

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
And surrounding area since 1920

April 10, 2011

## L.A.R.C. Executive

### President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

### Vice-President

David Lambert, VE3KKG

### Past President

Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

### Treasurer

Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB

### Secretary

Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO

### Director, Flea Market

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, VE3KKG

### 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, April 14, 2011** at 7:30 PM. Our speaker will be **Dave McCarter, VE3GSO** whose talk is entitled "**Feeding Your Antenna**". This will include a review of impedance and resonance, maximum power transfer, conjugate matching, various matching networks, transmission line losses, and various baluns. Demonstrations will include a couple of tuners and several homemade baluns.

## RAC Bulletin 2011-007E - Ontario South Director's Election

March 16, 2011

Ontario South Director's Election:

Two nominations were received for this position. Following a review of the documentation submitted and taking into account the constitutional and election process requirements the Committee determined that the nomination papers were complete and in order for Mr. Jeffrey Stewart, VA3WXM, and Mr. Nelson D.H. Jenking, VA3NDJ.

The Committee recommended a Ballot by Mail pursuant to Article 6 (Method of Election) in the Constitution, for Director, Ontario South Region for the completion of the 2010-2011 term. Ballots will be mailed to the applicable postal codes from the RAC Office in the near future.

Paul Burggraaf VO1PRB  
RAC Corporate Secretary

## Next Meeting is Where and When?

**Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on April 14, 2011 at 7:30 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 May 12, 2011. This meeting will be a presentation by

## Area Repeaters

### LARC Repeaters

#### London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

### Sort 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

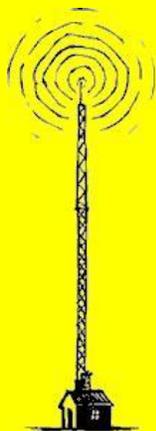
VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz  
IRLP Node: 2482

#### 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 119. As of the beginning of the 2010/2011 year we have gotten 19 new members to the club. Of the 18 Honorary Members brought in from the L.S.R.C., 3 have paid for the current 2010/2011 year and unfortunately 1 became a Silent Key.

## Nets



### Daily

#### Trans Provincial Net

7.055 MHz 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

#### London Senior's Net

146.400 MHz 7:00 pm – 7:30 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.

# 2011/2012 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections

It is that time of year again for us to think about the lineup for the club's executive members for 2010-2011.

Every May we decide who will be responsible for the handling of the money, physical resources, and determining the future direction of the club.

The club's executive requires at least 7 members each year and if you are interested, we request that you make yourself available one night per month to go over club business.

Some of us have been on the executive for several years and enjoy the experience.

We have some simple rules

1. Any current member of the club can request to be a member of the club's executive and added to the ballot.
2. Only members in good standing can vote (must be a paid member)
3. We must have a quorum (at least 25 members in good standing) in order to hold a valid election.

Some of the activities that require planning, coordination or at least some monthly discussions: Monthly meeting topics, fund raising, flea market, field day, repeaters & other equipment, extra activities.

We currently meet the 4th Thursday of the month from 7:30 pm to about 9:00 pm. All club members are invited to attend any executive meeting. If you have some interest but are unsure, and want to come and see what we do, just check with one of the executive as to where we are meeting.

The next page is a snip from the club's by-laws that specifically deal with the election process.

## Upcoming Events

**Wed., Apr. 13, 2011**

**CanWarn Training** London  
7 PM - 4 Points Sheraton Hotel, 1150  
Wellington Road

**Sat., Apr. 16, 2011**

**2011 Durham Region Amateur  
Radio Hamfest - North Shore  
ARC & South Pickering ARC**

Located at Pickering Recreation  
Complex, 1867 Valley Farm Rd. (Just  
one block east of Pickering Town  
Centre)

**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

**Sat., Jun. 25, 2011 -**

**Sun., Jun 26, 2011**

**Field Day - Various Amateur  
Radio Clubs**

Check with your local club for more  
details about what they are doing for  
Field Day.

L.A.R.C. Coordinator - Dave Lambert,  
VE3KGK

**Sat., Jul. 9, 2011**

**Ontario Hamfest - Burlington  
Amateur Radio Club**

Milton Agricultural Fairgrounds, Milton,  
Ontario

**Sat., Jul. 23, 2011 -**

**Sun., Jul. 24, 2011**

**Rona MS Bike Tour - Multiple  
Sclerosis Society of Canada -  
Ontario Division**

Grand Bend to London to Grand Bend  
L.A.R.C. Coordination - Doug Elliott,  
VA3DAE

**Sat., Aug. 20, 2011**

**Hamfest 2011 - Brantford  
Amateur Radio Club**

Held in the Burford Fairgrounds, 6 Park  
Ave., Burford, Ontario

**Sun., Sep. 25, 2011**

**L.A.R.C. 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Flea  
Market - London Amateur  
Radio Club**

Held in the Western Fairgrounds Special  
Events Building, London, Ontario

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.

