

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
And surrounding area since 1920



January 2, 2009

## Next Meeting Topic

The next L.A.R.C. meeting will be on Thursday, January 8. The topic will be:

Our next meeting will be about **RF Safety** by Guenther Schweigl, VE3CVS

## Silent Keys

I'm happy to announce that we had no local silent key in December that I am aware of.

## Other Items of Interest

- ⇒ 2008/2009 L.A.R.C. Executive
- ⇒ Flaunt Your Face – Show Your Shack
- ⇒ Local Repeaters and Nets
- ⇒ Upcoming Events
- ⇒ New RAC ARES Operations Training Manual
- ⇒ January/February Special Prefixes
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- ⇒ February 12-26 Set for KP5 Desecheo DXpedition
- ⇒ Crozet to be on in late 2009
- ⇒ DXCC News: Mount Athos Wants Help Keeping SY Prefix
- ⇒ Beware of Amateur Radio phishers
- ⇒ Radio In The Public Eye: NYC Hall Of Science To Oust Its Namesake Ham Radio Station
- ⇒ Wireless PC Headphones Interfere With VK Repeater
- ⇒ Radio In Space: Satellite Confirms Cracks In Earths Magnetic Shield
- ⇒ Radio In Space: Next Lunar Lander Mission Delayed Two Years
- ⇒ Public Service: The Warner Robins Santa Patrol
- ⇒ Emerging Technology: The Future Is LED Lighting
- ⇒ CHU to move 41 metre frequency

## Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on January 8, 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 February 12, 2009. This meeting is still open for a volunteer.

## 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](mailto:webmaster@larc.ca)

## Local Repeaters

### LARC Repeaters

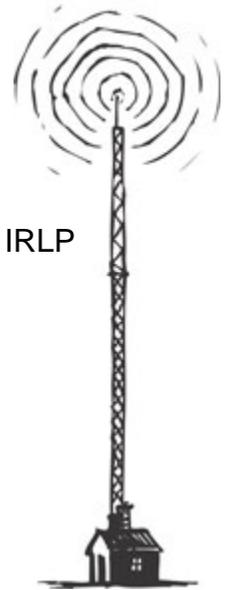
London	VA3LON	147.060 +	114.8 Hz	Back in operation
London	VE3MGI	145.390 -	114.8 Hz	

### SORT Repeaters

London	VE3TTT	147.180 +	114.8 Hz	ULR link repeater "SORT" System
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	VE3RGB	146.750 +	123.0 Hz	
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
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



## Nets

Swap Net	7.063 MHz LSB	Sunday 12:00 pm
LARC 2m Net	147.060 + VA3LON	Monday 8:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Wednesday 7:30 pm
A.R.E.S. Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Wednesday 7:30 pm
PROCOMM Net	147.180 + VE3TTT	Thursday 8:00 pm
PROCOMM Net	444.400 + VE3SUE	Thursday 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
Trans Provincial Net	7.055 MHz	Daily 7:00 am – 5:00 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](mailto:va3msv@hotmail.com) and I'll add it to the list.

