

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
And surrounding area since 1920

February 7, 2014

## L.A.R.C. Executive January L.A.R.C. Meeting

### President

David Lambert, VE3KGK

### Vice-President, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Past President

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### Treasurer

Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB

### Secretary, Flea Market

Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO

### Director, Flea Market

Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

### Director, Repeaters

Mike Watts, VE3ACW

### Director

Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR

### Non-Voting

#### ARES Representative

Ken Brightling, VE3ETP

#### CanWarn Representative

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

### Appointments

#### Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

#### Repeater Tech Support

John Visser, VE3FDV

#### Field Day Coordinator

Vacant

### Webmasters

Jim Morris, VA3AHQ

Tom Pillon, VE3HOR

Simon Wilton, VA3SII/G7HCD

### Newsletter Editor

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Auditor

Rob Hockin, VA3HO

The next L.A.R.C. meeting will be held on **February 13th**. This meeting will feature some videos of some DXpeditions.

## VE3LML Wins Kudos From U.S. Coast Guard

January 16, 2014



Mr. Herb Hilgenberg (VE3LML) was presented in December with the United States Coast Guard's Meritorious Public Service Award. An American Coast Guard spokesman said it was the first time he remembers the award going to a Canadian.

[Globe and Mail article](#)

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Vincent Charron - VA3GX/VE2HHH  
Director Communications and Fundraising  
[communications@rac.ca](mailto:communications@rac.ca)

## IARU President VE6SH Named To Alberta Queens Counsel



International Amateur Radio Union President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, has been appointed Queen's Counsel in the Canadian Province of Alberta. Ellam was one of 114 attorneys to be admitted as Queen's Counsel for their outstanding contributions to legal and public life.

According to Wikipedia, The practice of appointed Queen's Counsel continues in a number of Canada's provinces based on merit, usually after decades of community service and advocacy. It's also a way recognizing members who have helped community members, charities, environmental groups and others in need of legal aid. (RAC, Wikipedia)

## Next Meeting is Where and When?

**Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on February 13, 2014 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 March 13, 2014. This will be presentation by our annual speaker, Mike Cook, VE3MC titled "**Cosmic QRN: The importance of Radio to the recent revolution in cosmology.**"

## Area Repeaters

### LARC Repeaters

#### London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VA3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

Currently off the air for  
maintenance

### 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

VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz  
CANWARN

VA3FEZ 444.100 + 114.8 Hz

#### Grand Bend

VE3RGB 146.760 + 173.8 Hz

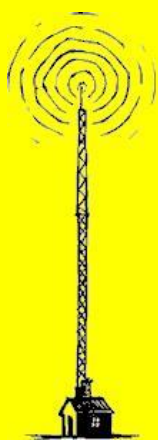
#### Stratfordville

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



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

## Membership Certificates

The Club has created membership certificates for its current members. This feature is still a work in progress with the new website.

## 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).

I am not sure we will continue this feature with the member list. Few members submitted a pic of their shack for others to see on the web site.

## 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?

I think we have plans to continue this service. Still a work in progress I think.

## Membership Report

A new membership year has begun.

Currently the L.A.R.C. membership stands at 90 members with 9 of them being new members.

The following is a list of new member for the 2013/2014 Membership Year with the date that they joined L.A.R.C.

Bill Ambler, VE3CFY	Oct 10, 13
Jim Ballantine, VA3JBY	Jun 11, 13
Brian Coleman, VE3DTM	Sep 12, 13
Jay Gall, SWL	Apr 11, 13
John Hood, VE3VJH	Sep 12, 13
Jim Morris, VA3AHQ	Sep 12, 13
Martin Southcott, VA3MRS	May 31, 13
Brian Wilkins, VA3OPT	Jun 13, 13
John Young, VE3ZJY	Sep 12, 13

## Nets



### Daily

#### ONTARS Net

3.755 MHz 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

#### Trans Provincial Net

7.055 MHz 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

#### London Senior's Net

146.400 MHz 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

### Sunday

#### 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 + VA3LON 8:00 pm

#### SATERN Net

147.180 + VE3TTT 9:00 pm

444.400 + VE3SUE 9:00 pm

### Tuesday

#### ELMER Net

147.060 + VA3LON 9:00 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

## Radio Amateurs Of Canada Applauds 60m Band Frequency Allocations!

January 22, 2014

Industry Canada has announced that a number of specific frequencies within the 60m high frequency band have been approved for amateur radio use as RAC advocated.

A total of five specific frequencies within the 5 MHz band have been allocated, 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz and 5405 kHz. Radio amateurs across Canada have new frequencies to explore as a result of a recent decision of Industry Canada.

"Canada has joined a number of countries in making channels available in the 60m band, near 5MHz for use by radio amateurs. This will provide increased ability for Canadian radio amateurs to help out in providing emergency communications when existing systems fail as has happened in ice storms and flooding. We applaud this decision of the Canadian government." said Geoff Bawden, President of Radio Amateurs of Canada.

