



...wait for this...30 years and still going strong...Is this not a club that needs your aid and support?

The Gavel – December 2014

Welcome MARC members to the final Gavel of 2014. The year is winding down and the weather is getting colder. I know I am looking forward to the holidays and spending time with my family and loved ones. Here's hoping you've all been good and that Santa brings you that fancy new transceiver you've been eyeballing!

Overall, 2014 was very much a mixed bag for MARC but I think we made it through in relatively good shape. The year started in the aftermath of Mother Nature's 2013 Christmas "gift" of a major ice storm which damaged some of the club station antennas. The winter-that-would-never-end gave us a snowfall on the day of Hamex and parking lots better suited to watercraft! And as we approached mid-year we lost two dedicated and well-respected MARC members: Scott Gregory VA3NMI and Don Meaker VE3KHN. However, in spite of these setbacks we had many positives. Hamex ended up successful and netted the club much need revenue. A small but hard-working crew rebuilt the club station antennas which are working better than ever. Our annual Basic license class attracted a dozen eager hams-in-training, most of whom recently took and passed their exams. And in spite of losing Scott and Don, their families charged us with finding new homes for their equipment and allowed us to share in the proceeds. And through it all our membership numbers remained stable which indicates solid support of MARC by the membership. From me to you: thank you!

What does 2015 hold for our club? There are number of good things coming down the pipe that I think will strengthen MARC and make us a club hams want to be long to. First, the remote HF station project is almost ready for use. Once the green light is given, hams who don't have their own home HF shack – or simply would like to try operating another radio – will be able to do so using their home computer and an internet connection. Preliminary testing has been very positive with good signal reports from stations in Europe and elsewhere. We look forward to making this club asset available to club members soon.

Secondly, repairs to the club's repeaters are underway which will result in greater stability and, hopefully, greater coverage in Mississauga for members and non-members alike. Also, reactivation of the MARC 6M repeater is being considered for those hams who are looking for another repeater to hang out on.

Thirdly, with the club station working better than ever we will be looking to make greater use of this club asset including encouraging new and seasoned hams alike to

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And more to come in the January issue!

Don't forget, get yourself published, and submit some content to the

Communicator Newsletter, it's only as good as what is published on it's pages

In the January Issue there will be another challenging crossword



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use the club radios, and participating in more contests – both beginner and advanced. In addition, upgraded lightning protection will be installed which will give us a much more safe operating environment.

Fourthly, our recently appointed Program Manager, Wayne VA3NWH, has some exciting plans for interesting and informative speakers at our upcoming club meeting nights. And if you personally are interested in speaking on a topic please get in touch with Wayne so he can slot you in for one of the club “members’ night” meetings.

Finally, we will continue to encourage more members to get involved in the day-to-day running of the club. All the things MARC does for its membership and the ham community as a whole is because of the work of members who either have a special interest or simply want to give something back to the club.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone and we'll see you in 2015!

73 --- Jeff Stewart VA3WXM

MISSISSAUGA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AWARDS

By Ed Spingola, VA3TPV

This past four years, the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club (MARC) has offered the *Mississauga Amateur Radio Club DX Award* to club members in an effort to encourage club members to participate in HF DX activity.

At the request of club members, the *Mississauga DX Award* will again be offered for the 2014 – 2015 club year. The following six award categories are being offered:

- DX Award – SSB
- DX Award – CW
- DX Award – Digital
- DX-Award – Mixed
- DX Award - PSK
- DX Award - RTTY

There are many opportunities throughout the year within which you can make DX contacts. Contesting provides a good opportunity to have a QSO with that rare location. Just follow the regular DX openings on the bands. So get DXing and submit to me your logs. See the MARC web site under Club Events/MARC Awards for the MARC DX Award rules and entry forms.

http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/events/events_awards.asp

I will also accept an ADIF log file if you need some assistance in determining your DXCC entities count.

So get on the air and enjoy this hobby of ours and make some contacts.

73 and Good DX.
Ed, VA3TPV



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THE MISSISSAUGA Amateur Radio Club DX AWARD

RULES FOR 2014-2015

Eligibility:

Open to any member in good standing of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club for the 2014-2015 year is eligible for this award.

Award Period:

Contacts made between 0000 UTC on September 1, 2014 and 2359 June 30, 2015 inclusive qualify for this award.

Country Contacts:

Each country worked is counted once only, regardless of band and mode used. The current ARRL DX countries list will be used to determine country eligibility.

