



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

The Gavel – June 2015

Hello again MARC members. Sorry you missed my Gavel last month but this one will be worth the wait. By the time you read this we will have had our last general meeting before the traditional summer break, and we will be in the final preparations for Field Day 2015. I hope everyone has had a good 2015 so far and is looking forward to some down time these next couple of months. For this Gavel, I'm going to get a little introspective about our hobby and our club.

What was the “spark” that got you interested in amateur radio? For some it may have been work related. For others it was because a significant other was a ham. And for still others it was a natural extension of their interest in electronics or computers. For me personally it happened the first time I heard an overseas broadcasting station on a shortwave radio I received for my twelfth birthday. This was many years before the internet took off and the quickest and easiest way to learn about people and places from around the world was through shortwave radio. I was completely and utterly fascinated by the accents, the exotic music and the stories being told from lands on the other side of the ocean. Perhaps you got interested in a similar way?

Once you obtained your ham radio licence, what was it that drew you to consider joining an amateur radio club? By and large the amateur radio hobby is very much a solo undertaking: we make one-on-one contacts with other hams through CW, voice, digital modes, etc. But there is certainly a communal aspect to it, especially when it comes having help setting up antennas, working community events or taking part in Field Day. This is

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And hopefully more to come in the September issue!

Have a great Summer and see you all at field day

Communicator Newsletter, it's only as good as what is published on it's pages
The newsletter archives is running desperately short of content to fill these pages, please don't let the pages go un-filled. Submit your content and get published



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VE3MIS/VE3RCX

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where I think belonging to a club is a huge advantage. There is a comradery by being part of group of like-minded people who are as passionate about their hobby as you are. And having these people from different backgrounds and with different experiences enriches the collective knowledge of the group and makes for an excellent resource for new hams.

Once you decided to join a club, why did you decide to join MARC? For many I suspect it is because they happen to live in the same city as the club's name suggests! But we have numerous members who don't live in Mississauga, who travel longer distances to attend our club meetings – indeed one member comes from downtown Toronto! There must be something more about MARC that has drawn so many hams together. I like to think it is because of everything our club has to offer, including education programs, community service, a club station and regular meetings often with interesting and dynamic speakers. Indeed, I have fielded many comments from other clubs in the GTA on how successful MARC has been at attracting members and being involved in so many things. I like to think that these strengths of our club are due to the club leaders and club members. And none of this would be possible without you choosing to become a ham, to consider joining a club and to deciding to join MARC.

As we move into the lazy, hazy days of July and August I would ask that each of you reflect on the questions I posed above and consider how MARC can best move forward into the future. What would you like to see more of? What would you like to see less of? What do you think will be make your club better?

Have a great summer and see you all in September!

73,

Jeff 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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**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

"I don't care if then division doesn't send QSL cards, ...
GET ON THAT RADIO!"

There is a reason I chose that cartoon for this the last newsletter for 2015. And by the end of this editorial why it may be the last issue of the Communicator.

Lets face the music here, times are changing. At one point years ago the



newsletter was an important communication tool between groups of similar or like interests. That was a time when information was not at the finger tips of everyone on the planet. From the heart of the biggest cities the smallest tribe in the out back, communication has become ubiquitous. This is even more ironic, coming from a group who prides itself in it's technical prowess. A group capable or communicating from "DC to Daylight", via "CW to pure digital" and everything in between. And yet, seem incapable of suppling any input to the output they want.

Garbage in garbage out, an old term from the early IT industry, if you didn't give something don't be surprised if you don't get anything, It's a two way street, yet every month the collective membership expect to receive a newsletter with inspiring and insightful content. And my comment is, from where is this content supposed to come from. Quite honestly simply plagiarizing someone else's word's from already published magazines, or from another

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.





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groups website, isn't doing anything that is worth while. What happened to articles written by members about their new project, about new contacts, newly attempted modes. In a word what we the collective of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club are doing, and should be sharing. Well during my time as editor of this newsletter I can count on one hand all the people that have contributed to these pages, and not run out of fingers, this is not the Toronto Star, or the Mississauga News, we don't have a staff of news reporters, photographers, writers, and journalists Yet words are supposed to appear in your inbox every month, like magic. The articles that will appear in this issue will come from Jeff Stewart, Mike Wilde, and myself. Time and time again these people and from Ed, and Michael Brickell has been able to pull of this newsletter, and quite honestly, we are running out of words.

