

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
And surrounding area since 1920

December 5, 2010

## L.A.R.C. Executive

### President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

### Vice-President

David Lambert, VE3K GK

### Past President

Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

### Treasurer

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### Secretary

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Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

### Director, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Director

Mike Watts, VE3ACW

### Non-Voting

### Director, ARES & CANWARN

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

### Appointments

### LARC Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

### Repeater

### Operator/Programmer

David Young, VE3EAY

### Field Day Coordinator

Dave Lambert, VE3K GK

### Webmaster

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

### Newsletter Editor

John Visser, VA3MSV

### Auditors

Rob Hockin, VA3HO  
William Clothier, VE3BCU

## Next Meeting Topic

The next **LARC meeting** will be on **Thursday, December 9**, at **7:00 PM**. **Note the earlier start**. The December meeting will be our annual Potluck Christmas Dinner. Join us for what's sure to be an interesting evening of good food and good conversation.

## Silent Key – John Watson, VE3E ZP

It is with sadness that we note the passing of John Watson, VE3E ZP on December 4th. A funeral service will be held at Harris Funeral Home on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am.

An obit for John Watson will follow the Remembering John Ohnmacht article. If someone wishes to write an article for John Watson, January's deadline is January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please send it to va3msv@hotmail.com.

## Silent Key – John Ohnmacht, VE3JO

It is with sadness that we note the passing of **John Ohnmacht**, VE3JO on November 12th. A memorial service was held at the Westview Funeral Chapel on Tuesday, November 16th, 2010.

See page 3 for article about John by David Lambert, VE3K GK.

## Next Meeting is Where and When?

**Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on December 9, 2010 at 7:00 pm**

All meetings are normally 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.

Next Meeting will be December 10, 2010. This meeting will be our Annual Potluck Dinner. **Note: Start time will be 7:00 pm instead of 7:30 pm**

## Area Repeaters

### LARC Repeaters

#### London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

### SHORT Repeaters

#### London

VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz  
Echolink Node 10741

VE3SUE 444.400 + 114.8 Hz  
IRLP Node 2400

VE3TTT 442.200 + D-Star

#### Ipperwash

VE3TCB 146.940 - 114.8 Hz  
Linked to VE3SUE

#### Grand Bend

VE3SRT 442.050 + 114.8 Hz  
Linked to VE3SUE

### Other Area Repeaters

#### London

VA3SIX 53.470 - 114.8 Hz

VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz  
CANWARN

VA3FEZ 444.100 + 114.8 Hz

#### Grand Bend

VE3RGB 146.760 + 173.8 Hz

#### Stratfordville

VE3DPL 146.655 - 131.8 Hz

#### St. Thomas

VE3STR 147.330 + 114.8 Hz  
Echolink Node: 72886

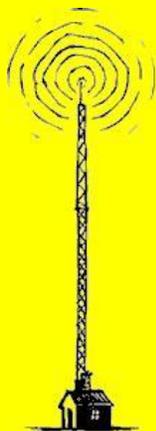
VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz  
IRLP Node: 2482

#### Goderich

VE3OBC 146.910 - 123.0 Hz

#### Whitechurch

VE3WWD 443.075 + 123.0 Hz



If you have a repeater 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.

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

## Mutual Aid

Would you be willing to answer some questions if a fellow ham needed some advice? Got a problem you can't figure out? Want to try something new but need someone to show you the ropes? Check out our new **Mutual AID page** (<http://www.larc.ca/mutual-aid.html>), a new way to get people who are looking for assistance together with the folks who can help supply the answers. **Let us know** what you think of this new facility.

## Membership Report

Currently the membership is at 102. As of the beginning of the 2010/2011 year we have gotten 13 new members to the club. Of the 17 Honorary Members brought in from the L.S.R.C., 3 have paid for the current 2010/2011 year.

