

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
and surrounding areas since 1920



Mar 10th, 2008

MEETING TOPIC

- At the general meeting on March 13th, Mike Cook will be speaking on The Digital Computers: How we got here and where we're going.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST...

- ⇒ Flaunt Your Face - Show Your Shack
- ⇒ Message From Doug, Ve3idt
- ⇒ Larc Survey Jan 2008 - Interested In Possible Joining A Special Interest Group
- ⇒ Qsl Hints: Getting Some Needed Ones
- ⇒ Geosynchronous Amateur Satellite - An Ares Opportunity?
- ⇒ Ham Radio Search Engine
- ⇒ Ariss Volunteers Needed
- ⇒ Larc Flea Market

NEXT MEETING IS WHERE AND WHEN?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, March 13th, 2008 @ 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).

Other Items of Interest

2007/2008 L.A.R.C. EXECUTIVE

Past President:	Gord Baker, VE3GB	
President:	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT	(Flea-market)
Treasurer:	Dave Steels, VE3UZ	
Secretary:	Ruth Dahl , VE3RBO	
Director:	Ann Rundle, VA3EOR	(Flea market)
Director:	Doug Elliott, VA3DAE	(ARES EC; Web-site)
Director:	Shirley McCall, VE3SMN	(Membership)
Director:	Pat Ross, VE3CNX	
Non-Voting:		
	Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG	(ARES DEC)
	Tom Stewart	(Canwarn)
Appointments:		
	Tony Drawmer, VE3SQU	(Field-Day)
	Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR	(Newsletter Editor)
		(LARC Repeater Coordinator)
	Dave Young, VE3EAY	(Repeater Operator/Programmer)

FLAUNT YOUR FACE - SHOW YOUR SHACK

In our hobby it's not always easy to put a face to all the fellow hams you talk to on the air. To help us all figure who's who, LARC invites its members to submit digital photos of yourself and/or your shack to be published on the membership page of our website. Purely voluntary of course, and if you prefer you can submit just one (depending on whether you think your face or your shack is more presentable).

How will it work? On the membership page, we'll attach your own picture where your first name appears, and the picture of your shack to your callsign. See the entry for Doug Elliott, VA3DAE for an example.

How do you submit your pictures?

Just email them to the LARC site webmaster address, which is: webmaster@larc.ca

MESSAGE FROM DOUG, VE3IDT

The Club is looking once more to try to organize a trip to the Hammond Museum,
<http://www.hammondmuseumofradio.org/>

A new signup list will be available at the meeting. Possible date will be Saturday March 29. The cost has yet to be determined and will depend on the number going and the bus size needed (could be \$ 25- \$35). Keep checking the website for updates.

The executive of the London Amateur Radio Club would like to express their thanks and appreciation to Bill Clothier, VE3BCU of Nisbett [Clothier](#) Chartered Accountants who has performed an audit of the LARC financial statements for the years ending June 30, 2004,2005 and 2006.

LARC SURVEY JAN 2008 - INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE JOINING A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Here are the results of the quick survey from the January meeting, of the **18 surveys completed**:

HF – 15,
ANTENNA CONTRUCTION – 13,
VHF/UHF – 8,
DXing-9,
QSLing-9,
HOME BREW-5,
DIGITAL MODES-4

There were 2 under the heading of OTHER that indicated an interest in Satellite (since this was not included in the survey there may be more interest in the subject.)

When I was getting near the end of the requirements needed for an award I didn't have the patients for using the QSL Bureau. (that can take from 2 to 5 years or more) I checked my log for countries (states) that I still needed and then searched for contacts from the needed ones. Starting from the most recent contacts I looked them up on www.qrz.com for an email address. If they had one (not all do) I would email them and ask them if they would qsl. I then sent my cards to contacts that were agreeable and this definitely increased my chances for completion of the requirements of the award.

Follow up from Dave Steels, VE3UZ

Tips for QSL Mailing

When QSLing direct, first check to see if the DX station has a QSL manager handling his/her cards. In some foreign countries, where the mail system is poor, the DX station will use the services of a QSL manager in the USA or Europe to avoid these problems. You can check to see if the station has a manager by going to this website;

<http://www.ik3qar.it/manager>

If the station you worked has a manger, then that is where you send your card. On the web you can look for the manager address or DX station address in QRZ.com or Buckmaster. The Callbook CDROM can also be used if you have one. I like to look at more than one source to see if the person has moved, or other useful information that can be found.

