

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
And surrounding area since 1920

January 1, 2014

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

### President

David Lambert, VE3KGK

### Vice-President, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Past President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

### 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 **January 9th**. This meeting will have a number of mini presentations.

Jeff Regan, VE3XJR, will speak on E-sight, a recently developed visual aid for those who are visually impaired. You may have noticed him wearing it at past meetings.

John Pedersen, VE3MGR, and Mike Watt, VE3ACW, will discuss their challenges and accomplishments in putting together a magnetic loop antenna.

## ARRL Centennial: ARRL Granted Use of W100AW for League's Centennial

December 5, 2013

The FCC has authorized the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW to also use the call sign W100AW during 2014, the ARRL's centennial year. Contacts made from the [Maxim Memorial Station](#) in Newington, from regional Centennial conventions, and during the [IARU HF Championship](#) will use W100AW, with portable designators as appropriate. The "[W1AW WAS](#)" operations throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states will use W1AW, *not* W100AW. Bulletins and code practice transmissions during 2014 also will still use W1AW.

Contacts with W100AW will be worth 100 points in the [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#). To help kick off the ARRL Centennial, special W100AW activity will begin at 0500 UTC on January 1, 2014 (midnight in Newington), and will include participation in ARRL's [Straight Key Night](#); one CW station will use Hiram Percy Maxim's straight key. Activity will continue throughout New Year's Day.

The ARRL Letter  
[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Next Meeting is Where and When?

**Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on January 9, 2013 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 February 13, 2014.

## 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

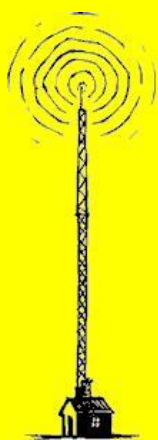
#### Stratfordville

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

## RAC Bulletin 2013-041E - 0-30 MHz Band Planning Committee Announcement

December 11, 2013

Al Penney, VO1NO has agreed to chair RAC's 0-30 MHz Band Planning Committee. The previous chair, Jim Fisher, VE1JF has retired but will continue to serve the BPC for a time as Past Chair and has pledged his active support to a successful transition. Jim had joined the BPC when it was the HF Band Planning Committee and became chair upon the retirement of Bob Nash, VE3KZ. Jim saw the committee through very active intra-Canada band planning and intense negotiations with Region 2 on revisions to 40M and general updates, and its expansion to 0-30 MHz, as well as the development of RAC's current proposals for 60 M privileges. Other continuing committee members include Scott Wood VE1QD, Mel Martin VE2DC, Don Moman VE6YJ, and Frank Vanderzande VE7AV.

Al was first licensed in 1977. He has been active on all bands from 160M to microwave, and enjoys DXpeditions for IOTA and VHF/UHF contests. He is a past president of the VE2CMR Club, Halifax Amateur Radio Club, Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association in Colorado Springs, and the West Carleton Amateur Radio Club in Ottawa. He is currently President of the Greenwood Amateur Radio Club in Nova Scotia, having recently moved to the area after retiring from the Royal Canadian Navy following a 35 year career. Now that he has more free time, he intends to be much more active on the air again!

George Gorsline, VE3YV  
International Affairs Officer

\*\*-----\*\*

Vernon Ikeda - VE2MBS/VE2QQ

Pointe-Claire, Québec

RAC Blog Editor/RAC E-News/Web News Bulletin Editor

## HRD To Continue Support To Windows XP Users

December 27, 2013

HRD Software has announced that it will continue to support Ham Radio Deluxe on the Windows XP Service Pack 3 platform beyond April 8, 2014. This for as long as it is technically and commercially reasonable for them to do so, and there is no external dependency.

For example, if the manufacturers of radios, rig interfaces, or soundcards discontinue making drivers that work on Windows XP and you should purchase one of these devices, Ham Radio Deluxe would not be able to work with it. These same companies may discontinue support for older products that currently work on Windows XP and this could prevent trouble shooting.

HRD Software says that it recognizes that many operators may have no desire to upgrade their operating system or their computer. Microsoft provides some guidance to users of in this regard. HRD Software says that it will refer its customers to guidance provided by Microsoft in these instances.

