

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

November 4, 2012

L.A.R.C. Executive

President

David Lambert, VE3KGK

1st Vice-President, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

2nd Vice-President

Mike Watts, VE3ACW

Past President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Treasurer

Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB

Secretary, Flea Market

Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO

Director, Flea Market

Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

Director

Pat Ross, VE3CNX

Non-Voting Director, ARES & CANWARN

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

Appointments

Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

Repeater

Operator/Programmer

Vacant

Field Day Coordinator

Pat Ross, VE3CNX

Webmaster

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

Newsletter Editor

John Visser, VA3MSV

Auditor

Rob Hockin, VA3HO

October's L.A.R.C. Meeting

The next LARC meeting will be **Thursday, December 13 at 6:30 pm**. This meeting will be our annual potluck dinner. We'd like you to arrive earlier than usual so can get the meal under way quickly. Bring along your favourite dish to share with your Ham friends, and enjoy a holiday meal and a social evening. Spouses/Significant Others are welcome to join in as well.



Silent Keys

November 22, 2012

Our condolences goes out to Tom Cobban, VA3TAC and his family for the loss of his father, Laverne Cobban, VE3ZLC. A memorial service was held in Strathroy on November 26, 2012 at Denning Bros. Funeral Home. Laverne was member of the London Amateur Radio Club.

December 2, 2012

Our condolences goes out to Mary Jane Doan and her family for the loss of her husband Warren Doan, VE3EGQ. A funeral service was held in St. Thomas on December 8, 2012 at Williams Funeral Home. Warren was a member of Elgin St. Thomas Amateur Radio Society.

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on December 13, 2012 at 6:30 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 January 10, 2013. **DO NOT GO TO THE CHURCH for January's meeting.** We have arranged a tour of London's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) with a presentation by Dave Colvin, VE3DGC. The EOC is located in the Byron Firehall, between the Library and the Byron Bridge. We do have a limitation on how many people we can accommodate - if you want to attend, please sign up by sending an email saying so to canoe.eh@gmail.com

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

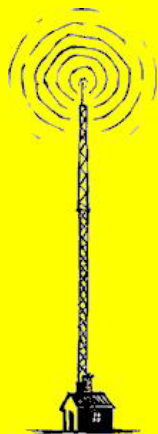
Stratfordville

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



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

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

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 for the London Amateur Radio Club stand at 82. Of the 16 Honorary Members brought in from the L.S.R.C., 3 have paid for the current 2012/2013 year. For the 2012/2013 year, we so far have 5 new members.

I would like to welcome the following new members.

Gary Burton, VE3JEA

Geoffrey Clark, Call Sign pending

Tim Clark, Call Sign pending

Don Sefanik, VA3KBC

Darrell Smiley, VE3DLY

Nets



Daily

ONTARS Net

3.755 MHz 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

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

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 + VA3LON 8:00 pm

SATERN Net

147.180 + VE3TTT 9:00 pm

444.400 + VE3SUE 9:00 pm

Tuesday

ELMER Net

147.060 + VA3LON 9:00 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

The Foundation License Proposed by RAC

This is something we should all read up on in order to give our feedback to RAC. It represents a major change to the way Ham radio is licensed in Canada, and we should be ready to provide our input. Information on the RAC recommendation can be found at:

[RAC Foundation Class Proposal](#) (35 Page PDF file, 846 KB)

[Background Info - Powerpoint](#) (33 screens, PPT file, 1.2 MB)

[Restructuring - Committee Report](#) (45 slides, PPT file, 808 KB)

Due to the number of pages that each file is, the links to the files have only been included. The L.A.R.C. Executive asks that you take a look at this information. Your feedback would be helpful.

RAC Bulletin 2012-065E - Bob Nash, VE3KZ appointed to Hall of Fame

2012-11-08

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame is pleased to appoint Robert Nash VE3KZ of Milton, ON to the Hall of Fame. Bob will be presented with this award at a meeting to be arranged in Toronto in early 2013, at which time a more detailed summary of his contributions to amateur radio will be published in The Canadian Amateur magazine.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame must be submitted by Sept. 30th annually. The appointment is to recognize an amateur for outstanding achievement for sustained service to amateur radio in Canada, or amateur radio at large. The Board of Trustees consists of an amateur radio representative from each province of Canada.

Radio Amateurs of Canada congratulates Bob Nash on this award.