I know everybody is busy, but the operative word in that small sentence is "everybody". And yet even taking all this in to account, I am not simply going to walk away, and let this keyboard fall silent, I am going to offer a suggestion to consider over the summer, because come this September things are not going to continue as they have every year, I do not see the point. Sure you can decide to trick somebody else into to doing the same thing, but they will still come to the same conclusion, especially since these words have already been at that time published, you can not undo what has been done.

So as I said, I was going to offer a solution to a unsolvable problem, that solution, is a collective blog, yes a blog. Offering the same thing as this newsletter but if no one contributes then nothing happens, it becomes everyones input to make something like this work, and it will become very obvious if there are people willing to contribute. there will not be just one or two people trying the piece together two or three things, with a little spit and polish.

Later this summer I will be speaking with our president of the club to discuss options, idea's and possibilities, And while I am editor in chief of the newsletter, I am putting the collective club on notice, come up with a better idea, or let it go. We are all very intelligent individuals, surely there are a couple brains out there that can com up with something, this is not the time for complaisance stand by the way side. I have thrown an idea on the table, and I call to see everybody's hands on the table.I have enjoyed doing this editors job, but it is wearing a little thin, this is VE3VVS saying 73's and going on the side.

P.S. I WOULD LIKE TO OFFICIALLY TELL EVERYONE MY FIRST NAME IS VALENTINE, ROBIN WAS A NICK NAME GIVE TO ME BY MY PARENTS, WITH NO EXPLANATION, WELL IN MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE AND OTHER ASSOCIATES I AM CALLED VALENTINE, AND IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE THE MEMBERSHIP TO CALL ME THAT TOO.

Valentine Stubbs - Chief Editor - The Communicator - VE3VVS

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Mike EMW and David MDX are selling the Food Tickets of the upcoming MARC 2015 Field Day Event.

David researched where we are buying from, but is out of town at a conference for a while. So he has passed off the tickets he has had made up for the participants to buy to Mike.

Dinner on Saturday will be a half chicken dinner - i.e. with chicken, side of fries/baked potatoes/rice or salad, dipping sauce and a bun, as well as pop and a piece of cake. This meal will come from a local shop that has been operating in town for quite while, called Chicken Land BBQ. Thank you John Duffy for the suggestion of this venue.

Breakfast will be catered out of a local Streetsville eatery, Graydon's, and will consist of a good sized plate with 2 pancakes, 2 sausages, 2 pieces of bacon, scrambled eggs, potato wedges, and a bit of fruit. We will brew a fresh perc of coffee to go with this meal.

Tickets: Dinner is \$15, and Breakfast is also \$15.

We start selling them this Thursday, 14 May, at the MARC meeting. they will also be available at the meetings on 28 May and 11 June. After that date you are up against the good will of David MDX if he wants to add you onto the order.

So bring more than the toonie you usually toss into the 50/50 to the meeting, if you want to buy you meal tickets for MARC 2015 Field Day.



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Technical Writing for Publication.

When you write an article and get it published, you get a feeling of accomplishment; particularly if you have given it your best effort. If you publish it in the local club newsletter, then you might get a 'hey, that was neat' comment at the next meeting, or as a part of the next club net you participate in.

Then again you never know how much larger an audience you would have if you tried to publish it in a national Ham publication. The high can really build when you see comments to it in subsequent 'letters to the editors' columns, even when the comments come with brickbats attached!

The first part of the battle in getting published is deciding what you are going to write about, ie picking a subject and getting motivated. Maybe look inwards a bit first. Do I know a technical subject or other matter well enough to want to try to explain how it can be used to others? Have you recently built or coded something with neat unique features? Have you been outright experimenting and have interim data to report on for others to comment on? Most of all, do you think there will be other Amateurs interested?

Is the thing that holds you back that you cannot write? Don't let that stop you. The important thing is to convey what you want to say in written form. Perfect English correct spelling and polished style are the exception in a lot of ham publications, despite the best efforts of many editors. All of these mentioned shortcomings can be ironed out by someone else. What you need to do is provide the technically valid substance for others to polish up.

Articles can be about a short project tackled over a weekend, or so, or articles that explain things to beginners, or an article documenting a new technology or new application of an existing technology.

Once you have an idea on what to write, organize it. Few can write without developing an outline first. Even with the infinite revision capabilities of a computer word processor or even a basic email program, a short period spent developing an outline helps speed the final flesh-out of the article, with fewer ideas needing to be moved around. Cut and paste errors, along with auto spelling correction often misrepresent what you are trying to convey.