When sending your QSL and requesting a reply QSL, be sure you include return postage. If you don't do this, you will either get no reply at all, or it will come to you via the RAC QSL Bureau. For USA managers, I use American postage which I get in Port Huron Michigan. The current rate from USA to Canada is 72 cents.

For other countries, most will accept two US dollar bills. A few will only accept IRC's (International Reply Coupons), which cost \$3.50 at Canadian post offices. Many post offices aren't too familiar with IRC's. Be sure the clerk puts their stamp on the left side only, otherwise it won't be valid. To find out whether to use US\$ or IRC, go to this web site;

http://www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC_Chart.htm

Use a number 8 or 9 return envelope with your address on it. This envelope will fit inside a number 10 envelope for mailing out. Use a printer or typewriter for legibility. In some foreign countries mail theft is a real risk. Some use detector technology found in bill changer machines. I've heard you can wrap the bills in tinfoil to guard against this. Another thing, don't put any callsigns on the envelope to avoid drawing attention to it.

It's a good idea to keep a record of which cards you send out. Keep the callsign, date mailed, address mailed to, and the type of return postage included. As the cards come in, they are stroked off the list. A few times, I have found a change of address several months after the mailing, and this record system makes it easy to track that.

My return rate using these methods, is pretty much 100 percent.

73 and good luck!

Dave VE3UZ

Submitted by: by Doug Elliot

AMSAT is starting to prepare a geosynchronous satellite which would provide round the clock coverage.

There have been changes in the American Department of Defense (DoD) policies that will require DoD-subsidized launches to allow secondary payloads to fill in excess launch capacity of the primary mission. During his AMSAT 2008 planning talk, "Where's the Launch," Lee McLamb, KU4OS, explained that factors such as the increased size and efficiency of launch vehicles results in excess lift capacity. Gone are the days where adding a pound to the payload meant removing a pound of fuel from the booster. Lee described how current missions on the schedule have 1000 to 1500 pounds of excess capability. These are slots AMSAT can fit into.

Bob, N4HY, made the following observation about the Phase IV Lite project, "There is enough in place at this time that AMSAT needs to begin planning engineering work and possible construction of a geosynchronous payload so we are ready if Intelsat says they have a ride for us."

The Phase IV Lite Geosynchronous Payload is planned to consist of transponders already under development for the Phase 3 satellites, P3E and Eagle. AMSAT plans to develop an earth station attainable by the average ham so that users can immediately take advantage of the audio, digital messaging and video services offered by the Advanced Communication Package (ACP).

The ACP will be a **self-contained earth station** that could be sent with Amateur Radio communication teams or delivered to disaster areas for 24/7/365 emergency communications. These teams would be able to point a small dish at a predictable spot in the sky and immediately begin delivering disaster communication support without depending on HF propagation.

So, depending on what the AMSAT guys consider "attainable by the average ham", you might soon have a satellite earth station in your ARES go kit!

reference: <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/03/05/10005?nc=1>

HAM RADIO SEARCH ENGINE

Submitted by: by Doug Elliot

There's a new search engine called Cqoogle.com (<http://cqoogle.com>) that's supposed to make it easier to find Ham related on the internet.

The idea is that it filters the results you get back to discard non-Ham information, so you don't have to wade through a lot of irrelevant stuff.

Give it a try and see what you think. (In case you were wondering, there is also a CQtube.com (<http://CQtube.com>) as well, with ham related video and audio clips.)

ARISS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Submitted by: by Doug Elliot

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operations?

ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS amateur radio sessions with schools and also serve as back up communications relays should they be needed.

Locations worldwide will be considered, but of greatest interest is the need for stations in Central America, South America, Falkland Islands, Western Australia, **Canada**, and Alaska.

To see what your station should have if you want to be considered, check this RAC webpage:

<http://www.rac.ca/news/world.htm#ARISS%20volunteers>

It's that time of year again!

You guessed it.

It's time to book your table

for the

31st annual

LARC FLEA MARKET

September 21, 2008

book early and save

contact

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or

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