Bands and Modes:

A participant may submit contacts for any band (including WARC bands) or mode for which he/she is licensed during the award period.

Repeater, IRLP, EchoLink, Net Contacts:

Repeater, IRLP, EchoLink, HF and VHF Net contacts are **not allowed** for this award.

Log Submissions:

QSL cards confirming contacts are not required. However, log extracts must be submitted showing the callsign of the station worked, the date, time in UTC, mode, and signal report sent and received. (e.g.: 59, or 599). Log extracts must be submitted by June 31, 2015 to qualify.

Log Medium:

Logs may be submitted to Ed Spingola, VA3TPV, on paper, or via email (va3tpv [at] rogers [dot] com). Email submissions may be in standard ASCII text format, or as an attached MS Word, or MS Excel format file using standard MIME encoding.

Certificates and Endorsements:

A certificate and a 10 country endorsement will be awarded to any participant who submits a log extract demonstrating contacts with 10 countries during the award period. Additional endorsements will be awarded for submissions, demonstrating contacts with a total of 10, 25, 50, 75, and 100 countries during the award period.

A comment from the editor:

At this time I would like to take a moment to give some helpful hints when submitting articles.

- a) Text should be single spaced, with no headers or footers, as text is going to be converted into a desktop publishing format.
- b) Most fonts are fine, "Pages" (the software I'm using) has many more fonts than most, but just to be safe side just use standard fonts, like arial, helvetica, century, etc.
- c) Avoid using spaces instead of tabs. Tabs work great in conversion, spaces not so much. if in doubt, just type text unformatted, "Pages" will take care of most the mundane formatting, and the rest I'll do, I'm going to have to do it anyway. might as well make it easier for you.

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**The Editors column:
from the keyboard of editor in chief
Valentine Stubbs
VE3VVS**

MARC Members Yahoo Group

The MARC Members Yahoo Group is the primary way to disseminate club information about upcoming events.

Join the MARC
Members Yahoo Group

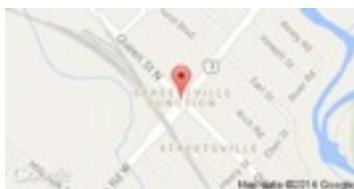
To receive club related
communications
and to contact
other club members

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marc_members

Club Breakfasts

This much loved event happens the first Sunday of every month.

All you have to do is show up at Bobby's restaurant 20 Queen Street just North of Britannia Road.



At this busy time of year, it seems hard to have time to put any time into our "relaxing" hobby. The only radio time I get is when mobile, and even then when I do call out on our repeater, there is no-one replying. Maybe when I get a few days off, when they close the studio for christmas, maybe I can go down to the "shack" and warm up the old TS-2000.

Maybe even warm up the new soldiering iron, my old one that I had for almost 30 years finally and literally fell apart.

What I would like to do is wish you all a very merry christmas, and yes I said christmas, not happy holidays, and a good and safe new year, Just think it will be 2015 already and I wonder what will be in store for us all in this new year.

I would like to say a heart felt thank you to those who have been sending contributions to the newsletter, it's a treat for me to have a selection to choose from, as apposed to thinking what the hell and I going to publish. So thank you your submissions are like christmas every time I check my email and see some new attachments.

So have a fun read, and a Merry Christmas, and see you all in the New Year.

Valentine Stubbs - Chief Editor - Communicator - VE3VVS



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Silent Auction purchase successes: Mike Wilde at 1 December 2014.

From the silent auction held at the MARC meeting of 27 November I made quite number of purchases. The following is how I have put them into service:

The RAC 3rd edition 2008 Operating Manual is now a reference book for band plans, and general good operating procedures. I have yet to give it a thorough read.

The Larsen MM-NMO mag mount came with two little whips that I speculate are for 440MHz operations. They are shorter than the 1/4wave 2m whip I have made. Once I get myself an antenna analyzer someday I will figure out what they are. This magnetic mount coax is terminated in a screw on BNC connector and the coax lead is a bit shorter than the other Larsen mag mount I have with the factory installed PL-259 on it's coax lead. So presently I still need to figure out what I need to do to bring the NMO mount coax to be cut for the right 1/2 wave length, and have a PL-259 put onto it. I surmise I will get my noise bridge, RF oscillator and scope set up to sort this out, or break down and buy or borrow an MFJ etc analyzer.