Unlike the commercial communications systems so important to modern society, amateur radio does not require an extensive infrastructure for communications. Radio amateurs take advantage of natural phenomena to send their signals across town and around the world. They delight in being able to set up in a remote location with their own power supplies and simple antennas, often home built, competing to see who can make the most contacts in a limited time. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Canada, sponsored by RAC, provides training and organizes exercises for radio amateurs to sharpen their skills to be able to respond to emergencies. As well these organizations and amateur radio clubs often provide communications to community public service activities and events such as ski races and marathons, bicycle races and car rallies. The skills radio amateurs develop through their hobby and these activities mean that in emergencies that shut down power grids, internet and wireless communications, amateur radio can continue to function. In major emergencies such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in 2011 and the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines last year amateur radio operators are often the first source of information from affected areas.

The key resource for amateur radio is access to the radio spectrum. Conditions in the atmosphere and high in the ionosphere determine the distances over which communications are possible. The new allocation at 60m between existing allocations at 80 m and 40m should make regional communications more reliable. Furthermore as Canada and the United States have allocated many of the same channels to their radio amateurs cross border communications are possible. Fortunately major emergencies are relatively rare. Radio amateurs will explore communications on the new frequencies as they do in all available bands, experimenting, learning and making new friends across the world.

## Upcoming Events

**Mon., Feb. 10, 2013**

**1500th Monday Night Net –  
London ARC**

8:00pm on VA3LON, 147.060 MHz +  
0.600 MHz TX offset. PL of 114.8

**Thu., Feb. 13, 2013**

**London Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting – London ARC**

**St. Judes Church**, Southwest corner  
of Adelaide Rd. N. and Fanshawe Park  
Rd., London, Ontario

**Sat., Feb. 22, 2013**

**Burlington Spring Flea Market  
– Burlington ARC**

Royal Canadian Legion - 828 Legion  
Rd., Burlington, Ontario. 9 am to 12:00  
noon

**Thu., Mar. 13, 2013**

**London Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting – London ARC**

**St. Judes Church**, Southwest corner  
of Adelaide Rd. N. and Fanshawe Park  
Rd., London, Ontario

**Thu., Apr. 10, 2013**

**London Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting – London ARC**

**St. Judes Church**, Southwest corner  
of Adelaide Rd. N. and Fanshawe Park  
Rd., London, Ontario

**Thu., May. 8, 2013**

**London Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting – London ARC**

**St. Judes Church**, Southwest corner  
of Adelaide Rd. N. and Fanshawe Park  
Rd., London, Ontario

**Thu., Jun. 12, 2013**

**London Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting – London ARC**

**St. Judes Church**, Southwest corner  
of Adelaide Rd. N. and Fanshawe Park  
Rd., London, Ontario

**Sat., Jun. 28, 2014 to**

**Sun., Jun 29, 2014**

**Field Day 2014 – Various Clubs  
and Individuals**

**Every Saturday Morning**

Starting at 8:30 am.  
Breakfast at the Cottage  
Restaurant. Located across the  
street from the London Police  
Station on Dundas St.

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](mailto:va3msv@hotmail.com) and I'll  
add it to the list.

## Radio Amateurs Of Canada Applauds 60m Band Frequency Allocations! cont.

### TECH DETAILS

The five 60m channel allocations are the same as authorized in the USA, with the same power restriction of 100 watts ERP (relative to a dipole antenna). Transmissions, independent of emission mode, must be centered on the each of the following frequencies: 5.332, 5.348, 5.3585, 5.373, and 5.405 MHz with a maximum allowable channel bandwidth of 2.8 kHz. When operating SSB, upper sideband will be the convention to follow on the 60m band. Other modes that are permissible will be CW, Data (including PSK 31 and Pactor III), and RTTY. With this latest authorization on operation on the 5 MHz channels to Canadian Amateurs with HF privileges, there will no longer be a requirement to operate under a special "Developmental" license and VX9 call sign. Holders of such licenses can now let them lapse. Canadian amateurs should refer to the posting of RBR-4, Issue 2, for all details before proceeding to operate on the new 60m channels: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf10650.html>

Their curiosity and eagerness to develop and share this hobby will enrich the communities where they operate and provide needed resilience in communications when emergencies require it.

Technical details of this decision can be found here: [IC document](#)

Tech/Admin contributions, Norm Rashleigh VE3LC. Glenn MacDonell VE3XRA.

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Vincent Charron - VA3GX/VE2HHH

Director Communications and Fundraising  
[communications@rac.ca](mailto:communications@rac.ca)

## International Museums Weekend 2014 To Go World Wide

December 6, 2013

John O'Toole, M0HEM, reports that the 2014 International Museums Weekends will take place on June 14th through the 15th and again on June 21st through the 22nd.

For well over a decade the International Museums Weekend has been growing particularly in the United Kingdom, but with only a few radio amateurs taking part from the rest of the world. So for 2014 the event administrators are hoping to turn it into a truly international experience. As such stations can be set up from absolutely any type of location which might be broadly classified as a museum. This might include air, railway, radio, agricultural and doll museums. Even entities such as preserved jails and warships will qualify.