## Upcoming Events

- Thu., Jan. 8, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting – RF Safety by Guenther Schweigl, VE3CVS
- Sat., Feb. 7, 2009 **Big Event 31 - Flea Market and Hamfest** - Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Merriton Community Centre, 7 Park Ave., St. Catharines, Ontario
- Thu., Feb. 12, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting – Presentation open to volunteers
- Sat., Feb. 28, 2009 **Burlington Spring Flea Market** - Burlington Amateur Radio Club  
Royal Canadian Legion, 828 Legion Rd., Burlington, Ontario
- Thu., Mar. 12, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting – Topic to be determined by Mike Cook, VE3ZMC
- Sat., Mar. 28, 2009 **Hamex 2009** - Peel and Mississauga ARC  
Brampton Fairgrounds - West side of Heartlake Rd., Brampton Ontario
- Thu., Apr 9, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting
- Sat., Apr. 18, 2009 **Durham Region Hamfest (33rd Annual)** - North Shore ARC & South Pickering ARC  
Iroquois Park Recreation Center - Located on Victoria St. at the corner of Henry St., Whitby, Ontario
- Thu., May 14, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting
- Sat., Jun. 6, 2009 **Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket** - GARC & KWARC  
Centre Wellington Community Sportsplex, 550 Belsyde Ave. E., Fergus, Ontario
- Thu., Jun. 11, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting
- Sat. Jun. 27, 2009 to Sun. Jun. 28, 2009 Field Day 2009. Location may still to be determined.
- Sat., Jul. 11, 2009 **Ontario Hamfest 2009** - Burlington Amateur Radio Club  
Milton Agricultural Fairgrounds - South of Hwy 401; west of Halton Region Rd. 25 (locally known as Ontario St), Milton, Ontario
- Sat., Sep. 12, 2009 **Ottawa Amateur Radio Club 13th Annual Hamfest** - Ottawa Amateur Radio Club  
Carp Agricultural Fairgrounds, 3832 Carp Road, Ottawa (Carp), Ontario
- Sat., Sep. 12, 2009 **Barrie-Orillia Hamfest** - Barrie Amateur Radio Club & Orillia Amateur Radio Club  
Located at the Oro-Medonte Fairgrounds. North on Hwy 400 to Hwy 11. North on Hwy 11 to 7th line of Oro-Medonte. Go towards the Airport, and just past the Airport (follow the Hamfest Signs). Lat/Long 44° 30' 12" N W 79° 33' 17"°

## **New RAC ARES Operations Training Manual**

The recently introduced RAC ARES Operations Training Manual has met with widespread approval from the Amateur Radio community and is even being requested by Emcomm groups in other countries. Plans are that it will be printed in a handy and portable hard copy form early in 2009. The editor, RAC National Training Coordinator David Drinnan, VE9FK, is making further updates for inclusion in the manual. It will continue to be available for downloading, free of charge, at: [www.rac.ca/fieldorg/RACARESTrainingManual.htm](http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/RACARESTrainingManual.htm)

Bob Cooke, VE3BDB  
RAC Vice President for Field Services

## **January/February Special Prefixes**

The International Year of Astronomy Special Prefix Callsign starts January 1st 0h UT and ends Feb 27th 23:59 UT Feb 28 2009. All Canadian Amateurs are encouraged to use it to commemorate Galileo Galilei's first look through an optical instrument towards the heavens. The Special Prefix are VE changes to CG, VA changes to CF, VO changes to CH, and VY changes to CI The official kickoff date for IYA is January 10th and on that date many astronomy clubs across Canada and around the world will be participating in local astronomical activities. Displays at Shopping Malls, talks in Public Libraries, star parties for the public will be happening. I am also encouraging those amateur Radio operators who are affiliated with the RASC (Royal Astronomical Society of Canada) that might have local IRLP access to visit node 9005 the Vancouver Reflector on January 10th to join in the across Canada IYA Net. To find out more about this unique ham radio Special prefix and related projects visit <http://www.hamiya2009.info> Malcolm Scrimger, VE7DAO

RAC News Service

## **Singapore: New Visitors License Announced**

It's now official. The Singapore licensing authority has now announced that temporary amateur licenses are available to radio amateurs visiting Singapore. The application should be made three weeks before arrival and the license is typically valid for a three-month period. A fee of 50 Singapore Dollars will be charged. The application process and forms are posted on the Singapore Infocommunications Development Authority government website. Visitors must use their callsign preceded by Singapore's 9V1 prefix while on the air.

