

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920



October 3, 2008

Next Meeting Topic

The next L.A.R.C. meeting will be on Thursday, October 9. The topic will be:

A presentation on "**Sunspot Cycle Analysis - where are we now?**" by Dave Steels - VE3UZ. Sunspots have a big impact on propagation, and we're all anxious to see improvements with the start of the next cycle. Dave's talk is bound to be "spot on"

Other Items of Interest

- ⇒ 2008/2009 L.A.R.C. Executive
- ⇒ Flaunt Your Face – Show Your Shack
- ⇒ Local Repeaters and Nets
- ⇒ Flea Market Report
- ⇒ Upcoming Events
- ⇒ CQ China
- ⇒ Membership Invitation by Gord Baker

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 7:30pm

All meetings are 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 (no meetings July and August).

Next Month's Meeting will be November 13, 2008 and the scheduled topic will be Lightning Protection presented by Bill McHugh, VE3NH.

2008/2009 L.A.R.C. Executive

Title	Name	Callsign
President	Doug Tompkins	VE3IDT
Treasurer	Dave Steels	VE3UZ
Vice-President	Pat Ross	VE3CNX
Past President	Gord Baker	VE3GB
Secretary	Ruth Dahl	VE3RBO
Director, Flea Market	Ann Rundle	VA3EOR
Director, Membership	Shirley McCall- Nicholson	VE3SMN
Director, Website	Doug Elliott	VA3DAE

Non-Voting

Director, Emergency Services	Brett Gilbank	VE3ZBG
Director, CANWARN	Tom Stewart	VE3OEP

Appointments

LARC Repeater Coordinator	Mark Bramwell	VE3PZR
Field Day	Tony Drawmer	VE3SQU
Repeater Operator / Programmer	David Young	VE3EAY
Newsletter	John Visser	VA3MSV

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

Local Repeaters

LARC Repeaters

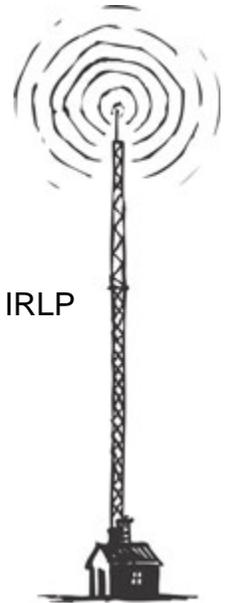
London VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8 Hz
London VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8 Hz

SORT Repeaters

London VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8 Hz ULR link repeater "SORT" System
London VE3TTT 442.300 + 114.8 Hz
London VE3SUE 444.400 + 114.8 Hz ULR link repeater "SORT" System, IRLP
Ipperwash VE3TCB 146.940 - 123.0 Hz Linked to VE3SUE
Grand Bend VE3SRT 442.050 + 123.0 Hz Linked to VE3SUE
Goderich VE3OBC 146.910 - 123.0 Hz
Whitechurch VE3WWD 443.075 + 123.0 Hz

Other Area Repeaters

London VA3SIX 53.470 - 114.8 Hz
London VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz CANWARN
London VE3ISR 147.360 + 114.8 Hz
Stratfordville VE3DPL 146.655 - 131.8 Hz
St. Thomas VE3STR 147.330 + 114.8 Hz Echolink Node: 72886
St. Thomas VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz IRLP Node: 2482
Ingersoll VE3OHR 147.270 + 114.8 Hz



Nets

Swap Net	7.063 MHz LSB	Sunday 12:00 pm
Thames Valley ARES Net	146.500 Simplex	Sunday 7:30 pm
Ontario ARES IRLP Net	444.925 + VE3NMN	Sunday 8:00 pm
LARC 2m Net	147.060 + VA3LON	Monday 8:00 pm
ARES Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Wednesday 7:00 pm
ARES Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Wednesday 7:00 pm
Ontario ARES IRLP Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Wednesday 8:00 pm
Ontario ARES IRLP Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Wednesday 8:00 pm
Tech Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Friday 8:00 pm
Tech Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Friday 8:00 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	146.940 - VE3TCB	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	442.300 + VE3TCB	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	447.050 - VE3SRT	Saturday 7:30 pm
VE3TTT 2m Net	447.075 - VE3BHR	Saturday 7:30 pm



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

Flea Market Report



Lining up waiting to get in.



Security hard at work keeping an eye on the vendors coming in to set up.

