



...wait for this...**31 years** and still going strong...Is this not a club that needs your aid and support?

The Gavel – January 2015

Greetings MARC members and welcome to 2015! I trust everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season. At least Mother Nature didn't provide us with an ice storm this year! While a new calendar year doesn't mean a new club year, it does give everyone a fresh start and hopefully a new perspective on the coming year.

Over the holidays several MARC members participated in the annual RAC Winter Contest with Bob VE3CWU leading the way. This was a great opportunity to fully use the new and improved club station. I understand the club did quite well and was a sought after station by other Canadian – and international – hams. Great job Bob and the crew! And we are looking forward to expanding the number of contests we participate in this year with an emphasis on getting new operators involved with some of the more “beginner” contests. Stay tuned for more information on this initiative.

With 2015 now in full swing it is time to seriously think about the big fundraising event happening on March 28: Ham-Ex. As co-chair again this year, Rick VE3IMG will be looking for volunteers from MARC to assist both on event day and for set-up and take-down. Yours truly will be assisting in the parking lots again. Hopefully with the slightly later event date the weather will be more cooperative this year and our parking lots won't have turned into small lakes! I also know Rick always looks for vendor assist volunteers and people to man the MARC club table. Ham-Ex is a significant revenue generator for MARC and helps run all aspects of the club. It doesn't matter if you're a new member or a veteran, I strongly urge you to help out. Rick will be making announcements at all the upcoming general meetings so there will be

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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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ample opportunity to sign up. I can't stress enough that the success of Ham-Ex depends a lot on the efforts of its volunteers.

I know this is still several months away but it's just about that time to think about Field Day. Our first Field Day meeting will be on February 11 at 7:30 PM at the club station. David VE3MDX and Mike VA3EMW will be co-chairing this year. And through the effort of Tom VE3TWG we have secured an application form for Pinchin Farms, our new home for Field Day since last year. This is a big event for the club as it helps promote the emergency preparedness aspects of the hobby and it's a great social event to end out the club year in June. So mark February 11 on your calendars.

Basil VE3JEB recently wrapped up the Basic course and is a few weeks into the Advanced course. We have a great turn out of about half a dozen hams who are now working their way through advanced topics on electronics, propagation and general radio technology in hopes of passing the Advanced exam. Many thanks to Basil and other guest lecturers for organizing and running both courses!

Finally, as I am sure many of you have heard, Gerry Spraklin VE3GRS passed away on January 13. Gerry was a long time member of MARC and attended every Field Day for as long as I can remember, usually helping with set-up and take-down of the stations. He had also been a volunteer mailer for the VA3/VE3 incoming QSL bureau. Gerry was a great fellow who was always will to talk to you about anything. He will be greatly missed by his fellow MARC members.

Again, welcome everyone to 2015 and see you at the club meetings!

73 --- Jeff Stewart VA3WXM

A few helpful hints 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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VE3MIS/VE3RCX

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January 2015

**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

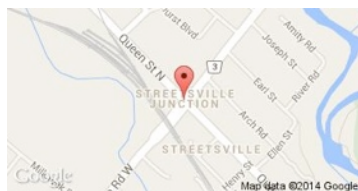
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marc_members



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.



Well folks, this time I've gone and done it, compiling the newsletter on the last day of the month, when did life become so complicated...

Well we all know the answer to that it just happens, just like about 2 weeks ago my 11 year old dog died one night as we where getting read to go to bed, what a way to end a day, but we do have our name down on the list to get a new chow puppy, she isn't even born yet.

On a lighter note, I decided to treat myself for my birthday, (February 1st), and bought myself a Beagle Bone Black, it going to be come my new Ham Shack work station computer.

The way technology is going, I am one of those lucky people that doesn't do "Windows". I the FX studio I work in everything of any usefulness is running Linux, or OSX. So the BBB is perfect, it runs Linux there by I'm in my comfort zone

I just wish work would let me have a little more time to "play", but the I work in the Linux environment all day, so I guess I can't complain.

Any way, be-lated as it is happy new year.