Don't wait for the perfect day to start writing about a topic – if you wait for that opportunity nothing will ever get put to paper, as the saying once went. Start, and then nibble away at it to build the idea, and sometimes even leave it a while. This is especially true if you are your own editor. Coming back to a piece after a while lets you read what you have written, rather than reading in your mind what you thought meant to try to write about., rather than actually reading the words on the screen. Digital imaging has killed off the need to digital draw a lot of diagrams that once were a pain. Sketch something on paper, label it, and snap a picture to include with the article.

The real trick to getting articles published is to just start working on them, and keeping the idea alive with edits from time to time until the publishing deadline is reached.



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RECHARGING HT BATTERIES

By K6AER

Many hams often wonder why their batteries last only a few years awhile other hams are using their rechargeable batteries 6 years after buying their HT with long use cycles. The individual charging and discharge habits you practice have more to do with your battery possible life cycles. These tips will optimize performance and obtain longer life cycles from your rechargeable batteries.

Initialize your new battery by charging overnight before using it.

Nickel Cadmium or Nickel Metal Hydride: 14-16 hours, Lithium Ion: 1 to 2 additional hours after charger light turns green. New, non-initialized batteries must be stored in well ventilated, cool and dry locations. Batteries stored in these conditions may be stored: Nickel Cadmium - up to 2 years Nickel Metal Hydride - up to 18 months Lithium Ion/Polymer - up to 18 months

If used batteries are removed from service for periods longer than 30 days, they should be discharged to about 50% of their capacity before storage.

Batteries which have been stored for more than two months should be fully discharged and recharged.

Do not leave your radio and fully-charged battery in the charger when not charging. Continuous charging will shorten battery life unless it used lead acid technology, which is not common with HT's for a very good reason.

Only charge a battery when it needs it. If it is not fully discharged, do not recharge it. Carry a spare.

Stabilize batteries to room temperature (72 F) before charging.

Do not return fully charged non-used batteries to the charger for an "extra boost". Such a repeated short cycle charging practice will shorten battery life.

Batteries will not store indefinitely. Do not buy a spare battery to use in a few years for when your present one dies. The battery will last longer with careful use than sitting on the shelf indefinitely waiting for initial use. Instead buy your replacement battery when you need it.

Try to store batteries at room temperature. Batteries exposed to low or freezing temperatures will have a shortened life.

It is not a good idea to quick charge batteries from an unlimited high current source. It will separate the internal chemical interfaces which will at best shorten cell life, maybe dramatically. At worst, high rate charging may lead to cell rupture from heat buildup, and may even cause a fire.

Not all batteries packs are built the same or have the same quality. Buying cheap and buy often is the caveat in the

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Coming of Age – an intro to ham radio.

Updated by Mike Wilde, from an article by L.Foord, VE3FLE from a late 70' issue of 73 Magazine

I was in the downstairs den, hunched over the rig, intently listening to a quiet twenty metres one winter evening when the knock came. Somehow, even before they actually arrive, one knows these moments are coming, and yet we never seem able to prepare ourselves for them.

"Come in," I said quietly to an otherwise silent house, apart from the noise of the wind outside the little high set window in the room that is my shack.

The door opened a crack and there she was, all four feet of her, honey blonde hair and dancing eyes. "Are you on the air, Daddy?" It was one of the first phrases she had learned, and along with it the gentle past reproaches of talking to me here without asking this question first.

"No, Honey", I smiled. There is something mysterious and sweet with children of her age as they approach bedtime. They can become very adult-like, speak in quiet reserved tones and abandon their habits of fidgeting and occasional tormenting. On some nights they can epitomize perfection in behaviour. I have always suspected their innocence is feigned to avoid going to bed, yet I must confess I usually succumb to their charms.

"What are you doing," she asked, crawling onto my lap. She smelled of tooth paste, and had her PJ's on, so she was showing the first positive signs of having listened to me ask her about five minutes ago to finish up in the adjacent family room and get ready for bed.

"Just listening,," I said.

"Is Uncle Bill on the radio?" she asked hopefully.

"No, not tonight."

She was silent for a moment, staring attentively at the transceiver. "Daddy, how come you can talk on a radio? All of the other kid's parents only ever listen to one."

I replied "Well, it's a different kind of radio."

"Do you like talking to people?"

"Sure."

"Jimmy's dad likes to talk a lot to people, but he can't talk on the radio."

"For this radio, you need a permit" I stated proudly.



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“Does it cost a lot of money?”

“Not really, about \$30 I think.”

“Then Jimmy’s dad must be poor.”

“No, its’ not just the money; you have to learn how to be responsible with the ability to talk that your permit grants you, and write a test to show you know all about it.”