— *Southgate, ARNewsline*

## **February 12-26 Set for KP5 Desecheo DXpedition**

Posted: Nov 24, 2008

The ARRL says the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have told Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that their team of no more than 15 operators may put Desecheo Island (KP5) on the air for a two-week period beginning February 12, 2009. There has been no amateur radio operation from the uninhabited island off the west coast of Puerto Rico since 1994. The approval culminates a several-year-long effort to get permission to reactivate the island. Allphin says he also got approval to do a "shift change" approximately halfway through the expedition, allowing more people to participate. He says the current plan is for the entire team to assemble in Puerto Rico on February 8 for mandatory unexploded ordnance training (the island once was used as a gunnery range), for the first "shift" to head to Desecheo on the 12th, to get on the air as quickly as possible and to stay on as long as possible before their departure on the 26th.

Watch CQ magazine's DX column, CQ's website news page and CQ's e-mail newsletter, as well as other traditional DX news sources, for updated information.

## **Crozet to be on in late 2009**

The ninth most sought-after DXCC entity will be activated in 2009 by F4DYW, who will take to the airwaves from Crozet Island between 01 December and 30 November of next year. Crozet is listed in the top ten most wanted contacts in the DX Magazine's listing. F4DYW says that he will use the callsign FT5WO while on Crozet and his activity will be SSB only on 40, 20 and 15 Meters using 100 watts into dipoles. QSL will go to his home callsign, either direct or by the bureau. Watch for updates at <http://f4dyw.free.fr/index.php?langue=uk&contenu=home.php>

## **DXCC News: Mount Athos Wants Help Keeping SY Prefix**

A decision by Greek telecommunications authorities may cause confusion in the DXCC program and the Monks at Mount Athos monastery are asking your help to sort it all out.

According to Monk Appolo, a recent change in regulations made by the Greek Ministry of Communications has re-designated the longtime Mount Athos SY prefix to special call status and has made it available to any Greek ham who wants it. Monk Appolo says that those at the Ministry do not understand the importance of Mount Athos as a separate DXCC entity to the world of amateur radio and to the DXCC program itself.

To help reverse the decision, Monk Apollo is asking hams world-wide to send an email to the Greek telecommunications ministry at yme@otenet.gr. He says to request that they act to once again reserve the SY prefix solely for the use of Mount Athos. This, to eliminate any confusion to the DXCC

## Beware of Amateur Radio phishers

The fishers are out there and in this case we spell fishers p-h-i-s-h-e-r-s. These are electronic scam artists who want your personal information to rob you blind and they will go to great lengths to get you to release it, even claiming that it's needed in some way for Amateur Radio.

The American Radio Relay League says it has received several reports from members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information such as user names and passwords.

The ARRL says these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. There is never a time when the League would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users.

If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information do not respond, even if it appears to come from some legitimate source you know and trust. Instead delete it and go on with life. Both you and your bank account will be happier that you did.

— ARRL, ARNewslines

### **Added notes from L.A.R.C. Newsletter Editor**

*This is a real problem. You can receive an email that looks legit with a link to a page that may look legit however that web address may contain characters that looks like normal characters. Here are some examples. These characters have different ASCII and/or Unicode codes.*

**B** looks like a **B** however it is actually **Greek capital letter Beta**.

*Here are some more Greek letter characters – **B E Z H K M N P T Y X S***

*Here are some characters listed as Cyrillic letters – **S A B E M H O P C T a e o p c y Y***

**fi** looks like **f** and **i** however it is actually the **Latin Small Ligature Fi** character

*e* looks like an *e* but it is the *estimated* character

*All of the above examples can be obtained by using the Character Map applet that may have been installed with Windows. Usually found under **START → All***

**Programs → Accessories → System Tools → Character Map**

## Radio In The Public Eye: NYC Hall Of Science To Oust Its Namesake Ham Radio Station

The future of WB2JSM, the club station operated inside New York's Hall of Science museum is cloudy. This, after the group which operates it gets an order to begin dismantling it.

Thomas Tumino, N2YTF, who is taking the reins as president of the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club in New York, doesn't want to have the distinction of being the last president of the organization.