Valentine Stubbs - Chief Editor - Communicator - VE3VVS



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Living with a Family Ham

By Joyce Holland WA4WZXL published late 70's 73 Magazine, and updated slightly by Mike Wilde

In many situations a ham marries a non-ham. Realizing there is a scarcity of information of how to cope as a non-ham in a ham world, I have compiled the following information, dedicated to greater harmony in the lives of hams and their spouses:

- 1: Do learn the radio vocabulary, arcane as it may be: PTT and CW are not real estate agencies, and XLY is not an abbreviation for a xylophone. 73's and 88's are not parts of a locker combination, and DX is not some special grade of gasoline.
- 2: Remain calm while a multitude of antennae are installed in the back yard and on the roof. Describing to another mom at the kids school where you live is easier when you can say it is the one with the 5 antennas rather than the one with the blue shutters.
- 3: Don't panic when the utility room in the basement becomes a place that comes to be called the ham shack.
- 4: Plan to serve meals at times that do not conflict with nets. Get your spouse to help with cooking meals in advance for weekends that they will be otherwise preoccupied with radio things called 'contests'. Be sure they learn how to set up a thing called a 'cross band repeater' if they also are expected to get the kids to weekend sporting events while said 'contest' is on.
- 5: Try to time conception of your children so the anticipated due date is not likely to conflict with a thing that is somehow important to your spouse called a ham fest.
- 6: Don't be surprised if your spouse does not notice if their pants do not coordinate with their shirt 90% of the time, but they can spot a new electronic gadget in a store window from 100 yards.
- 7: Don't be surprised if a hole is cut in the side of the broom closet in the kitchen to install a transceiver antenna lead. At least your spouse can now be on a thing called 2 metres in the kitchen at the same time he helps to prepare dinner and wash up after meals. Learn to not ask him to help to sauté something the same week he is signed up to be a thing called 'net control'.
- 8: Even if they look just like funny postcards you get in the mail with all the other mixed in ad mail, do not be tempted to throw away a thing called a QSL card into the recycling bin.
- 9: Do your homework and have a set of stock answers ready to spout out at a moment's notice for the following questions you will get from the antenna on your car as you attend to your regular routes around town: A: Why does your car have such a weird license plate? B: What kind of CB is that? C: Can you listen in on the police with that thing? D: How far away can you talk to people? E: Can you talk to my friend in (insert obscure South American country etc.) with that?
- 10: Learn to reassure inquiring neighbours after dear spouse has been seen heading out of the house dressed in a bright vest replete with multiple badges and tags for a thing called an 'ARES SET' that it was not a visit from the RCMP or CSIS.
- 11: If possible, study radio theory towards getting your license. You may want to hide this from your spouse at first if you still want to love them until you feel a bit up to speed on the theory.
- 12: Don't comment that CW transmission sound like confused woodpeckers to you.



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13: Relax and enjoy your spouse's hobby. It mostly keeps them around the house, and has the potential to be a lot safer and less expensive than a lot of other hobbies they might have picked up or be tempted into as a part of some mid-life crisis.

After almost 6 years of marriage, in October 1976, Joyce became WA4WZL.

What is a Net

by: Mike Wilde,

based on an article by Stephen Reed, WB4E2M.

(Called mastering Network Operations, in a late 70's edition of 73 Magazine.)

Across the amateur bands there are many nets – the short form of the full work – network. Some exist for official purposes, while others are out there just to have casual conversations as though a bunch of people were sitting around a camp fire.

Imagine there is a center of the circle. The campfire analogy here is not a bad one, because the station at the middle really is in the hot seat – they are the network controller, or control station. This station will announce the net is commencing, typically in good ham operating tradition by checking if the frequency is in use first.

They will then ask for check ins, and log who has traffic (anything to talk about) or if they are just standing by. One by one he takes in call letters and logs them and a link is made from that station and the net controller. When the list of stations waiting to call has been logged, they will likely call for any additional check ins.

They will then start to poll the logged in stations one by one, either to receive their traffic or to just confirm communication status. Once the list has been gone through once, there will likely be a call for any new check ins, and then a second round will be gone through to poll the logged in stations. There may be a call for new log ins at the end of the second round. If so, their traffic will be dealt with at once, and likely the net declared over.

