



The Communicator

Voice of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club

We are Amateur Radio in Mississauga

October 9, 2003

Vol. 6-2



Category 1 Affiliation

From the Gavel - President's Message



As I sit down to write this month's column, seat firmly planted in my neighborhood Tim Horton's and hot black coffee well within reach, I stared for what seemed like an extended period of time at a blank new document with an every taunting cursor blinking at me. With each blink it was as if it were to say "Well go ahead and type something. It's not as if anyone will read it." As my fingers hovered above the keyboard of my trusting well-traveled notebook, my mind started to drift to the events of the past weekend, and of our now comical Saturday escapade at the Halton Railway for the annual Special Event Station.

Most of you won't know about that morning, but picture if you will, an early morning scene on a lonely country laneway, off an equally desolate country side road where some vehicles parked end to end, as if with great intent and purpose. There was,

however, a little something extra to add to this scene – rain! No, not just a drizzle or a shower, but the type of rain that has most people running for warm shelter, and others hunting for the plans to build an ark and gather animals two by two.

Huddled in one of those vehicles were four dedicated or maybe just plain crazy ham radio operators. As one tried desperately to contact someone on the radio while talking into the back of the microphone, (a new technique I'm told), another made a comment that still rings clear in my ears, "what a {bleep} lovely day to come out and play on the radio." Needless to say that after a sufficient amount of time had passed and surveying a then, very soggy operating area, we stood in a circle looking at each other through the rain pouring off the brims of our hats and decided to call it a day.

This, however, certainly did not deter us from returning the next day to have a splendid day of operating with blue sky, puffy clouds, with a backdrop of trees just starting to turn to their fall colours. Such days should remind us all that times similar to those noted above is what being part of a club like ours is all about. Not the meetings, nor the government paperwork.

It's about the people. The good times, the bad weather times we had together, the solving of problems, sharing of common interests, memories of distant contacts with radio operators on submarines in the Ohio River, (yes we had one of those on 40 meters), and meaningful talks between operator and logger when the bands go dead.

Yes, a fine day indeed it was to come out and play on the radio!

73 de Robin (VE3VVS)

Now for another YAP – (Yet Another Pleading)

Well, you didn't think you would get away this month with a shorter than normal from that Gavel ... did you? Maybe you did, or hoped, in any case. Yes the Gavel was short but meaningful and heartfelt. That doesn't mean I don't have a couple of items that I need to ask the assistance of those who may be reading.

- A. I would like to know how many people would be interested in participating in our club's effort to set up a packet station. The main purpose would be for the use in ARES emergencies. It has come to the attention of the ARES groups that skills in message passing are lacking somewhat, and it might be far better a task handled by another form of technology. Our club's ARES group will be co-operating with the Peel ARES Group in setting up such stations. And since the equipment will be available, in times of non-emergency, we do other packet operations like a packet net or run a BBS node. If there is sufficient interest, maybe we could start up a Packet / Digital Special Interest Group. If there is anyone interested, please email me at ve3vvs@rac.ca.
- B. Even though we have a couple of good ideas on the table, with respect to the location of our club station, back-up plans certainly couldn't hurt. I know that I have mentioned this in the general meeting, but the virtual suggestion box certainly hasn't overflowed. So let's recap what we are looking for:
 1. A small dry space for our radio equipment, with enough room for 2 or 3 operators
 2. Facilities for a tower, and tower mounted antennas, (this is actually most important)
 3. Washroom facilities, (or at least a couple of bushes)
 4. Some parking, (parking tickets are no fun)
 5. Access 24 hours a day, (card, key access)
 6. Available 120 / 240 VAC power, (or at least a bicycle connected to a generator)
 7. And some security against theft and/or malicious damage (like a lockable door)

If you have any ideas, however "out of the box" they may seem, please submit them to John Duffy or myself in any manner you see fit, (no carrier pigeons please, the neighbours will complain).

This Month

2. Commentary
3. General Meeting #01 Minutes
4. General Meeting #2 Minutes
5. Executive Meeting #2 Minutes
6. Amateur News from Here and There
8. Fleamarkets and Contests
9. Maximum Usable Frequency- October 2003
10. Club Calendar 2003-2004

Sunday Brunch

Sunday brunches are held on the first Sunday of each month. Time is 9:30AM at at **The Golden Griddle** located at 6400 Millcreek Drive (905)542-9964. Millcreek Drive is located 1 block north of Battleford and off Erin Mills Parkway. The restaurant is on the east side of Erin Mills Parkway. All are welcome to come out and have an opportunity to chat in an informal setting.