The 5/8 wave 2m whip I bought is compatible with the MM-NMO mag base. It is the same length of another 5/8 whip that terminates to the Larsen MM threaded stud mag mount I have.

Continuing on the 2m front, the ICOMM IC-2100H I bought seems to work well. I have tried it in the truck, and gotten a good signal out one day. There is no mounting bracket for it, which is fine, because I intend to mount it in my shack, sitting on a shelf. In pulling it out of my bag from bringing it in from the truck, a cover panel popped off of the microphone to expose a slew of more remote buttons that if pressed I could relay use. It does let me punch up DTMF, for IRLP, which was prior to finding these buttons, still a bit of a mystery to me with this rig.

I bought the Icom as a replacement for my present shack set, which is a Kenwood 7850 that dates to the late 70's or early 80's. It did allow DTMF by way of its direct frequency access keypad. But its dial only spins you through the 12 memories. General scans are a bit of a pain to set up, and you cant just spin a dial to wind back to a frequency you have heard activity on.

I was given this old Kenwood unit by some ham who came to visit at Field Day 2014 and saw me running the GOTA 2M station with a handheld. It was my first Field Day, and in the rush I never was able to remember his name, and I don't think I have seen him since at any club meetings. He also gave me a HTX-100 10m rig. I will say more on that unit later.

To bring this unit into service in July 2014 so it would remember memories I fed it a pair of new NiCad portable telephone battery packs to back up its memory. The dead NiCads I pulled out of it were wrapped in a Realistic purple sleeve I had not seen since about 1980. The new batteries showed that the thing would remember memory settings for the 14 available memory slots.

So I was on the air with other than an HT at the end of July, but without PL tones. There are not a lot of repeaters that are tone free around here these days. This old rig was set up to enable a tone board, as an add-in option, but none had been installed. So I researched. I saw from old 73 magazines of the day for the early 80's that an outfit named Communication Specialties sold a ton of tone boards when the move to CTCSS tone happened. A web search found out that they are still in business, and that for about \$100 I could have 3 such tome boards.

When the tone boards arrived, one was installed, and set to 103.5Hz using the setting of 6 tiny dip switches. I was able to trip the repeaters locally – hurray. But varying the PL setting was not something to be taken lightly, so I was



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pretty much left on 103.5, despite having an antenna at my shack that lets me talk to Hamilton (131.8) and hear Barrie and Orillia (156.7), and Buffalo area (88.5, 141.3, 151.4, or 107.2). I have a large 2m yagi waiting to talk beyond the range of my 6 element collinear 2m omni, but without the means to effectively vary tones for the distant repeater contacts I really could not see a reason to put it up yet. Now with the new Icom I do have a reason to put up the yagi. Of course, just as the cold weather is starting.

If anyone has old 2m gear that they side lined because it could not deal with tones, I would be interested in seeing if I can fit tone boards into them. I have two tone boards presently spare, and would love to rebuild the battery pack, feed it a tone board, and get it into the hands of a recent basic course grad so they can get a foot hold into talking on our and others 2m nets, and otherwise start playing with ham radio.

Mike Wilde, P.Eng. PMP
Project Manager, Transportation Systems Engineering Associate

Silent Auction purchase successes: Mike Wilde at 1 December 2014. – Round two

From the silent auction held at the MARC meeting of 27 November I made quite number of purchases. This is the second volume of outlining the things I have done with my new to me toys:

Last time I was talking about an Icom 2100H mobile 2m transceiver. Well the same night I also bought a Kenwood TM-221A mobile 2m transceiver. I really wanted a better 2m rig for the shack and in a silent auction you never know if your bid is high bid until the end. So I ended up with two rigs. I can use both of them, though. I now will have the second of these rigs for my truck if it can be made to work, and the truck will no longer be reliant on using an HT with an external speaker/mic in it.

If the Icom was the pride of show for 2m rigs, the Kenwood was the dog pound mutt. It did not have any screws to hold on the top and bottom panels, and was missing all of its knobs.

The first step in accessing the Kenwood was to make up a wiring connection – the Anderson Power Pole crimper and connectors I bought that night got pressed into service (pardon the pun) the same night they came home to put connectors to the bare 13.8V lead wires.