## Nets



### Daily

#### Trans Provincial Net

7.055 MHz 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

### Sunday

#### Swap Net

7.055 MHz LSB 12:00 pm

#### ARES Ontario Net

7.153 MHz 1:00 pm

7.055 MHz 3:00 pm

3.742 MHz 7:15 pm

IRLP Reflector 9005 8:00 pm

### Monday

#### LARC 2m Net

147.060 MHz + 8:00 pm

### Wednesday

#### ARES Net

145.450 + VE3OME 7:30 pm

#### ARES Ontario Net

IRLP Reflector 9005 8:00 pm

### Thursday

#### PROCOMM Net

147.180 + VE3TTT 8:00 pm

444.400 + VE3SUE 8:00 pm

### Friday

#### Tech Net

147.180 + VE3TTT 8:00 pm

444.400 + VE3SUE 8:00 pm

### Saturday

#### VE3TTT 2m Net

147.180 + VE3TTT 7:30 pm

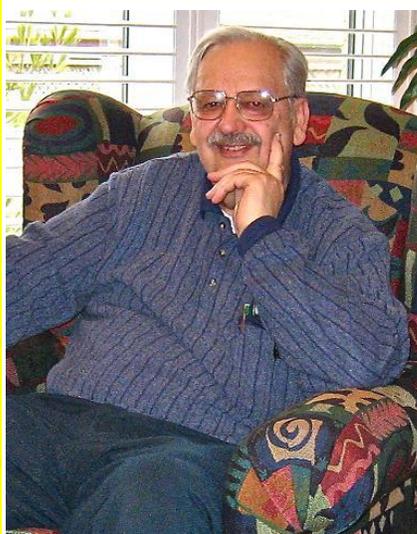
444.400 + VE3SUE 7:30 pm

146.940 - VE3TCB 7:30 pm

442.050 + VE3SRT 7:30 pm

If you have a 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.

## Remembering John Ohnmacht, VE3JO



By David Lambert, VE3KGG

On Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup> 2010, a funeral service was held for John, VE3 JO, a great family man and the quintessential ham radio operator.

I doubt there is a ham in London who has not been touched in some way by this fine gentleman and gentle man. Whether it was as someone who wrote for an amateur radio license when John was an Inspector at the then Department of Communications, or after his retirement as John continued to enjoy his hobby, we knew John as someone who was involved in so many facets of ham radio.

He was involved in Canwarn, he checked into various nets, he was on 2 meters and 440. He was involved with slow scan TV, was the President of LARC for a while, was a driving force in the establishment of the London seniors Club and, if asked, he was always ready to help in any way he could.

I first met John at Fanshawe College when he and Hugh Clark (VE3WM) came to the College to administer the written and code tests to one of Mitch Powell's graduating classes at Fanshawe. I was in that group back in 1978. John's typical laid-back demeanor went a long way to calming this hopeful's fears about passing the two exams.

A few days after the examinations John called, asking me to see him at the DOC office at Queens Avenue and Talbot Street. When I arrived John congratulated me on passing the exam, and told me that a block of calls had been assigned to London, starting with VE3 KGA. No one from that 1978 class had yet been given a call, and with trepidation I asked if I could have KGK which was then assigned to me. Since I am originally from Kingston, Jamaica, I quickly became known as "Kingston's Good Kid".

John noted that on my license application I listed my country of birth as Jamaica, West Indies. He mentioned that he and his wife had been thinking about a trip to Jamaica and asked if I would bring my wife and join him and his wife at their house to tell them both something about Jamaica.

My wife and I visited John and his wife, Claire, and we gave them as much information about the island as we could. They were planning on going to the North Coast, the tourist area of Jamaica. My wife's sister lived just inland from a part of the north coast, so once we established dates for the trip, we were able to arrange for John and Claire to be visited by my sister-in-law and her husband so they could act as guides.