Sunday Brunch November 2, 2003

Club Nets

2 Metre Tuesday Night Phone Net

Join in on the chatter starting at 8:30PM every Tuesday on the club repeater. Hosted by various net controllers. Contact our VHF Net Manager, **Brad (VA3ZRT)**, if interested in becoming a net controller. 145.430MHz Tone 103.5 Minus (-) offset

75 Metre Sunday Night Net

Starts at 8:30PM every Sunday. Hosted by various net controllers. Contact our HF Net Manager, Michael (**VE3TKI**), if interested in becoming a net controller.



The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003



Commentary...

It's Thanksgiving this coming weekend and I think it's appropriate to stand back and reflect over the past year. As a club we have much for which to be grateful. We have a new meeting location which is vastly superior to our old one, particularly the padded chairs. The room is more intimate and parking is far better than it was at the Scout Hall. Finding a location was no easy task, but our members rose to the challenge and after much looking about, telephoning around etc we settled on the Thomas A Becket location.

Our education classes also have a new location, and again this came about from members who phoned around, asked questions and finally nailed down a place. The Public Service/ARES meetings are being held at the Ontario Zone headquarters of the Red Cross here in Mississauga. The universe is unfolding as it should and we are truly

thankful.

We also must not forget that we have a new executive. We thank all those who have served in the past and especially thank Robin (VE3VVS) for undertaking the job of being our new president. Although Robin has not been a long time member of the club, when he was approached to take on the job, he accepted without reservation.

I think he's doing a bang-up job. Meetings start on time and end at reasonable times. Even in mid-sentence on occasion! For those who attend executive meetings, they move along with a set time limit of 2 hours, more than reasonable to accomplish club business most of the time as it keeps the meeting and topics focused.

Along with new people on the board, comes along new ideas and thoughts. This is something that all clubs need if they are to grow and evolve. I've stated this before in this space, and I'll keep on saying it as this is important for any club to survive. It behooves us (see I know big words too-just don't know what they mean) as members to support our president, and indeed the board as a whole. Obviously, there will be times that agreement cannot be reached or that opinions vary, but hopefully we are democratic and mature enough to go beyond those differences and continue to work together. So, to carry on the theme, thank you Robin (VE3VVS) and the remainder of the executive for your dedication to the hobby and our club. Also thank you to our previous presidents. I've had the privilege to serve 4 presidents, Art (VE3SQG), Michael (VE3TKI), Lorne (VE3CXT) and our current president, Robin (VE3VVS). Each one has contributed to the club in different ways, and all have the club's best interests at heart.

So, what's left to do? Well we are actively looking for a location to house our station. There has been a lot of research done, and there are a few leads that appear to be quite promising. Although it appears to be taking forever and that not much is being done, in fact there is activity behind the scenes. We must allow the process to continue and I'm sure eventually, a location will be found. So even though it may appear nothing is happening, don't be fooled and please be patient. This is, as Art has often said, a hobby. Most of our membership works for a living and spend whatever time they can on club activities. I can tell you that many give a great deal of their free time to our club, and for that we must truly be grateful and thankful.

73 and Happy Thanksgiving de Tony (VA3QC)

Mississauga Amateur Radio Club Directors and Managers
 PO Box 2003, Square One Post Office, Mississauga, Ont., L5B 3C6
 Website: www.marc.on.ca
 Email: ve3mis@rac.ca

Directors

President.....: Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	905-826-6753	1 st Vice President.....: John Duffy	VE3DRZ	905-822-4661
2 nd Vice President...: Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	905-625-6846	Treasurer.....: Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM	905-814-5882
Secretary.....: Tony Champion	VA3QC	905-828-4004	Past President.....: Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	905-858-8594

Managers

Membership.....: John Knees	VE3WJK	Education.....: Earle Layback	VE3XEL
Ed. Act (Theory): Bob Hawkins	VE3AGC	Ed. Act (Theory).....: Alan Baronet	VA3AWB
Ed. Act (CW).....: Frank Lamb	VE3HTX	Ed. Act (CW).....: Tony Champion	VA3QC
Repeater Mgr.....: Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Repeater Asst 1.....: Art Sinclair	VE3SQG
Repeater Asst 2.....: Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP	VHF Net.....: Brad Thomas	VA3ZRT
HF Net.....: Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Public Service.....: Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
Club Station.....: Rick Brown	VE3IMG	Club Station Asst.....: Bob Giddy	VE3IAB
House.....: John Duffy	VE3DRZ	Contests.....: Rick Brown	VE3IMG
Contest Asst 1.....: Alex Malikov	VA3UA	Contests Asst 2.....: Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
Newsletter.....: Tony Champion	VA3QC	Special Events.....: Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
Special Events Asst.: OPEN		QSL.....: Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Field Day.....: Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Field Day Asst 1.....: Tony Champion	VA3QC
Field Day Asst 2.....: Jody Levine	VE3ION	Field Day Asst 3.....: John Duffy	VE3DRZ
Field Day Asst 4.....: Gerry Doran	VE3DOR	Canwarn.....: Louise Sawitzki	VA3CLC
Programmes.....: Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Programmes Asst 1...: Bob Giddy	VE3IAB
Programmes Asst 2.: Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Webmaster.....: Art Sinclair	VE3SQG