The supply fuse was not blown. Good first sign. I connected an ammeter to the power lead, and put an RF connector leading to my shack's 2m antenna to the antenna lead of this unit. Powering it up, the display lit up, and showed 144.000MHz. No sound. I wound back the squelch and the RF indicator jumped, but still no sound, and no noise in the speaker despite how loud I turned the volume up. I stuck an earphone plug into the external jack, and heard white noise rush. Ah, some progress. The measures current draw was about 0.35A, so not excessive.

Dialing up some repeaters I was able to hear them self identify (2m is otherwise quiet past midnight). So the thing can receive. Go to try to set a memory, power down, come back up, and it has no sign of keeping the memory. So it looks like is the memory battery is shot. Has tone and ctcss buttons, but I have no idea how to set them, after experimenting with random yet unsuccessful key presses. I go to a simplex frequency, and key the mic. The bar graph jumps in accordance with me calling my sign and test one, two.. and the current drawn is up to as high as 9.4A with the Tx power level button toggled. I pull the covers off – ah – the speaker leads are not plugged in, so that explains it's silence! No sign of a backup battery is evident anywhere. By now it was 12:30am – way past my normal bed time; so time for bed.



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The next day I find the manual over lunch hour and print it (Ain't the Internet great for these sort of things!). The manual tells me this thing was made likely about 1989, or a bit later, so yes, any original lithium battery (rated to last 5 years the book says) is likely pooped by now. Changing the battery – 'depot service' the book says; 'them is fighting words to me!' More web searches on 'Kenwood 221A battery' leads me onto the trail to a ham site that has trodden this path before. Oh nice, it is buried behind the front panel circuit board. Maybe that was why the front knobs are missing from this set? Maybe a half-finished new battery swap attempt?

After getting home from work and getting dinner out of the way, and wife out the door to a rehearsal I am back to the shack. I succeed in finding the socket the speaker leads are supposed to plug into (magnifier, bright light and tiny text screened on the board beside one of a number of compatible sockets), make the connection, and hear white noise from the internal speaker on power up. More progress.

So I started the 'open heart surgery' in search of the battery. Wiggle the plastic off without breaking it. Find the screws holding the front PCB down, remove them, and work the multi-pin connector still holding the board there free. The battery is in sight!

My voltmeter tells me it is putting out 0.05V, which is long way from the 3V it spits out when fresh. So it is no wonder this thing can't keep its memory. I unsolder the tabs, and remove the partially shrunk wrap plastic edge cover. Oh – it is size compatible with the CR3032 3V button lithium cells I have sitting spare in the front office desk drawer. We use these in the kids LED front and back bike lights when they are going to be riding after dark. Don't you love it when you are fixing something and the spare part you need is already in the house!!!

Yes I know, the OEM battery has soldered tabs, and this unit doesn't. So I carefully pull the spot welded tabs off the dead cell and flattened them out again. I know enough to know not to try to solder to a battery (the iron's heat will kill the battery). So I put the dead battery back in place as a spacer and solder the tabs back in the right place. (I Sharpie marker marked the board with the + lead orientation before unsoldering them. I don't think Lithium cells can voltage reverse, but I know old Nicads can, so mark by physical appearance, not what you measure.)

I slip the dead battery out, put the plastic shrink wrap from the old battery on the new battery, and secure it with a bit of ordinary vinyl electrical tape. I then slide the new battery into place, and tape it down to the board. I add another layer of tape after a test fit with the adjacent cover, to determine that the two layers will hold the battery tight into position. Ideal, no, functional, yes.

Reassemble twice after I find a spare little washer that acts as a dust cap not on the volume shaft after the first reassembly. Power it up, and this time the thing will remember memory settings! I read the manual and figure the key sequence to set CTCSS tones. I set the split and frequency, and bang the MARC repeater with a test call and get a courtesy tone back! Program more than one memory, and verify the up and down buttons on the mic move between them. Good good good!

Now I get into the set of drawers around my bench that I call 'parts', and what most would call 'a distributed junk box'. I find a spare knob that will fit the VFO dial, and affix it. Not perfect, but good enough. No compatible tiny recessed semicircular half shaft knobs for the volume and squelch were found, but the most frequently diddled VFO control now has a knob.

Next I turn to a drawer I call 'small screws' Some of these likely go back to when I was twelve or thirteen, and tearing apart old TV's and radios my Dad would let me bring home when we made a trip to the town dump. It was an open landfill. It was plowed over at the end of the day, and not like the antiseptic transfer stations we see here in Peel to day. In



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the dump of my youth there were signs that said:,'No Scavenging' but I don't think they were ever enforced. I learned a lot about electronics and built a fair number of gadgets out of parts liberated out of dead tvs and stereo chassis from the dump.