The net controller is likely to make closing remarks and communicated the next time the net is scheduled to convene, and what the desired net frequency will be. If at the start of that net, if it is on an HF frequency, it is found that the desired frequency is busy, it is not unusual to shift to a nearby vacant frequency.

If the network is a more managed one, if you have traffic for a specific station, net control may command you to both leave the net frequency to pass your message traffic on a frequency other than the net frequency, and then come back to net frequency and check back in again (when there is an open gap to speak) after the message has been communicated to the destination station.

If you find yourself in a conversation with someone who cannot reach the net controller, and you know you can, you can become a relay station to pass their log in status and potentially their traffic.

If you are new to the ham fraternity, nets, are one of the best ways to get yourself on the air, and become comfortable speaking into your microphone. MARC has three-ish nets every week. There are formal nets on the Mississauga 2m and 440MHz repeater on Tuesdays at 8:30pm, and on 40M on HF on Sunday night. Friday night a less formal gathering of members on the 10m band at 28.400MHz. Details are believed to be found on the MARC Mississauga web site. Mississauga's nets are structured but not formal affairs. No one will bite your head off if you are just getting the hang of using nets to communicate here. Like all things ham-wise though, it is always better to listen and figure out what seems to be happening before you transmit.



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Breakdown in Communications

*Based on a letter to the editor of 73 Magazine by George Brumley, OA6CV,
Arequipa, Peru in the late 70's.*

Adapted by Mike Wilde

Mike's preamble: Even with widely divergent interests many amateurs are offered with the many facets of amateur radio, and the fact that communications with our service can span the globe, the core issue common to all ham activities is communications. The following article was originally written before all digital modes apart from CW came into use, but its message can most certainly be extended into newer digital modes as well as to more traditional communication modes:

Communications is an art, it is said. It basically means expressing yourself and your ideas clearly to another.

Sometimes, of course, we do not want to express ourselves too vividly. Guest are invited into the living room, so to speak, but not into the rest of the house. Guests may be envious of the new furniture and toys the ham household has bought, but the host does not mention that it is still many payments away on the credit card before it is really 'theirs', or that there was a big spousal fight over buying the stuff in the first place. But what about things we want to express?

Enthusiasm is the best vehicle to get them to their target. There is no other ingredient which will so help us get to the heart and mind of our fellow man. It views things through the eyes of a child, and with the heart of a lover. It acts as a self-releasing power and helps focus the entire force of a personality on a subject. It lifts the listener into the clouds with you and makes them see the thrills, mystery, romance and fascination which has captured you. It transports your audience from the humdrum into a new world of wonder – your world.

But remember that communication is a two way road. It is not an attempt to impress another with how great you are or with the expensive equipment you are using.

Let's say, for a ham, it's an invitation with another person to share some delights, to have some fun together for a few minutes. Its aim is to encourage two people of similar interests to confide in one another, and get to know one another, to build friendships, and to create what the Greeks call phileo, fraternal love.

Sincerity comes into the picture too, then. This helps us see that the enthusiasm is not the empty back slapping of a high pressure salesman which perhaps has its parallel in the fancy warm phrases of friendship that come with some confirmation of contact QSO messages as QSL cards (or online postings). If it really was a pleasure to talk with you, write it as a part the individual reply message rather than have it pre-formatted as part of your tag line. How boring if the person you are talking with at the moment says essentially the same thing to the two dozen hams before him said too. Let's spice things up with a little originality.



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Yes, of course we generally discuss the same things. We gripe about band conditions, talk about our rig and antenna. How is that original? What if the other end is using almost the same gear you are?

Well what hassles with it have you overcome, and how? This bit of information will interest them, and likely spark a genuine conversation on the subject. Or have you used this gear in a weird situation? Is there fancy feature you really like, or one which really annoys you? Say so.

Don't be bland.

Other ideas?

Is your shack somewhere unusual? Are you using an alternative power source? Modified your gear in a way that works well? Helped anyone get their ticket, or made a public speaking presentation about the hobby?

Any results? Any hobbies in the family? Your occupation now or in the past?

Do you own or use any boat anchor class of older rigs? What got you interested? Do you have other conversation pieces in the shack? Look around and describe them.

Regardless of where you live, talk about it by name as well as saying it is near whatever big city. How old is your town? What made people settle there? What are the main industries? Were you born there or moved there?