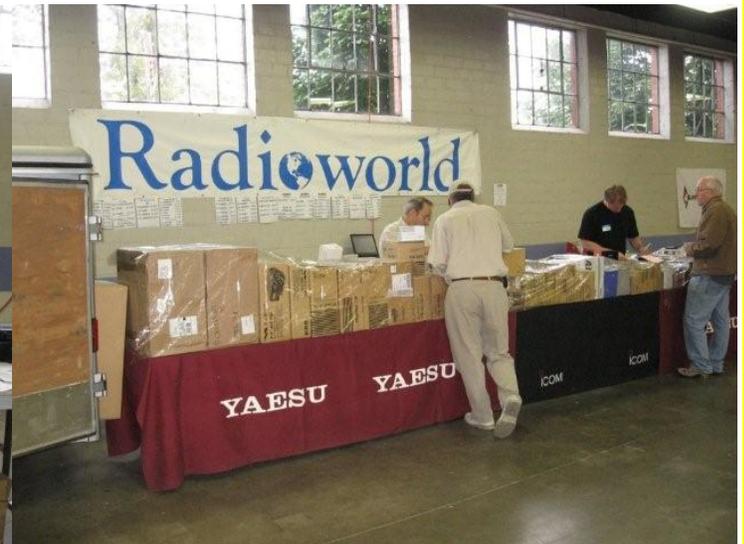
By Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

Well the weather held out for another successful flea market.

I would like to thank everyone who came out early on Sunday morning to help. If it had not been for all the volunteers we would never have been able to pull it off.

We had a couple of new commercial vendors this year A-1 Counterparts and Weather Wise Instruments. Returning this year after a couple of years absence was Durham Radio.

Our grand prize was provided by Radio World. The winner was VA3UJ Joe Creces of Parkhill. Congratulations Joe!





Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Thursday, October 9, 2008 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting |
| Saturday, October 18, 2008 | JOTA. L.A.R.C. will be participating this year in London. More information will be available at the October meeting |
| Saturday, October 25, 2008 | York Region Hamfest - Sponsored by York Region Amateur Radio Club at the Markham Fairgrounds - McCowan Road at Elgin Mills Road E. Markham, ON. Opens to Public at 9:00 am. Cost \$6.00 per person, children under 12 is free. Talk-in on VE3YRA - 145.350- |
| | Description: over 200 Vendors, speakers and exhibits; grand prizes, licensing exams (contact Hamfest Co-ordinator for further information on this), refreshments. The one Hamfest you don't want to miss!! |
| | For more info visit: www.yrarc.on.ca |
| Thursday, November 13, 2008 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting. Scheduled topic will be Lightning Protection presented by Bill McHugh, VE3NH. |
| Thursday, December 11, 2008 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting |
| Thursday, January 8, 2009 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting |
| Thursday, February 12, 2009 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting |
| Thursday, March 12, 2009 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting |
| Thursday, April 9, 2009 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting |
| Thursday, May 14, 2009 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting |
| Thursday, June 11, 2009 | London Amateur Radio Club meeting |
| June 27, 2009 to June 28, 2009 | Field Day 2009. Location may still to be determined. |

CQ China

By Larry McCartin, KH6ITY

kh6ity@aol.com

August 29, 2008

An inside view of Amateur Radio in China.



Larry, KH6ITY, at the microphone of BG1BJ at CRSA branch headquarters.

China -- Just the name brings visions of secrecy and intrigue. *China* -- A country shrouded for centuries from the prying eyes of the West and a country with a deep desire to keep itself isolated from the influences of capitalism. China has been ruled by multiple dynasties over the centuries and finally by Communism beginning in 1949. It's a place Judy, KE5DPO, and I just had to visit. Judy and I are both high school teachers from South Texas. We decided to spend a full month of our summer vacation traveling in China and learning more about this unique society. Our visit would not only enlighten us about the thousands of years of cultural history, but also allow a glimpse into the emerging world of Amateur Radio in a society that for decades severely restricted those involved in our wonderful hobby.

We began preparations for our China trip a full 6 months in advance of the anticipated departure date. One of our goals was to attempt to interact with local hams in Beijing using [EchoLink](#). We eventually met a fascinating individual by the name of Min Yu, BG1MIE, who lives in central Beijing. MinYu likes to go by his nickname, "Min." Over a 6 month period we met with Min as often as possible on EchoLink and exchanged both cultural and personal information. By the time we were ready to leave for China we had become very good friends. Three days after landing in Beijing and recovering from our jet lag, Min came over to the hotel to meet us. Over the next month our friendship grew as Min went out of his way to insure our trip was as wonderful and exciting as possible. When I expressed a desire to research both the past history and present state of Amateur Radio in China, Min jumped in with both feet. He took us on tours of Amateur Radio facilities within Beijing and served as both a friend and interpreter during our visits to various locations. When you consider my entire Chinese vocabulary consisted of three words -- hello, toilet and thank you -- his skills in language interpretation proved quite valuable.

