

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

June 7, 2009

Next Meeting Topic

The next L.A.R.C. meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 7:30 PM

The topic will be: **Remembering Field Days Past** - Looking back on a fine LARC tradition **Pat Ross VE3CNX, Dave Steels VE3UZ** and **Doug Elliott VA3DAE**. Bring your stories to share!

Silent Key

May 27, 2009 - Alan Putman, VA3LX passed away at the age of 49 in St. Thomas at his residence. It is believed it was a Heart Attack, but haven't heard that officially. Al was the beloved son of the late Rae and Bettie (Cutler) Putman and dearly loved brother of Penny and her husband Brian Harris of Chatham and the late Martin Putman. Dear brother-in-law of Debra Rochforte-Putman of London. Sadly missed by a number of nieces and nephews and 2 great nephews. He formerly worked for Shaw Cable. Alan was a member of St. Thomas R.E.A.C.T. and the Elgin Ham Radio Operators. Visitation was held at the Williams Funeral Home, 45 Elgin St. in St. Thomas on Saturday, May 30 at 7-9 pm and Sunday, May 31 at 2-4 pm and 7-9 pm. Funeral was held Monday, June 1 at 1 pm.

Items of Interest

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| ⇒ 2008/2009/2010 L.A.R.C. Executive | ⇒ Bill 118 Takes The Next Step | ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-013E - New RAC representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. |
| ⇒ Letter from the Outgoing President 2009 | ⇒ RAC Recommends Action On Bill 118 | ⇒ Rescue Radio: Brazilian Hams Help In Search For Missing Airliner |
| ⇒ L.A.R.C. Executive Appreciation to L.S.A.R.C. | ⇒ Solar Cycle 24 | ⇒ Rescue Radio: Alabama To Hold ARES FM Simplex Test |
| ⇒ Membership Certificates | ⇒ Canadian Astronaut Using Ham Radio In ISS Experiment | ⇒ Ham Radio In Space: Three New Micro Cubsats Launched |
| ⇒ Flaunt Your Face – Show Your Shack | ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-019E - Public Consultation on Allocation to the Amateur Radio Service at 2200 metres. | ⇒ Ham Radio In Space: AO-51 To Be Dual Field Day Repeater |
| ⇒ Local Repeaters | ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-018E - Canadian Hams in Geneva. | ⇒ ARRL Field Day Tips And Techniques That Everyone Can Use |
| ⇒ Nets | ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-017E - RAC new LF/MF/HF Band Planning Committee Chair. | ⇒ Field Day 2009 |
| ⇒ Upcoming Events | ⇒ RAC Bulletin 2009-014E - RAC Canada Day Contest July 1, 2009 | ⇒ LARC Field Day |
| ⇒ Ontario Hams & Cell Phone Legislation | | |
| ⇒ RAC Speaks To MOT | | |
| ⇒ More Thoughts On Bill 118 | | |

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on June 11, 2009 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 Meeting will be September 11, 2009. Hope everyone has a good summer.

2008/2009/2010 L.A.R.C. Executive

Title	2008/2009 Name, Callsign	2009/2010 Name, Callsign
President	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT	Doug Elliott, VA3DAE
Vice-President	Pat Ross, VE3CNX	Pat Ross, VE3CNX
Past President	Gord Baker, VE3GB	Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT
Treasurer	Dave Steels, VE3UZ	Dave Steels, VE3UZ
Secretary	Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO	Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO
Director, Flea Market	Ann Rundle, VA3EOR	Ann Rundle, VA3EOR
Director, Membership	Shirley McCall, VE3SMN	John Visser, VA3MSV
Director	Doug Elliott, VA3DAE	David Lambert, VE3KGK
Non-Voting		
Director, Emergency Services	Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG	Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG
Director, CANWARN	Tom Stewart, VE3OEP	Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG
Appointments		
LARC Repeater Coordinator	Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR	Brad Seward, VE3NRJ
Field Day Coordinator	Pat Ross, VE3CNX	Pat Ross, VE3CNX
Field Day Assistant Coordinator	Tony Drawmer, VE3SQU	
Repeater Operator / Programmer	David Young, VE3EAY	David Young, VE3EAY
Web Site	Doug Elliott, VA3DAE	Doug Elliott, VA3DAE
Newsletter	John Visser, VA3MSV	John Visser, VA3MSV
Auditor	William Clothier, VE3BCU	William Clothier, VE3BCU

Thanks to Gord Baker and Shirley McCall for their time they spent on the Executive.

Also thanks to Tom Stewart for his time with CANWARN London during the past years.

Letter from the Outgoing President 2009:

Now that June has arrived we can look forward to nice weather, field day and bands permitting some good DX this summer. We had a nice time at Dayton Hamfest this year. Lots to see and Gord and I applied for and received our Worked all Continents award at the ARRL booth. Was easy, brought the cards and application and when confirmed they printed out the award on the spot. I will try to put together a short slide show of the pictures we took while there for the benefit of anyone who has never made the trip.