O'Toole who is the Public Relations manager for the event says that there is absolutely no cost involved for taking part, nor is there any charge for any of the International Museums Weekend Awards. More details about the event, its history and how to register can be found at [tinyurl.com/imw-2014](http://tinyurl.com/imw-2014). (M0HEM, Southgate)

**Editor Note:** A few members of L.A.R.C. are planning on operating from the [Railway Museum](#) in Komoka, Ontario during the weekend of June 14-15. They plan on running SSB on HF and PSK31 as well.

## DX Corner

By John Visser, VA3MSV

until Nov 20	Andros Island	AF1G/C6A	80m-6m SSB
Feb 01 - Feb 10	Tanzania	5IODX	SSB/Digital/PSK/RTTY
Feb 01 - Feb 13	Sao Tome & Principe	S9TF	80m-10m CW/SSB/RTTY
Feb 02 - Feb 13	Tanzania	5IODX	80m-10m SSB/CW/PSK/RTTY
Feb 05 - Feb 17	Reunion Island	TO7CC	DXpedition all bands/modes
Feb 06 - Feb 18	Honduras	HR2/NO7B	80m-10m 160m+6m???
Feb 07 - Mar 09	Bonaire	PJ4F	HF bands
Feb 07 - Feb 15	Micronesia	V6T	
Feb 07 - Feb 18	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP/W6HGF	RTTY
Feb 08 - Feb 22	Martinique	TO4YL	160m-10m
Feb 08 - Feb 24	Martinique	F5GN/FM	160m-10m
Feb 09 - Feb 17	Saint Maarten	PJ7/VA3QSL	80m-10m CW/SSB
Feb 09 - Mar 25	Guadeloupe	FG/F6ITD	HF SSB/Digital ARRL DX SSB
Feb 10 - Feb 17	St. Croix	K1ZE/KP2 W1EQ/KP2	HF bands CW/SSB/RTTY
Feb 10 - Feb 18	Rodrigues Island	3B9/OE4AAC	Holiday Style CW
Feb 10 - Feb 18	St Vincent	J8/W3FF	CW/SSB
Feb 11 - Feb 16	Lesotho	7P8ID	40m-6m SSB
Feb 11 - Feb 25	Vanuatu	YJ	160m-10m CW
Feb 12 - Feb 24	Maldives	8Q7KB	30m-10m SSB/CW/RTTY/ARRL DX CW Contest
Feb 15 - Mar 05	Vietnam	XV2BM	160m-10m Holiday Style
Feb 16 - Feb 22	Senegal	6W/MM0NDX	All bands SSB Holiday Style
Feb 18 - Feb 23	New Caledonia	FK/K1HP	HF-6m CW/SSB/RTTY
Feb 19 - Feb 27	Bermuda	VP9/G7VJR	
Feb 19 - Mar 25	Calypso Bay, St. Kitts	V47JA, V47HAM	160m-6m SSB/ARRL International DX SSB Contest
Feb 21 - Feb 25	Micronesia	V6P	
Feb 21 - Mar 10	Dominica	J7Y	ARRL DX Phone
Feb 22 - Mar 16	Saint Maarten	PJ7AA	
Feb 24 - Mar 03	St Martin	FS/KB8RJ FS/WD8KUR	Holiday Style HF
Feb 24 - Mar 07	Tonga	A35AX	CW/SSB/RTTY Holiday Style
Feb 25 - Mar 16	Uganda	5X1XA	CW/RSGB Commonwealth Contest
Feb 25 - Mar 21	Cambodia	XU7ACQ	40m-10m SSB/PSK31/RTTY
Feb 26 - Mar 08	Annobon Island	3C0BYP	SSB/RTTY/CW
Feb 27 - Mar 10	Gambia	C5/M1TKA	20m-10m Holiday Style
Feb 28 - Mar 17	Zambia	9J2T	All bands All modes
Mar 01 - Mar 11	Christmas Island	VK9X/K7CO	80-10m SSB/CW/PSK31
Mar 01 - Mar 28	Surinam	PZ5VC	PSK
Mar 02 - Mar 17	Aruba	WA2NHA/P4	80m-10m CW
Mar 03 - Mar 10	Grenada	J34G	Holiday Style/RSGB Commonwealth Contest
Mar 04 - Mar 19	Saba & St Eustatius	PJ6/KB8RJ PJ6/WD8KUR	Holiday Style HF



## DX Corner cont.



The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the 2012 and 2013 operation of ZD9KX

-- Tristan Da Cunha & Gough Islands for DX Century Club credit.

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the 2014 operation of TT8ES -- Chad -- and the current operation (through May 3, 2014) of T6EU -- Afghanistan -- for DX Century Club credit. This operation was previously approved for 2012 and

2013, and the license has been extended through February 28, 2014.

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the operation of 7Z1ES -- Saudi Arabia -- and the current operation of T6ZG -- Afghanistan -- for DX Century Club credit.

If a request for DXCC credit for this operation has been rejected in a prior application, contact ARRL Awards Branch Manager [Bill Moore](#), NC1L, to be placed on the list for an update to your record. Please note the submission date and/or reference number of your application in order to expedite the search for any rejected contacts.