# 2011/2012 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections continued

***from the LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
INCORPORATED - BY-LAW #1***

### 3. Board of Directors

3.1 The day-to-day affairs of the Corporation shall be arranged by a Board of Directors composed of 7 selected Directors, 1 non-voting Director appointed by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (A.R.E.S.) and the Past President of the Corporation.

3.3 To be eligible to stand for election to the Board of Directors one must be a member in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting at which members of the Board of Directors will be elected.

***This year's Annual Meeting will be held May 13, 2010***

3.4 A Nominating Committee shall be struck by the President at least 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting and it shall begin its activities immediately upon being appointed.

3.4.1 The Committee shall be composed of three members in good standing. The Past President shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.

3.5 The recommendations of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board shall cause such report to be published in the L.A.R.C. Newsletter, which will be sent to all members in good standing as notice of the Annual Meeting. Such report shall also outline the procedure pertaining to additional nominations.

3.6 Additional nominations may be received by the Secretary up to 12 hours prior to the Annual Meeting if submitted by a member in good standing supported by the written agreement of 4 other members and the written acceptance of the nominee.

3.7 The election of the Board of Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting of LARC. The Directors shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members. The Directors shall take office on July 1 of that year.

Please contact the L.A.R.C. Secretary Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO, if you have any nominees or questions. You can reach me at [ragann61@hotmail.com](mailto:ragann61@hotmail.com).

## CANWARN Training Schedule Announced

Hello to everyone and welcome to Spring 2011. While the weather won't be very spring-like in the coming days, it is again time to let everyone know of the dates/venues for this year's CANWARN storm spotter training. 2010 had its share of damaging spring and summer storms that had two significant events...the nocturnal tornadoes and downbursts of June 6 in Southern Essex County (Leamington/Harrow) and the Midland and Washago tornadoes of June 23. Training sessions will again be held across the province and in some locations for the first time as we try to expand the number of watchers in Central and Northeastern Ontario. Randy Mawson will again be doing the training in the Southwest, I'll do the venues in Southcentral Ontario, Peter Kimbell will handle the East and Northeast and Serge Besner will be doing the training in Northwestern Ontario.

Please feel free to pass these dates/venues along to others you think may be interested in coming out for the training. As in previous years, Randy, Peter, Serge and myself will be looking forward to renewing ties with long-time volunteers and welcoming those who are coming out to the training for the first time. As I have stated a number of times over the last few years, CANWARN volunteers continue to be an integral part of Environment Canada's severe weather watch/warning program. I'd like to thank those of you who sent in timely observations of severe weather last season and to those of you who sent or phoned in observations of fog, freezing precipitation and snow accumulations during this past winter. All of these observations are gratefully received by the operational forecasters in the Ontario Storm Prediction Centre.

So without further delay, please find below the dates/venues that have been confirmed so far. Additional dates/venues for Eastern, Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario will be added in coming updates. I'd request again this year if you could RSVP to me which session you plan on attending so I can get a rough idea for numbers at each venue. Once again, thank you for being part of the CANWARN program and for helping to keep your local communities aware of severe weather.

On a final note, over the years a few people have approached me to hold a Toronto training session during a weekday evening since they can't make Saturday mornings. The main Toronto session will be on Saturday, May 7th but if there is sufficient response to me about an evening session in Toronto as well, I have tentatively set aside Wednesday, May 18th at 7 PM here at our headquarters at 4905 Dufferin St. I will confirm if this Toronto evening session is a go in later training updates.

April 12th - 7 PM - Sarnia - Kinsmen Centre Oakroom Room 656 Lakeshore Road  
April 13th - 7 PM - London - 4 Points Sheraton Hotel 1150 Wellington Road  
April 16th - 9 AM - Hamilton - Nash Auditorium Wilcox Building Chedoke Hospital on Sanatorium Road  
April 18th - 7 PM - Leamington - Kinsmen Recreational Complex 249 Sherk St (parking lot access off of Ellison St.)  
April 27th - 7 PM - Kitchener - Bingemans Conference Centre - Ballroom E - 425 Bingemans Centre Drive  
April 30th - 9 AM - Orillia/Rama - Rama Community Hall 5896 Rama Road (across the street from Casino Rama)  
May 5th - 7 PM - Peterborough - Peterborough Public Library (boardroom on lower level) 345 Aylmer St. North  
May 7th - 9 AM - Toronto - Environment Canada Headquarters 4905 Dufferin St.  
May 7th - 9 AM - Ottawa - Nepean Sailing Club - 3259 Carling Ave. Nepean  
May 12th - 7 PM - Dufferin County - Dufferin County Museum at the corner of Highway 89 and Airport Road  
May 14th - 9 AM - Renfrew - venue to be determined  
May 28th - 9 AM - Sudbury - Lionel E. Lalonde Centre 239 Montee Principale in Azilda (15 km west of Sudbury)  
May 29th - 1 PM - Espanola - Pinewood Inn 378 Centre St  
May 30th - 7 PM - Sault Ste. Marie - Venue to be determined  
May 31st - 7 PM - Timmins - Venue to be determined  
June 1st - - Timiscaming Shores - time/venue to be determined  
June 2nd - 7 PM - North Bay - OPP Communications Centre - 877 Gormanville Road  
June 13th - 7 PM - Thunder Bay - McIntyre Building Rm. 195, Confederation College, corner of William and Edward St.  
Other Northwestern Ontario venues (Fort Frances/Emo, Kenora, Dryden)... training to take place June 14 to 17... exact dates and venues to be determined.