Public Service Events/ARES

Emerg Asst 1.....: Art Sinclair	VE3SQG
Emerg Asst 2.....: Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Emerg Asst 3.....: Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
Emerg Asst 4.....: Sean Conlin	VA3MED
Emerg Asst 5.....: Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
	VE3XBB
	VE3CXT
	VE3VVS

Audit Committee

Auditor 1.....: Mike Sawitzki	VE3MSE	Auditor 2.....: Bill Dmytrasz	VE3DNY
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The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003

Minutes of General Meeting #1

Date: September 11, 2003

Location: 3535 South Common Court, Mississauga

Time: 7:30PM

Officers Present:

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2nd Vice President
Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM	Treasurer
Tony Champion	VA3QC	Secretary
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 st Vice President
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Past President

Attendance:

- 40 including visitors.

Opening Business – Robin (VE3VVS)

- Opened the meeting by introducing the executive and welcomed visitors.
- Introduced Lorne (VE3CXT), Art (VE3SQG) and Michael (VE3TKI) as club ambassadors for those who are visitors, or new to the club. They will be introduced at every meeting when there are new people present. The purpose is to make welcome those who are visitors in the hopes that they may feel more comfortable and to help foster good will in the hopes that they may join up.
- Robin (VE3VVS) announced that Sean (VA3MED) has agreed to become the Emergency Co-ordinator replacing Michael (VE3MSE), who decided to step down after serving as EC for many years. Robin thanked Michael for his dedicated service to the club.
- Robin gave an update on the status of the IRLP node. Everything is ready to go once we obtain a transceiver. The node will be operational on the 2M repeater frequency.
- Robin advised all that the Field Day badges were available for those who participated in Field Day 2003.
- Alex (VA3UA) won first place in Canada in the ARRL 10M CW Contest with 1750 QSO's. Congratulations!

Public Service - Bob (VE3XBB)

- We have a request to act as parking control for a group.
- If anyone knows of a group who is looking for people to provide communications for a walkathon, please contact Bob (VE3XBB)
- The Halton Radial Railway Museum special event is happening on September 27-28, from 1000AM-1600PM ET both days. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Bob (VE3XBB)

Station/Contest Group – Rick (VE3IMG)

- The Canada Day contest (July 1,2003) was operated as a remote setup.
- It has not been decided which contests the club will operate as we do not have a permanent radio station, which means

that we must operate remotely either from the FSV or from some other remote location.

- A Contest Group meeting will be held where all this will be discussed and decided.

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)

- John (VE3DRZ) gave an impassioned oratory on the merits of joining RAC. He noted that it costs \$39.95 to become a member of RAC, our national organization, which is also the liaison between radio amateurs and the Government of Canada. He noted that the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club is affiliated with RAC, which provides the club with several benefits, one being the insurance on our radio equipment, the FSV etc. Another benefit is the outgoing QSL Bureau, which the club uses quite extensively.
- We are pleased to announce that 60% of the members of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club are members of RAC, giving the club a bronze rating. If 75% were members, we would have a silver rating, 90% gold.
- John went on to point out to the assembled throng that since licensing fees were dropped, there is no reason that all couldn't afford the yearly fees.
- 22% of amateurs in Canada belong to RAC.
- As the club has budgeted \$40.00 for a RAC membership, it was decided that this cash would be sent to RAC as a donation.

Membership

- John (VE3WJK) requested that all members renew/join up before the end of October. Those who have not renewed as of that date will be removed from the yahoogroups and newsletter list.

Education

- Classes will commence on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:30PM at the Meals on Wheels location at 2445 Dunwin Drive.

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services)

- ARES/public Service meetings will be held at the Red Cross building located at Cancross and Matheson

50/50 Draw

- Robin (VE3VVS) won \$19.50, which he donated to the club. 60' of coax was won by Peter (VE3BHI)

Presentation

- Dan (VA3MA) gave a talk on digital modes of operating.

