

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



January 9, 2005

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- Next Meeting...
 - Meeting Topic – Home-brewing (electronic gadgets, not beer!)
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Other Items of Interest...

- ⇒ Employment opportunities / Help wanted
 - ⇒ Is your address CORRECT?
 - ⇒ Membership Update
 - ⇒ Are your friends receiving this bulletin?
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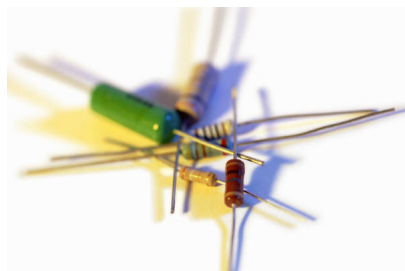
The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, Jan 13th, 2005 @
7:30pm

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

They are normally held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm EST
during the months of September to June (no meetings July and August).

Meeting Topic – Homebrewing by Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR.

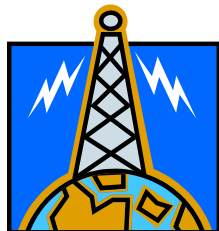


In the early years of ham radio, if you were on the air it was mainly due to the fact that you had built your own transmitter or modified an existing commercial unit for our frequency bands.

Ham Radio has a long standing tradition of do-it-yourself electronics (home brewing) that is slowly dying. The advent of cheap & feature rich commercially built transceivers has reduced if not removed the need for the average ham to have any basic electronic skills. It is my opinion that many of our new hams, and perhaps some of the old, simply do not know where to begin or have run out of ideas on simple at-home projects.

This month I would like to investigate some home brewing projects that can be accomplished by anyone with any license level. The concept is: We just purchased a shiny new radio, now what?

Three distinct areas will be covered:



Antennas: HF antennas for home are big and expensive yet many decent mobile units exist. Using some ideas stolen from the Texas bug-catcher, an inexpensive HF antenna can be built that works reasonably well in limited-space environments.



Head-sets: If you browse through an online Ham Radio website such as http://www.radioworld.ca/ham/amateur_other.php, you will see that commercially built 'ham' headsets are available in the \$200 - \$300 range. What are the differences between a \$20 computer headset for Internet-chatting and a \$200 Heil headset? Not much really and with the addition of a SIMPLE 2 component circuit, you can use that \$20 headset on your radio.



Circuit boards: Many magazines publish detailed articles on how to build a gadget complete with the circuit board layout. With today's chemicals and blank-board technology, anyone can make their own circuit board on the kitchen table in less than an hour.

A small demonstration will be conducted to show what is involved in making a circuit board capable of connecting your radio to your computer for PSK31 operation.

Other Items of Interest

Employment opportunities / Help wanted



The London Amateur Radio Club is a not-for-profit organization (AKA volunteers) that has the mandate to promote amateur radio in London and surrounding areas. This is accomplished via monthly meetings and special club activities. Those activities can include: ham radio courses, weekly on-the-air nets, field-day and the annual flea-market.

Like any organization, the various activities require some coordination to make sure they occur with minimal difficulty. We need some volunteers to step up and help with the planning and execution of two important activities, the field-day and the flea market.

Field-Day band-captains: Dave VE3EAY has volunteered to be the field-day 2005 coordinator but we still need some people to be the band-captains. Starting in the Feb, I will list the various people that will be involved in the setup of the field-day activities. If you are interested in participating, pass on a message to Dave or any of the club executive.

Flea-market (hamfest) coordinator: We have the immediate need of a flea market coordinator. This person would work with the club executive over the next few months to make sure the various aspects of the flea-market are being handled. Much of this is done via email, especially when non-London hams make inquiries to the club. It is recommended that the coordinator has a working computer and reads email on a semi-regular basis.

Is your Address Correct? (Industry Canada)



We have noticed that many of the addresses given on the Club Renewal Form do not match with the address in the RAC call-sign database.

RAC receives a monthly update of all Canadian Amateurs. Even though you are no longer required to pay yearly licensing fees, you are still required to notify Industry Canada of any address changes.

The Club will be printing a directory booklet containing the names and call-signs of the 1,000 or so London area hams. We will be using the addresses given to Industry Canada.

Visit the RAC website to lookup your own call-sign & address information: www.rac.ca

Membership Update...

We currently have 80 paid members. We finished off 2003/2004 with 135 paid members. According to the RAC website, there are over 1,000 callsigns in the greater London area. Please support the club; every dollar helps pay for the services we provide.

Are your friends receiving this bulletin?



Last September we collected hundreds of email addresses from people interested in receiving the monthly club bulletin via email. Each month I received bounced email from accounts that are no longer active. With the availability of cheap (free) email addresses, many of us move around on the Internet leaving our old mailboxes behind. If someone you know is no longer receiving this bulletin, tell them to send a message to the club with their current email address.

Have anything to say?



If you have a comment or announcement that might be of interest to the club, feel free to send me a message and I'll include it in the next mail out.

My email address is: mark@foxhollow.ca

Our Club Web page is: <http://www.larc.on.ca>

For list of upcoming events:

http://www.larc.on.ca/meet_2004_5.htm

If you want to be added or removed from our Mailing list, send an email to: mark@foxhollow.ca