Tumino been a member and officer for a number of years and has been serving as a volunteer at the WB2JSM operation inside a building in Flushing Meadows on the site where the World's Fair was held in the mid-1960s.

Tumino, who has been vice president of the group for the past year, got word from the president of the New York Hall of Science that repairs to the roof would require the temporary removal of the club's antennas.

Tumino says the the group moved antennas during the summer to the ground and continued operating. Then, the club received blueprints to mark out new locations on the roof for new antennas.

Tumino says all looked good until about two weeks ago when he was summoned to a meeting where the group was told because of renovations there was no room for amateur radio inside the museum.

To say he and the club were shocked by the news might be an understatement.

"We asked several times why there was no more space in the museum," says Tumino. "We were told there was a renovation going on and that because of the renovation there was limited space in the museum.

"And I asked if we could return once the renovation was complete and they said, no." Tumino says he pressed further and was told there was an avenue of appeal.

"We were told we could appeal it to the museum president, the new museum president, and she has granted us a meeting for the first week in January," Tumino says.

She is Dr. Margaret Honey, the new president and chief executive officer of the New York Hall of Science.

Tumino says he plans to make a case to her that amateur radio - from CW to SSB, PSK-31 and EchoLink, IRLP and working through satellites - should be an important part of the museum's exhibits.

Tumino says the New York Hall of Science is missing a golden opportunity. He says science museums in the U.S. and Canada with amateur radio stations are promoting them and using them as part of their programs.

"Those museum stations are promoted by their museums and cherished by their museums in a way that the shows that their museum staffs have great vision and a great sense of marketing," Tumino says. "And, I think for the past several years at the Hall of Science, I don't think management has really had that kind of vision.

"When the Hall of Science Radio Club runs a JOTA station - Jamboree on the Air station - it is just the radio club that publicizes the event. Same with our Field Day, same with Kids' Day. The museum does not publicize these events, we're not included on their website."

He's right. WB2JSM isn't even listed on the museum's website. It, ham radio or amateur radio, doesn't even come up on a keyword search on the site.

Tumino says the club has launched a petition campaign on the web and is asking for electronic signatures at [www-dot-tinyurl-dot-com forward slash h-o-s-a-r-c](http://www-dot-tinyurl-dot-com-forward-slash-h-o-s-a-r-c). ([www.tinyurl.com/hosarc](http://www.tinyurl.com/hosarc)).

There have been hundreds of signatures already posted and lots of comments as well.

Tumino says there's also a box on the site that asks for other contributions.

"I'm asking for thoughtful comments as to why we should involve our children in amateur radio to show how important amateur radio is in children's science education," Tumino says.

## **Wireless PC Headphones Interfere With VK Repeater**

From down-under comes word that Australia's telecommunications regulator ACMA has confiscated a consumer device that was wreaking havoc on a 2 meter repeater. The unit turned out to be a pair of wireless headphones, with a talk back-channel, designed to be used with a PC online.

The headphones carried a brand label Omni model WEP-910D. It turned out that they use the 2 meter frequency of 147.000 MHz as to deliver audio to the headphones. This explains why hams in range of the repeater being jammed heard endless hours of whatever was being processed through the offending PC's sound card.

Now, here's the kicker. Not knowing that the unit was in a ham radio band the users of these headphones complained that on some occasions they heard "voices talking to them" on their personal computer system.

As there may be more of these units in use anywhere in the world, hams need to keep an ear out for them. Most appear to operate on 147.000 MHz +/- about 15 kHz, so users listening to repeaters on or near 147.000 MHz are more likely to be affected by these units. (WIA News)

## **Radio In Space: Satellite Confirms Cracks In Earths Magnetic Shield**

Recent satellite observations have revealed the largest breach yet seen in the magnetic field receded to date.

Scientists have long known that the Earth's magnetic field is similar to a drafty old house that sometimes lets in charged particles from the sun. These breaches cause the brilliant auroras but can also disrupt satellite and ground communications.