Ed Frazer VE7EF

Chair, Board of Trustees, Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Radio Amateurs of Canada

_*

Vernon Ikeda - VE2MBS/VE2QQ, Pointe-Claire, Québec

RAC Blog Editor/RAC E-News/Web News Bulletin Editor

RAC Bulletin 2012-066E - Bill Unger, VE3XT Ontario North/East Director Acclaimed

2012-11-22

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Bill Unger, VE3XT who was recently acclaimed as the RAC Director for Ontario North East. Mr. Unger ran unopposed, eliminating the need for a balloted election. His term as Director will be for two years starting January 1, 2013 and ending on December 31, 2014.

Mr. Unger has been an amateur operator since 1970 and has been involved in many aspects of the hobby.

G Linda Friars, VE9GLF - Radio Amateurs of Canada

Insurance Program Administrator - Acting Corporate Secretary

_*

Vernon Ikeda - VE2MBS/VE2QQ, Pointe-Claire, Québec

RAC Blog Editor/RAC E-News/Web News Bulletin Editor

Upcoming Events

Sat., Feb. 23, 2013

[Burlington Spring Fleamarket](#) –
Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Royal Canadian Legion - 828 Legion
Rd., Burlington

Sat., Mar. 23, 2013

[Ham-Ex 2013](#) – Peel &
Mississauga ARC
Brampton Fall Fair Grounds - 12942
Heart Lake Rd.
(43.77121N, -79.8298W)

Sat., Jul. 13, 2013

[Ontario Hamfest](#) – Burlington
Amateur Radio Club
Milton Agricultural Fairgrounds, Milton,
Ontario

Sun., Jun. 2, 2013

[Central Ontario Hamfest &
Fleamarket](#) - Guelph ARC &
Kitchener-Waterloo ARC
Waterloo Regional Police Association
Recreation Centre, R.R. 2, 1128 Rife
Rd. North Dumfries Township. Beside
Hwy 401, between exits 268 & 275

Every Saturday Morning

starting at 8:30 am.
Breakfast at the Cottage
Restaurant. Located across the
street from the London Police
Station on Dundas St.

If you have an upcoming event
that you would like to have
listed here, please forward the
information to John Visser,
VA3MSV at
va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll
add it to the list.

Canadian Radio Club Wants Weather Transmitter In Minden

November 9, 2012

A Canadian amateur radio club is lobbying for a new severe weather alert transmitting station in the county it serves. The Minden Times reports that on October 26th the Minden Amateur Radio Club members of the club which is one of the oldest in Haliburton County, gathered for their weekly meeting. At that time club President Dorian Young, VE3YBG, put forth the idea of getting a transmitter in Minden for the purpose of emergency weather alert situations.

One of the special guests at the gathering was Gord Maybee of Weatheradio Canada who connected the group via a conference call to Denis Paquette of Environment Canada. Paquette told the group the average amount of time it takes to get a transmitter is two years, after specifics such as scouting a location and installation are factored in.

At the meeting VE3YBG noted that there have been two weather emergencies in the past few years, one being a massive snowstorm and another wind storm. He noted that with Minden hosting the Pan Am Games in 2015 it would be a wonderful addition to have a weather transmitter in the area. Young added that the radio club is eager to make this happen.

Currently, the closest transmitter is in Orillia, however, members of the club argued Haliburton County does not receive adequate or timely information from that location. While there used to be a transmitter in nearby Algonquin Park that unit is no longer operational.

More is on-line at www.tinyurl.com/minden-weather-radio (Minden Times, Minden Amateur Radio Club)

Santa Claus is Coming to 3.916 Again!!

November 23, 2012

Once again this year, **Santa Claus** will be appearing on the 3.916 Nets and he's looking forward to talking to all the good boys and girls. Pass the word that **3.916 will be THE PLACE to talk to Santa again this year!**

Here's a schedule of when Santa will be on the air: (All Times Central)

Friday, November 30th at 8:30 PM
Tuesday, December 4th at 8:30 PM
Thursday, December 6th at 8:30 PM
Tuesday, December 11th at 8:30 PM
Friday, December 14th at 8:30 PM
Monday, December 17th at 8:30 PM
Wednesday, December 19th at 8:30 PM
Friday, December 21st at 8:30 PM
Saturday, December 23rd at 8:30 PM
Sunday, December 24th at 8:30 PM