I apologise for not making the proposal regarding the motion to appoint the former members of the seniors club honorary members clearer. My fault. The seniors club was formed with grant money to setup a station at Parkwood Hospital for the benefit of the veterans. Over the years the number of veterans has dwindled and got to the point now where only a couple of them were active with the station even though the station was manned weekly. Parkwood then informed the senior club that the space was to be used for another purpose. Parkwood has changed, in addition to veteran care it now has become a leading rehabilitation center for London South Hospital. For a variety of reasons the club then disbanded. Much of the equipment was sold to members and the remaining equipment was donated to LARC and sold at the flea market with the money from the sale donated to LARC. It was decided that the money that was in the treasury would be donated to LARC to be used as the club saw fit. When I was approached about the donation it was suggested that as a gesture would the club consider making current members "Life Members" in LARC. I indicated that I didn't see a problem with that. **At no time was the money deemed to be payment for membership.** Some money was to be set aside in the event that Parkwood would charge the club for the removal of the antenna and tower. The executive agreed in principle to grant the seniors this gesture with the executive members holding joint membership in the senior club declaring conflict of interest and not voting. The executive did not accept the money at that time do to the unknown element regarding the antenna issue. Later when the Parkwood confirmed that they had no intention of charging the club for the tower removal the money was then donated to LARC with no strings attached.

It was later pointed out that there was a 20 year old amendment to the constitution that removed the "Life Member" as an option. **Thus I was in error in my approval of the gesture to the seniors.** To correct this oversight it was decided to offer "honorary Membership" to the seniors and this seem to be agreeable to them. To be declared an Honorary Member there must be a vote of the general membership for approval. I understand that there was discussion at the May meeting and objection on the grounds that if you did the math the money in question would only amount to a 5 year membership for the members. I really don't think this has merit for the following reasons.

This was to be a one time offering and a special circumstance. The average age of the senior member is 80. The exception being anyone (myself included) that joined in the last 5 or 6 years. (When I joined the seniors club I never saw it as an either or with LARC but as another opportunity to meet other hams and make new friends. I was also a joint member of the MGI club and LARC for the same reasons.) There has already been a silent key. Two members are fighting cancer and many are in rather poor health. The former President Don Watson has recently suffered a stroke. I hope you see my point. I have attended senior meetings when only 4 members were in attendance. This proposal will not really cost the club any money. Many of the members that belong to both clubs have paid membership dues in any case.

There will be a time limited discussion on this proposal and then a vote at the June meeting.

Fortunately Don is now back home and making progress. He will be attending Parkwood Hospital for physiotherapy as an outpatient.

73, Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

L.A.R.C. Executive Appreciation to L.S.A.R.C.

The executive of the London Amateur Radio Club would like to thank the members of the former London Seniors Amateur Radio Club for their kind donation. The money will be put toward the operation of the club and the promotion of the amateur radio hobby.

Membership Certificates

The Club has created membership certificates for its current members. You can see your own certificate at the following link. <http://www.larc.ca/member-list.htm>

Simply click on your surname and it will bring up a PDF of your certificate suitable for printing.

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

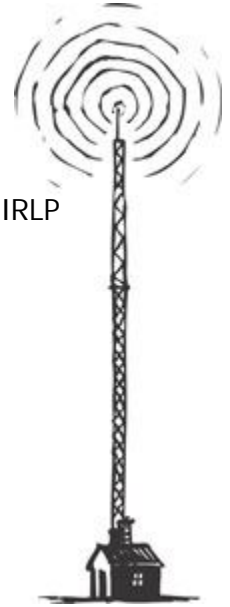
London VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz
 London VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

SORT Repeaters

London VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz 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	7.055 MHz LSB	Sunday 12:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	7.153 MHz	Sunday 1:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	7.055 MHz	Sunday 3:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	3.742 MHz	Sunday 7:15 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	IRLP Reflector 9005	Sunday 8:00 pm
LARC 2m Net	147.060 + VA3LON	Monday 8:00 pm
A.R.E.S. Net	145.450 + VE3OME	Wednesday 7:30 pm
A.R.E.S. Ontario Net	IRLP Reflector 9005	Wednesday 8:00 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 and I'll add it to the list.

Upcoming Events

Thu., Jun. 11, 2009 London Amateur Radio Club meeting

Sat. Jun. 27, 2009 to Sun. Jun. 28, 2009 Field Day 2009. Location will be Reservoir Park.

Wed., Jul. 1, 2009 [Canada Day RADIO-THON for Charity](#) - Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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., Aug 15, 2009 [Hamfest 2009](#) - Brantford Amateur Radio Club
From London: Take Hwy 403 East to Hwy 24 South. Go South on Hwy 24 to Hwy 53(traffic lights). Turn right (West) onto Hwy 53 to Burford. Watch for the "Hamfest" signs. The hamfest is held in the Burford Fairgrounds.