Regards,

**Geoff Coulson**

Warning Preparedness Meteorologist | Météorologue de sensibilisation aux conditions menaçantes

Ontario Region Client Services | Service à la clientèle, Région de l'Ontario

Environment Canada | Environnement Canada

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

4905 Dufferin St | 4905 rue Dufferin

Toronto, ON M3H 5T4

[Geoff.Coulson@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Geoff.Coulson@ec.gc.ca)

Telephone | Téléphone 416-739-4466

Website | Site Web [www.weatheroffice.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca)

# RAC Bulletin 2011-008E - Development of A Canadian Field Organization

April 2, 2011

In RAC Bulletin 2010-032 - Vision Statement 2010-11-14, RAC committed itself to the "education and elmering of new Hams", and supporting "the training and coaching of RAC volunteers to achieve exemplary results, at the municipal, provincial and national levels." The new RAC Field Training program is the recognized tool leveraged by our ARES groups.

On December 9, 2010, Vice President Field Services with the support of the Section Managers formed a "Vice President Field Services Council". The Council made the commitment to develop a Canadian "Field Organization". A major part of the new Field Organization will be the existing Field Service, which is key to providing services to the public and the Amateur Radio community. It will also incorporate new functions to better represent our interests to governments at the provincial and municipal levels, provide a strengthened public relations capability, expand the Affiliated Club program with a view to improving the input of Canadian Amateurs with respect to RAC policy development, and bring focus to promoting technical developments. On 24 March, 2011 the RAC Board unanimously approved implementation.

It is envisaged that each Section will form a similar council to oversee development of the Field Organization concept, taking into consideration its unique relationship with provincial governments, geography, relationships with existing regional associations, and the requirements of the individual clubs.

At its second meeting held on 13 January, 2011, the Council approved in principle an ARES Training Management System with the following six objectives:

1. Create a just-in-time training program that delivers task-related skills and knowledge needed by the radio operator or team leader on the first day in a new assignment;
2. Develop the radio operator's abilities through a structured program of practical training under the supervision of a mentor;
3. Standardize qualifications through a family of control documents that identify job tasks,

skills and knowledge, to specified standards, and supplies trainers with prepared course materials;

4. Promote ARES and NTS interoperability with emergency management authorities by embracing the Incident Management/Command System philosophy and exploiting provincially approved IMS/ICS courseware and certifications whenever possible;
5. Institute training quality control and continuous improvement mechanisms; and,
6. Incorporate a professional development approach designed to groom the leaders of tomorrow.

The Council, through a working group, is developing an updated mission statement for the ARES. A second working group under the chair of the Ontario Section Manager has begun development of a "Specification", the foundation document in a training management system. While the focus is initially on modernizing the ARES in order to stay in step with rapidly developing national and provincial emergency management initiatives, ultimately this document will be expanded to include all roles within the RAC Field Organization.

The President and Vice President of Field Services extend an open invitation to all Amateurs with expertise in any aspect of developing the Field Organization to make contact with their Section Manager. Contact information can be found at <http://rac.ca/en/rac/public-service/section-managers/>

Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW  
President, Radio Amateurs of/du Canada

## **Industrial Communications Engineers Founder Mike Koss, W9SU – SK**

April 8 2011

A mid-West legend in amateur radio has also passed from the scene.

Mike Koss, W9SU, of Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away Monday, March 28. According to his friend Brian Smith, W9IND, Koss was found on his workshop floor and paramedics were unable to revive him.

Koss is the founder of Industrial Communication Engineers. He is well known in the Amateur Radio and in the commercial radio communities for his surge protectors, line filters, RF switches and more.

Koss is known as being the heart and soul of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Amateur Radio Club, He designed and maintained one of the best Amateur Radio stations in the Midwest -- the one responsible for cranking out the big signals of Indy 500 Special Event Station W9IMS. Mike was also the driving force behind Special Event Station W87PAX, which commemorated the 1987 Pan American Games in Indianapolis. The station logged more than 23,000 QSOs. Koss was also an

avid Dxr. His 10 meter CQWW record for the 9th Call Area, set in 1989, remains unequalled.