More information on HRD Software products is on the web at [www.ham-radio-deluxe.com](http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com) (HRD via Southgate)

## Upcoming Events

Thu., Jan. 9, 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., Jan. 9, 2013

[Big Event 36 - Flea Market and](#)  
[Hamfest](#) – Niagara Peninsula  
ARC  
Merriton Community Centre, 7 Park  
Ave., St. Catharines, Ontario

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

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.

## International Museums Weekend 2014 To Go World Wide

December 6, 2013

John O'Toole, MOHEM, 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). (MOHEM, Southgate)

## Kids Day is January 5!

December 19, 2013

The next [Kids Day](#), sponsored by the ARRL and The Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, will be Sunday, January 5, from 1800 to 2400 UTC. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio satellites to youngsters and let them get some firsthand experience.

Share the excitement with your own children or grandkids or youngsters in the neighborhood! For the youngsters, their positive ham radio experience may foster an interest in getting licensed one day. For veteran radio amateurs, it's a chance to share their love of Amateur Radio and their stations with the next generation.

To attract attention call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange is name, age, location, and favorite color. There is *no* limit on operating time, and stations may work each other more than once, if the operator has changed.

The suggested HF frequencies are 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, 24.960 to 24.980 MHz, 21.360 to 21.400 MHz, 18.140 to 18.145 MHz, 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 7.270 to 7.290 MHz, and 3.740 to 3.940 MHz. Repeater contacts (with permission of the repeater's sponsor) are okay too, and satellite contacts may provide a *real* thrill. Be sure to observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts.

All participants are encouraged to post stories and photos to the [Kids Day Soapbox page](#) and are eligible to receive a colorful [certificate](#). You can download the free certificate, customized with the youngsters' names, after filling out the Kids Day Survey found on the same page as the certificate generator. Alternatively, you can send a 9 × 12 SASE to Kids Day Certificate Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. ARRL Kids Day is always the first Sunday of January and the third Saturday of June.

*The ARRL Letter*

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## DX Corner

By Dave Lambert, VE3KGK

|                 |                                      |            |  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Dec 28 - Jan 05 | Kuchino                              | J13DST/6   | 80-10m all modes                                 |
| Dec 31 - Feb 03 | Penang Island                        | 9M2MRS     | 40m-10m CW/RTTY/PSK                              |
| Jan 01 - Jan 31 | Bahamas                              | 9H5G/C6A   | 160m-10m SSB                                     |
| Jan 02 - Jan 07 | Sovereign Military<br>Order of Malta | 1A0KM      | All (Very rare entity)                           |
| Jan 02 - Jan 18 | Namibia                              | V5         | All bands/modes                                  |
| Jan 03 - Jan 30 | Senegal                              | 6W7SK      | 160m-10m SSB                                     |
| Jan 02 - Jan 30 | Chile                                | YV5IAL/CE2 | PSK31 on 14070.15, 10m/15m/40m PSK31/SSB         |
| Jan 04 - Jan 11 | Maldives                             | 8Q7SM      | 40-10m holiday style                             |
| Jan 04 - Jan 12 | Tanzania                             | 5H1VC      | CW/RTTY  |
| Jan 09 - Jan 14 | Cambodia                             | XU7AEU     | All bands SSB                                    |
| Jan 11 - Jan 12 | Martinique                           | FM         | All bands  |
| Jan 11 - Jan 19 | Cayman Is                            | ZF2PG      | 17m/12m/10m SSB                                  |
| Jan 11 - Jan 22 | Gambia                               | C5WP       | All Bands SSB                                    |
| Jan 13 - Jan 19 | Martinique                           | TO3JA      | All bands SSB                                    |
| Jan 15 - Jan 16 | Dominica                             | J79        | All SSB  |
| Jan 15 - Jan 30 | Laos                                 | XW8BM      | Holiday style                                    |
| Jan 17 - Jan 18 | Guadeloupe                           | FM         | All SSB  |
| Jan 18 - Jan 22 | Montserrat                           | VP2M       | All SSB  |
| Jan 21 - Feb 21 | St Kitts/Nevis                       | V47AJ      | Some SSB/CW Mostly RTTY                          |
| Jan 21 - Jan 27 | S Cook Is                            | E51CDW     | All bands CW/SSB                                 |
| Jan 23 - Jan 29 | Dominica                             | J79        | All bands SSB                                    |
| Jan 24 - Feb 12 | Amsterdam Is                         | FT5ZM      | DXpedition all bands/modes                       |
| Jan 26 - Jan 28 | Burkina Faso                         | XT2AW      | Holiday style                                    |
| Jan 29 - Feb 07 | Dominica                             | J79JG      | Holiday style                                    |
| Jan 29 - Feb 09 | Guadeloupe                           | FG         | SSB/Digital                                      |
| Feb 01 - Feb 10 | Tanzania                             | 5IODX      | SSB Digital PSK RTTY                             |
| Feb 01 - Feb 13 | Sao Tome & Principe                  | S9TF       | 80-10m CW/SSB/RTTY                               |
| Feb 05 - Feb 17 | Reunion Is                           | TO7CC      | DXpedition all bands/modes                       |
| Feb 09 - Mar 25 | Guadeloupe                           | FG         | SSB also ARRL DX SSB contest                     |
| Feb 10 - Feb 18 | Rodriguez Island                     | OE4AAC/3B9 | 40m-10m CW holiday style                         |
| Feb 11 - Feb 16 | Lesotho                              | 7P8ID      | 40m-6m SSB                                       |
| Feb 11 - Feb 25 | Vanuatu                              | YJ         | CW   |
| Feb 12 - Feb 24 | Maldives                             | 8Q7KB      | 30m-10m SSB/CW/RTTY ARRL DX CW Contest Feb 15/16 |