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"°

Sun., Sep. 27, 2009 [L.A.R.C. 32nd Annual Fleamarket](#) - London Amateur Radio Club
Located at the Western Fairgrounds Special Events Building.

Sat., Oct. 24, 2009 York Region ARC Hamfest - 33rd Edition - York Region ARC
Located at the Markham Fair Grounds, 10801 McGowan Road, just north of Elgin Mills Rd

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 and I'll add it to the list.

Ontario Hams & Cell Phone Legislation

May 26, 2009

By Peter West

The formal public consultations in regards to Ontario Bill 118 (the anti cell phone in a moving vehicle Bill) takes place in Toronto later this week. **Radio Amateurs of Canada** will be there as will representatives of several other ham-radio related organizations including **The Toronto FM Society** and the **Canadian Association of Rally Sport** which uses amateur radio during their road rallies. The association also fought for and won an earlier exemption protecting their members from prosecution under the Ontario street racing laws.

In addition to the interest by amateur radio operators across the province there are other large commercial lobbyists also advocating for an exemption for their associations.

So what can we expect?

There are several possible outcomes:

1. Amateur radio use in moving vehicles in Ontario could be granted a complete exemption. An exemption for the use of amateur radio use has been granted in several other jurisdictions;
2. Mobile amateur radio use could be limited to the use of equipment that has a microphone and loudspeaker. The issue for some legislators in other jurisdictions has been the issue of a communications device being held up to the ear;
3. This issue could also have legislators insisting that all two-way radio communication be hands free in a moving vehicle. This would necessitate the use of a headset or Bluetooth type interface;
4. We could face a complete ban on the use of amateur radio equipment in a moving vehicle.

So what should we do now?

First: We should wait the decision of the committee. Bill 118 is not yet in the hands of the politicians and to calling individual MPPs or launching petitions would be counterproductive right now. It may come down to this sort of action but now is definitely not the right time.

Second: We should continue to organize our response to this Bill and other future Bills that may adversely impact our ability to serve our communities and enjoy our use of amateur radio.

Third: We need to encourage our fellow amateurs to join Radio Amateurs of Canada. Governments from the national level down to your local town respond to the needs of their constituents. Individual protests or attempts to influence legislators don't have nearly the impact that an organized campaign by a recognized national can have.

So if you want to do something to save your ability to operate your amateur radio equipment in a moving vehicle in the province of Ontario get your local club involved by having every member join with you as an active member of Radio Amateurs of Canada.

Here's the challenge: If every member of Radio Amateurs of Canada encouraged one or two other Canadian hams to join RAC, our collective ability to influence legislation that had the potential to impact our enjoyment of amateur radio and our ability to serve our communities would be multiplied many times over.

RAC Speaks To MOT

May 27, 2009

By Peter West

Today was the second of two stakeholders' meetings held by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in regards to Bill 118 which will ban the use of handheld cell phones while driving in the fall of 2009.

Of course the great concern to the amateur radio community is that we could get swept up in the legislative process. Thankfully at today's meeting all Ontario amateurs were ably represented by myself, VE3HG, in my position of vice-president of public relations for Radio Amateurs of Canada; Alasdair Robertson, VE3RAA, the executive director of the Canadian Association of Rally Sport; and Neil Macklem, VE3SST, a member of the board of directors for the Toronto FM Communications Society. Both Alasdair and Neil are to be commended on their passionate and persuasive arguments in support of amateur radio. They have done us proud and I could not have been in better company.

So where do we stand?

First, the representation from the amateur radio community was the sole delegation, compared to the many high-powered commercial delegations, which actually understood the technical nature of the issues facing the ministry. And, as such, for some weeks now RAC has been supplying the ministry staff with background information which they used today to explain the overriding technical issues at today's meeting. We were very pleased to have been able to offer such assistance.

The commercial interests, of which there were many, all came well equipped to argue their economic and safety cases and all made the point that they should be exempt based at least on the economic impact such legislation could have on their industries.

We in the amateur radio community offered forceful comments that the use of two-way mobile radios in any form was a distinctly different form of communications when compared to cellular telephones in both aspects of

content of the conversation and in the actual use of the equipment.

We also offered clear and compelling arguments concerning the use of amateur radio during times of community and national need. We spoke of the historic manner in which amateur radio operators in Ontario, across Canada and around the world are prepared to volunteer their time and equipment. We made mention of how we work together through ARES and CANWARN and other organizations. And, how all this and more would be put into jeopardy by Bill 118.

The next step in the process

The ministry staff will be creating specific exemptions (if any). We should have some idea of where we stand in the next 30 to 60 days.

Until then, the best counsel I can offer is to sit tight and let's let the staff produce a document that will serve the people of Ontario while respecting our rights to operate mobile two-way radios in our motor vehicles.

If more needs to be done, we will call upon the greater amateur radio community at that time. In the meantime, it would help our position immensely and would strengthen my hand at the bargaining table if more hams in Ontario became members of Radio Amateurs of Canada.