The discovery was made last summer by a fleet of five small NASA satellites known as Themis. Their observations showed the Earth's magnetic field occasionally develops two cracks that allows a stream of charged particles spewing from the sun to penetrate the Earth's upper atmosphere.

Last summer, Themis calculated a layer of solar particles to be at least 4,000 miles thick in the outermost part of the Earth's magnetosphere. This is the largest tear of the planets protective shield found so far.

## **Radio In Space: Next Lunar Lander Mission Delayed Two Years**

Another wait before there will be more pictures radioed back to Earth from Mars. This as NASA says that it will delay the launch of the next-generation Mars rover two years due to technical difficulties and cost overruns.

The mission, which was originally scheduled for late next year, is now slated for 2011. This next generation of automated explorer will be known as the Mars Science Laboratory. Its primary mission will be to try to determine habitability on Mars now and in the past.

According to a report in The Los Angeles Times, the new target date was the earliest available because missions to Mars can only be launched every 26 months when the Earth and Mars are properly aligned. In the interim, NASA says that it plans to try to contact the Phoenix lander in the Martian springtime.

The Phoenix, which landed on Mars last May, last communicated with the Mars Odyssey orbiter on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. That's when it lost power and shut down due to sub-freezing temperatures on the red planets surface.

If NASA can revive the Phoenix, it will have a continuing flow of Mars data until the next probe arrives. (NASA)

## **Public Service: The Warner Robins Santa Patrol**

Hams in Warner Robins, Georgia calling themselves the Santa Patrol have received praise from a local newspaper. This, for their work with police and 911 dispatchers to offer extra sets of eyes and ears to law enforcement during the holiday season.

According to a Macon Sun News story, the 15 member radio equipped group calling itself the Santa Patrol spreads out mostly in store parking lots. There they monitor the surroundings looking for suspicious activity during the holiday season. They are especially on the lookout for people who appear to be following shoppers out to their cars or folks going through parking lots peering into car windows.

The majority of Santa Patrol members simply sit in their vehicles and watch. For the most part they look like a typical husband waiting on his wife to come out of the store.

But some members are more visible. These hams walk through the parking lots with his hand-held radio in plain sight. If they spot someone suspicious they radio back to a ham stationed at the Houston County 911 Center, where the sheriff's office has a desk set up for the Santa Patrol. The 911 operators and police then decide whether to send out a police officer.

The complete article on the Warner Robins ham radio Santa Patrol including quotes from some of the ham operators involved makes great reading. Its on-line at <http://www.macon.com/197/story/563630.html> (Macon On Line)

## **Emerging Technology: The Future Is LED Lighting**

Science OnLine says that innovations in photonics and solid state lighting will lead to trillions of dollars in cost savings, along with a massive reduction in the amount of energy required to light homes and businesses around the globe. This, according to a paper published by two professors at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The paper suggests that a new generation of illuminating devices based on light-emitting diodes or LED's will supplant the common light bulb in coming years. In addition to the environmental and cost benefits of LEDs, the technology is expected to enable a wide range of advances in areas as diverse as healthcare, transportation systems, digital displays, and computer networking.

Researchers say that they are able to control every aspect of light generated by light-emitting diodes, allowing the light sources to be tweaked and optimized for nearly any situation. In general LED's will require 20 times less power than today's conventional light bulbs, and five times less power than compact fluorescent lamps. (ScienceOnLine)

### **CHU to move 41 metre frequency**

On January 1, 2009 at 00:00 UTC, CHU will be moving it's 41 metre time broadcast from 7335 Khz to 7850 Khz as a result of the 2007 WRC which relocated the band 7300-7350 Khz from Fixed services to Broadcasting. As a result of the increased interference, the National Research Council (NRC) decided to change frequency at the same time a refurbished transmitter will be installed.

For more information see <[http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/common\\_files/stories/chu/communique\\_e.pdf](http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/common_files/stories/chu/communique_e.pdf)

# **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).