Third party rules and regulations will apply. For more information on The 3916 Santa Net, email ke5ggy@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and Best 73,
Peter W. Thomson, KE3GGY – Aubrey, Texas



HF Corner for December 2012

by David Lambert, VE3KGK

Editor Note: You can hear Dave make an HF contact on YouTube at the following link.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQky1tug-MY>

Nov 20 to Dec 11	C6	Bahamas	CQ WW CW, ARRL 160m, ARRL 10m Contests
Nov 26 to Dec 11	8Q7AU	Maldive Is	80-10m SSB
Dec 1 to 31	C6AGG	Bahamas	80-10m SSB/ some CW
Dec 1 to Jan 31	C6AGT	Bahamas	40-10m SSB/maybe PSK31/JT65
Dec 2 to 11	J6	St. Lucia	ARRL 10m phone contest
Dec 2 to 18	PJ2	Curacao	ARRL 10m phone contest
Dec 3 to 10	P40CX	Aruba	ARRL 10m phone contest
Dec 3 to 31	EA8	Canary Is.	
Dec 4 to 10	YN5ZO	Nicaragua	40-10m SSB/RTTY
Dec 5 to 12	V63XG	Micronesia	40-6m mainly CW
Dec 6 to 10	PY0FRP	Fernando de Noronha	40-10m plus ARRL 10m contest
Dec 7 to 11	C6AVA	Bahamas	Mainly CW
Dec 7 to 11	TA3J/ON	Belgium	160-2 m SSB/FM
Dec 8 to 9	V31NO	Belize	ARRL 10m phone contest
Dec 8 to 9	ZF1A	Cayman Is	ARRL 10m phone contest
Dec 8 to 31	5W0KR	Samoa	Mainly 20m/10m
Dec 8 to Mar 3	5WORK	Samoa	20-10 m SSB/Digital modes
Dec 10 to 13	JD1BLY	Ogasawara	40-10m SSB/CW
Dec 10 to Jan 5	E51E	South Cook Is	SSB/RTTY and maybe 40 m CW
Dec 10 to Mar 3	8J6HAM	Island of Kyushu Japan	all bands and using many modes
Dec 17 for 20 wks	7P8RI	Lesotho	all HF bands CW/SSB/Digital modes
Dec 22 to Jan 7	H40FN	Temotu Grp	160-6m mostly CW
Dec 22 to Jan 2	V5	Namibia	160-6m SSB/CW
Dec 22 to Jan 12	V5	Namibia	160-10m SSB/RTTY
Dec 24 to Jan 6	T8CW	Palau	160-6m RTTY/PSK31/JT65A
Dec 26 to Jan 3	8Q7MS	Maldives	80-10m SSB
Until Dec 13	C6AGG	Grand Bahama Island	Holiday style, 80-10 m SSB/CW
Until the new year	6Y5	Jamaica	17-10m SSB
Until mid-Jan	TG9/KF5LSG	Guatemala	
Next 3-4 years	TJ3SN	Cameroon	HF bands plus 6 m various modes

A few nice ones this month and even a couple I need. Wish me luck!

The ARRL 10m phone contest is on Dec 8 and 9, starting at 0000UTC on Friday evening and running through to 2359:59UTC on Sunday evening.

Exchange VE's and US stations give signal report and Province/State

DX stations will give signal report and a sequential number starting at 001.

You will send 5/9 ON and will receive 5/9 plus either a two letter State identifier, or 5/9 and a number.

This number denotes how many contacts the DX station has worked.

Try working a few. The contacts will be quite quick and the contesters are not interested in your name or what rig you are using or your antenna. Just your signal report and ON.

Have fun!

See you all at the Pot Luck at 7:00pm (or earlier!) at St. Judes Church. I'd like to hear about your exploits in the contest.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and DX-filled 2013.

Editor Note: The 2012 operation 5X1EME from Uganda has been approved for DXCC credit. If you have a card for this operation you can submit it to checkers to be added to your DXCC total.

New HT With GSM Phone Not Legal In USA

November 9, 2012



A mainland China company called Puxing has announced what might be the ultimate in hand held two-way gear, but the chances are that you will never see one in the United States. At least not legally and the reason for this is simple.