Nothing speaks so strongly as one representative who can stand up and state: "I speak on behalf of Canada's 50,000 federally licensed amateur radio operators."

We need this kind of strength in numbers and we need it now. And, I'll admit RAC may not be perfect but we'd be a heck of better association if you and your fellow amateurs were members.

Sign up here:

<https://www.rac.ca/store/membership-form-e.htm>

More Thoughts On Bill 118

May 28, 2009

By Peter West

It's the morning after the stakeholders' meeting held at Ontario's Ministry of Transportation in regards to the anti cell-phone while driving Bill 118.

Here, in no particular order, are some musings:

- Hams in Ontario generally favour Bill 118 as it will make driving safer
- Ham radio was never part of the problem which is distracted driving
- There is no documented evidence (or any anecdotal information) that suggests that the use of a two-way radio has ever been an issue for anyone using two-way radio in their moving vehicles

- Currently police officers can use the charge of careless driving (under the Highway Traffic Act) or dangerous driving (under the Criminal Code) to charge anyone who is distracted while driving
- Of all of the stakeholders at yesterday's meeting, hams (I think) are the only group that actually understands the technical nature of the problem and, dare I say, the technical nature of the solution
- Also, of all the stakeholders, hams (I think) are the only group that actually passes a rigorous examination that includes practices and procedures on how to use a two-way radio in a mobile situation
- Unlike the commercial interests who were at the stakeholders' meeting, hams have no commercial agenda to defend
- Our arguments are based on our historic ability to provide emergency communications services to our communities, our regions, provinces and country
- Around the world, governments in other countries with the exceptions of Yemen and North Korea actively encourage the growth of amateur radio as a resource of technical knowledge and international goodwill
- Here in Canada, amateur radio is considered a service and not just a hobby
- However, the use of radio as a hobby ensures two things:
 - (A) We have a trained cadre of volunteers that numbers in the thousands and who can be deployed with hours (if not minutes) in times of need
 - (B) Hams voluntary put out hundreds, even thousands, of their own dollars to equip their vehicles with modern communications equipment
 - Radio Amateurs of Canada has a memorandum of understanding with The Canadian Red Cross Society to provide emergency communications assistance as needed during times of disaster
 - We are asking for a complete exemption from Bill 118 in a similar manner to [legislation being considered in Hawaii](#)
 - Bill 118 will be introduced in the Fall of 2009. It will be up to all the hams in Ontario to ensure that it does not unreasonably affect the Amateur Radio Service in this province
 - And how do we do this? I'm (VE3HG) going to keep saying this until someone throws me out of my volunteer position as VP of PR for RAC: [Join RAC](#). Do it today and bring at least two other local hams with you.
 - If, and it's not certain yet, but if we need to organize to help government create a more

effective Bill 118 we are going to need you and your fellow hams to work together

- o Individually we will have zero effect on government and public policy. Collectively we can be a much more persuasive and effective participant in this process of making Ontario's roadways safer

On May 29, 2009 Keith Baker, VA3KSF Says:

Has anyone made the point to the Ontario Ministry of Transport that they now routinely grant Amateurs in Ontario the privilege of putting their callsigns on their motor vehicle license plates at a significantly discounted cost than other so-called "vanity" plates?

I suspect this privilege was granted at a reduced cost by the MOT in recognition of our proven record of providing assistance to local, provincial and national authorities in times of emergency and also to identify us as Amateur Radio operators to the proper authorities while doing so.

It seems rather counterproductive to now deny us the use of our radios in those very same amateur radio callsign plated vehicles.

In addition, our Certificates of Proficiency are granted by a federal agency (Industry Canada). It seems to me a good case could also be made that, should this bill become law in its present form, a provincial entity (Ontario) would now be attempting to regulate activities granted and controlled by a federal agency under a federal certification.

73,

Keith
VA3KSF

On May 29, 2009, Peter West, VE3HG Says:

Keith your comment is right on. We brought the license plate issue to MoT's attention as well as the fact that we are federally licensed to operate our amateur radio equipment in our vehicles.

Stay tuned in to the RAC Blog as I will post the most recent information here. We should know more in 30 to 60 days.

On May 31, 2009, Peter Gamble Says:

Hi Peter

As the EC for Ottawa since 1995, I am still amazed at how many Amateurs are stuck in a 1950-1960 view of Amateur radio as an emergency communications resource.

Most emergency communications is VHF, so a VHF mobile is all you need. Most communications is not

from your house or car, but rather from a shelter, Red Cross or other fixed site. The ability to take your radio and yourself out of the house or car, to where it is required is what is needed.

The thousands of Amateurs ready to deploy in minutes or hours is myth and legend. We just had a district meeting for Eastern Ontario and all the groups have the same problem, a lack of sufficient resources to survive if called. There are about 1000 licensed amateurs in Ottawa, and our groups has 20 active members and another 20 names on the list. Even a simple deployment will take at least 50 Amateurs per day.