Enter 6Y5 MR, my long time friend Mark Royes, who was the person who got me interested in ham radio. He was the Chief Pilot for Air Jamaica and flew into Toronto regularly. He agreed to come to London and met John and Claire. Once he went back to Jamaica he arranged for a license to be issued for John to be able to operate in Jamaica. One of the advantages of living on a small island is you get to know the right people. Mark certainly knew the right people. 6Y5 calls were given to Jamaican Nationals, and non-citizens got a permit using the

# Upcoming Events Remembering John Ohnmacht, VE3JO con't.

**Thu., Dec. 9, 2010**

**[L.A.R.C. General Meeting](#)**

Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner  
Located at the St. Judes Anglican  
Church, London, Ontario

**Thu., Jan. 13, 2010**

**[L.A.R.C. General Meeting](#)**

Located at the St. Judes Anglican  
Church, London, Ontario

**Thu., Feb. 10, 2010**

**[L.A.R.C. General Meeting](#)**

Located at the St. Judes Anglican  
Church, London, Ontario

**Sat., Feb. 13, 2011**

**[Big Event 33 - Flea Market and  
Hamfest - Niagara Peninsula  
Amateur Radio Club](#)**

Located at Merriton Community Centre  
7 Park Ave. St. Catharines, Ontario

**Sat., Feb. 26, 2011**

**[Burlington Spring Flea Market  
- Burlington Amateur Radio  
Club](#)**

Located at Royal Canadian Legion - 828  
Legion Rd., Burlington, Ontario

**Sat., Mar. 26, 2011**

**[HamEx 2011 - Peel Amateur  
Radio Club and Mississauga  
Amateur Radio Club](#)**

Located at Brampton Fall Fairgrounds,  
12942 Heart Lake Road, Brampton,  
Ontario

**Sun., Jun. 5, 2011**

**[Central Ontario Hamfest &  
Fleamarket - Guelph ARC &  
Kitchener-Waterloo ARC](#)**

Located at the Waterloo Regional Police  
Association Recreation Centre  
R.R. 2, 1128 Rife Rd. Beside Hwy 401,  
between exits 268 & 275  
Location: 43.344939, -80.418376

Home call, portable 6Y5. John was issued the call 6Y5 JO! I was able to work him while he was on his trip to the island. Our family members there were able to take John and Claire to places they would perhaps not have been able to get to, and had them to their home for a few meals. My involvement was small in arranging these contacts in Jamaica and hopefully led to a greater enjoyment of their trip. It was my way of trying to give something back for their friendship. We had become friends and in his usual manner, John had arranged that both he and Hugh Clark were at my house for the erection of my tower and first beam antenna. John helped me in many ways and worked with me as I learned about ham radio. He was also the examiner when I got my 10 meter phone privileges and when I wrote for my Advanced license.

Although I'm sure John did not plan it, he was, in a way, responsible for my getting my first linear amplifier, a Yaesu FL2100 B. He called me one day and asked me if I knew a particular person who had been in the 1978 class but had not passed the exam. Not only did I know the person, but I had lived on the same street and worked for the same employer. John suggested it might be a good idea if I informed this person that the DOC knew he was operating an amplifier on the CB band and also straying onto the ten meter band while not licensed, since they had narrowed down their search to his address. I went to see this person and advised him that he was being watched and that it was just a matter of time before the DOC showed up and confiscated his equipment. A few days later I got a call suggesting the amplifier was for sale if I wanted it. I had become a serious DX chaser so I asked the price, immediately took the money to the location and left with a nice linear. I called John and told him the equipment had been sold to a ham (me) and that it would now see only legal use.

John was instrumental in getting me to join the LARC Seniors Club. I spent many a happy hour working DX and explaining ham radio to those who stopped by to see what the station was all about. John was a willing volunteer at Parkwood for over 15 years.

Without John's friendship and mentoring my years in ham radio would not have been as much fun as they have been. John was so low key in how he approached things. He was kind and patient and full of enthusiasm which he was able to make contagious. He never complained even when he was not feeling well and always had the welcome mat out. He was the driving force behind so much of the ham activity in London, and his enthusiasm rubbed off on many of us. Even after the Seniors membership was folded into LARC, JO was one of the stalwarts (and yes, there were others) who tried to be at the Seniors' coffee meetings in Cherry Hill Mall on Tuesday and Saturday mornings after the Seniors Club disbanded.