The PX-D03 combines a GSM cellular telephone with a dual-band two-way radio and as a bonus can also be used as an MP3 player for your favorite tunes. And under the current FCC rules, combining a two-way radio with a cellphone

makes the unit illegal to import, buy, sell or use in the USA or its possessions.

According to the specifications posted on-line by one China-based mail order retailer, the PX-D03

covers 136 to 174 and 400 to 470 MHz as a full dual band two-way transceiver with a total of 128 memory channels. It can be computer programmed and features what Puxing calls a human-based operational interface.

On the cellphone side, the GSM-based unit carries dual SIM cards, has text messaging, and a built-in front-facing camera. And if that were not all, the unit also contains an FM radio that receives the 87.5 to 108 MHz broadcast band, the aforementioned MP3 player plus other entertainment including several games.

As being advertised, the PX-D03 comes with a 3.7v Lithium-Ion battery, a charging stand and power supply for the country the purchaser lives in; two antennas, a soft case and a remote plug in earpiece. According to one of the websites advertising the unit, the total cost is \$151 shipped world-wide. (*Southgate*)

Emerging Technology: More Testing At WWVB

November 9, 2012

WWVB, the 60 kHz station most often used as our nation's time and frequency standard, is continuing to test its phase modulated mode and may switch between their legacy AM mode and their new

phase modulated mode in the days and weeks ahead. Stay tuned and keep listening on 60 kHz for their ongoing experiments. (*CGC, WWVB*)

Emerging Technology: Boeing Unveils EMP Drone

November 16, 2012

From our technology page, it appears as if science fiction has become a military fact. This after a successful missile test has ushered in a new era of warfare in which the military can take out electronic targets without destroying a single building or harming human beings.

According to news reports, back on October 16th an experimental missile called CHAMP fired bursts of high power microwave energy at an unoccupied site to damage computers and other electronic systems during a test at the Utah Test and Training Range. The Counter Electronics High Power Microwave Advanced Missile Project flew over the Utah test site and brought down the compound's entire spectrum of electronic systems, apparently without producing any other damage at all. Even cameras recording the test was shut down.

Keith Coleman is the CHAMP program manager for Boeing Phantom Works. He says that in the near future this technology may be used to render an enemy's electronic and data systems useless even before the first troops or aircraft arrive.

The idea of using microwaves or electromagnetic pulses to knock out electronic systems without having to reduce cities or military bases to rubble first arose during Cold War nuclear tests. There scientists found that explosions created electromagnetic pulses that damaged some civilian power grids and other facilities.

It will be interesting to see where the development of this new electronic warfare device goes in years to come. (*Science OnLine, Business Insider, Discovery News, others*)

Dayton 2013 Is A DX Hamvention

November 16, 2012

The Dayton Hamvention has announced its theme for 2013.

When the 2013 Dayton Hamvention opens its doors next May 17th the theme will be that of it being the DX Hamvention. This according to General Chairman Charles Kaiser who says that this name will reflect the distant contact which is an important part of ham radio.

Kaiser says that the Dayton Hamvention is often an important DX destination for amateurs from around the globe to visit. Also, working DX is often a mix of band conditions, the diligent application of radio theory and of course a little bit of magic.

Kaiser noted that many attendees return to Dayton each year to meet other hams that they have talked to on the radio. He says that the quest for

that distant contact advances amateur radio on many levels so the Hamvention team is honoring DX in all of its forms this year.

In the same press release, Kaiser announced that Jim Tideman, N8IDS, will serve as his assistant General Chairman for 2013. Kaiser says that Tideman has been active in Hamvention for many years and brings a natural leadership style to the Hamvention Team.

Hamvention 2013 will take place next May 17th to the 19th at its traditional home at the Hara Arena in suburban Trotwood, Ohio For more information please visit <http://www.hamvention.org/> on the World-Wide-Web or e-mail media@hamvention.org. And as always, we will see you there. *(Dayton Hamvention)*

Emerging Technology: New Chinese Data Mode CP-16 Announced

November 23, 2012

China makes news again this week with word that hams in that nation have developed their own new data mode. One based on characters in the Chinese alphabet.

Up until now, most amateur radio data modes have been based around the English alphabet. The problem is that does not work well for languages that are built around graphic characters rather than letters. Because of this the Chinese Radio Amateurs Club has been working since 2011 on a project to develop a new data mode called CP-16, which stands for Chinese character Pattern of 16 x 16 dot-matrixes.

