VE3VAI)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

Propagation Science: New European System Gives Warning Of Solar Storms

September 17 2010

Researchers at the University of Bradford located in the United Kingdom say that a new method of predicting solar storms that could help to avoid widespread power and communications blackouts has been launched.

Up to now, solar weather prediction has been done manually with experts looking at 2 dimensional satellite images of the sun and assessing the likelihood of future activity. But a team from the universitys Centre for Visual Computing has created the first online automated prediction system using 3D images generated from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory or SOHO satellite.

Already in use by both NASA and the European Space Agency, the Bradford Automated Solar Activity Prediction system also known by the acronym ASAP identifies and classifies sun spots and then feeds this information through a model which can predict the likelihood of solar flares. The system is able to accurately predict a solar flare six hours in advance and the team is working to achieve a similar accuracy for the prediction of major solar eruptions in the near future.

Solar storms involve the release of huge amounts of hot gas and magnetic forces from the surface of the sun into space at around a million miles an hour. The next major solar storms are expected in 2012-13 as part of the sun's 11-year weather cycle. A 2008 US National Academy of Sciences report estimated that modern reliance on electronics and satellite communications means a major storm could cause twenty times more economic damage than Hurricane Katrina.

Although major solar eruptions and coronal mass ejections normally take several days to reach the Earth, the largest recorded in 1859 took only eighteen hours. Solar flares which can also cause significant disruption to communications systems take just a few minutes. Because of this, advance warning is of vital importance to enable steps to be taken to avoid the worst effects of such solar activity.

Data recovered from the system is on-line at the European Spaceweather website at <http://tinyurl.com/2ud62yo> (University of Bradford, ESA, Science OnLine)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

Radio Law: NY State Ham Wins For Ham Radio In Troy City Court

September 17 2010

A New York State ham ticketed under the states driving while using a cellphone law has won his case in court. This, after a judge affirms that ham radio gear is not the same as a mobile phone.

Back on May 30th Steve Bozak, WB2IQU, of Clifton Park, New York, was operating his station while mobile when an officer in Troy New York pulled him over and cited him under the states cellular phone ban while driving law. Bozak, whose mobile was a hand held transceiver protested. Rather than paying the \$100 fine he decided to take the matter

to court. When he initially lost in Traffic Court he appealed the matter to the Troy City Court. It was there on September 8th that judge Matthew Turner found in Bozaks favor and dismissed the charge.

In rendering his decision the judge found that the Vehicle and Traffic Law defines a Mobile Telephone as a device used by subscribers and other users of wireless telephone service to access such services. Also that a Wireless Telephone Service is defined as two-way real time voice telecommunications service that is interconnected to a public switched telephone network and is provided by a commercial mobile radio service.

The judge then continued by noting that a review of 47 C.F.R. §20.3 reveals that Citizens Band Radio Service and by inference Amateur Radio as well is defined as a private mobile radio service not commercial mobile radio service. Therefore, the court found that the use of an amateur radio device does not fit the definition of a mobile telephone as defined under the Vehicle and Traffic Law and granted Bozaks motion to dismiss.

At airtime, it is not known if the city of Troy will appeal the judges decision in Bozaks favor or will

simply let the matter drop. And while there have been several attempts at getting the law changed to specifically exclude radio amateurs operating mobile, to date there has been no interest on the part of the legislature to do so. This means that any amateur cited under it has to challenge it as Seve Bozak did or simply pay the fine. (KS4BZ, others)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

Radio Law: New Canadian Distracted Driving Law Exempts Ham HT's Until 2013

September 17 2010

Hams in Canada have are living under a time-limited exemption to a distracted driver law. Under Ontario Regulation 366/09, that took effect last September 29th, drivers who hold a valid radio operator certificate issued under the Radiocommunication Act of Canada may drive a motor vehicle on a Canadian highway while holding or using a hand held two-way radio such as an H-T. Unfortunately, this exemption will be revoked on January 1st, 2013.

However, there seems to be a way to continue to use an HT as a mobile radio after that date. Another section of the law deals with remote control of cell phones and other two-way devices. It says that a person may drive a motor vehicle on a Canadian highway while pressing a button on a device that is worn on his or her head or hung over or placed inside his or her ear or is attached to his

or her clothing and is linked to a hand-held wireless communication device. This, in order to make, answer or end a cell phone call or to transmit or receive voice communication on a two-way radio, a hand microphone or portable radio.

But those who use two-way radios that are permanently mounted and have push to talk microphones fare better. According to the language of the law, a person may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while pressing a button on a hand-held wireless communication device to make, answer or end a cell phone call or to transmit or receive voice communication on a two-way radio. But only if the device is placed securely in or mounted to the motor vehicle so that it does not move while the vehicle is in motion and the driver can see it at a quick glance and easily reach it without adjusting his or her driving position. (IC, QRZ.com)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

Emerging Ham Technology: WSJT Beta Ver 9.0 Now Available

September 17 2010

A beta release of WSJT 9.0 is now available for free download on the WSJT Home Page. The new version by author Joe Taylor, K1JT, has more than a half dozen new or improved features that include enhanced performance for FSK441, calculation of EME Doppler spread caused by lunar librations and simplification and clarification of the user interface.

K1JT asks that after gaining some experience with the beta release of WSJT 9.0, please share your views and opinions about it. Of course, bug reports are also welcome

More details on this new version can be found in the on-line WSJT 9.0 Supplement to User's Guide. A link to download the new version can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/wsjt9>. (K1JT)

Source: Amateur Radio Newsline™

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).



Office Use Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Chq	
Membership Card	
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Sticker	
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**LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PLEASE PRINT

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00 RENEWAL
 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00 NEW MEMBER

Member # 1	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

Member # 2	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

Member # 3	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

Member # 4	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

Address: _____

_____ Street/P.O. Box

_____ City/Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code

_____ Phone Number

Date: _____

*All information requested should be completed - this will be used for the club's membership database only.
All LARC membership information is held in strict confidence.*

Please make cheque payable to: **London Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

Mailing Address: London Amateur Radio Club
c/o Membership Director, VA3MSV
P.O. Box 82, Station B
London, Ontario, N6A 4V3