Mike Koss also was actively involved in public service activities: Just last year, he spearheaded a volunteer project that cleaned up and repainted the USS Indianapolis Memorial in downtown Indianapolis, this coming just in time for the survivors' reunion. History tells us the ship was torpedoed in 1945, and only 317 of the original eleven hundred and ninety-six crew members survived the sinking and subsequent shark attacks over a five day period in the Pacific Ocean.

In 2005 Koss was awarded the prestigious Technical Excellence Award for his contributions to the Amateur Radio community. And now, at age 57, Mike Koss W9SU, is a silent key.

Koss will be long remembered for his many contributions to telecommunications and his service to the ham radio community. Services for W9SU were to be held in Whiteland, Indiana, on Saturday, April 3rd. (W8ISH)

## **Hams Respond In Japan Following 8.9 Quake And Tsunami**

March 18 2011

Japan remains under its worst threat to an ever rising toll, widespread destruction, power, fuel and water shortages follow the massive earthquake, tsunami and failed 40-year old nuclear power station.

IARU Region 3 Secretary, Ken Yamamoto JA1CJP said the Japan Amateur Radio League HQ station JA1RL, and other amateur stations, are maintaining their effort to support the disaster operation.

Ken JA1CJP said, "In less damaged areas, the power supply is being restored gradually, and local amateur radio club members have started to establish stations at shelters."

The information is being coordinated, as part of an organized rescue and relief effort. It seems likely to continue for some weeks, and months, to come.

The 8.9 on the Richter scale quake hit off north-eastern Sendai, and triggered a ten-meter tsunami, on last Friday.

Ken JA1CJP, quoting local news sources said, the situation is getting worse. Some reports put the dead and missing at 11,000.

Some 55,000 houses/buildings were damaged by the earthquake and 3,000 houses washed away by the tsunami.

Rescue teams have arrived and started their activities. They came from many nations, including Australia, China, Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, USA, Germany, Switzerland and Russia.

In all, the Japanese government has received help from 91 nations and Territories, and nine international organizations.

Ken JA1CJP said another worry is leakage of radioactive gasses at the Fukushima nuclear plant, which was damaged by the earthquake and tsunami.

A shortage of fuel, disruption to rail and road transport have been reported from many affected areas, still recovering from the worst earthquake in

140 years, followed by a widespread tsunami that swept away so much.

JA1RL continues to operate under instruction to be an emergency traffic centre. Increasingly receiving help from JARL members in the affected area. It is using the 7 MHz, 144 MHz and 430 MHz.

Many other stations are active. Field stations are using various frequencies, including some battery powered and others using small generators.

Each is exchange rescue and disaster relief operation information with JA1RL and others.

While 3525, 7030, 7043 and 7075 have been mentioned as in use, it's wise to keep those, and all of the Centre of Emergency frequencies clear of normal and non-urgent traffic. There is no call for additional foreign radio amateurs.

Again, there is no call for radio amateur's from the United States or any other nation to travel to Japan. There are over 130,000 hams in that nation and they have all of the operators that they need. (JARL, JA1CJP, VK3PC)

## Quake Aftermath: Yaesu Temporarily Halts Production After Quake

March 18 2011

The CQ on-line newsroom reports that production of Yaesu radios at Vertex Standard's factory in Fukushima, Japan, has been temporarily halted. This, due to earthquake damage at that plant.

In an open letter to the amateur radio community, Vertex Standard CEO and President Jun Hasegawa expressed his gratitude for the many "kind words and thoughts about us during this difficult time."

He reports that all Vertex Standard employees and their families are OK, although the company has not been able to reach its many dealers and subcontractors located near the coast.

"We just hope that they are alive," he writes.

Hasegawa also reports that the Yaesu factory in Fukushima suffered "minimal" damage from the earthquake but has been temporarily shut down nonetheless. He says he expects it to be back in normal operation within one to two weeks and asks for everyone's understanding and cooperation.

At this time, there have been no public reports received from any of the other Japanese amateur radio manufacturers.

The closure affects only the Fukushima factory. All others remain in operation. (CQ)

## Quake Science: The Power Of The Japan Quake

March 18 2011

And some stunning statistics about the awesome power of this earthquake. According to the British Broadcasting Company, experts they interviewed say that the massive shaker may have shifted Japan's main coastline by up to 13 feet to the east. This is based on the country's network of 1,200 GPS monitoring stations. The GeoNet GPS network is the world's largest.

Also, the quake may have knocked the planet off its axis by about 6.5 inches. This says the BBC will

cause the Earth to rotate a tiny bit faster and thereby shortening the day by about 1.8 millionths of a second.

The Japan Meteorological Agency has raised the quake's magnitude to 9 while the U.S. Geological Survey still has it rated at magnitude 8.9. The Japan Meteorological Agency has also officially named the tembler "The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake." (BBC via Facebook)

## FCC Offers Technical Expertise To Japan

March 25 2011

The FCC has offered its counterpart in Japan any assistance that it might be able to render. This, as recovery efforts continue in the wake of the March 11th earthquake and Tsunami.