Cambodia XU7AEU. This is one of the 14 I still need to have worked all entities! Wish me luck with my QRP set up. In a pile-up, you better believe 100 watts is QRP!

Good DX-ing in 2014. Seems this cycle has reached its peak so have some fun over the next year or so as things start to slow down.

73,  
VE3KGK.

## DX Corner cont.

The ARRL DXCC desk has approved the 2013 Rwanda 9X0XA and the just concluded November 20th through December 10th VU7AG Lakshadweep Islands operations for DXCC credit. Once you have confirmation you will be able to apply these toward your DXCC standing.

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the current T6TM operation from Afghanistan for DXCC credit. If your request 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. His e-mail is [bmoore@ARRL.org](mailto:bmoore@ARRL.org).

## VU7AG Leader Tells Youngsters about Telecommunications, Ham Radio

December 12, 2013

As the [VU7AG Lakshadweep Islands DXpedition](#) was winding down, its leader, Krish Kumar, W4VKU, took time out to talk to students on [Agatti Island](#) about telecommunications and Amateur Radio. The classroom presentation fulfilled a goal of a [Colvin Award](#), which helped to fund the DXpedition, to enhance the condition of Amateur Radio in the DX location. The VU7AG operation has been approved for DXCC credit. Kumar said his presentation covered the Internet, the mobile phone system, and the role of radio and Amateur Radio.

"I have a *PowerPoint* [presentation] that talked about the Internet, the routing of data, the way the phone systems are tied, and how the kids can play with Amateur radio," Kumar told ARRL. He also left

behind an "old, but good" copy of the ARRL's *Now You're Talking* for the school library. "We did two sessions for the 11th and 12th graders. This was followed by an on-the-air demonstration."

Kumar also purchased a DVD of the PBS series "The Universe" for the school. "The principal was very happy with the event," Kumar added.

The VU7AG DXpedition, which got underway November 20, wrapped up December 10. Logs will be uploaded to Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). The VU7AG team logged 55,304 contacts.

*The ARRL Letter*  
[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Storm Topples Amateur Radio Contest Club Towers in Northern Europe

December 12, 2013

Stormy weather has taken down major ham radio antenna towers in Finland and Denmark. On December 6, Radio Arcala (OH8X) reported that its 330 foot tall tower supporting massive 160 meter and 80 meter Yagis literally fell victim to high winds that also took out power to some 200,000 homes in Finland.