I needed 12 tiny metric screws. After about 20 minutes of sorting likely suspects with the magnifier after dumping them on a clear part of the bench, and trial and error I found 12 screws that fit. I also found the needed metric screws to attach the car mount bracket that came loose with the unit to the chassis.

Now all I need to do is source two more tiny knobs. I think I might try making my own I propose to do this by making a bit of a form up with cardboard rolled into a tube and taped in place on the face concentric with the shaft. Then apply a bit of baking oil spray after masking off the rest of the faceplate and bench. Once the little bubbles of the spray pop I propose to pour off the surplus oil, and then drizzle in slow setting hot melt glue to make an in situ pair of knobs. Once they set up and cool they should be able to be pulled free. Finishing work with x-acto blades and the Dremel and a black Sharpie marker should yield serviceable if not beautiful knobs that fit after the socket and shaft are degreased with q-tips damp with dilute dish washing liquid. The thin end of a tooth pick might be needed as a shim to make sure the knobs don't slip off too easily.

Am I crazy with my restoration efforts? You decide.

One aside on this old Kenwood rig – even if the rig had been dead, I still might have had a use for the microphone.

I was gifted a Realistic HTX-100 10M mobile rig at Field Day 2014. It had terrible audio quality on transmit, among its problems. I found an article on the web on another ham's site that documented a fix to the input frequency roll off of the input microphone preamp op amp configuration. His simulations showed it was a dud performer from day one, but a cap and resistor swap he suggested on my unit improved things but I still had a garbled signal going out. The Realistic unit was actually reputedly made under contract by Uniden at the time, and happened to use a 7 pin style mic connector that was pin compatible with Kenwood sets of the same time, of which I now had such a unit to test w with

Well, guess what? While in the process of restoring the Kenwood TM-221A 2M rig , I swapped it's mic to the sidelined Realistic HTX-100.

It fits. I hooked it to the idled 10M dipole lead that hangs in the shack to the HTX-100. I power up and the thing does not jump to Tx right away; the Up and Down buttons on the mic drive the vfo in the right directions too. It can pull in audio with the microphone attached too. So far so good as to microphone compatibility.

I power up my main HF rig, and set the rf gain to a minimum. I set the trans match to the about right setting that gives a low swr on the 15m antenna. I match frequency between the two rigs on 10m SSB, and transmit to the HTX-100 from my good old Icom 751 on 28.400MHz. The HTX needs to have its RIT cranked over a bit to read clearly, but audio is good. This is no surprise to me; I knew the receiver alignment in it is off a touch. Now on to the real test; I wind back the RF gain on the HTX and pull the knob out to set low power output. I key the new to me Kenwood mic plugged into the Realistic, and a passably good signal comes out of the Icom! So even if the Kenwood 2m rig was DOA, I would have had a use for the mic.

Now I know that I can proceed with the old HTX-100 receiver realignment , and maybe even put it in the truck so I can make the MARC crew unofficial schedule on Friday nights at 28.400 if I am out and about. I will need to review why Rx is off but not Tx. I think that RIT is a pot and I bet there is null pot internally somewhere that is off. If that works then recapping some of the bigger electrolytic capacitors s might also be on the fix it list to head off trouble down the path.



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MFJ sells a replacement Kenwood mic for not too much money. Heck that might even put the urge to put a transceiver capable of FM into the truck so I could play with repeaters too? Isn't Radio a great disease to have at times??

The other play with item I came home with to talk about here today is a modest linear 12V supply, max 7A. Heavy, like all good linear's should be.

It is solidly made in style that says industrial and scientific market early 70's. Rack mounting. No line cord, but a rear panel barrier strip for earth, and 2 ac line in for 120V, and dc output positive and negative drive and sense terminals.

Drive and sense is when you need precise voltage control and have supply line losses. You put in heavy enough drive lines, and light sense lines. The sense lines carry no current, and merely sense voltage at the point of utilization where you need good regulation. The power supply will wind up the output voltage of the drive lines to overcome ohmic losses in the drive leads to give you exactly what you want at the sense location. Usually such regulation is achieved by varying the bias voltage to a bunch of paralleled closely matched power transistors mounted in heat sinks.