Some History

The grass roots beginnings of ham radio in China mirror to a large extent the growth of the hobby in most western countries during the 1920s and 1930s. Individual amateurs constructed their own stations and experimented with propagation using various designs of both equipment and antennas. Unfortunately, most of these people were not Chinese. The national government and local governments were not receptive to communications from Chinese citizens flowing outside their country. Consequently, the vast majority of hams during this period were foreigners living in China. By 1949 the total number had only grown to about 400 individual Amateur Radio operators within the country. In 1949 a civil war ended that resulted in China being governed by the Chinese Communists under Mao Zedong. The Government immediately began confiscating all equipment. All ham radio activities ceased in China that year.

On November 3, 1958 the People's Republic of China issued its first ham radio license, BY1PK. The license was valid only for contests and was monitored under the strict control of the Central Government. This first excursion onto the airwaves was short lived and BY1PK fell silent in a very short period of time. Less than a year later, the government again issued the BY1PK call sign but restricted its use to CW only. Within a short time the call sign again fell silent. The call sign was again issued in 1960 but all contact was restricted to socialist countries. During the Cultural Revolution, ham radio was again outlawed.

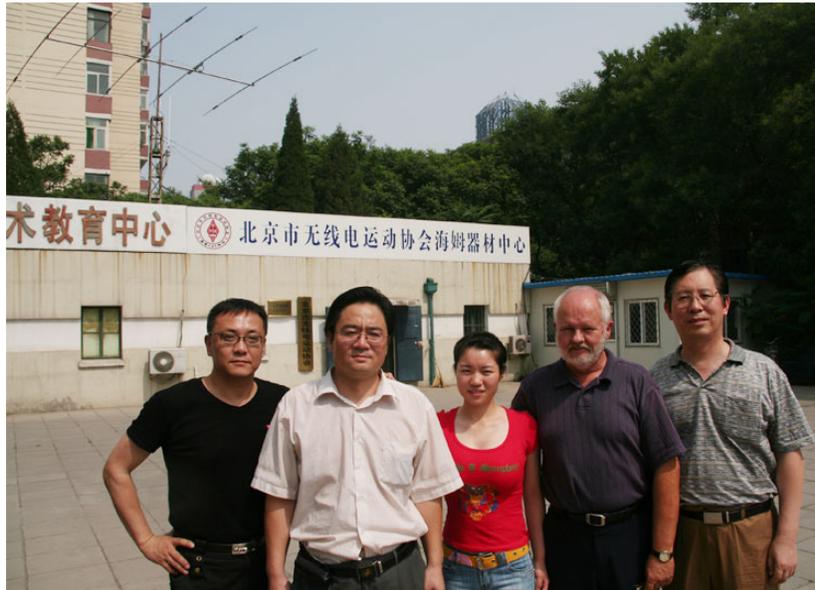
The devastation brought on by the Cultural Revolution eventually ended and in 1982 BY1PK again found itself active on the airwaves, although under high scrutiny and control of the government. Ten years later in 1992 the government seriously relaxed its control of Amateur Radio in China.

The Present Day License Situation in China

Amateur Radio in China began a slow but steady growth when the internal controls by the government were relaxed in 1992. Control of ham radio activities was placed in the hands of a central organization known as the [Chinese Radio Sports Association](#) (CRSA). The logo for the CRSA is almost identical to the logo for the ARRL. They maintain a central organization office plus satellite offices located in various cities throughout the country. They issue a quarterly magazine to all their members, somewhat like *QST*. The CRSA is empowered by the State with the authority to administer tests. The licensing procedure is quite different from what we experience in the West. The Chinese have a minimum age of 18 to qualify for a ticket. Any child under 18 interested in the hobby can apply for a short wave listener (SWL) license and also participate under the direction of a control operator.

The initial cost is about \$21. This includes training materials and first year membership in CRSA. This is in addition to \$13 or so for the initial examination. When the license is issued it actually consists of three separate identification cards. The first is the license itself. The license contains the issued call sign plus a picture of the operator. It is not a license to own equipment, but merely a license to operate approved stations such as club stations. The second card is issued by the CRSA to show membership. This is mandatory. Third, if the ham desires to have a home station, he is required to have a separate license for this. The application must list the owned equipment, its location and serial number. The equipment may not be moved to another location without application and approval. The license term is 5 years. It is not difficult to obtain a station license. Permits are also issued for mobile vehicle installations.