## North Korea Still Tops *The DX Magazine's* Most Wanted Survey

January 16, 2014

[The DX Magazine](#) has published the results of its most-wanted DXCC entities, and, once again, North Korea (P5) is number 1. Here are the Top 10 overall worldwide results, as they [appeared](#) in *The DX Magazine's* January/February 2014 issue.

2013	Prefix/Entity	2012
1	P5 North Korea	1
2	KP1 Navassa Island	2
3	3Y/B Bouvet	3
4	FT5W Crozet	6
5	FT5Z Amsterdam	4
6	VK0/H Heard Island	5
7	BS7H Scarborough	7
8	ZS8M Marion Island	9
9	VP8/S South Sandwich	8
10	FT5T Tromelin Island	10

"It is interesting to note that the same 10 places are there for both 2012 and 2013," *QRZ DX/The DX*

*Magazine* Editor Carl Smith, N4AA, said. "There are a few slight changes in ranking, but it is the same 10. That should change somewhat for 2014 with Tromelin and Amsterdam, both scheduled for major



DXpeditions." The complete Top 100 Most Wanted [list](#) is available on the DX Publishing website. The continental rankings appear in the January/February issue of *DX Magazine*; band/mode breakdowns will be published in the March/April 2014 issue.

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Planning Of The Amsterdam Island DXpedition

January 17, 2014



On the weekend of the January 11th and 12th Onno Benschop, VK6FLAB, got to interview many of the members of the Amsterdam Island DXpedition as they were ready to sail off to activate FT5ZM from Amsterdam Island. This is a DX community funded operation with a \$450,000 budget. It involves shipping

fourteen people to a spot in the Indian Ocean with radios, antennas and computers and then operating the station for two weeks. And how do you raise the level of funding needed for an operation this immense? That's one of the questions that VK6FLAB put to Bob Allphin, K4UEE:

K4UEE: "The rule of thumb that I Use is that the operators in total should contribute about half of the total budget and that's pretty much the way this one is going to work.

"The other half has got to come from the DX community and basically there are three sources: DX foundations such as the Northern California DX Foundation, The International DX Association, German DX and other foundations who use their funds to support difficult and expensive DXpeditions.

"The second source of funds comes from the DX clubs themselves; the local clubs. And at this point we probably have 70 to 80 DX clubs who have made contributions. Some as small as \$50 and others as much as \$5000.

"And then the third source of income is from the individual DX'ers themselves. And the truth of the matter is that when it's all said and done the majority of the money comes from individual DX'ers who are donating anything from \$5 to I guess the largest

donation we've gotten from an individual was about \$4000."

Others interviewed include Bob Shenck, N200, Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB, and expedition leader Ralph Fedor, KZ0IR, to name only a few. The interviews range in length from about four to seventeen minutes each and cover all aspects of the DXpedition, from planning, to building antennas, the computing infrastructure, the journey itself, working a pile-up and of course fund raising. All are in mp3 format, are licensed under Creative Commons and can be downloaded from [tinyurl.com/Amsterdam-Island-Sound](http://tinyurl.com/Amsterdam-Island-Sound). The latest information on the progress of the DXpedition itself can be found online at [www.amsterdamdx.org](http://www.amsterdamdx.org). (VK6FLAB)

## Tracking The Amsterdam Island DXpedition Team

January 17, 2014



And in a related item, the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter reports that hams world-wide will be able to

track and work the FT5ZM team on their journey to Amsterdam Island aboard the on the ship the Braveheart.

By the time you hear this newscast the DX'ers should be well underway and operating Maritime Mobile with the call VK6FZM. You can keep an eye on their whereabouts at [tinyurl.com/team-journey-live](http://tinyurl.com/team-journey-live).

If you make contact with VK6FZedM Maritime Mobile QSL via N200 direct, via the bureau or electronically via ClubLog. (OPDX)

## Amsterdam Island FT5ZM DXpedition Making a Big Splash

January 30, 2014



After a January 26 start, the 14-member Amsterdam Island [FT5ZM DXpedition](#) team is on the air from

two camps on the small Sout6 Indian Ocean island outpost. The FT5ZM operators have been attacking gigantic pileups that sometimes spread across 10 or 15 kHz or more of spectrum. Despite the imprecations of the self-appointed "DX police," many stations continue to call FT5ZM on its transmitting frequency instead of *up* the band where the operator is listening. FT5ZM operators use split-frequency operation. Considerable intentional interference has slowed progress too.

The kickoff to this approximately [\\$450,000 venture](#) to provide a rare DXCC entity to eager DX'ers around

the globe came in the wake of a difficult sea voyage and dozens of trips from the M/V *Braveheart* via Zodiac to the island to get the gear ashore. Team member Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z, called it "one of the (if not the) roughest DXpeditions [I've] ever been on."

Team Leader Ralph Fedor, K0IR, said the island's logistics make activities time and energy consuming. "For example, at the Antonelli site the grasses are chest high and conceal holes and rocks," he said, adding that the terrain varies wildly. "All this makes antenna installation, placing radials, and running feed lines very difficult." The hike between the two sites is rough and can take nearly 2 hours.