If you bought an expensive radio for your vehicle you did it because you could and that is what you wanted. As I mention above, all that is really required for most situations is a VHF mobile.

The significance of Amateur plates as an identification of a mobile communicator went out with air raid sirens. Many Amateurs have plates but no radio, have a radio but no one is on the local repeater and few people know what the plates even mean.

The reality for mobile radio operation is that for Amateur radio, it is no different than a Taxi, fleet vehicle or other using a mobile radio with a microphone attached. We need to make sure we focus on the facts and not try to rely on saying we are special.

Perhaps only Amateurs registered with their local Municipality and doing 5 hours of volunteer work per month should be allowed to have a radio in their vehicle. That would reduce the number of people right now to about 1% of Amateurs.

I am writing this because I get frustrated actually putting in the thousands of dollars and hours for Emergency Communications, having a great relationship with our City where we are supported and encouraged, then having only a handful of working volunteers and reading about the thousands who want to ride on our back.

Unless you are registered and involved in your local Amateur radio communications group, whether it is the local club, ARES, REACT or other, then you are not involved. If I own a gun, I am not a soldier, if I own a boat, I am not volunteer water rescue and if I own an Amateur radio, I am not an emergency communicator, unless I have the additional tools and skills required and am part of the larger solution.

Peter – VE3BQP

Team Leader – Emergency Measures Radio Group
EC – Ottawa ARES

- Two names, one group, one purpose -

On May 31, 2009, Peter West - VE3HG Says:

Hi Peter:

I can read your frustration but hasn't that always been the case? We all come into amateur radio for our own reasons. Some of us enjoy serving our communities by using our skills and equipment. Many do not. But in times of need, which tend to be unpredictable, amateur radio can provide a volunteer, ad hoc, cadre of people on the scene very quickly.

While I appreciate the efforts of those who are dedicated to helping out I think there's lots of room for the more casual operator. And, just like RAC, if we want to attract more people to join us, it's worthwhile to have a look at the benefits we are actually offering them.

In my experience, it all comes down to if we're doing worthwhile things in an enjoyable manner that encourages camaraderie and provides benefits for our members we'll be joined by like-minded people and our ranks will grow.

On May 31, 2009, Peter Gamble Says:

Hi Peter

There is little place for the "casual operator" in emergency communications. In most of the large events, these people were sent home. Unfortunately that message gets very small print. The walk in volunteer does not understand who is in charge, what is required and how things function. For example, the cop at the shelter is NOT in charge. Don't ask them what you should be doing. How often are you using packet radio with Outpost or Winlink?

Amateur radio needs to decide if we are a viable solution (requires work), or if we are a best effort when called solution (may never be called).

If we want to be a viable solution, then we need to put some effort into it and make some commitments. We need to make an effort to participate in small events, practice events, training, etc.

If we want to be a best effort when called ad hoc solution, based on who is available when called and they bring what they have, then we need to be clear on that. Understand that none of our clients are looking for an adhoc, best effort solution. They have plans and they need to know they are partnering with groups who are equally committed to supporting these plans.

We cannot do nothing, and claim we are a mighty communications force. In many areas, Amateur radio is dead as an emergency communications solution and in others it is dying. This is why groups like the American Red Cross continue to invest in

their own portable communications solutions. Yes RAC has an agreement with the Red Cross, but it is just a peice of paper between 2 national offices. It is only useful if implemented at a local level.

I'm tired of listenting to Amateurs say they are a "Service", that Amateurs will be there in an emergency, then tell me that as a hard working volunteer I should be doing more to make it interesting and exciting for them so they will get involved. Imagine if volunteer Fire Departments were this non-committed.

Peter – VE3BQP

Bill 118 Takes The Next Step

June 5, 2009

By Peter West

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation has released its public consultation process with the [announcement of a website to add comments in regards to Bill 118.](#)

As the background document does not specifically make reference to two-way radio communications RAC will be making inquiries as to what is the government's intent.

Does this mean that all two-way radios are exempt as they don't meet the criteria of "hand-held wireless communication devices" or does it mean that two-way radios could fall within the proposed legislation?

If the explanation comes that two-way radios are not included then we can all continue to enjoy our hobby and participate in helping our communities through services including ARES, CANWARN and others.

If the explanation goes the other way.... RAC, in cooperation with other interested parties will be creating and encouraging a coordinate, forceful and compelling campaign in support of the lawful use of amateur radio equipment in moving vehicles in the province of Ontario.

We should know more in a few days time.

RAC Recommends Action On Bill 118

June 5, 2009

By Peter West

After consultation with other affected groups and following discussions with Ontario Ministry of Transportation staff **Radio Amateurs of Canada** is recommending that all interested amateur radio operators offer their comments to the possible impact that Bill 118 (the anti-cell-phone-while-driving Bill) could have on amateur radio use in moving vehicles.