“Oh, I guess Jimmy’s dad isn’t too smart then?”

I quickly switched from educator to disciplinarian and spoke sharply: “Teresa! What have you been told about talking like that?”

She frowned at the retribution, and then her face lit up as she formed a new more acceptable way to make her statement: “I guess he’s not a smart as you are then?”

“It’s not that either” I said firmly. “I’m sure if he wanted to, Jimmy’s father could get a permit. He’s probably just not interested.”

“Oh, he’s interested.”

“How do you know?”

“Jimmy told me his dad is always talking about your radio. He even listens to you on his special hi-fi.”

“Oh” was all I could muster. I happened to be aware that Jimmy’s dad did have at least a short wave receiver, for I had noticed the long wire antenna passing the side yard of their corner house one day. Apparently he uses it to catch up on news from his homeland somewhere in Eastern Europe, from what Teresa had previously mentioned.

“Let’s talk to somebody,” she suggested.

“O.K.” I called a round of CQ. Deathly silence was all that came back after five tries at this over a period of about 10 minutes.

“How come you’re not talking to anyone?”

“The band’s dead.”

“How did it die?”

“It’s not really dead, that is just an expression that adults use. It means there is no one around that can hear my signal right now.”



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“Oh.”

I could tell by her thoughtful silence that I had to change the topic, if only to protect myself from a slew of more of her questions. Bedtime was getting later and later tonight. “Do you know Daddy’s call sign?” I had always been proud of the fact it was one of the first things she had memorized, to her mother’s dismay, even before learning her home telephone number.

“Sure, VE3FLE.”

“Right. Very good.”

“How come you did not say it when you were talking on the radio?”

“I did. I always do.”

“No, you didn’t, you said victor echo three something.”

“It’s the same thing. Instead of saying ‘V’ I say ‘Victor’. That way no one will mistake it for a ‘B’ or a ‘C’, because sometimes different letters can sound alike.

“My teacher says if you pronounce your letter sounds right, no one will have trouble understanding you.” She gave me a knowing smile. How could I contradict her teacher?

“Well, your teacher is right. Except sometimes on the radio it is difficult because of competing information – which we call interference. It could be natural, like lightning storm crackles, which we call QRN, or man-made, like the stray information buzzing leaking from millions of computers and other things, which we call QRM.”

“So like an electronic kind of noise?”

“Yes, very good, now about that bedtime... Guess what time it is?”

She deftly side stepped me: “Do you have any buddies?”

“Sure.”

“I never heard you call anyone your buddy.”

“Well even though I don’t call them that, I do have friends. Friends and buddies are the same thing.” I assured her.

“I know that David’s father has a lot of buddies”.

“How do you know that?” I happened to know that David’s dad is a long haul trucker. I have seen him washing his truck in his drive way with his son on the odd weekend.



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"Once when I was over at David's his father was home and we could hear him talking to a lot of his good buddies. I just thought that maybe he'll let you talk to some of his buddies if you don't have any of your own?"

Ah, the wisdom of youth. My wife was out at a meeting on this particular night. I knew I would be told by her, in no uncertain terms, that I was 'Shirking my parental responsibilities for that ham obsession of yours!' if this charming little harmonic was not fast asleep by the time her mom rolled in. "Maybe. Right now I think we better get you off to bed."

She evaded that one smoothly as well, ignoring me and turning on her youthful charm once again. "What instrument do you play?"

"What do you mean? I don't play any instrument."

"That's what I thought, But I heard you say you wished you could get on the ten metre band."

"That's a different kind of band."

"They don't play instruments?"

"No, I'm afraid not."

"That sounds like a kind of silly band to me, with no instruments."

"I suppose," I acquiesced. "Now off to bed."

"Good night," she said reluctantly, kissing me a good night smooch and climbing down.

When she reached the door she turned and asked, "How come you never say ten-four?"

"Did you hear that at David's too?"

"Yup. And on TV too. Don't you know what it means?"

I was a little hurt, and by now did not really want to explain more. "No", I said smiling weakly.

"It means Roger," she said. With that she threw me a big smile, blew me a kiss and closed the door. I could head her scamper up the stairs.



THE VOICE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN MISSISSAUGA COMMUNICATOR



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April 2015

Note from the editing desk: As a convenience to our current and future members I include the membership forms for the two most important Ham radio associations, RAC, (Radio Amateurs of Canada) and MARC, (The Mississauga Radio Club



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 Yahoogroup		

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 Yahoogroup? 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 Yahoogroup. 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 _____