John was a ham's ham, a man of honour, integrity, and great dignity. A true friend to me and a true friend to ham radio. He was a devoted family man who put his entire family ahead of himself. His first thought was always for them. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

John, my friend, rest in peace. You certainly have earned it.

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](mailto:va3msv@hotmail.com) and I'll add it to the list.

## SK – John Cadman Watson, VE3EZP

It is with deep sadness that we announce John's passing at age 78 on December 4, 2010. With his family around him in his home in London Ontario, John passed away after a short battle with cancer. Loving husband of 30 years to Mandy. Predeceased by Jennifer to whom he was married for 20 years. Proud father of Cheryl Quenneville (Dwayne) of Belleville and Gina Watson (Kevin) of Ottawa. Cherished grandfather of Owen and Joel Quenneville and Sarah and John Phillips and dear brother-in-law of Uwe and Nina Bentzien of Munich, Ioanna and Sakis Tsakiris of Thessaloniki, and Henrietta and Clovis Lamirand of London.

After coming to Canada from England in 1958, John had a distinguished 30 year career at Nortel as a professional electrical engineer. A brilliant man and engaging story teller, John's passions were playing the trombone, reading voraciously and amateur ham radio, which he avidly pursued for 60 years. VE3 EZP is now a silent key.



Funeral service at Harris Funeral Home, 220 St. James Street on Wednesday, December 8 at 11 am. followed by a reception and then burial at Siloam Cemetery.

### Service

Funeral service at Harris Funeral Home, 220 St. James Street on Wednesday, December 8 at 11 am

### Donations

If desired, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lung Association, 480 Egerton St., London, ON N6W 3Z6 (online click [LUNG ASSOCIATION](#)) or the Canadian Cancer Society, 123 St. George St., London, ON N6A 3A1 (online click [CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY](#)). Please remit your donation directly to the charity. To notify family of your contribution, click SEND CONDOLENCES and forward the donor's name and address along with the name of the charity to which you will be contributing. The funeral home will place a card for family with the provided information.

# A Ham Radio Operator's Night Before Christmas

from © 1996 by Gary Pearce KN4AQ on December 24, 2008

Website: [http://www.jokesnstuff.us/pages/xmas/ham\\_radio\\_night\\_before\\_xmas.htm](http://www.jokesnstuff.us/pages/xmas/ham_radio_night_before_xmas.htm)

T'was the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HTs to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I though for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Re-soldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before --  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

© 1996 Gary Pearce KN4AQ

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## "The Night Before Christmas", Ham Radio-style

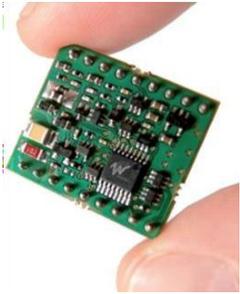
'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through  
the town,  
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were  
down;  
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,  
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.  
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,  
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.  
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,  
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.  
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,  
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.  
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,  
When he ended transmission with the words,  
"Old St. Nick".  
I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,  
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!  
We exchanged information, it was really quite  
graphic,  
Then he came back and said,  
"I've emergency traffic!"  
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,  
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would  
dump.  
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,  
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered  
yard.  
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,  
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:  
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener!  
Whoa, Diode!  
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop,  
Triode!  
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!  
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"  
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,  
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!  
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,  
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"  
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,  
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the  
back—  
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,  
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.  
The sack that he carried made his aged brow  
furrow,  
And he handed me a card that read,  
"QSL Via Bureau".  
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his  
vest;  
I felt like a novice taking his test.

His fingers were calloused and from what I could  
tell,  
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used  
well.  
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,  
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.  
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,  
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.  
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the  
tree,  
And placed in it a large present for me.  
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a  
bow,  
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.  
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,  
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of  
band!"  
Merry Christmas from my house to yours!