Next Meeting: September 25, 2003

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25PM
A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary
September 23, 2003



The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003

General Meeting #2 Minutes

Date: September 25, 2003

Location: 3535 South Common Court, Mississauga
Time: 7:30PM

Officers Present:

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2nd Vice President
Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM	Treasurer
Tony Champion	VA3QC	Secretary
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 st Vice President
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Past President

Attendance:

- o 46 including visitors.

Opening Business – Robin (VE3VVS)

- o Opened the meeting by introducing the executive and welcomed visitors.
- o Introduced Lorne (VE3CXT), Art (VE3SQG) and Michael (VE3TKI) as club ambassadors for those who are visitors, or new to the club. They will be introduced at every meeting when there are new people present. The purpose is to make welcome those who are visitors in the hopes that they may feel more comfortable and to help foster good will in the hopes that they may join up.
- o The Peel Club have been invited to take part on the Halton Rail Special Event, but no response as of yet.
- o A list of possible Sunday brunch locations was presented to all and sundry:
 - o Tucker's Marketplace\$14.99
 - o Town & Country Buffet\$14.99
 - o Stage West \$8.95
- o The consensus in the room was to select Stage West and a decision made to have our next Sunday Brunch there. *Consequently, it was discovered that the management of Stage West would not give separate cheques to "large groups" (ie: more than 4) and they also include in the bill a 15% gratuity. The next decision made was to return to the Golden Griddle. Thank you Janice for taking the time to research the above digs on our behalf. It is greatly appreciated.*
- o Asked those present to keep eyes and ears open for a possible location for the radio station. Contact either Robin (VE3VVS) or John (VE3DRZ) who will follow up on leads.
- o Field Day 2003 badges are available for pickup for those who took part.

Public Service - Bob (VE3XBB)

- o We have a request to act as parking control for the Mississauga Garden Council.

Station/Contest Group – Rick (VE3IMG)

- o Contest group meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 1 either at Rick's (VE3IMG) or at Tim Horton's.
- o A decision will be taken on which contests the club will participate.

Membership – John (VE3WJK)

- o John (VE3WJK) requested that all members renew/join up before the end of October. Those who have not renewed as of that date will be removed from the yahoo groups and newsletter list etc etc.
- o 55 members have signed up thus far.

Education

- o Classes will commence on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:30PM at the Meals on Wheels location at 2445 Dunwin Drive.
- o CW classes will be held in the new year.

ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) – Sean (VA3MED)

- o Goblin Patrol will be occurring on October 31 (Halloween night)
- o The 5 AEC (Assistant Emergency Co-ordinators) were introduced to the members. They are: Lorne (VE3CXT), Michael (VE3TKI), Art (VE3SQG), Bob (VE3XBB) and Robin (VE3VVS)

General – John (VE3DRZ)

- o John noted that the Oakville club meets on October 6 and their guest speaker is an expert in avionics equipment. They meet at the Red Cross location on Navy Street, starting at 7:30PM.
- o John sang the praises of lawyers, hot air and the fact that Lorne (VE3CXT) donated a kettle to the club. Thank you Lorne for your generosity.

50/50 Draw

- o Bob (VE3HOW) won \$21.00

Presentation

- o Michael (VE3TKI) gave a refresher primer on the repeater and Robin (VE3VVS) gave an overview of IRLP.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2003

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25PM
A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary
October 5, 2003



The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003

Executive Meeting #2 Minutes

Date: October 2, 2003

Location: 1309 Killalby Drive

Time: 7:30PM

Attendees:

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
Tony Champion	VA3QC	Secretary
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Past President
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2nd VP
Rick Brown	VE3IMG	Contest/Stn Mgr
William Bressette		VE3WPJ
Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Liaison
Sean Conlin	VA3MED	Public Service
John Kenzie	VE3WJK	Membership
Micheal Brickell	VE3TKI	Repeater Mgr
Art Sinclair	VE3SQG	Webmaster

Absent: Jeff Stewart (VA3WXM) Treasurer; John Duffy (VE3DRZ) 1st VP

Sunday Brunch Location

- Once it became known that the Stage West wouldn't provide separate checks to groups larger than 4 and also that they included a 15% gratuity on the bill, it was decided to return to the Golden Griddle and to speak with the manager prior to sitting to ensure that we would be given separate checks. Thanks to Janice Stubbs, YL of Robin for researching potential locations for the Sunday brunch.