Would you like to leave? Why? Where do you want to go? Why? Besides the temperature, what else can you say about the weather? Is it good, average or unusual? How has it affected your lawn and garden for instance?

What about your family? Do you mention them on the air? One fellow I was conversing with one morning interrupted himself while describing his rig. He was back in just a moment, saying "That was my wife. I'm always up before her at my radio on weekends.

When she gets up she fixes the coffee and brings me a cup, and brings it to me and adds a good morning kiss. We have been married for twenty years and I still get a kiss good morning every day." I felt I had been admitted into the family circle, and that I knew him better. I complimented him on having such a loving companion, and we enjoyed a good chat about marriage. When we signed off he left me wondering what I'm doing wrong to not get a kiss every morning? I'll never forget him.

Some hams on the air for years still can come off as mic shy. Maybe they have been mostly technically focused, or may be unsure of their grammar or pronunciation. My advice to them is to forget it and get talking. If you love the subject you are talking about your language skills will not really matter all that much.

Take the issue of language with caution when pursuing distant contacts. Remember that for most of them English is a second language. Speak clearly, perhaps a bit more slowly, and definitely distinctly. Doing this makes it more understandable at all times and certainly under any difficult long haul band conditions. Avoid slang and idiomatic expressions and keep it simple.



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You accent can show up on CW as well as phone. Make sure any key and any keyer you are using is copyable locally cleanly before trying to make distant contacts and complaining that they cannot copy your code. If you are on phone, turn the mic off before you clear your throat, sneeze, or yell at the kids in the next room.

Next is profanity. It is just not allowed. It is a sad commentary on masculinity when a man feels he needs to use it to express himself completely by using it. Work to expand your vocabulary so you can sidestep the need to express your felling on an issue with solely a vulgarity.

Listening is the other half of conversation. With talking, it makes up conversation. If no one listens, it is useless to talk. This is a point that is often lost on a lot of talkers. And listening does not just mean separating the words from any information channel noise. It involved understanding and interpreting the words, as well as the speaker's intentions. If someone says to you sharply "Why you old son of a gun!" the phrase is an insult, but said warmly with affection in the voice the meaning is the exact opposite.

Most people, including hams are not very good listeners. We generally talk more than we're supposed to be actively listening. While we are supposed to be listening we are more often making mental notes of what we are going to say as soon as the other fellow shuts up and the channel opens for us to transmit.

Learning to really listen is not difficult, just rare. Usually it is considered a passive thing, as when we listen to our favorite music. But when streams of words enter our ears they need to be interpreted by our minds as to literal meaning but our hearts too, for the often more important meaning. How close can you come to what the other person is really trying to say? Speech is often full of symbols, and the well trained listener can identify them immediately. The aim of careful listening is to actively seek to discover how the other person feels about what they are talking about, and the kind of person they are.

How do you conclude a contact then? If you take the time to listen you hear that many hesitate, stumble, tie ribbons on, have a final, and then a final final, all giving the feeling they want to sign off, but don't want to offend the listener. Have you ever notice the same tendency when out in a social setting? Or have guests into your home?

They say they need to get going, get their coats on, and then stand at the door talking for another fifteen minutes.

Let's learn something from the other radio brethren we sometimes have a temptation to want to look down upon as though we thing we might be better or something. Let's learn from our 'Good Buddies' in the land of CB.