The Chinese issue four different classes of Amateur Radio licenses. They are numbered from the highest class, Class one, to the lowest class, Class four, and appear to parallel past structures we have used in the US. Class four appears to be equivalent to our old Novice license with some interesting twists. This class has 10 meter privileges between 29.2 MHz and 29.3 MHz, plus 29.550 MHz to 29.700 MHz. They have the same exact privileges as US hams on 6 meters but are limited to 144-145.8 on 2 meters. Class three has full HF/VHF/UHF privileges, except 12 and 17 meters, but is limited to certain areas of each band. The two highest classes have all privileges, with minor reductions for Class two.



Min, BG1MIE, Mr. Lee, BG1JDW, a CRSA staff member, the author and a local visitor outside the CRSA Beijing headquarters.

The CRSA in China

The CRSA is very active in promoting Amateur Radio within China. They maintain stations at various locations for their members to use. This helps promote the hobby to those less financially able to own equipment. Min, BG1MIE, was kind enough to take me on a visit to the local Beijing branch office of CRSA. While there, I was introduced to the office staff and allowed to use the station. The office staff consists of seven employees, three of whom are hams. The environment was very friendly and efficient. While there, a local citizen of Beijing came in to take an examination.

CRSA maintains a very nice station under the call BG1BJ at the Beijing branch office. The station consists of two Kenwood TS-440S transceivers and a 5 element beam located on the roof. Just like the ARRL, the CRSA invites hams to visit and use the station. This also includes foreign hams. If you ever visit Beijing, just bring along your original license from your country of origin. With your license in hand, the CRSA will allow you to use BG1BJ as much as you like. There are no restrictions on the amount of time you can use the station. Although they are closed on weekends, they will appoint a staff member to go in and open up for you on Saturday or Sunday, should you so desire. The only thing they ask is that you call in advance. If you find yourself in Beijing and would like to visit the CRSA and use their equipment, simply call them after you arrive at 8610-87687511.

Should the desire hit you to become a member, you can join the CRSA for the staggering amount of about \$3 per year (as this is written). This also includes the magazine, but only within China. I'm sure you would have to pay extra for international postage. I found the CRSA to be just what China needs for its emerging ham radio population. Just like the ARRL, they are extremely dedicated, professional and accommodating to members of the ham radio fraternity.

Equipment: Types, Availability and Costs

In the past, China may have lacked having equipment available for the local ham to use, but that has changed. There has been a dramatic change in attitude by the government in this area. One day Min called me at the hotel and said he wanted to take me on an excursion of local ham radio hangouts in Beijing. It was wonderful. I thought I was in Tokyo. He took me to an area of Beijing just cluttered with electronic stores. His favorite store was one operated by Mr. Ping Lee, BG1JDW. Unlike many of the stores around him, Mr. Lee's store carried only Amateur Radio equipment. Mr. Lee was very accommodating and helpful. He allowed me to interview him

about his store and the past history of Amateur Radio in China. Mr. Lee is a very active member of CRSA and owns multiple stores devoted to ham radio. At the conclusion of our interview, Mr. Lee presented me with a CRSA world map depicting all the call sign areas of the world. He expressed an interest in meeting other US hams and invites anyone visiting Beijing to visit his store. The local phone number for his main store is 13901146177.



Inside one of two stores owned by Mr. Lee in Beijing.
Left to right: an employee, Mr. Lee, the author and Min.

I visited multiple stores to study the most popular equipment and pricing. The selection was outstanding. Having not purchased any new equipment in a few years, I cannot attest to the competitive nature of the prices. But here are a few. An FT-857D transceiver averaged \$710. A Yaesu VX-2R handheld transceiver sold for an average of \$151. The Alinco DR-620 with standard microphone averaged \$230.

There were also other brands for sale, but I really did not want to get into a statistical analysis of the subject. After all, this was supposed to be a vacation. I did find one very interesting difference. China manufactures a line of VHF/UHF radios for hams that are not exported to the US. The brand name is "Puxing" and is pronounced "poo-shing." The model number is PX-77. It is a 5 W VHF and 4 W UHF handheld transceiver. The specifications show it has 118 memory channels, Automatic Number Identification (ANI) code, built-in VOX, scan function, three color backlight display, emergency call and is PC programmable. Its present selling price on the street, including a charger, is 320 renminbi (RMB), which is equal to about \$42 US. Exporting this radio in its present configuration to the US would be difficult as it also transmits on non-ham band frequencies, but it is an excellent bargain to local hams on a limited budget. At the present time, according to Mr. Ping, China does not manufacture any HF ham-band radios.