The web address to read the Bill as it stands today is <http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/quickSearch.do?searchType=current>

At the bottom of that page is a link to a comments page.

We would like to remind the Ministry that the 20,000 licensed amateur radio operators who use their federally licensed mobile radio equipment were never part of the problem.

We'd also like to remind the Ministry that curtailing the use of mobile two-way radio transceivers by amateur radio operators and other two-way radio mobile users will in no way solve the problem of distracted drivers using their cell phones.

We would encourage all amateurs to offer the Ministry their clear and concise comments about how they have served their local communities, regions and the province through their use of amateur radio.

Supporting documents already sent to the Minister of Transport are available upon request to ve3hg@rac.ca (I will respond to e-mails sent over the weekend on Monday, June 8th).

We would ask that you alert your fellow amateur radio operators in your clubs, associations and communities to this issue and urge them to take immediate action by sending their comments to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

Solar Cycle 24

May 31, 2009

By Peter West

[NASA has released a new prediction for Solar Cycle 24 and there's good news and bad news.](#)

First the good news: Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013.

The bad news: Solar Cycle 24 could peak with the lowest peak sunspot number (90) of any cycle since 1928!

The NASA site goes on to talk about the "Carrington Event" of 1859. This solar flare, seen by astronomer Richard Carrington took place during a below-average solar cycle. The resulting solar flare electrified transmission cables, set fires in telegraph offices and produced spectacular Northern Lights. A similar storm today could cause \$1 to 2 trillion in damages that would require two to 10 years to fix.

Canadian Astronaut Using Ham Radio In ISS Experiment

May 31, 2009

By Peter West

Canadian astronaut Bob Thirsk reached the International Space Station last week thanks to a ride on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. While on the space station, Thirsk is scheduled to operate a small rover-type vehicle nicknamed "Red" which is parked and waiting for his

commands in the backlot of the Canadian Space Agency in Montreal. The big news for hams is that Thirsk will use amateur radio to communicate with Red. The experiment which is using almost off-the-shelf technology will test several remote and navigational technologies which have been developed in Canada. This is the first time an earthbound robot has been controlled from space.

RAC Bulletin 2009-019E - Public Consultation on Allocation to the Amateur Radio Service at 2200 metres.

May 31, 2009

Industry Canada has announced a public consultation on proposed revisions to the Canadian Table of Frequency Allocations - Gazette Notice DGTP-003-09, <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf09460.html>.

This proposal contains a total of 17 changes, including one proposal to make a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the 135.7 - 137.8 kHz band in conformity with the WRC-2007 decision on AI 1.15. The Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) will be submitting comments on the entire proposal, and RAC Vice-President Industrial Liaison Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, will be on the RABC working group that prepares the comments. RAC will also submit separate comments on this particular item. The comment period closes August 10, 2009, after which all comment will be posted on the Industry Canada web site. Subsequently, IC will decide on the final revisions and issue a revised Table of Frequency Allocations.

If all goes well, we hope that this revised table will include an amateur allocation at 2200m, possibly by late 2009 or early 2010.

Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs

Richard Ferch, VE3KI/VE3IAY

RAC Bulletin 2009-018E - Canadian Hams in Geneva.

May 27, 2009

Two Canadian Hams, Ken Pulfer, VE3PU and Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN are presently in their second week attending a WRC preparatory meeting in Geneva. Ken is there representing the IARU while Bryan represents RAC on the Industry Canada delegation.

In today's Plenary session, Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, representing the ARRL on the US Delegation, announced his retirement after 19 years as a Working Group Chairman. Subsequently, Canada nominated and the Plenary approved Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, as Paul's replacement.

RAC wants to congratulate Ken and wish him the best in this new important position.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
Vice President International Affairs
Radio Amateurs of Canada

RAC Bulletin 2009-017E - RAC new LF/MF/HF Band Planning Committee Chair.

May 9, 2009

The Radio Amateurs of Canada President has recently appointed Jim Fisher, VE1JF, as Chair of the LF/MF/HF Band Planning Committee. Jim will take over from Bob Nash, VE3KZ, who resigned after a few years holding the position.

RAC wants to thank Bob Nash, VE3KZ, for the hard work he did on the committee. During his tenure, a complete revision of the Canadian HF Band Plan has been done and the process for an ongoing revision was implemented.

Jim brings with him an excellent and long experience on the bands that the committee is working on. We wish him all the best in his new position.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
Vice-President for International Affairs
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

RAC Bulletin 2009-014E - RAC Canada Day Contest July 1, 2009

April 22, 2009

This is a reminder that the 2009 edition of the Canada Day Contest is will be held on July 1, 2009. For more information please download the pdf file with the rules at

<http://www.rac.ca/service/contesting/files/2009%20Canada%20Day%20Rules%20-%20English.pdf>

RAC Bulletin 2009-013E - New RAC representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee.

April 14, 2009

After more than ten years as RAC's representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee, David Shipman, VE7CFD, has asked to be replaced.