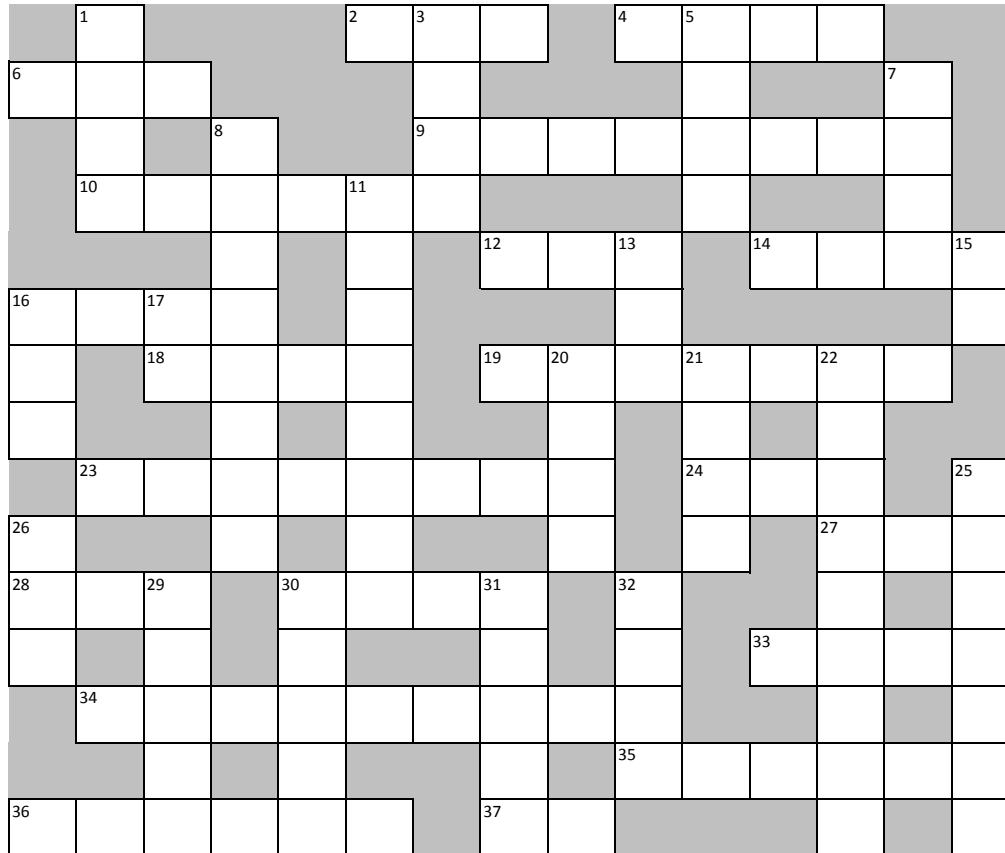
When they say 'I'm gone.' they are really gone.

So let's not rush. Let's say what we want to. Give the other fellow a chance to talk and really listen to him, but when we sign off, let's shut up.

I'm gone. OA6CV

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The Field Day Antenna Crossword



Across

- 2 What an antenna tuner can reduce from TX eyes
- 4 Feeling after day of tower climbing
- 6 Mast to ground stabiliser
- 9 Core element of antenna
- 10 Common element of some antennae designs
- 12 Attempted radiation from a beam, ___ directional
- 14 End fed German radiator
- 16 Desired goal of most amplifiers
- 18 What foils your branch aimed throw line
- 19 Flat diamond like big space wire radiator
- 23 DX antenna with low take off angle, but urban noisy
- 24 PL-259 water block, _elf _malgamating _lastic tape
- 27 When tower crew is supposed to show up
- 28 30-300 million cycles per second
- 30 DX antenna when you have lots of space and cash
- 33 directional antennae Uda often forgotten from
- 34 Longest RF part of most beams
- 35 Antenna farm starting tool: plot plan and _____
- 36 Long distance communication ionosphere bugaboo
- 37 Between MF and VHF

Down

- 1 Directional radiator used where no icing risk
- 3 Budget but often effective radiator
- 5 Modern feed line used under microwave frequencies
- 7 Used for multiple band service from a single radiator
- 8 Pre WW2 favoured lowest loss feed line
- 11 Beverage et. al. radiators
- 13 Idealized point radiation, ___ tropic
- 15 Feeling when antenna fails mid winter: ___'d
- 16 Tool for tower erection, ___ pole
- 17 What skills come into HSMM antennae links
- 20 Around an angel, or round antenna
- 21 Top of tower strong tube
- 22 R-L-C behaviour of system under AC influence
- 25 Never enough feature of a vertical antenna
- 26 Typical signal strength at RX input terminal
- 29 E's or M's of interest
- 30 Used often with modern feedlines
- 31 Used to equal impedances, trans _____
- 32 Best used when assembling before dropping parts



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Membership Renewal

It's never a bad time to think about renewing 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_Yahogroup
- 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. And if sending it to the club post office box, it may take a while to be collected and eventually cashed !)



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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 _____