Present Activity of Amateur Radio Operators in China

Because ham radio has only recently experienced the freedom it needs to grow, a large percentage of operation is on VHF and UHF. China is still lacking large numbers of HF operators. But that will change in time as local operators gain experience and knowledge in the field. Because of past severe governmental interference, China also lacks a large pool of "Old-Timers" such as we have in the US, who can provide leadership, training and their past experiences for those new to the hobby. Because of this, most of the present activity in China is found at VHF and UHF frequencies.

Beijing presently has one CRSA approved repeater located south of the city. It provides relatively good coverage for most of the city and can be found on 439.758 MHz with a split of -5 and a tone of 88.5 Hz. The simplex frequencies in Beijing are mostly on 145.1, 145.5 and 145.425 MHz with one being found on 438.5 MHz.

China and You

I truly believe there are many among our ham radio fraternity who would enjoy China as much as we did. It's an exciting place culturally, socially and economically. As a matter of fact, it is among one of the cheapest overseas destinations available to you. If you work hard and pursue prices on the Internet for airfare, you can fly for between \$850 to \$950, plus tax, round trip to Beijing. We paid \$17 a night for a comfortable hotel right in the middle of town and one block away from a subway station. The cost of the subway to any location is 32 cents. If you really want to save on transportation, the bus is either 12 cents or 24 cents, depending upon the distance. Food is ridiculously inexpensive. Quite often we would order dinner from a tiny restaurant across the street from our hotel. Our favorite meal was Kung-Pao Chicken with rice. It was delicious and a meal for two came to 10 RMB or a little over \$1 US. A double order of meat dumplings cost 35 cents and the restaurant would bring our meals to the hotel and then come back later to pick up the dishes. Beijing itself is a bright, clean, well maintained city with public restrooms located on the street every two or three blocks apart. The streets are lined with either trees or flowers. I have traveled to many foreign locations and have yet to see a city cleaner or more beautiful than Beijing.

Min Yu has expressed a desire to help any foreign hams who visit Beijing. If you intend to visit Beijing, he can be reached via e-mail at BG1MIE@gmail.com. He asked me to list his local phone number also, as he truly enjoys meeting foreign hams. His local Beijing phone number is 13601157819. He speaks Chinese, English and Polish.

The CRSA will certainly do all within its powers to support your ham radio endeavors while you are there. Besides using any CRSA station by bringing along your original license, you can also operate independently by procuring a Chinese visitors license. Please bear in mind that you may not transport your own equipment into the country at this time. But you can use other stations such as club or CRSA stations using your own unique Chinese call sign. Wouldn't that be fun! A [simple search on the Internet](#) will take you to various Web sites outlining the procedures necessary to procure a visitors license.

Perhaps you should consider a trip to Beijing. It is such a beautiful city filled with so many things to see and do. While there, you can fully enjoy your hobby of ham radio while visiting and seeing the many historical sites, learning about the culture, meeting the nicest people and enjoying the wonderful food. Remember, you will have Min Yu (Min), Mr. Lee and the CRSA standing by to assist you to insure your trip is as wonderful and exciting as our trip.

Larry McCartin, KH6ITY, is a 62 year old high school technology teacher from Los Fresnos, Texas. A ham for 47 years, his favorite mode is AM and his favorite band is 6 meters using an old restored Gonset G-5. He likes to restore antique and classic ham radio gear and antique AM wood radios from the 1920s to the 1940s. Larry has lived and worked in England, Saudi Arabia, China, South Korea and the Marshall Islands. He retired at the age of 48 to attend college and become a teacher. He graduated at age 52 and has been teaching for 10 years.

Many thanks to Larry for granting permission to publish his article in the L.A.R.C. Newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

-- Membership application and dues are currently requested.

Our term of membership runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Each and every year it is increasingly more difficult to get Amateurs to commit to membership in their local club due to the alternate functions we are asked to fund.

The **London Amateur Radio Club** has a long history of providing technical support, social support and repeater facilities. Public service efforts are currently provided by a club affiliation with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (**ARES**) and **Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)**.

Your Directors work tirelessly to provide meeting topics that are informative and entertaining, events that are timely (Christmas meeting, field day, bus trip) and participate in events that display and promote Amateur Radio in the community.

To be effective in its pursuits, the Club needs the support of the local Amateur fraternity through membership.

While we obtain financial support from our Annual Flea Market, we require membership support to fund such things as meeting hall rent, repeater sites rent and maintenance, web site fees, membership cards and liability insurance. For what it's worth, none of these things are getting any cheaper.

The cost of membership has not changed for a number of years and even in the face of increased cost, we would like to keep it that way.

With more than 1000 'hams' in the London area, its 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).