According to the trade publication Radio World, soon after the devastating events occurred, the FCC made contact with officials in Japan. This, to offer any help on the telecommunications front that it might be able to supply.

Tom Sullivan is the spokesperson for the FCC International Bureau. He is quoted as saying that his agency has reached out to its regulatory contacts in Japan and is also working with the State Department and the National Telecommunications & Information Administration to consider what assistance the FCC might be able to provide.

According to Sullivan, soon after the massive earthquake that hit Haiti, the FCC took a proactive role. This included providing technical assistance on emergency communications as well as passing along offers of help from private industry.

But Sullivan also notes that Japan is a different situation. It's a nation with its own very robust communications system. He says that on the telecommunications front Japan is very well prepared for a situations like this. Nevertheless, Sullivan says that the FCC will be able to offer its expertise should it be asked.

In the article, Tom Sullivan noted that the FCC International Bureau could serve as a contact point for anyone in industry seeking information on whether and how they might be able to help but at this point in time no telecommunications assistance requests have been received. You can read more at [tinyurl.com/fccjapan](http://tinyurl.com/fccjapan). (RW, B&C)

## Ham Radio Support Continues Following March 11th Quake

April 1, 2011

Ham radio remains an important part of recovery and relief efforts in Japan. This following the earthquake and tsunami that hit on March 11th that was followed by the still ongoing problems at the Fukushima nuclear electric generating plant.

According to Steve Herman, W7VOA, the Japan Amateur Radio League or JARL has been involved in emergency communications support from the beginning of the triple pronged tragedy. Steve, who spent a week in Japan reporting for the Voice of America says that the initial traffic involved finding routes for those first and second responders trying reach the disaster areas. That was mainly done by JA3RL as control station. JA1RL took its place in the later stage in forming the network for communications to and between disaster scenes.

Since then, volunteer medical staff who are hams have been to disaster areas. They have been supported by both the JARL and the Japanese Self Defense Forces. Additionally, hand-held transceivers have now been supplied to evacuation centers. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications has provided special call signs for each HT so that unlicensed people can use them.

As to use of the Internet by hams, Steve tells Newsline that there has been some traffic passed between Japan and Europe through WIRES chat room 0522. WIRES is Yaesu based radio to Internet connection system similar to Echolink. Details of the traffic is viewable in the Japanese language at [twitter.com/#!/JARL\\_ARESC](http://twitter.com/#!/JARL_ARESC)

And this late word from Jim Linton, VK3PC. He reports that a small amount of internal High Frequency communications for disaster relief is still being operated occasionally by some volunteer radio amateurs. But says Linton, the Japan Amateur Radio League Headquarters stations were off the air by Friday, March 25th, their local time. VHF and UHF operations are likely ongoing.

Obviously, this is an ongoing story and we will have more with it in the weeks ahead.

In his note to us, W7VOA did include a ray of hope for some. He says that he spotted a number of High Frequency yagi antennas in Sendai at some houses close to where the tsunami struck. The good news is that those were intact. (W7VOA, VK3PC, JARL, others)

## Restructuring: Russian Federation Adopts CEPT Licensing

March 18 2011

It should soon be easier to use amateur radio gear while visiting the Russian Federation. This, following its decision to join the CEPT Radio Amateur License agreement.

At a recent meeting the Russian State Commission for Radio Frequencies, it was decided that the

Russian Federation will accept CEPT Recommendation for the CEPT Radio Amateur License and the CEPT Novice permit. The commission plans to advise CEPT Working Group R A of its decision in the near future. Working Group R A will be meeting in May and September.

IARU Region 1 says that it considers this a major step forward to eventually permit worldwide radio amateur roaming. CEPT licensing means that all nations accepting this recommendation also accept

any other signatory's ham license, subject to certain limitations as valid in those nations as well. (Press Release)

## Ham Radio to end in Europe by 2020

March 31, 2011

Amateur radio as we know it could be extinct in Europe by the year 2020. That is the only possible conclusion to draw from an unpublished EU policy document that has been leaked to several ham radio bloggers. The document proposes that existing RFI standards protecting the short wave frequencies be torn up as "preventing the use or increasing the cost of essential technology in order to protect the activities of a small number of hobbyists makes no political sense." This policy has already been [unofficially in place at the UK's Ofcom](#), which was one of the major contributors to the report.

The report suggests that withdrawing the standards relating to short wave RFI would save significant costs by removing the need to deal with complaints about interference. It also suggests that the UK Telecommunications Act (and similar laws in other EU countries) be amended to remove any right to protection from interference of the broadcast, amateur or CB services.