To achieve the goal of allowing easy communication at very low signal to noise ratio, CP-16 is designed to directly transmit the graphic image of Chinese a character one line at a time at about 10 milliseconds per line but adjustable according to propagation and other conditions. This makes the total transmission speed of 2 to 5

characters per second, which is suitable for real-time reading.

To make the system work, CP-16 uses 16 on-off keyed audio carriers spaced at 17 Hz intervals, with the total bandwidth under 400 Hz. A CP-16 message can be received by any Software Defined Receiver or the combination of an ordinary SSB receiver and a computer equipped with any type of SDR audio analyzing software that produces the traditional waterfall display. The text will be directly shown on the waterfall graph. Designers say that the human brain can then easily filter out all sorts of noise and correctly pick out the character.

A paper on the work was presented by the Chinese Radio Amateurs Club to the International Amateur Radio Union Region 3 conference held recently in Vietnam. It can be seen at www.tinyurl.com/CP16-data. *(IARU Region 3)*

Emerging Technology: Increasing Efficiency Of Wireless Networks

November 23, 2012

Professors at the University of California, Riverside Bourns College of Engineering have apparently developed a way of doubling the efficiency of wireless networks. According to researchers Yingbo Hua and Ping Liang it appears the doubling of efficiency could be achieved by using full-duplex with "time-domain transmit beam forming." They say that the latter digitally creates a time-domain cancellation signal, couples it to the radio frequency front-end to allow the radio to hear much weaker incoming signals while transmitting

strong outgoing signals at the same frequency and same time.

Wireless Design says scientists Hua and Liang see applications in cognitive radio. They say that this is a type of wireless communication in which a transceiver can detect which communication channels are in use and which are not, and move into vacant channels while avoiding occupied ones. You can read the Wireless Design Online article at www.tinyurl.com/highly-efficient-radio. (Southgate, *Wireless Design*)

Tower Work Webinar December 12

November 30, 2012

The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation will be presenting a webinar on towers and how to work safely on and around one on.

Titled "Tower Work --Tips, Techniques, and Tools," this presentation taught by John Crovelli, W2GD, and Don Daso, K4ZA. During the session the two will outline things that they have learned from almost 100 years of combined experience, focusing

on safety, cost savings, and of course problem solving.

The hour long webinar will begin at 9 PM Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, December 12th which equates to Thursday, December 13th at 02:00 UTC. Registration is free to hams worldwide at www.tinyurl.com/tower-webinar-registration. (K4ZW, QRZ.com)

Maritime Amateur Website Serving Hams Up North

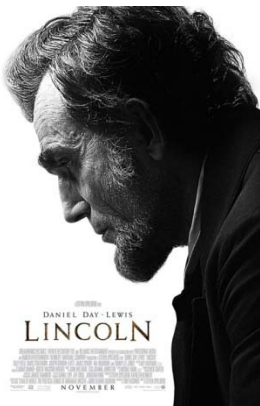
November 30, 2012

The Maritime Amateur website was launched back in March 2008 with the purpose of sharing information among radio amateurs in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island of Canada. Now in its fifth year, there has been over 43 thousand hits and has a membership of over 110 ham radio operators.

From the homepage, there are links to local, national and international news, CANWARN, maritime nets and numerous others sites of interest to hams that spend time on the water or who just want to be of service to their communities. You can check it out at www.maritimeamateur.ca. For more information please contact Jim Langille by e-mail to ve1jbl@eastlink.ca (VE1JBL)

Hams Provide Realistic War Department Set For Film Lincoln

December 7, 2012



Members of the Morse Telegraph Club are reported to have played an important role in the production of the Steven Spielberg motion picture "Lincoln."

Jim Wades, WB8SIW, is the International President of the Morse Telegraph Club. He says that several members provided period

telegraph instruments for use in the construction of the War Department Set.

Jim Wades was employed as a Technical Advisor for the production, worked with set designers over a period of months to develop the War Department telegraph scenes. Wades coordinated the process of procuring the necessary instruments and served as a historical consultant as the telegraph scenes were developed. Most notably W1TP, WB0TUA, N7JKD and Roger Reinke provided telegraph

instruments to equip the sixteen operating positions portrayed at the War Department set.