Amsterdam and St Paul Islands is the seventh most-wanted DXCC entity, according to [ClubLog](#). The ARRL has made a [Colvin Award](#) grant to help support the Amsterdam Island DXpedition.

The FT5ZM DXpedition appears to put putting in good signals to all areas of the world, as it follows propagation from band to band, handing out the new one at a rapid rate. "We are struggling with noise on 12 and 30 meters and occasionally on 15," Fedor said January 30. "While we work to resolve this, we ask your patience, if we have difficulty hearing you on these bands. After installing our 160 meter antenna, taking it down, and replacing it, the first full night on 160 meters netted 500 QSOs We are very happy about that."



The FT5ZM Mataf site. [TAAF photo]

Difficulties aside, the team is reported to be in good spirits. As of January 29, the team already had more than 36,000 contacts in the [log](#).

Frank Donovan, W3LPL, has advised US stations to turn their beams to peak the FT5ZM signal. Given the DXpedition's location relative to the US, he explained, it may arrive at different headings on different bands and times of day.

The team will not have e-mail service during the DXpedition and pilot stations do not have log or QSO information.



The FT5ZM Antonelli site. [TAAF photo]

"The only channel to pass your remarks and suggestions to the team is to [contact](#) one of our [pilot operators](#) assigned to your area," a January 27 website post advised. "Please *do not* contact the Pilot Station about a busted call or if your call is missing from the [online log](#). Keep a record of your QSO details and contact the QSL manager after the DXpedition. Alternately, work FT5ZM again." The DXpedition is not accepting sked requests.

The FT5ZM DXpedition has a [Facebook](#) page. DX'ers also can follow its activities via [Twitter](#) or [RSS](#) feed. The DXpedition has allocated 18 days "to set up, conduct the DXpedition, and tear down for departure."

Discovered by the Spanish in 1522, Amsterdam Island is under the administration of Terres Australes et Antarctiques Francaises ([TAAF](#)), which controls access to the islands in the French Antarctic Territories. The UN Global Atmosphere Watch ([GAW](#)) maintains a presence on the island. -- *Thanks to [The Daily DX](#) for some information*

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## **D8A To Operate From New Korean Antarctic Station**

January 31, 2014

Word that DS4NMJ is part of a scientific team that was expected to leave on January 25th for the new Korean research station currently under construction at Terra Nova Bay in Antarctica.

The new base is near the Italian Zucchelli Station and is scheduled to open February 12th. Look for

operation by DS4NMJ using the call D8A to begin on the air operations sometime in mid-February. He plans to use 160 through 10 meters mostly on CW with some SSB and RTTY and says that he will be in Antarctica until the end of January 2015. QSL via HL2FDW. (OPDX)



## NCDXF Announces Grant to Tromelin Island DXpedition

January 23, 2014



The Northern California DX Foundation ([NCDXF](#)) has announced a \$25,000 grant to the FT5/T [Tromelin Island DXpedition](#) planned for October 30-November 10, 2014. Tromelin is tenth on [The DX Magazine's](#) latest [Most Wanted List](#). Tromelin is a small, extremely environmentally fragile area, and strict limitations are in place regarding the number of visitors and time allowed on the island.

"The team's antenna plans, pilot feedback plans, and enthusiasm should make this entity available to

many DX'ers," NCDXF President Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said in announcing the grant. "For the past 42 years the NCDXF has funded major DXpeditions to many most-wanted entities. The credit for these large grants goes to the NCDXF contributors, individuals and clubs, who make DX like this possible."

Additional [details](#) are on the DXpedition website.

***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Celebrating Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's 80th Birthday

January 31, 2014



On the air, keep an ear open during the entire month of March for Russian special event station UE80HS. This operation is being held to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Russia's first astronaut Yuri

Gagarin who was born on March 9th 1934. Gagarin was the first human to journey into space when his Vostok spacecraft completed an orbit of the Earth on April 12th, 1961. If you work UE80HS, please QSL via RW6HS. *(OPDX)*

## The Bosch Group Celebrates 40 Years Of Ham Radio

January 31, 2014

Also, listen out for German special event station DK40BOSCH that will be operational until December 31st. This activity is to celebrate 40 years of ham

radio operations within the Bosch group. QSL direct, via the bureau or electronically using Logbook of the World. *(OPDX)*

## ZS6OB Achieves 1st South African 2 Meter DXCC

January 24, 2014

A new record for VHF DXing from South Africa.

December saw a landmark for South African VHF DXing when Pine Pienaar ZS6OB applied for the DXCC award using only contacts made in the two meter band. With this Pine became the first amateur in Africa and only the second in the southern hemisphere to achieve this feat.

DXCC is issued by the American Radio Relay League for proven contact with at least 100 entities. Most of these entities are countries, with a few additions that are regarded as separate, mostly for geographic reasons.