## The BPL Wars: New WPC Modem Operates On 2 - 4 MHz

December 3 2010



A new threat to the 75 meter ham radio band. This is from a French company called Watteco that has developed a new powerline modem based on Watt Pulse Communication or W-P-C technology that the Wireless Institute of Australia says transmits across the 2 to 4 MHz segment of the High Frequency radio spectrum.

Described as a small, low cost, low power consumption modem, the device can be used for any type of data communication applications such

as Smart Power Meters, home lighting and appliance control and street lighting to name only a few. According to the WIA News, the unit reportedly transmits a wideband signal that completely covers the amateur radio 75 and 80 meter ham bands and effectively rendering them useless anywhere in the proximity of the device.

For those interested, technical data on the modem can be found on-line at [http://www.watteco.com/images/stories/download/watteco\\_wpc-modem\\_product\\_brief\\_180510.pdf](http://www.watteco.com/images/stories/download/watteco_wpc-modem_product_brief_180510.pdf). (WIA News)

## Long Delayed Echos Captured On 40m

December 3 2010

Another case of Long Delayed Echo's of a ham radio signal being heard by the originating station has been reported and this time the ham had enough time to capture the sound to a recording. Amateur Peter Brogl, DK6NP, reports hearing Long Delayed Echos on 7 MHz during a geomagnetic storm on November 27th.

What you just heard was what DK6NP heard forty-six seconds after he transmitted his call sign at 7 MHz, he received an echo of his own transmission. Brogl said that at first he thought someone was playing on him so he changed frequency, re-keyed his call and got another echo. This went on for more than an hour, enough time for Brogl to make several recordings.

Long Delayed Echo's are not a new phenomena. They were first reported in 1927 by Norwegian civil engineer Jørgen Hals but happen rarely and are not really understood. Most researchers believe that unusual propagation conditions linked to solar storms may be one of many possible explanations. Others can be seen on Shlionskiy's Long Delayed Echo page at <http://heim.ifi.uio.no/~sverre/LDE/Shlionskiy15.htm>. Audio recordings made by DJ6NP of the 7MHz Long Delayed Echos can be heard at <http://www.brogl.net/Audio/>. (Space Weather, Southgate)

## The Sony Walkman – SK

December 3 2010

As the holiday gift giving season approaches we are kind of sad to report that the famed Sony Walkman will likely be on dealer shelves for the last time this year. This is because Sony has announced that the thirty-one year old cassette tape based unit is being phased out of production.

The Sony Walkman - the cassette tape player that forever changed music



listening habits before becoming outdated by digital MP3 players -- has become a sort of silent key, this after Sony announced on October 25th that it has stopped production of the cassette tape player in Japan - effectively sounding the death knell of the now-obsolete portable audio device.

If you're looking to put a date in the Walkman's tombstone, then October 25, 2010, is as good as any. Perhaps October 23, 2001, the day the Apple iPod was launched, is the better date. But none of the success of Apple's portable music players and those of other manufacturers would have ever

happened without the Sony cassette tape Walkman.

Some 220 million Walkman players were sold since the first model, the TPS-L2, debuted in July 1979. It was developed under the stewardship of Sony founders Akio Morita and Masaru Ibuka. Morita insisted the device be focused on high quality mobile playback which was considered a relatively odd idea at the time.

Originally called the "Soundabout" in the U.S., Sony quickly replaced the Soundabout name with the Walkman designation. It retailed for around \$200 was an immediate sensation. In fact, it was quickly hailed by supporters as a total revolution in mobile music listening.

But more than just portability, the Walkman fostered a personalization of one's music. In fact, the Walkman was also the father of the so-called mixtape. For the first time, music listening was something you could make very personal by arranging songs in the order you wanted to hear to them. It was also a way of courting a future spouse or love interest during the 1980's and 1990's.

For those of you too young or simply unfamiliar with this process, making a mixtape typically entailed gathering songs, putting them all on a cassette in the order you wanted them played, labeling the tape with care and giving it to a love interest in school or elsewhere.