Nine of the sixteen telegraph positions depicted in the War Department were fully operational. These instruments could be operated in any combination through the use of a specialized computer program and terminal units custom built by WB8SIW for the process. When necessary, a hand key could be inserted in the individual telegraph loops so messages could be improvised

Jim Wilson, K4BAV, and his son, Matt Wilson had minor roles as Extras. K4BAV also worked with production staff and the actors to explain telegraph technology and the role of the telegrapher.

The Morse Telegraph Club is an association of retired railroad and commercial telegraphers, historians, radio amateurs and others with an interest in the history and traditions of telegraphy and the telegraph industry. (*ARRL, RAC, WIA*)

Ham Radio In Space: German Space Agency Rejects AMSAT DL Mars Mission

November 9, 2012

Germany's space exploration plans will not support a proposed ham radio mission to the red planet.

After five years of discussions and negotiations with the German space agency, AMSAT-DL reports that nation's space exploration group has withdrawn its support for the amateur satellite organization's plan to send a ham radio satellite to Mars. This is the so-called P5 or Phase 5 satellite mission.

According to the AMSAT News Service, the agency advised the group that P5's mission was not financially feasible. Also that compared with the current Mars missions the scientific attraction was simply not there. You can read that as being of

insufficient interest to the formal scientific research community.

The decision by the German Space Agency also affects plans for a geostationary Earth-orbiting ham radio satellite. This being the so called Phase 3 E which was to be part of the overall P5 program. None of this is good news for amateur radio's future exploration of the final frontier.

AMSAT-DL officials say that they are not giving up hope for these missions. They note that their organization recently had some interesting meetings in China adding that if it cannot do rocket science in Germany, that it will have to look for other countries. (*ANS*)

Radio In Space: Spot The ISS Service From NASA

November 9, 2012

A new service from NASA called Spot the Station will send you a text message when the International Space Station is within visual range of your house.

The service will only notify users if the station is easily visible above trees, buildings, and other objects. Spot the Station will calculate the station's

proximity to more than 4,600 positions on Earth, updating its information several times each week.

The International Space Station is usually at peak visibility at dawn and dusk. When skies are clear, it typically appears as fast-moving point of light.

You can sign up for the service on line by visiting spotthestation.nasa.gov. (*NASA, N6ZXJ*)

Ham Radio In Space: Still No Signal From F1 CubeSat

November 9, 2012

There have still been no confirmed reception reports since the F1 amateur radio CubeSat was deployed from the International Space Station on 4th October. Its command team is now focusing on reception of the backup UHF transmitter on 437.485 MHz, plus or minus 10 kHz Doppler shift.

This FM beacon should transmit Morse code for 20 seconds every minute during the satellites daylight. The team would appreciate any reports of the beacon be sent by email to thuvt@fpt.edu.vn. Further information on F1 can be found at www.amsat-uk.org. (*Southgate*)

Ham Radio In Space: FITSAT-1 Schedules Christmas Eve Optical Transmission

November 16, 2012

And there will be a Christmas present of sorts from ham radio in space. On December 24th which is Christmas Eve the students in Japan who built the FITSAT-1 satellite are planning to activate the birds LED optical array and flash a message in Morse Code to those of us here on mother Earth.

According to JA6AVG, the students plan to start testing the optical system at the end of November. As such its Morse message beacon may well be visible from Earth with the unaided eye well before the scheduled transmission date.

FITSAT-1 is a CubeSat that was developed by students at the Fukuoka Institute of Technology in Japan. In addition to the optical transmission system the bird carries a CW beacon on 437.250 MHz and a data link on 437.445 MHz. There is also a 5.8 GHz data downlink.

Further information about the FITSAT-1 CubeSat is on-line at www.tinyurl.com/fitsat-christmas-signal.
(FITSAT-1 Team)

Ham Radio In Space: Work Proceeding On Recovery Of AO-27

November 16, 2012

AMSAT Oscar 27 is down but not out. This according to controllers who are working to return of the satellites FM repeater back to service after it stopped responding on October 5th. Heres the back story.

In early October AO-27 was restored to running on its primary bootloader program. Control operators were able to turn on the Transmitter for a short time on several occasions. Also required were multiple recoveries the stuck AFSK modem.

During recovery efforts AO-27 crashed once again on October 16. The command team again recovered the satellite to the bootloader state. It was also recovered from another occurrence of the AFSK modem problem and they again performed another software upload.