It is not rated the way most ham gear is rated. Its maximum output current is temperature de-rated depending on the temperature of the ambient air it is operating in, up to like 100F. So like most things I look at unknown to me, a web search was in order. Lambda Instruments- seems to be associated with industrial process control applications like power stations. Users on industrial automation boards talks about them lasting for decades without trouble. Firms rebuild them for a bit shy of \$975US. Maybe my \$40 was not poorly spent.

I fitted a new line cord and crimp on terminals, and new dc out from zip cord. I tied drive and sense together for now, and refitted the insulating plastic barrier someone has made after market to cover the ac terminals while it is not placed inside a power control cabinet.

I stuck it on a variac, set up to measure input current, and turned it on. Somewhere inside here is a big one or more capacitors acting as a DC filter, who, depending on how long it has not been used, need to reform their capacity polarization. I got to diagnosing it Saturday. I left it on overnight at 40V ac. No sign of any worrying leakage current after powering it up, and then once I got home on Sunday I wound it up to 60V at late morning, 80V by three in the afternoon, and 100% by after dinner. If it was big and high voltage I would have left it to stew on reduced volts a lot longer.

There is a potentiometer accessible with a screw driver blade through the front panel for tweaking the output voltage by up or down to 6%. Now I know that 12V and 6% plus do not make 13.8V, which is what a lot of modern DC gear is designed to operate happiest at. Still, my meter on the DC out showed that it started with no adjustment on my part at 12.9V, which is more than 6%, so someone has been looking at the 13.8V issue before me. I wound it up to 13.8V. I was not at the end of the pot travel and all seemed happy. I may want to look to see if the caps are rated to more than 15V, but given the quality build I suspect them to more likely be 25 or 50V units, and likely rated to work at high temperatures for a long time.

Future improvements for this supply are to fit a small CPU cooler fan to force air through it, particularly the pass transistors heat sinks. With this upgrade I can easily put out more than 7A at 20degrees C and under unless the circuit is smarter than me. I may also do more 'cosmetic' things like install an on indicator and on off switch, and line fuse. I intend to use this with a modest gel cell to power my 2m or 10m rigs when away from my shack, like at future Field Days. The battery can supply the TX draw over 7A, and then be quickly recharged to 13.8V. No way I am bringing the batteries in my shack with me to such an event. At 13.8V 330Ah, they are too heavy to move.



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When You Turn on the News and it Turns on You

Playing by news media rules can turn a lemon of a story into coverage that's as sweet as lemonade

Published QST May 1992, Steve Mansfield- ARRL public Information Manager, and paraphrased here at times by Mike Wilde, VA3EMW.

The afternoon talks show 'Northwest Afternoon' in the Seattle market in 1992 promised to expose a 'neighbour from hell' in an upcoming episode, around RFI complaints against a ham radio operator. This set the local ham clubs, repeaters nets and ARRL field coordinators into a defensive tizzy. Despite initial outrage, local hams were able to work constructively with the show's producers to 'turn a lemon into lemonade'.

Traditionally, the mass media has treated ham's well when we step up to support society when normal communication systems break down. But we should never mistake positive media coverage for friendship. The cardinal rule of PR is 'To get good coverage, do something good first'. The media's job is to report, often not only on the good, but frequently also on what courts controversy. So the corollary rule of PR is 'Good coverage can turn bad at the drop of a hat'.

There is a line that goes 'When dog bites man, that's not news; but if man bites dog, that's NEWS'.

It turned out the controversy in Seattle was a resident who had gone after a ham with a law suit several years earlier when his activities affected her appliances. Now she was back to chase the fame TV could bring her.

To counter the pending likelihood of bad portrayal in the news, local has got themselves organized and got their facts in order.

They presented the background of what had transpired to date in the past with this person, from the ham and litigation evidence perspective.

They did not expect a call from the TV show cautioning them the story was set to air.

They did reach out to contact not just anyone at the station but instead specifically sought out the producer of the show in question to express that they wanted their side of the situation heard.

They did not go at it alone. They marshalled other hams and the ARRL section manager, who lodged written opinions of the issues to the station. They mounted a friendly by persistent campaign that a sizeable portion of the audience cared deeply about accuracy

They did not threaten anyone. Picking a fight with the media is not one you will win.

They realized that actually a lot of folks have a very short attention span, and they worked hard to follow up to get a piece in that showed hams in a better light.