"The mammoth structure collapsed peacefully, not hitting any of the other six towers, not hurting people or damaging buildings," a report from Jarmo J. Jaakola, OH2BN, described. "As professional engineering efforts had up to now ensured the survival of this 5 year old structure, inspectors are busy trying to evaluate the cause of the failure. It is suspected that automation designed to enable the array to find its most comfortable position in high

winds somehow locked up and caused the structure to corkscrew."

In Denmark, the same storm bent over the top of the OZ5E contest station's tower supporting a 20 meter OptiBeam and 3 element 40 meter Yagi -- "a total loss," the Danish Contest Academy [reports](#) on its website.

[The Daily DX](#) this week relayed a report from Rick Dorsch, NE8Z, that Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A, lost all of his antennas, including a SteppIR beam, in the windstorm. SV2ASP is the only station active on HF from the DXCC entity of Mount Athos.

*The ARRL Letter*  
[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## K9W Wake Atoll Commemorative DXpedition Tops 100,000

### Contacts

December 19, 2013

The [K9W](#) Wake Atoll DXpedition team reports that it logged slightly more than 100,000 contacts during its November DXpedition in the South Pacific.

"The Wake Atoll DXpedition team wants to thank the DX community for the outstanding response to 'The Forgotten 98' Commemorative DXpedition," Team Leader Lou Dietrich, N2TU, said on the DXpedition's behalf. "Also, we need to express our gratitude to our hosts on Wake, the United States Air Force." Because of issues stemming from the partial federal government shutdown the DXpedition had to postpone its startup from October until November.

North American hams worked the lion's share of the contacts -- just over 35 percent, with Asia and

Europe not far behind at 32 percent and 27 percent, respectively. The rest of the world had a more difficult time putting K9W into the log. Contacts with Oceania accounted for slightly more than 3 percent of the total, with South America contacts comprising slightly less than 2 percent, and with Africa less than 1 percent. K9W logged 53,765 CW, 38,700 SSB, and 7,562 digital contacts. The K9W DXpedition was the recipient of a [Colvin Award](#) grant. Contacts will be uploaded to Logbook of The World ([LoTW](#)). Read [more](#).

*The ARRL Letter*

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Amsterdam Island In January 2014 Update

December 27, 2013

Ralph Fedor, K0IR reports that all the equipment the long awaited Amsterdam Island DXpedition that had been shipped to New Zealand is now aboard the ship MV Braveheart. Also that all of the documentation is in order that that inspections have been completed.

According to Fedor, the vessel was to be fueled for its voyage to Australia on December 23rd and scheduled to depart on December 26th for Fremantle, Australia. Meantime the FT5ZM team members will begin arriving in Fremantle on January 9th. They will board the Braveheart on January 14th, configure our maritime mobile station, and sail for

Amsterdam Island on January 15th. Landing operations will commence as soon as the sea conditions and weather allow. Once the team is ashore, they will have 18 days to set up, conduct the DXpedition, and tear down for departure.

Fedor says that there will likely be at least one more press release before they depart. In the meantime you can get updates at the DXpeditions website at [www.amsterdamdx.org](http://www.amsterdamdx.org) or by following the planning at [www.facebook.com/FT5ZM](http://www.facebook.com/FT5ZM). And we will have more DX news for you later on in this week's newscast. (*Various DX News Sources*)

## Get Ready -- The ARRL Centennial QSO Party Kicks Off January 1!

December 19, 2013

As part of the mix of events marking the League's 100th anniversary, the [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#) gets underway at 0001 UTC on January 1. This is a year-long operating event, in which participants can accumulate points and win awards, as well as work new stations and make new friends. During 2014 W1AW will be on the air at least twice from *every* US state and from most US territories, and it will be easy to work all states solely by contacting W1AW portable operations. This will be the first ARRL-sponsored operating event for which every member is worth at least one point. The event is open to all, although only ARRL members and appointees, elected officials, HQ staff, and W1AW are worth

[points](#). Working the ARRL's president, for example, earns 300 points!