On October 18 the transmitter was left on in an attempt to discharge the batteries with the hope that faults could be cleared. Once the battery was recharged the high-level software aboard AO-27 ran for a few seconds before locking up. The team was able to reset it back to the bootloader once again. Telemetry indicate AO-27 is locking up while fetching telemetry from the hardware. As such, controllers say that it does not look like there will be a quick resolution to this crash.

In the meantime the AO-27 controllers are asking the ham radio public not to attempt to use the AO-27 if you hear it in Amalog mode. This to prevent interfering with the command team's recovery efforts. (AMSAT)

Ham Radio In Space: NASA PhoneSat Coming Soon To Ham Radio

November 23, 2012

Scientists at NASA's Ames Research Center have built the most affordable ham band satellite to date.

The \$3,500 orbital device is a CubeSat the size of a coffee cup that uses an off-the-shelf Nexus One smartphone as a central processor and an inexpensive off the shelf radio for communications with the ground.

Called PhoneSat 1, the tiny bird is scheduled to launch by the end of this year. Once on-orbit it will transmit back photos of Earth on an amateur radio band for 10 days, or until the battery dies.

Subsequent iterations will be capable of much more. For example, PhoneSat 2.0 will have a two-way S-band radio transponder which most satellites use to communicate with the ground and solar panels for extended life.

More on PhoneSat 1 is on-line at www.tinyurl.com/phonesat-one. An overview of the entire NASA PhoneSat mission can be found at tinyurl.com/phone-sat-project. At airtime, exact operating frequencies for these tiny birds has not been announced. (CGC, W7RNA, AI9Q)

That Final Item: Celebrating The Mayan End Of The World

December 7, 2012

Finally this week, according to one of the three Mayan Calendars, the end of the world will occur on December 21, 2012. And to celebrate this possibly once in a lifetime event, special event station N0D which stands for Now Zero Days will be activated on 80 through 10 meters and on several satellite passes for three days during and after the planets destruction.

According to the event planners down in Texas, December 20th will be the celebration of the end of the world. December 21, the day of destruction, they will be on the air as long as possible. As to December 22nd, well that is a little iffy right now.

And less we forget to mention it, you too can become an Official Doomsday Station by registering at www.nowzerodays.com. Those who do will receive a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" followed by your Official Doomsday Number.

Official Doomsday stations will receive the Doomsday Station Certificate. Stations contacting

at least 10 Official Doomsday Stations during the event will be recognized on the group's website. If there still is one.

QSL's with Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to KK5W at the address on QRZ.com. If Doomsday actually does happen, the event sponsors regret that a QSL will not be possible so hold on to your QSL card and SASE at least until December 22nd.

And if we might add a suggestion of our own: If that particular Mayan calendar is correct and December 21st is to be the end of the world, we are told that the best way to enjoy it is to watch it all implode from your picture window table at Milliways. That's the famed restaurant at the end of the universe. You can find complete directions on how to get there in your copy of the Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy authored by the late Douglas Adams. And most important of all, don't forget to bring along your Babblefish and at least one clean towel. (NOD)

Attention all CW DXers, Contesters & Budding DXpeditionists

November 25, 2012

This is absolutely the best *FREE* CW pileup training program ever released.

[Web Site Here](#)

Strap yourself in as you are transported to your own one man CW DXpedition to North Korea (or North Dakota), your fellow CW enthusiasts are counting on you. 😊

Seriously though, Alex, VE3NEA has done an outstanding job with this *free* program called PileupRunner. Practice with it for 15-30 minutes a day for a few weeks and your CW pileup & contesting skills *will* improve dramatically. Augment PileupRunner with the wonderful German written program *RufzXP* and *MorseRunner* for

the trifecta of all CW contesting "simulators". All programs are *100% free*.

PileupRunner is as close to the real experience as one can get without going to an exotic land. 'Da Cow here rates it a full *5 bellowing moo's!!!* The program is intuitive as to how the pileup is generated & I would recommend reading it's short 3 - 4 page manual before getting started. You will wonder why stations you have already worked keep on calling you if you don't.

I have no monitory interest in anything Alex does & have never meet him.

See ya in the pileups,
Thomas M. Callas, KCOW

MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

-- Membership application and dues are currently requested.

Our term of membership runs from November 1 to October 31 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).