More than two thirds of two meter DXCC holders are in Europe, with their concentration of almost 70 countries in close proximity. North America features about a fifth of applicants, with about a tenth in Japan. Bob Macquarie ZL3TY was the first in Oceania and the southern hemisphere, with ZS6OB being first in Africa. South America has yet to produce its first winner.

Pine used digital modes with a four-Yagi station. He has been working on his DXCC for a full decade. His single-band award brings the number of bands on which South Africans have earned DXCC to eleven.

Our congratulations to ZS6OB, on this truly difficult achievement. *(ZR6DHC)*

## Celebrating 400 Years Of Netherlands And Sweden Friendship

January 31, 2014

From February 8th through March 7th, PA0FAW will be using the special call sign PA400SM to help celebrate the 400 years of friendship between The Netherlands and Sweden. Most of this operation will

be on CW, with some SSB and digital modes when a suitable location is available. QSL's and SWL reports go via PA0FAW at his information on QRZ.com. (OPDX)

## ISS Ham Video Commissioning Delayed

January 10, 2014

Gaston Bertels, ON4WF has provided an update on bringing on line of the new Ham Video transmission system now on board the International Space Station. According to Bertels the commissioning of the Ham Video transmitter needs to cover different configurations involving 2 antennas, 4 frequencies and 2 symbol rates.

As announced earlier, the signals transmitted during this period will be received by the Matera ground station located in southern Italy. For these transmissions, no camera will be used. The so-called "blank" transmissions will nevertheless provide a complete DVB-S format signal.

AMSAT had hoped that the commissioning of the new transmitter would have taken place last October but it appears that the "Flight Rules" regarding ARISS activities, which cover VHF and UHF transmissions, needed to be updated for the new S-band operation. Writing such rules, having them verified and signed by all parties involved is a time taking process. Also unforeseen events such as the recent failure of a cooling system like caused further delay.

At this time Bertels says that sometime this month or in February seems a reasonable guess for the Ham Video system to be fully activated for regular use. More on this as information is made available. (ANS, ON4WF, ARISS, Southgate)

## Retired Astronaut VA3OOG Calls For More Space Cooperation With China

January 17, 2014



Retired Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, VA3OOG, is calling for more co-operation with China in future space exploration. He also says that he wants this cooperation to be part of any international effort to return to the moon.

In a recent interview with The Canadian Press Hadfield noted

that China sent its first astronaut into space in 2003 and that its ambitious space program aims to eventually put an astronaut on the moon.

More is on the web at [tinyurl.com/hadfield-on-china](http://tinyurl.com/hadfield-on-china). (Global Mail)

## Canadian Newspaper Says Ham Radio Perfect For EmComm

January 24, 2014

The Canadian newspaper the Camrose has run an article describing how amateur radios unique communications expertise can make all the difference in times of emergency. The article quotes Rose City Amateur Radio Club vice-president Gary Horne VE6GD. He says that one of the things hams do is keep an emergency radio in the county office so if they are called on for emergency communications that they have a base station

already set up. He also notes that the city also has ham operators' names should they need any help.

The article says that amateur radio operators are often called on to assist in the coordination of emergency services during disasters like the Pine Lake tornado, the floods in southern Alberta or the Slave Lake fire. You can read the entire story on-line at [tinyurl.com/camrose-ham-radio](http://tinyurl.com/camrose-ham-radio). (Camrose.com)

## CQ to Realign Publications, Launch Digital Supplement

January 9, 2014



CQ Communications Inc. has announced plans to realign its publications lineup and to launch a new online supplement to its flagship magazine, [CQ Amateur Radio](#).

"The hobby radio market is changing," said CQ

Communications President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, "and we are changing what we do and how we do it in order to continue providing leadership to all segments of the radio hobby."

Effective with the February 2014 issue of *CQ*, said Ross, content from the magazine's three sister publications -- [Popular Communications](#), [CQ VHF](#) and [WorldRadio Online](#) -- will be incorporated into

*CQ's* digital edition as a supplement to be called *CQ Plus*. The print editions of *Popular Communications* and *CQ VHF* will be phased out, and *WorldRadio Online* will no longer exist as a separate online publication. Current *Popular Communications*, *CQ VHF* and *WorldRadio Online* subscribers will be converted to *CQ* subscribers and receive *CQ Plus* at no additional charge. Details will be posted on each magazine's website.

CQ Communications says the change will offer hobby radio enthusiasts a single source for articles from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as Amateur Radio. Richard Fisher, KI6SN, currently editor of both *Popular Communications* and *WorldRadio Online*, will be editor of *CQ Plus*. Read [more](#).

**The ARRL Letter**

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## ARRL Centennial: W100AW Hits the Airwaves!

January 9, 2014

At the stroke of midnight Eastern Time on January 1, Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station [W1AW](#) at ARRL Headquarters in Newington took to the air to debut its special ARRL Centennial call sign, W100AW. ARRL Chief Executive Officer Dave Sumner, K1ZZ and Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, were at the helm into the wee hours of New Year's Day.



ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, makes the very first W100AW QSO just after midnight local time on January 1, 2014. [Sean Kutzko, KX9X, photo]

Daylight hours saw ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B; Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X and *QST* Editor in Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, taking their turns at the operating positions. By mid-afternoon, several thousand contacts were in the log on SSB, CW and RTTY.