To qualify for points, all contacts must be two-way (no cross-band or cross-mode contacts), using CW, phone (FM, SSB, AM, digital voice), digital (any digital mode, such as PSK31, RTTY) on 160, 80, 40, 30, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6, 2 and 1.25 meters, plus 70 centimeters and satellite. Stations [exchange](#) signal report and ARRL abbreviation. Contacts do not have to be contest-style, and providing ARRL organizational information is not required. A centennial database will assign point values to all logs submitted electronically. Those not submitting electronically, however, will need to obtain the QSO

information during the contact. Since this is not a contest, participants may make contacts in any fashion they prefer.

The Centennial QSO Party is scored by totaling the values of all eligible contacts. There are no multipliers or bonus points. Logs submitted via

Logbook of the World ([LoTW](#)) will be scored automatically.

For full information, visit the [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#) webpage. [Contact us](#) if you have questions. Read [more](#).

*The ARRL Letter*

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Canada Issues Short-Term 472-479 kHz Experimental License

December 5, 2013

[Industry Canada](#) has issued an experimental radio license to the [Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland](#) (VO1MRC). Experimental station VX9MRC has been endorsed to conduct transmissions on 472-479 kHz for just two days -- December 14 and 15 -- to call attention to the potential new Amateur Radio band there and to the role ham radio plays in emergency communication.

"A special message from Bauline, Newfoundland, Mayor Christopher Dredge will be sent on CW on 478 kHz as a beacon transmission on these days," said Joe Craig, VO1NA, a low-frequency enthusiast and MRC leader. "Those receiving the message are invited to forward it to their respective municipal representative." Craig said the ERP should be about 2W on 478 kHz, with the message sent at approximately 12 WPM.

Delegates attending the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference ([WRC-12](#)) approved the secondary allocation between 472-479 kHz for the Amateur Radio Service. Industry Canada has proposed creating a new MF Amateur Radio band at 472-479 kHz on a secondary basis. Last year the ARRL asked the FCC to carve out the same band for US hams.

In November 2012 the FCC released a [Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order](#) (ET Docket 12-338) proposing the creation of a new LF ham band at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. Canadian hams already have such an allocation.

The ARRL Letter

[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## New Ham Radio Educational Interest Video

December 20, 2013

There's a new ham radio promotional and educational video now on the Internet that may be of use to those trying to interest non hams in joining the fraternity.

Amateurs interested in spreading the good word about their hobby now have a new tool. A video entitled "Discovering Amateur radio" has just been released.

Written and narrated by David Anderson, K1AN, the production describes an extraordinary technology that in just 100 years has transformed our lives in, as Anderson says, "the most amazing ways."

Available in a condensed version as well as a half hour program, the well-paced video can be viewed on line or used in group presentations. The producers say it was created for anyone who wishes

to encourage youths and adults to discover amateur radio.

The production is one of many educational programs administered under the auspices of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization through partnership with the World Genesis Foundation. "Discovering Amateur Radio" is on the project website at [www.radioqrv.com](http://www.radioqrv.com)

Those who teach Amateur Radio in high school and college settings might find Discovering Amateur Radio to be very well suited for showing to their students. This, especially given the additional reference material included in the longer half hour minute version.

Once again the website where to find "Discovering Amateur Radio" is [www.radioqrv.com](http://www.radioqrv.com) (*K8CMD, others*)



## VHF Communications Magazine Closes

December 6, 2013

The famed United Kingdom publication VHF Communications magazine is closing after 45 years of continuous publication. A message on the magazine website says that by the end of 2013 the number of subscribers was not sufficient to support the magazine. Also the supply of articles had become difficult because a lot of good articles are published direct to the Internet.

From 1969 to 2013, VHF Communications was one of the foremost construction oriented publication for radio amateurs and professional RF communications engineers. A DVD containing the complete collection of magazines is available. More is on the web at [www.vhfcomm.co.uk](http://www.vhfcomm.co.uk) (Southgate)

## One Free Article From QST Per Month To Help With Outreach

December 6, 2013

The ARRL has a deal that you can't refuse. This according to the League's Contact public relations newsletter that notes that one QST article a month will be made available free of charge to non-League members and the general public.

Traditionally, content from QST has been available only to members, who have access to the print and digital editions of the ARRL membership journal. According to the Contact article, this has hampered the ARRL's ability to send articles to the non-

amateur community, and consequently, impacting on other efforts.