To support its recommendations the report claims that "short wave broadcasting is in rapid decline, with most broadcasters moving to the internet" and that "the intended use of Citizens Band as a personal communications service has largely been replaced by cellphone usage." Amateur radio, it says, carries "little communication of any importance that could not be made using the telephone, cellular network or the internet." The main use of ham radio, it suggests, is "largely recreational" and could be replaced by "online simulations and VOIP chat services." Hams could also make more use of the largely interference-free bands above 400MHz which otherwise could be sold to commercial users. Radio amateurs "could still experiment with radio in the time-honoured manner, they just should not expect to be able to enjoy interference-free reception on the short waves."

The reason why the authorities wish to remove the protection of our frequencies becomes clear when you read the part of the report that describes forthcoming technologies that are expected to cause problems with RFI compliance. In order to meet carbon emissions targets and deal with expected power shortages caused by the early closure of nuclear power plants in countries such as Germany, the EU plans to introduce [smart grids](#) in all European nations by 2020. These smart grids use BPL technology to communicate with [smart meters](#) in each individual home. The smart meters, in turn, use PLT technology to communicate with smart devices in order to regulate their use. When demand for electricity is high, power cuts or the switching on of expensive standby power stations can be avoided by shutting off inessential devices instead. Examples of inessential devices given in the report include amateur radio linear amplifiers - assuming it's still possible to hear anything on short wave over the BPL and PLT QRM in the first place, of course.

The EU is also proposing that 80% of properties in member states should be equipped with solar panels by 2020. To achieve this target, installation costs will be heavily subsidized by governments, which clearly want to cut costs as far as possible. Estimates produced by a Chinese manufacturer of solar power systems suggest the cost saving that would result from eliminating the need for RFI suppression circuits in the power converters would amount to 4 billion Euro for the whole of Europe.

The report concludes that "the cost of protecting the short wave spectrum from interference from technologies that are essential to be installed throughout Europe in the next decade to meet emissions targets and maintain the well-being of all European citizens is quite simply prohibitive" and urges that EU Commissioners pass the necessary laws by [1st April 2012](#).

Julian Moss, G4ILO

## Solar Radio Storm Could Mean Improved Propagation

April 8 2011

Some good news for hams awaiting the return of decent propagation. Spaceweather reported on March 28th that a large number of emerging sunspots has kicked off what it termed as days-long radio storm on the sun. According to the on-line newsletter, VHF receivers on Earth were picking up loud bursts that sound like waves crashing on a beach. Spaceweather says that this ongoing event continues a recent trend of increasing activity as Solar Cycle 24 heats up.

Then over the weekend of April 2nd and 3rd a solar wind stream hit that Earth's magnetic field over the weekend of sent a wave of deep sky auroras over northern tier of the United States. According to

Spaceweather.com, the Northern Lights were pale-white to the naked eye, but digital cameras revealed spectacular colors and luminous shapes above Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and elsewhere.

Meantime, on the ground some hams on 6 meters and above heard or made contact with distant stations not usually heard on these bands. You can easily tell a contact made via aurora propagation by its raspy CW note or gargely voice sound.

For images and audio go to [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com). (Spaceweather)

## FCC Launches New Website In Beta Test

April 8 2011

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a complete overhaul of the agency's web site. In making the announcement the regulatory agency says that the new design will improve and simplify the FCC website experience for consumers, government, public safety agencies and the business community.

The Commission says that its new web site design was shaped by public feedback and sharpened through an ongoing conversation with users over the past several months. It also represents the Commission's first overhaul of its main web site in more than a decade. You can try it for yourself at [beta.fcc.gov](http://beta.fcc.gov). (FCC)

## Weird Science: Man Becomes Dental Transmitter

April 1, 2011

From the "stranger than strange file" comes this story about some odd radio transmissions. You are not going to believe where they came from.

We have all heard stories about people who had dental work and then started hearing radio signals due to the amalgam in their teeth. Well, this one goes a bit further. It seems a man, who has asked us to keep his identify private, had major reconstructive jaw surgery in the medical center of the University of Southern North Dakota. This involved some dental wiring and internal jaw bracing. Somehow, some way, the new metal work came into contact with previously existing silver fillings - that combination created some sort of transmitter.

The condition was first noticed when the patient coughed. His loud coughing started reverberating through the medical center's public address system causing everyone to wonder what was going on. Then a conversation he had with his wife came

through some car radios in the hospital parking lot, specifically at the lower end of the FM broadcast band. Finally, physicians relaxing in the doctor's lounge heard loud scratching noises through a desktop FM radio - this turned out to be the patient brushing his teeth. The man himself found out what was going when his sneezing fit was heard over an MP3 player being used by a patient two floors up, who came down to see what the racket was.

Due to confidentiality rules, no one would talk to us on the record about this case. But the man in question, know known by local amateur radio clubs as the first "human repeater," has had the necessary wire adjustments for this strange phenomenon to go away. He was said to be much relieved that he can now clear his throat and not worry about blowing away someone's hearing aid.