RAC has then chosen Sam Ferris, VE5SF, to replace David. The ARRL has already been advised of our choice and Sam is already starting his work.

Radio Amateurs of Canada wants to thank Dave, VE7CFD, for the many years he has served the Amateurs of Canada by being on this important committee. We also wish Sam, VE5SF, all the best in his work.

73,
Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA
Vice-President International Affairs,
Radio Amateurs of/du Canada

Rescue Radio: Brazillian Hams Help In Search For Missing Airliner

June 5, 2009

Brazilian amateur radio operators were part of the search effort after Air France flight 447 disappeared enroute from Rio de Janeiro to Paris on June 1st. The Airbus A-330 passenger jet was over the Atlantic when automated systems radioed a series of technical difficulties with the aircraft before all contact with it was lost.

Air France Flight 447 carried 216 passengers and a crew of 12. An airline spokesman said that shortly before the A-330 disappeared the plane sent several automatic messages reporting electrical and pressurization problems.

Andrew Sampaio, PY0FF, is one of the hams called to take part in the search. He says that shortly after contact with the plane was lost, messages were sent via amateur radio to vessels sailing the region of its last known position. These exchanges asked for any information on the disappearance of the aircraft. They also requested that ships be on the lookout for any sign of the plane.

On Tuesday, June 2nd Brazilian military reconnaissance aircraft found a 3 mile path of wreckage in the Atlantic Ocean some 400 miles from the Brazilian archipelago of Fernando de Noronha. This, the airline says confirms that Flight 447 had crashed in the sea. Ham Radio assistance in the search for Air France 447 has reportedly now been discontinued.

At press time its not known how many Brazilian hams were mobilized to assist in the search for the ill-fated Air France flight. (PS8RF, Southgate, other news sources)

Rescue Radio: Alabama To Hold ARES FM Simplex Test

June 5 2009

The Alabama Amateur Radio Emergency Service will once again conduct an FM Simplex Exercise. One designed to encourage members to forget repeaters for an afternoon and test their range on FM simplex.

This will be a two-hour exercise on Saturday, June 13th starting at 4:00 PM and running until 6:00 PM Central time and held during the ARRL June VHF QSO Contest. This to allow ARES volunteers the opportunity to contact more distant VHF contest stations, many of whom run high power and gain antennas.

During the event, stations will exchange call signs and grid squares. Last year's event, some ARES volunteers were able to make contacts over 200 miles away.

The frequencies that will be used are 52.525 MHz on 6 meters, 146.55, 146.58 and 147.555 MHz on 2. Also being used will be 223.5 MHz on 1 and 1/4 meters and 446.000 MHz on 70 Centimeters.

Other regions might want to consider such tests. This, so as to be prepared in case a disaster takes all the local repeaters QRT. (VHF Reflector)

Ham Radio In Space: Three New Micro Cubsats Launched

May 29 2009

Three new ham radio microsats have been launched and are now on-orbit. The three tiny birds are identified as PHARMASAT-1, HAWKSAT-I and POLYSAT CP6. All three were launched on Tuesday, May 19th from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

PHARMASAT-1 is from Santa Clara University. It's transmitting on 437.465 MHz in AX.25 data protocol at 1200 bits per second. HAWKSAT-I was the work of the Hawk Institute for Space Sciences. It's on 437.345 MHz. Last but by no means least is POLYSAT CP6 sponsored by the California Polytechnic State University. It's on 437.365 MHz with 1200 bit per second data in AX.25.

Web reports indicate that good signals have been received from Pharmsat-1 and from Polysat CP6. (ANS)

Ham Radio In Space: AO-51 To Be Dual Field Day Repeater

June 5 2009

AMSAT says that the Oscar 51 ham radio satellite will be configured for Field Day. The bird will have dual FM repeaters with one operating on 1268.700 and 435.150 with the other on 145.920 and 435.300 MHz. No PL tone is required.

Please note that the 435.150 downlink is left hand circular polarized, and the 435.300 transmitter is right hand circular polarized. This configuration will be available for the week preceding Field Day, through the Field Day weekend. That's June 22nd to the 28th. (ANS)

ARRL Field Day Tips And Techniques That Everyone Can Use

May 29, 2009

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

- 1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.
- 2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.
- 3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.
- 4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.
- 5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first - - this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.
- 6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."
- 7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."
- 8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.
- 9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.
- 10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

Field Day 2009



What is Field Day?

Wikipedia defines **Field Day** as an annual amateur radio exercise sponsored by various amateur radio IARU regions and member organizations, in order to encourage emergency communications preparedness. In the United States, it is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country with over 30,000 ham radio operators participating each year.

Since the first ARRL Field Day in 1933, Amateur radio operators throughout the United States have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.

To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component and many clubs also engage in associated fun activities of camping out and having cookouts for the participants. Operations are typically for a continuous 24 hours requiring the scheduling of relief operators to keep the stations going through the night. Additional contest points are awarded for such things as experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts through space satellites and involving youth in the activity.