Beginning with the December 2013 issue, one QST article per month from each issue will be made available in PDF format on the "This Month In QST" page of the ARRL web site. The December 2013 article will be on the Colorado flooding of 2013 and Amateur Radio's role in the disaster. You will find it at [www.arrl.org/this-month-in-QST](http://www.arrl.org/this-month-in-QST). (ARRL)

## CQ To Consolidate Publications

December 27, 2013

CQ Communications, Inc. has announced plans to realign its roster of publications and to launch a new online supplement to its flagship CQ Amateur Radio magazine. Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, 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.

According to Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, while their primary audience is ham radio operators, very few hams began their radio involvement as amateurs. Most started out as shortwave listeners, broadcast band DX'ers, CB'ers or scanning enthusiasts. Ross says that many continue to be involved in various different aspects of the radio hobby in addition to amateur radio. K2MGA notes that by consolidating

four specialized publications into one, that CQ will be better able to keep these multidimensional readers informed on all aspects of the radio hobby while simultaneously exposing those who are not hams to all the excitement and opportunities that amateur radio has to offer.

Richard Fisher, KI6SN, who is currently Editor of both Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online will become the Editor of CQ Plus. Current subscriptions to Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online will be converted to CQ subscriptions and receive CQ Plus at no additional charge. Details will be posted on each magazine website. In the meantime a preview of the February issue's Table of Contents is available right now on the CQ website at [tinyurl.com/cq-february-2014](http://tinyurl.com/cq-february-2014). (CQ)

## Live ISS Video Stream via N2YO.COM

December 6, 2013

If life aboard the International Space Station interests you, then listen up. The N2YO satellite tracking website also provides limited live video streaming from the International Space Station.

The Ustream video is available only when the orbiting complex is in contact with the ground through its high-speed communications system via NASA's Tracking and Data Relay Satellite or TDRS System. During loss of signal periods, you will see a blue screen.

Since the station orbits the Earth once every 90 minutes, it sees a sunrise or a sunset every 45 minutes. When the station is in darkness and there is established contact, an external camera video has the ability to provide spectacular views of city lights below if any are in range.

The URL for live video stream from the ISS can be found at [www.n2yo.com/space-station](http://www.n2yo.com/space-station). (Southgate)

## High Schooler Returns to Her Elementary Alma Mater to Lead ISS Contact

December 5, 2013



Using a radio she built, Rebecca Rubsamen, right, makes radio contact with astronaut Mike Hopkins aboard the International Space Station from Rancho Romero Elementary School in Alamo, Calif., on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. Students were allowed to ask questions for short window of time that the space station was in radio range. Rubsamen is part of the Amateur Radio International Space Station program developed by NASA to promote STEM education. (Dan Honda/Bay Area News Group)

Sixteen-year-old Rebecca "Becca" Rubsamen, KJ6TWM, recently returned to her elementary school alma mater to help youngsters there speak via Amateur Radio with astronaut Mike Hopkins, KF5LJG, at the helm of NA1SS aboard the International Space Station. The November 13 event at Rancho Romero Elementary School in Alamo, California, was sponsored by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program.

"Becca approached Rancho Romero Elementary School, her alma mater, with the idea to do an ARISS contact there," her dad, Reid Rubsamen, N6APC, told ARRL. "She drafted the application, helped develop the curriculum, and convinced astronaut James Van Hoften to come to Science Night to help

promote the contact. Becca and I were very excited about the whole thing!"



Using a radio she built, Rebecca Rubsamen, center left, 16, of Alamo, lets Spencer Lang, 8, center right, ask a question of astronaut Mike Hopkins aboard the International Space Station from Rancho Romero Elementary School in Alamo, Calif., on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013. Students were allowed to ask questions for short window of time that the space station was in radio range. Rubsamen is part of the Amateur Radio International Space Station program developed by NASA to promote STEM education. (Dan Honda/Bay Area News Group)

Becca assembled from a kit the Elecraft K3 and 2 meter transverter she used for the ARISS contact. "I built the antennas in my backyard," she explained on her [website](#), which includes audio of the contact. "It took a flatbed truck and a fork lift to put them on the roof at Rancho!"