The Walkman didn't disappear as much as it was improved upon by its creators and others. Sony continued to use it as a brand, but the company long ago surrendered style to Apple and the ubiquitous iPod. But one day the iPod will likely go the way of the 45 RPM record, the L.P. and the Walkman. When that happens in some far distant time, that generation will be waxing nostalgic about its passing just as we are today about the Walkman as it becomes a part of electronic history.

The Walkman is survived by the CD-based Sony Discman and hundreds of Chinese-made knock-off tape based players. It's also revered by those music listeners who think using a Walkman in this day-and-age is charmingly out-of-touch.

(Compiled from various published news reports)

## McMurdo Station Antarctica KC4USV

December 3 2010

Howdy from Bill, K7MT, Helena, Mt.



Kevin W7KRM sent me an e-mail that the Hygain Antenna is back and KC4USV McMurdo Station Antarctica is back on the air. 14.243 on Sundays around 0000 GMT is the best time as that is the Hams only day off. Also listen up for KC4AAA South

Pole and KC4AAC Palmer Station. NTP (Nathanial T Palmer) Ice Breaker around Palmer also has Hams on board and I have chatted with them on 20 meters. I spent two season at Mac Town and got a chance to work the station KC4USV and it was quite a thrill for a country boy from Montana.

AA2IP Herb contacted me that he will be active on Amateur Satellites during his 30 day trip around Antarctica. He will be leaving the Falkland Islands on 30 November, circumnavigate Antarctica with possible stop at McMurdo, then on to Hobart, Tazmania 3 Jan. He is looking at AO-51 and HO-68 with his Hand Held. Herb contacted me about regulations for satellite ops onboard a Russian Ice Breaker Quark Expeditions in Antarctica and I directed him to ARRL Regulator and AMSAT folks for Satellite operations. I worded AO-51 on several occasions from McMurdo to ZL2BX in New Zealand he set me up with Australia and Tazy. I had a blast.

Bill K7MT Helena, Mt <http://www.k7mt.com>

## IC Suggests Canadian Hams Can Help Electrical Industry Locate Interference

November 26 2010

Canadian hams could be called upon by that nation's power industry to help find sources of interference emanating from power lines and associated devices.

At a November 2nd meeting between the Canadian Electricity Association and telecommunications regulator Industry Canada, the subject of the power industry properly controlling interference from its generators, power transmission line or annularly gear was discussed. Such interference is governed under an Industry Canada document titled Interference Causing Equipment Standards number 004.

Canadian Electricity Association representatives indicated that front line electrical utility workers may not be familiar with the requirements of the

document. They also noted that many utilities may not always have the expertise available to locate sources of electrical interference.

In response, Industry Canada pointed out to Canadian Electricity Association that radio amateurs can be an invaluable resource in these cases. This is because hams may have skills that could be used to help identify interference sources.

The interference discussion with the Canadian Electricity Association was the result of a meeting last October 28th of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board. This is a joint Radio Amateur of Canada and Industry Canada consultation body which meets to discuss matters of mutual concern. (RAC)

## Emerging Technology: New Diodes Could Revolutionize Future Electronics

November 26 2010

Researchers at Oregon State University have solved a fundamental problem in material science that has eluded researchers since the 1960s. One that could form the basis of a new approach in electronic designs.

The discovery, just reported online in the professional journal Advanced Materials, outlines the creation for the first time of a new high-performance "metal-insulator-metal" diode. Creation of such a device could change modern electronics. This is because these so called next

generation diodes previously made with other approaches always had poor yield and sub-standard performance.

As one of the basics of electronics, diodes are an important part in all future circuit designs. You can read more about this fascinating discovery is online at <http://www.nanowerk.com/news/newsid=18741.php> (Science OnLine)

## Ham Radio In Space: FM Simplex Damaging Space Communications

November 19 2010

FM operators are once again being asked to not use 145.8 to 146.0 MHz for terrestrial, point to point casual communications. This is because such operations are devastating to weak signal ground to space and space to ground satellite operations.