"This is just the beginning," said Kutzko. "Hams will hear W100AW throughout 2014 on every mode possible. When you hear us, spot us on the cluster!"

Not surprising, 20 meter SSB yielded the most contacts -- 1121 of the 3700 logged -- during the 19 hours of New Year's Day operation from W100AW. Ten meter phone was in second place with 639 contacts.

W100AW contacts will be uploaded to Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). QSL cards sent by mail will be acknowledged as well.

**The ARRL Letter**

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## **W1AW Portable Operations, ARRL Centennial QSO Party**

January 9, 2014

The ARRL Centennial "[W1AW WAS](#)" operations are taking place throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states, relocating each Wednesday (UTC) to a new pair of states (this week, South Carolina and Utah. Listen for W1AW/4 and W1AW/7). During 2014 W1AW will be on the air from every state at least twice and from most US territories, and it will be easy to work all states solely by contacting W1AW portable operations.

In conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the ARRL, the [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#) also kicked off January 1 for a year-long operating event in which participants can accumulate points and win awards. The event is open to all, although only ARRL members and appointees, elected officials, HQ staff and W1AW are worth ARRL Centennial QSO Party [points](#). Working W1AW/x from each state is worth 5 points per contact.

To earn the "Worked all States with W1AW Award," work W1AW operating portable from all 50 states.

(Working W1AW or W100AW in Connecticut does *not* count for Connecticut, however. For award credit, participants must work W1AW/1 in Connecticut.) A W1AW WAS certificate and plaque will be available (pricing not yet available).

### ***Some Statistics***

As of today (January 9), more than 6700 stations have earned points in the Centennial QSO Party by uploading qualifying QSOs to Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). Operating from North Carolina and West Virginia during the first week of the W1AW portable operations, W1AW/4 and W1AW/8 logged approximately 33,000 contacts.

"The second week is off to a roaring start from South Carolina and Utah," reported ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N.

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## **ARRL Centennial: A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL**

January 9, 2014



*Editor's note:* "A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL" will be a weekly feature as the ARRL celebrates its [Centennial](#) in 2014.

In Amateur Radio, as in all fields, 100 years has brought about amazing progress and changes. During 2014, we will give you a sense of the ARRL's and Amateur Radio's history by looking through the issues of *QST* from its humble beginning to the present. We'll examine the important topics and events of interest to amateurs, such as technology, operating tips and events,

ARRL's doings, and FCC actions. Because of the limited space available here, the comments will be brief, but they will provide citations to original *QST* articles for your further reading.

The next century will bring about changes that will be mind-boggling to us, because technology advances at an exponential rate. Being aware of the past 100 years of ham-related events is valuable to us for historical reasons, and it also makes us consider what might lie ahead. *Next time:* A look at the earliest years of Amateur Radio and the ARRL. - *Al Brogdon, W1AB*

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor



## ARRL Centennial: A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

January 16, 2014

After Guglielmo Marconi proved the feasibility of radio communication in 1901, three distinct groups of radio experimenters and stations appeared: The US Navy, commercial operators, and Amateur Radio operators, derisively called "hams" (meaning bad operators) by commercial and Navy operators. Early hams took up the name with pride!

Soon there was chaos in the ether, as hams interfered with commercial and Navy stations. To curb that problem, Congress passed the Radio Act of 1912, requiring all amateurs to get licenses and to operate at wavelengths of 200 meters or shorter, spectrum considered worthless at the time.

When hams first began to pass message traffic, the typical ham station's range was measured in tens of miles, or a few hundred miles for the best-equipped stations. So hams would relay messages from station to station until they reached their destination.



ARRL Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim.

One night in April 1914, Hiram Percy Maxim, 1WH, in Hartford, Connecticut, was unable to contact a station in Springfield, Massachusetts, to send a message. Maxim reached another ham at the midway point of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and that station successfully relayed the message to Springfield.

This event made Maxim realize that there should be an organization to promote smooth and reliable message relays. In April 1914 he presented his thoughts to the Radio Club of Hartford, which agreed to sponsor the activity, using the name Maxim chose -- the American Radio Relay League. In February 1915, the ARRL separated from the HRC, and incorporated as a nonprofit entity.

By March 1915, it became obvious that a publication was required to disseminate information to the 600 relay stations on the ARRL's roster. Maxim and Clarence D. Tuska (HRC Secretary) privately funded the first three issues of *QST* to meet that need. The first issue was published in December 1915. *Next: A look through QST's first issue.*

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## ARRL Centennial: ARRL Debuts "ARRL at 100" Video

January 30, 2014



As part of its Centennial celebration, the ARRL has debuted a video, "ARRL at 100 - A Century of Ham Radio," which explains

the League's history and mission over the past century. Past ARRL Manager for Media and Public Relations Allen Pitts, W1AGP, wrote and produced the half-hour presentation. It is available for club meetings and other gatherings. Pitts said he got started on the project about a year ago with a personal study of the League's history.