During the approximately 8 minute contact, the youngsters at the school posed a wide array of questions to Hopkins, who, responding to one student's query, explained that the ISS orbits Earth 16 times a day, making it hard to keep track of time. "We have a great group on the ground that helps up

keep track of time and lets us know when it's time to go to bed," he said.

Hopkins told the students that the crew members are "the guinea pigs" for some of the science experiments in space that are aimed at determining how humans fare in the spacecraft's microgravity environment, which, he pointed out, takes a toll on muscles and bones. "We exercise about 2 hours a day to try to counteract that bone loss," he said. But, he added, "You're never going to forget what it's like to float."

Becca's is a nearly all-ham family. Her mother, Amy, is KJ6WMMF, and her 13-year-old brother Mike is KJ6WMMG. Only her 7-year-old brother is not yet licensed. According to her dad, Becca believes the CubeSats may be "the next big thing" to promote ham radio and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education. "She is going to install a permanent UHF/VHF ground station at Rancho Romero to help this happen," he told the League.

As for the future, her dad said Becca -- a sophomore at Bentley School in Lafayette, California -- sees a career in health care or technology. "Maybe she'll do both," he added.

Tim Bosma, W6MU, served as the ARISS mentor for the contact. He [told](#) the *Contra Costa Times* newspaper that Becca was among the youngest people to act as a lead operator" for a school contact. "It's very impressive," he said, adding that it was something he had not seen in his 30 years as a mentor for the program. He is working with Becca as they plan the installation of a VHF/UHF ground station at Rancho Romero to work Amateur Radio satellites.

ARISS is an international educational outreach with participation from ARRL, [NASA](#), [ESA](#), the [Russian Space Agency](#) (ROSCOSMOS), [CNES](#), [JAXA](#), [CSA](#) and [AMSAT](#).

The ARRL Letter  
[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Former Ham-Astronaut Gets Back into Ham Radio

December 12, 2013



Former NASA Astronaut Susan J. Helms, KC7NHZ, has renewed her interest in ham radio, and, as of November 26, has her old call sign back. A lieutenant-general in the US Air Force, Helms now is the senior officer at

Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Due to pressing Air Force duties, she allowed her license to

expire in 2005, but when the [Satellite Amateur Radio Club](#) (W6AB) hosted a 2013 Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air ([JOTA](#)) activity for several local Scout troops, Helms's interest returned, and she took and passed the Technician examination during a test session at the event, obtaining KK6HNZ -- which coincidentally contained the same three letters as her old call sign's suffix.

In 2001 during her duty tour aboard the International Space Station, Helms thrilled ARRL Field Day participants by getting on the air from NA1SS in the first Field Day operation from space. She worked several dozen stations as the ISS passed over the US. -- *Thanks to Eric Lemmon, WB6FLY*

The ARRL Letter  
[Rick Lindquist](#), WW1ME, Editor

## Retired Astronaut Chris Hadfield VA3OOG Predicts Moon Base Within 70 Years

December 27, 2013



Some names in the news. First up is retired Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, VA3OOG who has predicted that humans will have a colony on the moon within the next 30 to 40 years and establish a base on Mars within the next 70.

In a recent interview with the Telegraph newspaper,

Hadfield said that this is a pattern we have been following for the last 70,000 years. He noted

mankind gradually made its way around the world. In the last 100 years we have gotten to Antarctica and now there are people who live there for months at a time.

VA3OOG went on to say that he thinks that within his lifetime we will see a permanent lunar base. Also that the setting up of a permanent habitation on the Moon will help to improve space exploration.

Hadfield gained fame for tweeting pictures of space and performing his own version of David Bowie's "Space Oddity" during his command of the International Space Station this past year. He retired from the Canadian Space Agency last June and is currently on tour promoting his new book "An Astronaut's Guide To Life on Earth."