The result of their lobbying was that when the show aired their viewpoints were brought up often by the hosts on how valuable and positive Amateur radio can be. The neighbor stated her case, but in doing so she made technically inaccurate statements, such as that the interference on her TV could only be cured by putting it inside a sealed steel box. It seemed apparent to even the most non-technical viewer that her complaints lacked substance.

After the broadcast, scores of hams followed up by contacting the station to note the inaccuracies. The ARRL drew its forces and wrote a briefing letter to the station outlining the ARRL position, that a follow up story should be produced. It turned out that the show producer came out to a local ham club meeting to be briefed when the club hosted a night to brief all on resolving RFI issues.

After this the TV station knew that Seattle hams of that day had the ability to use their knowledge and to organize effectively to use the 'PR Ground Rules' on any future issues that may come up.



...wait for this...**30 years** and still going strong...Is this not a club that needs your aid and support?

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Mike Wilde's commentary - This story, while old, has timeless lessons in it that we can draw on today. We soon will be seeking to have the existing City of Mississauga Telecommunication Protocol revised to ease the ability of our community to put up antennas and their supports. We need to have ourselves well organized and unified before we set foot on that turf, which has the potential to turn into a battle field.

A Hams Life Cycle by V.S Rajagopalan VU2JS, published in 73 Magazine late 1970's, and abridged by Mike Wilde

A hams involvement with the hobby often went through the following stages in the 70's:

1: Novice. This title is applicable regardless of what the country they live in calls its first stage for getting on the air. The keen new amateur is pre-occupied with their radio activity. For most of the time they are thinking of how to acquire a good transceiver or put up their first fixed antenna.

The thirst for knowledge of circuits seems endless, particularly if they happen to belong to some profession not associated with electronics. Often they do not know the merit of their equipment. They do not know the when and where of DX openings or how to work it when they are found. They simply monitor the band at times when no DX can be expected due to predictable propagation conditions. Naturally, they think that their setup is poor.

They might go on the pursuit of rounding up 'junk' if their budget allows for it for future building plans, but do not yet know good junk from bad, and if getting any junk is a rarity snatch it up not yet knowing what to pay for it, and in the process they may be burned by unscrupulous sellers.

They keenly value any QSL card that comes their way.

They let friends and associates know of the hobby, and arrange to give demonstrations, sometimes to try to win a neighbor's good favour, so as to hope to gain permission to stretch your dipole beyond the limits of your own small plot.

They join radio clubs and keenly attend all meetings and affiliated events.

2: The ability to seek DX is discovered to be a function of being awake when the opportunities for it are present, and that this may not align with other events that society expects you to conform to. They may align with when the people on the far end of the desired contact are likely to be awake and communicating.

3: It is discovered that the ability to enjoy the hobby is directly proportional to the time available to it. Spousal cooperation may be required if a partner has made you 'rockbound' by this stage of your ham life cycle.

4: It is discovered that your ability to enjoy the hobby is directly related to patience, whether you are a constructor or a DX'er. To be patient you need health and energy. Even simple problem solutions will not come to you when you are tired. They will leap at you when you start refreshed from a good sleep though, and be solved quickly and easily. They know to postpone constructing work when they are tired or sick.

5: They learn that the ability to continue as a constructor is proportional to your ability to spend on the required parts and test gear as well as having the time to pursue the projects. They have learned by now that there is a level to which they should try to take on home brewed projects, but have also experienced the satisfaction that comes when one is successfully completed and put into regular service

6: The Contented phase. They have by now built enough toys and have a good operating rig. They are fully aware of what is possible with the gear and environment they are placed in. They have learned that the least expensive and usually most satisfying way to enjoy the hobby is to just operate the gear they have, and may switch from gear building and acquisition to rag chewing. They are no longer keen to try every potential construction article. They may deploy past building energy into club participation, training new hams, writing newsletters, etc, and continue to pile on contacts when conditions are favorable.



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Membership Renewal

By Rick Brown VE3IMG

It's a new club year and time to renew your membership. There are changes to our fee structure and revisions to the membership form.

We have reduced the number of membership types and revised our rates. Gone are Student, Family and Individual memberships. They all have been rolled into one Basic Membership, \$40 per family household. We offer preferential rates to Radio Amateur of Canada members in good standing. Provide us with your RAC membership number and you can join for \$35. The same family household rule applies.