OZ9AEC has posted the full QSO between these stations operating on the HO-68 uplink to the

YouTube dot com. It very graphically illustrates the problem that operating FM simplex operation on 145.8 to 146 and 435 to 438 MHz can cause for ham radio satellite operations. It can be heard at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncA5c9BPeNY> (Southgate)

## Solar Activity: Climate Changes And Sunspots

November 19 2010

Hams are not the only ones concerned about the lack of solar activity. Now, WNDU television in South Bend, Indiana, has reported on the way in which lowered solar activity could drastically affect the world's climate.

If you actively pursue DX it may come as no surprise that sunspot activity over the past few years has been at an all time low. According to a special report broadcast by WNDU Meteorologist Mike Hoffman, we have had over 800 days with no sunspots and that has not happened in 300 years.

The last time old sol was this quiet was between 1645 and 1715. A period in time called the Maunder Minimum. Paintings from that era show wintry weather in areas where it's not typical, like carnivals held on frozen rivers and people playing on the ice. According to researchers that period of weather was brutal.

Hoffman's information comes from a recently published paper on sunspots in the Journal of Climate. Purdue University's Doctor Ernest Agee, authored this report. He says civilizations almost perished due to the harshness of winter and things like that. Doctor Agee writes that widespread crop failures caused famine around the world and many villages were deserted.

So...could that happen in the modern world? The Purdue professor says the Sun is what powers the

Earth, so even the smallest changes on the Sun can have an impact on our lives and our climate.

Sunspot data only goes back to the year 1610. Many scientists correlate low sunspots with low temperatures in many parts of the world and the best data shows that.

Doctor Agee's paper delivers more bad news for Amateur Radio DXer's and modern day society as well. In his Journal of Climate report, the Purdue researcher says the length of the solar cycle, the definition of a quiet period, the length of a quiet period for modern record and the deepness of the quiet period indicate that something has, quote, "upset the apple cart. As a result we are seeing new physics and new science emerging to explain what is happening.

For the immediate future scientists will continue to chart the solar activity and try to forecast a rosy outcome with hopes of increased sunspot activity leading to a brighter future for the world and for those who live by the sun spot cycles in amateur radio.

The entire WNDU story can be both seen and read at

[http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/Whats\\_up\\_with\\_the\\_Sun\\_107066194.html](http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/Whats_up_with_the_Sun_107066194.html)

(W8ISH)

## RAC Begins Review Of Its National Field Organization

November 12 2010

Radio Amateurs of Canada began its National Field Organization Review Project on Monday, November 8th. With the assistance of Hew Lines, VA7HU, Ian Snow, VA3QT, and others, guidelines were adopted to review the entire Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Organization including but not limited to such aspects as the overall structure, the groups focus, the training it affords members and several other points crucial in an emergency communications and public service environment.

According to the Radio Amateurs of Canada news release, this will be an ongoing process that will look at all aspects of how the program operates and how it can better deliver amateur radio resources to those it serves. Canadian hams looking to assist are asked to contact Doug Mercer, VO1DTM. Mercer is the Radio Amateurs of Canada Vice President Field Services. His e-mail is vo1dtm (at) hotmail (dot) com.

(RAC)

# **MEMBERSHIP INVITATION**

*-- Membership application and dues are currently requested.*

*Our term of membership runs from October 1 to September 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, it's 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).



Office Use Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Chq	
Membership Card	
<input type="checkbox"/> Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd	
Sticker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd	

**LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PLEASE PRINT

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00       RENEWAL  
 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00       NEW MEMBER

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Member # 1	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

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Member # 2	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

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Member # 3	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

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Member # 4	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	RAC Member # _____	ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		Email Address _____	

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Street/P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_ City/Town      \_\_\_\_\_ Province      \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*All information requested should be completed - this will be used for the club's membership database only.  
All LARC membership information is held in strict confidence.*

Please make cheque payable to: **London Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

Mailing Address: London Amateur Radio Club  
c/o Membership Director, VA3MSV  
P.O. Box 82, Station B  
London, Ontario, N6A 4V3