You can read the entire interview with Chris Hadfield, VA3OOG on the web at [tinyurl.com/Hadfield-Moon-Future](http://tinyurl.com/Hadfield-Moon-Future). *(Telegraph)*

## SSB And AM May Come To UK CB

December 13, 2013

British telecommunications regulator Ofcom has published a statement confirming its plans to amend current regulations to allow the use of a wider range of transmission standards for 11 meter Citizens Band Radio in the UK. These will include Amplitude Modulation, Double-sideband and Single-sideband transmission standards which will bring the UK in line with other European countries.

Ofcom's proposed changes will also allow United Kingdom CB users the right to run a higher power output than holders of the nation's entry level Foundation amateur radio license.

95% of respondents to the Ofcom proposal supported the use of AM and SSB. Currently CB in the United Kingdom is an FM only service. *(Southgate)*

## WG2XRS Signals Heard In Eastern USA And Germany

December 20, 2013

Signals from WG2XRS, one of the United States based special experimental transmitting licensed stations for the 75kHz band, crossed the Atlantic in early December. This by using the new OP-65 mode.

Seventeen monitor stations spread across the United States and Western Europe listened for the transmissions. The first transmit period produced a

substantial number of automated signal reports from monitoring points in the eastern United States.

Across the Atlantic, only one station in Germany managed to capture the signal. He heard and decoded it at a distance of 3,881 miles. As we go to air, these tests are continuing. *(RSGB)*

## Hamvention On-Line Ordering Now Available

December 13, 2013

The online ordering system is now accepting Hamvention 2014 orders. According to an announcement the Hamvention's Webmaster

Richard Rieben, KE4WLE, you can now order your tickets or reserve a flea market spot. It's all on-line at [hamvention.org](http://hamvention.org). *(KE4WLE)*

## Protect Your Gear From ESD

Electrostatic discharge, or ESD for short, has been a concern for anyone involved in electronics ever since we made the transition from vacuum tubes to transistors. I was schooled about ESD when I worked as a test engineer for a company called Doric Scientific shortly after I got out of engineering school, and I wrote about it when I was an editor for Test & Measurement World magazine back in the 1990s. If anything, it's even more of a concern today as electronic components get ever smaller.

In 1991, Bryan P. Bergeron, NU1N, published a two-part series on ESD (part 1: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9104019.pdf>, part 2: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/9105028.pdf>) in QST. His suggestions about how to prevent ESD damage are as good now as they were 20 years ago:

- Consider using a room humidifier to increase the relative humidity in your shack, or wherever you work on electronic equipment to 65% RH or higher.
- Use grounded wrist straps when handling ESD-sensitive devices.
- Use grounded, anti-ESD work mats when working on electronic equipment.
- Use a grounded soldering iron and anti-static tools.
- Use anti-static bags and containers for storing and transporting electronic equipment.
- Connect the chassis of all your gear to a good earth ground.

- Consider purchasing a desktop ionizer to neutralize static buildup on your workbench.

I might also add consider grounding the chairs that you use in your shack or discharging yourself after getting up from the chair in your shack. I know that the worst electrostatic discharges that I experience are after I get up from my chair. You can even buy ESD-safe chairs ([http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches\\_and\\_Chairs%7CChairs\\_and\\_Accessories%7CCHR-00/](http://www.all-spec.com/products/Benches_and_Chairs%7CChairs_and_Accessories%7CCHR-00/)), but they are kind of expensive.

Personally, I use an anti-static mat that I originally purchased for use with a computer keyboard and a wrist strap that was given to me by an ESD consultant when I worked for the magazine. I use these religiously when building kits or working on any solid-state gear.

It's not hard to find anti-static products. RadioShack sells a wrist strap for only \$1.23 (<http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2103245>)! You can find a whole range of anti-static products on Amazon, too. Wherever you get them, they're a good investment.

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When he's not worrying about ESD, Dan, KB6NU enjoys teaching amateur radio classes and working CW on the HF bands. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

# **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).



|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Office Use Only</b>          |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid   | _____                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash   | <input type="checkbox"/> Chq   |
| Membership Card                 |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd |
| Sticker                         |                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd |

**LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PLEASE PRINT

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER |

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

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

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

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

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/P.O. Box

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|           |          |             |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| _____     | _____    | _____       |
| City/Town | Province | Postal Code |

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\_\_\_\_\_

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