Who can attend?

The event operates under the supervision of the local radio club (LARC). That means any person, even those without a valid radio license, are permitted to show up and operate any radio on any band. For those of you that have thought about working HF, here is your opportunity to get on the air.

When is Field Day?

Field Day is **always the fourth full weekend of June**, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2009 will be held June 27-28, 2009.**



Here is Christian Hornick (age 11, at the time) operating under the watchful eye of Pat Ross, VE3CNX at last year's Field Day.

LARC Field Day



Field Day is a group of local hams assembling portable stations at an outdoor location to simulate operation under emergency communications, and to communicate with as many other stations as possible to collect contest points in a 24 hour period, always The Fourth Full Weekend In June. Here is additional information on upcoming Field Days and coverage and **pictures** for past ones:

Field Day 2009 - Better than ever!

Dates: Saturday June 27
and Sunday June 28.

Location: Reservoir Park at
the top of Snake
Hill in Byron

Events:

- Antenna Installation, starting Saturday Morning
- Contest Time: Saturday 2PM to Sunday 2 PM
- Pot Luck Supper: Saturday around 6 PM
- chance to try your hand at HF - anytime!
- Locking of the gates - around 10PM on Saturday



Rules: Official Field Day [Contest Rules](#) from ARRL

Field Day Coordinator: [Pat Ross](#)

In the last couple of years, we've been getting pretty good scores in our category in the contest and we want to do even better. Help us out by signing up (or just showing up) for some time at a microphone, so we can get as many contacts as possible. No experience or advanced license necessary - after a couple of pointers, you'll soon be cranking out the contacts!

(and yes, we'll have a better shelter for the picnic tables this year, but it's not going to rain anyway.)

The History of LARC Field Days (if you have info to add - please email the L.A.R.C. webmaster)

Year	Location	Photographs	Class	Score	Rank
2009	Reservoir Park, Byron	please forward to Webmaster			
2008	Reservoir Park, Byron		4A	4274	5
2007	Reservoir Park, Byron		4A	3548	9
2006	Reservoir Park, Byron		4A	2484	
2005	Reservoir Park, Byron	2005 Field Day	6A	3496	
2004	Reservoir Park, Byron	2004 Field Day	3A	1542	
2003	Reservoir Park, Byron	2003 Field Day	5A	3008	
2002	Parkwood - near Wellington and Commissioners	2002 Field Day	4A	1583	
2001	Parkwood near cottages		4A	2336	
2000	NW corner of Wharnccliffe and Commissioners		4A	3846	8
1999	Parkwood, on hill close to Commissioners		5A	4162	6
1998	Parkwood, on hill close to Commissioners				
1997	Parkwood back by the cottages		5A	2704	
1996	Parkwood back by the cottages				
1995	Sharon Creek Conservation Area (Delaware)		2A	2322	
1994	Parkwood back by the cottages				
1993	Reservoir Park, Byron		4A	3086	
1992	Reservoir Park, Byron		5A	3242	
1991	Parkwood back by the cottages		5A	4004	7
1990	Parkwood back by the cottages		4A	3518	10
1989					
1988					
1987					
1986	Byron Optimist Sports Complex		5A	6108	4
1985	Byron Optimist Sports Complex		7A	7044	1
1984			7A	6776	3
1983			7A	6834	2
1982					
1981					
1980			2A	2364	
1979					
1978			3A	2628	
1977			4A	3072	
1976	Parkwood		4A	2917	
...					
1962		Photo			

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

32nd ANNUAL 2009 FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27th
9.00 AM TO 1.00 PM

VENDOR SETUP: 7:30 AM

BOOK EARLY AND SAVE ON ADMISSION

ADMISSION: \$6.00, (Age 10 and up)

TABLES: \$ 10.00



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Bring & Buy: Let LARC sell your item(s) at our club table.
{2 items max} INFO: <http://www.larc.ca/larctable.html>

Inquiries: Email
LARChamfest@gmail.com
Note: All email answered within 72 hrs
Phone: (519) 238-1542 (Ann)

Make Payments out to
"London Amateur Radio Club Inc"
(not to Ann Rundle) and mail to:

Ann Rundle VA3EOR
36797 Crediton Rd RR2
Dashwood, On N0M 1N0

ATTENTION 2009 FLEA MARKET VENDOR

Book early, tables are booked on first come first served basis. Loading door available. We do not reserve unpaid tables. No separate hydro for tables BUT there will be a test table with power for seller demonstrations. Only two vendors passes allowed per vendor prior to doors opening on the day of the flea market. Vendor passes will not be sold without table sales. Table information and site Map will be sent to you in your vendor's conformation package.

***Book early (before Aug 1st) and 1 vendor admission is reduced to \$ 4**

Name: _____ Admission(s) x \$ 6 (\$ 4) _____

Table(s): x \$ 10 _____

Callsign: _____ Total: = _____

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____ City _____ PO code _____

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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).