With changes to the Canadian Anti-Spam legislation, we have revised and simplified our membership form. All members need to submit a completed form when renewing. We now require your express permission to:

- 1) Receive email notifications when a new MARC Newsletters is made available.
- 2) To be included in the MARC_Members_Yahoogroup
- 3) To make personal contact information available to club members.

You can download the membership form at:

http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/documents/doc_marc_mbrshp.asp.

Filling out the Excel version of the form is preferable to the handwritten pdf. Bring your completed form along with cheque or cash to a club meeting for processing. If you can't make it to a meeting, you can mail the form and cheque to our Post Office box:

Mississauga Amateur Radio Club
Attention: Membership
P.O. Box 2003
Square One Post Office
Mississauga, ON L5B 3C6
Canada

Make all cheques payable to Mississauga Amateur Radio Club i.e. not MARC. Please renew promptly. The club relies on membership revenue to conduct business.

See you all at the next meeting with forms and payment in hand.

(editors note: I have included the membership form available at the above mentioned link)



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Mississauga Amateur Radio Club
 P. O. Box 2003
 Square One Post Office
 Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C6
<http://www.marc.on.ca>

2014 / 2015 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM				Date:	
Call Signs		Last Name		First Name	
Address Street				Apt	
City		Prov/State	Postal Code	Country	
Home Phone		Business Phone	Ext	Cell Phone	
E-mail Address			E-mail address associated with MARC_Members Yahooogroup		

Family members residing in the same household can be included in the base membership for free. Please provide the following information for interested parties:

Family	Call Sign	Name	E-mail
1			
2			
3			

To conform with Canada's Anti-Spam legislation, we require your permission to provide the following club services. No response will be considered as a "No".	Yes / No
Do you wish to receive an email notification when a club newsletter is posted to the web? Current & past newsletters can be downloaded from http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/documents/doc_news.asp .	
Do you wish to join the MARC Members Yahooogroup? This is a forum where MARC members post information related to Amateur Radio and Club events. You receive postings by email. Access is restricted to participating club members.	
The club roster is posted to the MARC Yahooogroup. It contains personal information provided on this form. It will be available to club members who join the group. Please indicate if we can list phone, e-mail and address information in the roster. The club executive will have access to all information on this form.	Phone
	e-mail
	Address
Do you wish to participate in ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services)?	

Membership Fee (One per household)			Class Fee		Course Manual		TOTAL
Regular \$40.00	RAC \$35.00	RAC Membership No. Required for discount	QTY	\$30.00 / Person	QTY	\$50.00 / Manual	
				\$30.00		\$50.00	
Office Use Only	Date Pmt Received	Cash	Cheque	PayPal	Received By Signature		

Personal information collected in accordance with Mississauga Amateur Radio Club privacy policy available at http://www.marc.on.ca/marc/site/site_legal.asp

Radio Amateurs of Canada

Ontario



Join RAC Today

Help give amateur radio a strong voice in Canada and throughout the world

Full - Regular - paper TCA \$56.00 + \$7.28 (tax) = \$63.28
Full - Family \$25.00 + \$3.25 (tax) = \$28.25
Full - Blind \$25.00 + \$3.25 (tax) = \$28.25
Full - Maple Leaf Operator \$100.00 + \$13.00 (tax) = \$113.00
Full - Limited \$38.00 + \$4.94 (tax) = \$42.94
Full - Regular - e-TCA Only \$48.00 + \$6.24 (tax) = \$54.24

Associate - Regular - paper TCA \$56.00 + \$7.28 (tax) = \$63.28
Associate - Family \$25.00 + \$3.25 (tax) = \$28.25
Associate - Blind \$25.00 + \$3.25 (tax) = \$28.25
Associate - Regular - e-TCA Only \$48.00 + \$6.24 (tax) = \$54.24
Associate - Corporate \$150.00 + \$19.50 (tax) = \$169.50

Note that the family membership fee applies to each family member who joins in addition to the principle member.

I wish to join for 1 yr

Donations: RAC \$ _____ | ARES \$ _____ | DARF (International Use) \$ _____ | YEP \$ _____ | RAC Foundation \$ _____ |

Visa/Mastercard _____ Exp: ____ / ____ Signature _____ Join or renew online! www.rac.ca	Paying by Cheque? Please make payable to: Radio Amateurs of Canada #217-720 Belfast Rd. Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5 1-877-273-8304
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If were previously a member please give your membership number
or the callsign you held when you were previously a member _____

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Family Members _____

For blind membership please provide your CNIB number _____