A spokesman for the Federal Medical Radio Commission which investigates these weird April

1st phenomena says that this is one of those odd instances where the forces of nature and advances in technology combine to wreak havoc on the radio spectrum. None the less it is considering issuing

the unlucky patient a Notice of Violation for operating as a radio transmitter without a license. (K6PZW)

## **NASA Asks You To Vote On Astronaut Wake-Up Song**

April 8 2011

NASA is offering the public a chance to vote for your favorite tunes to be played as the wake up song during the STS-134 mission, which is currently scheduled to launch on April 19th. Voting

will be open until mission launch day. You can listen to the songs nominated and cast your vote at [tinyurl.com/4peh55m](http://tinyurl.com/4peh55m)

## **ARISSAT-1 To Be On The Air To Celebrate Gagarin's Flight**

April 8 2011

The ARISSat-1 satellite, presently still inside the ISS, will be turned on and use an external antenna from the afternoon of April 11th through the morning of April 13th. This, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first manned space flight.

The transmissions on the 12th will see ARISSat-1 in low power mode This means 40 to 60 seconds on and 2 minutes off. Event planners say that this should be a challenge for hams on the ground to find and tune the CW signal then decode some

BPSK data during the short on times. As an aside, this mode was developed to be used when the batteries are low or the satellite is in eclipse.

AMSAT says that it will also support this event and issue certificates to those stations reporting reception of the ARISSat-1 signals. Russia's Roscosmos space management agency has announced that ARISSat-1 will be deployed into orbit during the next space walk in July of this year. (WA4SXM)

## **ARISS Celebrates 600th School Contact**

March 25 2011

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, better known by the acronym ARISS, reached a milestone on Thursday, March 17th. This, when it held its 600th space to ground contact between astronaut Cady Coleman, KC5ZTH on board the International Space Station and students from several schools in Plock and Liszyno, Poland.

The contact supported lessons about space and space exploration, communication and technology.

Scout Amateur Radio Club S-P-5-Zed-B-A handled the radio connection during which the astronaut Coleman fielded 19 space related questions from the students at the two schools.

Nearly 120 people were in the audience and there was also extensive media coverage. This included newspapers, four scientific magazines, one radio magazine, a television station, national radio and two internet portals. (Southgate)

## **Two More Astronauts Pass Their Amateur Exam**

March 18 2011

Two more Astronauts are now licensed radio amateurs. According to AMSAT, Luca Parmitano, who is slated to fly on Expedition 36 and Chris Cassidy who is assigned Expedition 35 both passed their amateur radio license exams on March 8th.

On March 9th, Michael Hopkins completed his ARISS introductory course and is currently

preparing for his amateur radio license exam. Hopkins is slated to fly with Expedition 37 in September of 2013.

Lastly, an ARISS refresher course was provided to Chris Hadfield, KC5RNJ/VA3OOG on March 11. Hadfield is currently scheduled for Expedition 34 in November of 2012. (AMSAT)

## Two New Astro-Hams

March 25 2011

And a follow-up to last weeks story about a pair of Astronauts who had been tested and had passed the Amateur Service exams. Since then, Luca Parmitano has been issued the call sign KF5KDP

and Chris Cassidy received KF5KDR. Both passed their tests on March 8th are slated to fly on future International Space Station expeditions. (ARISS)

## Opposition Grows To Selloff Of 420 To 440 MHz

April 1, 2011

An article in USA Today about the concern by radio amateurs and others involved in rescue radio over aspects of House of Representatives measure HR-607 is sweeping the nation and its emergency preparedness community. And it turns out that there is growing opposition to a part of the bill that affects the 420 to 440 MHz band.

According to the USA Today article, those lining up in opposition to a provision in HR-607 that would sell off 420 to 440 MHz as a way off offsetting part of the cost of establishing a new nationwide interoperable emergency system is growing. In fact, its starting to read like a whose who in emergency communications. This includes such notables as the National Weather Service, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and a the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council to name only a few.

As most of you are aware, Representative Peter King, of New York who is the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, introduced legislation last month. Its purpose is to enhance emergency communications for first responders by providing them with exclusive bandspace for public safety use.

Nobody opposes that idea. What is controversial is a provision of the measure that would allow the auctioning off of 420 to 440 MHz. Those who oppose that provision say that the spectrum in question is not just for radio hobbyists. Rather, it is also used by hundreds of thousands of Amateur Radio Emergency Service volunteers and severe-weather spotters working with National Weather Service and other agencies.

And among those speaking out is Harlin McEwen. McEwen s the chairman of a technology committee for the International Association of Chiefs of Police and a spokesman for the National Public Safety

Telecommunications Council. He's on record as saying that the reallocation of 420 to 440 MHz is a bad idea and one that's not good for public safety.

But the USA Today article is not the only one noting that emergency responders are taking issue with Representative King's band sell-off approach. Another in-depth piece the Great Falls Montana Tribune goes into even greater detail than U-S-A Today. Among other things, the Tribune article states that there are nearly 5,000 amateur radio volunteers in Montana, and many of them provide a backup communication system that emergency responders state wide and across the country depend on. This, when cellular telephones, satellite phones or other radio systems don't work.