"Using books, old *QSTs*, and documents stored in Newington as sources, I eventually created a 28 foot long timeline that rolled across my office floor," he

recalled. "This paper roll was then posted in the main hallway, where staff and visitors were invited to write comments and additional events on it."

Last fall, the unwieldy roll was transformed into a more permanent graphic banner that became the basis for the new [timeline booklets](#). These will be freely available at major Centennial conventions in 2014.

Pitts said he realized that the timeline held an interesting storyline about the ARRL and its protection of Amateur Radio for 100 years, and he decided the next step would be to use it as the basis for scripting a video. "Unlike the classic 'Amateur Radio Today,'" Pitts said, "this new video would *not* be hampered by any TV broadcast restrictions, so it

was made to fit into a 30 minute time slot." Al Petrunti, KA1TCH, of [The New Day Group](#) was chosen for the video production. Securing a "personality" to host the video turned out to be easier than it first seemed.



Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY.

"After inquiries to professional television personalities, it was apparent that the budget could not meet their expense requirements," Pitts explained. As it happened, a host was right at hand, as *QST* Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, stepped forward. "Once again an amateur did excellent professional-grade work," Pitts said. "Becky had done a fair amount of stage work in the past and absolutely lights up the video with her knowledge of ham radio and obvious true interest in the topic. We couldn't be happier."

Pitts solicited brief "I am the ARRL" cameo clips from around the country and included these along with impromptu clips taken at hamfests.

Pitts feels the video represents some of the best script writing he's ever done, "but then, it is one of the best stories I have ever found," he added. "We often say 'If not for the ARRL we would not have ham radio as we know it,' but few people know how very true that is and how close we came on several occasions to not having ham radio."

Pitts credited Petrunti's ability to quickly understand "the visions I had in my head for many video shots. Better yet, he was excellent at putting people at ease in front of the camera -- and we had a lot of people."

First to view the video was the ARRL Board of Directors at its annual meeting earlier this month. "Since then it has already received many compliments from hams and professional videographers," Pitts said.

The video can be seen and/or downloaded from the [ARRL website](#) and viewed on [YouTube](#). DVDs are for sale from the ARRL online store. ARRL Directors and Section Managers received courtesy copies of the DVD and booklets.

If you have the ability to show the DVD on a TV or cable outlet, contact Media and Public Relations Manager [Sean Kutzko](#), KX9X, for special DVDs or extra high-resolution files.

### ***The ARRL Letter***

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## **Industry Canada's Antenna Tower Siting Policy**

February 6, 2014

On February 5th, Industry Canada's Minister made an announcement bearing the title "Harper Government Making Changes to Cell Tower Placement Rules".

Industry Canada's current governing document is CPC-2-0-03. A notice has been posted stating that changes to the document will be made subsequent yesterday's announcement. Rest assured RAC will convey to IC in the strongest of terms that no changes be made that would negatively affect the amateur radio antenna installations currently in place. RAC does not believe this policy change announcement was generated by problems caused by the amateur radio community. RAC further believes the current 15m height has worked well for several years.

Amateur radio antenna structures, like those used to receive off the air television or listen to short wave broadcasts are different in many ways from cell phone towers:

- they are usually much smaller and not as visibly intrusive
- they are operated by citizens for their personal use, not by companies
- they are usually located on the property of the user's residence
- they are operated intermittently rather than the continuous operation of commercial antenna systems
- the population of radio amateurs and consequently the number of their antennas is growing slowly at about the growth rate of the general population, unlike the exponential

growth in wireless communications creating the pressure for rapidly increasing numbers of cell phone towers

- there has been no popular expression of concern over amateur radio or personal use antennas, unlike cell phone towers

RAC has been instrumental in a number of communities in establishing public consultation protocols that recognize the differences between commercial cell towers and personal use or amateur radio antennas and so to permit amateur radio antenna structures in excess of 15m without consultation. RAC has always been willing to work with Industry Canada in consultations that take into account the needs of the general community and amateur radio operators.

Radio amateurs are most noticed by the general community when they fill in for failing communications systems such as has happened with floods and ice storms or provide communications for community events. The Canadian Ski Marathon taking place this weekend relies on amateur radio

volunteers for the communications essential to the operations of the event and the safety of its participants. 2014 marks the 41st year radio amateurs provided this support. Similar community activities take place around the year and across the country. To develop the expertise that allows radio amateurs to help their communities in this way radio amateurs need antennas. We must be very careful not to make it needlessly difficult to install antennas as that would over time reduce the number of people able to provide these important community services.

We will provide regular updates on this announcement going forward as the situation warrants.

Yours in amateur radio,  
Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA  
RAC Vice-President and Regulatory Affairs Officer  
[ve3xra@rac.ca](mailto:ve3xra@rac.ca)

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Vincent Charron - VA3GX/VE2HHH  
Director Communications and Fundraising  
[hq.communications@rac.ca](mailto:hq.communications@rac.ca)

# **MEMBERSHIP INVITATION**

-- Membership application and dues are currently requested.

Our term of membership runs from November 1 to October 31 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).