Ryan Nicholls, the Director of the Office of Emergency Management in Springfield, Missouri takes it even a bit further. He notes that use of ham radio volunteers is the way in which that state plans to communicate between hospitals and the Red Cross in the event of an emergency. Nicholls notes that this is even written into that city's emergency operations plan.

Both articles do a good job of pointing out the false economy of selling off the 420 to 440 MHz band.

And all this negative publicity may be taking its toll on at least one of those backing HR-607. Representative Billy Long of Missouri who is a co-sponsor of the bill is quoted in USA Today as saying that he will work to ensure that we are not cutting any vital emergency services and not adversely affecting ham radio operations.

You can read the entire USA Today article at [tinyurl.com/4tvz4br](http://tinyurl.com/4tvz4br). The Great Falls Tribune piece is at [tinyurl.com/4typ6bg](http://tinyurl.com/4typ6bg). (USA Today, Great Falls Tribune, N6ZXJ, W6RH, others)

## Hamvention On-Line Reservation System Now Operating Properly

April 1, 2011

Bill Curtice, WA8APB, says that the Hamvention's on-line reservation system at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org) is functioning properly. In a posting to their on-line Hamvention List that he moderates, Curtice says that those in charge are aware that a month or more ago there had been a problem with Flea Market spaces that was isolated to pricing of end-cap spaces that could have caused an issue with credit card statements. This was a database error that they believed was corrected.

Curtice says that the fix required hand editing, which took time and notes that it is entirely

possible that some requests were missed. If you are one of those, Curtice asks that you contact them directly and that they will be happy to remedy the situation for you.

WA8APB also notes there is some confusion about General Admission Tickets vs. Vendor Admission Tickets. Flea Market Vendors should always choose Vendor Admission, not General Admission, unless directed otherwise by the Hamvention. Curtice says that this has caused some problems as well. (WA8APB via Hamvention® List)

## Astronaut Doug Wheelock, KB5BOC, To Host Hamvention Forum

March 25 2011

Some names in the news. First up is NASA Astronaut Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, will be holding forth at his own forum at the 2011 Dayton Hamvention. Wheelock returned to Earth in November of 2010 after serving as Commander of the International Space Station will speak from 1:15 to 2:15 P.M. on Saturday, May 21st in Hara Arena Meeting Room 3.

During his stay on-orbit, KF5BOC along with fellow Astronaut Shannon Walker, KD5DXB, regularly participated in the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program or ARISS program during which he made some two dozen general contacts each day he was on the air. Colonel Wheelock is expected to share his experiences about space flight and using amateur radio in space. (Dayton Hamvention®)

## International Marconi Day – April 30<sup>th</sup>

March 11 2011

This year's International Marconi Day takes place on Saturday April 30th. This is not a contest but there are several awards available for working the officially listed stations, each of which has an

historic connection with Marconi. The event is organized by the Cornish Amateur Radio Club. For more information please visit the club's website at [crac.g4usb.net/cracblog](http://crac.g4usb.net/cracblog). (GB2RS)

## Austrian Broadcasting Corporation To Operate International Marconi Day

March 18 2011

The Amateur Radio Section of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation, in conjunction with the Documentary Archives Radio Communications QSL Collection will operate station OE11M from 0000 hours UTC on April 29th to 23:59 UTC on May 1st.

OE11M is an official International Marconi Day station and contacts made on April 30th are valid for the International Marconi Day Award. If you do work this station QSL via the OE bureau or direct to OE1WHC. (Southgate)

# LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

34rd ANNUAL  
2011 FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25th  
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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Ruth Dahl VE3RBO  
Apt #805 700 Wonderland Rd N  
London ON N6H 4V3

# **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).



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<input type="checkbox"/> Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd	
Sticker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd	

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PLEASE PRINT

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

---

Member # 1    Last Name \_\_\_\_\_    First Name \_\_\_\_\_    Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RAC Member?    RAC Member #    ARES Volunteer?    Email Address

No     Yes    \_\_\_\_\_     Yes     No    \_\_\_\_\_

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Member # 2    Last Name \_\_\_\_\_    First Name \_\_\_\_\_    Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RAC Member?    RAC Member #    ARES Volunteer?    Email Address

No     Yes    \_\_\_\_\_     Yes     No    \_\_\_\_\_

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Member # 3    Last Name \_\_\_\_\_    First Name \_\_\_\_\_    Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RAC Member?    RAC Member #    ARES Volunteer?    Email Address

No     Yes    \_\_\_\_\_     Yes     No    \_\_\_\_\_

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Member # 4    Last Name \_\_\_\_\_    First Name \_\_\_\_\_    Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

RAC Member?    RAC Member #    ARES Volunteer?    Email Address

No     Yes    \_\_\_\_\_     Yes     No    \_\_\_\_\_

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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  
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P.O. Box 82, Station B  
London, Ontario, N6A 4V3