City of Mississauga Affiliation

- Robin (VE3VVS) will call Russ Pooley and thank him for recommending a one year affiliation. Robin will provide a list of the current membership to Russ once it has been finalized.

Radio Station

- Russ Pooley of the City of Mississauga provided a list of possible locations in Mississauga that may be able to provide space for the radio station. Robin (VE3VVS) will follow up and advise at the next meeting.
- There is another location that is being actively pursued. This location looks particularly promising. Any news will be passed along. A letter has been sent and we are awaiting a response before proceeding.

ARES/Special Events

- Sean (VA3MED) wants to book time at one or two 2nd general meetings to provide some ARES training. This will include the rules of running of formal nets and the use of an appropriate preamble.
- The callup tree will be updated at the end of October/early November once the membership has been established.
- It is the intention of Sean to publish minutes of the ARES/Public Service Group Meetings.
- Photo ID's of club members will be made for identification purposes at Red Cross.

- Sean is to meet with several people to see whether he can help in locating a home for the emergency radio station.
- The police have requested that those who are working on the Goblin Patrol stay until 10:00PM.
- There is money in the form of a grant being made available annually to organizations such as ARES, Red Cross, St. John Ambulance etc. Sean (VA3MED) will clarify whether Mississauga ARES is separate from Brampton concerning the applying for and securing a grant. Once this has been clarified, further discussion will be had.

Constitutional Review

- There is nothing to report as of this time
- Art (VE3SQG) and Robin (VE3VVS) will investigate with their respective Pooh-Bahs experts concerning the Privacy Act with regards to our club and the posting of info on a the members only yahogroups. *(It's getting so you shouldn't step outside your door for fear of breaking some silly law or other.- snide comment by minute taker)*

Membership and RAC

- Someone, somewhere, somehow will look into some way of recognizing those members who are also members of RAC. (hope that was vague enough!)
- As of this meeting, 61 members have signed up – 75.4% are Mississauga residents.

MARC Ware

- Brad (VA3ZRT) advised via an email that the new logo is coming along

New Business

- Michael (VE3TKI) had a request from the Women's group at Thomas A Becket Anglican Church to do a presentation on the 3rd weekend in October. A radio station would be setup and operated as part of the demonstration.
- Someone suggested that the club logo/banner/poster should be displayed at our general meetings to advertise who we are to others who are using the church facilities.
- Webspace will be searched out to store club photos. This would be separate from the yahogroups.
- A standard simplex frequency for club members should be set and published. This would be used for special events etc. Where applicable, we should note local repeaters such as the VE3RSS repeater in Halton for the Halton RR Special Event. We would, of course ask permission from the repeater owner(s) first.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:25PM. We stayed silent for the remaining 5 minutes and contemplated our navels. Afterwards we all silently stood up and quietly left. It was quite moving. I guess you had to be there.

Next meeting will be November 6 at John's (VE3DRZ) at 7:30PM.
Prepared by: A. J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary, MARC
October 6, 2003



The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003

Halifax Hams cope with the Hurricane RAC Atlantic Director Dave Nimmo reports



Amateurs were closed up in the EOC 12 hours before the hurricane hit. We had several "field stations", myself included, ready to go on a moments notice....I had 3 VHF, 1UHF, 1HF rig c/w portable AE, power supplies, batteries, etc. all in my car.....but none of us were called out.

I did go and assist at our local Telus site which was co-located with a city fire/police/amateur repeater tower which fell. Amateurs moved fire & police antennas and gear from the fallen tower over to the Telus tower and got that gear going again....didn't bother about the 2M repeater as

the city has 3 other repeaters all of which were up and on emergency power.

It was interesting to note that the cell-sites have about 24 hrs backup power available, which is usually enough, but not in this case!.....The city gave Telus a generator to feed their gear in exchange for city getting to add their antennas to the Telus tower!

Most local amateur AE systems survived the storm, my own 50 ft tower and six antennas on it included, but my friend VE1TK, located in a lovely but exposed seashore location, was not so fortunate losing 4 of his 5 towers!

The biggest problem in the city is the very large number of very mature maples and other big trees that were uprooted in middle of Halifax proper and laying on power lines, houses, etc. All 3 phase systems were back up and running by supper hour Tuesday, so almost all malls are back up.....now they are going street by street on the single phase systems.....it will be well into weekend, maybe longer for some people.

Nova Scotia Power Corporation has a history of just "doing it's own thing", not even having a representative at the EOC plus not giving anybody any info on what they are doing and when things would be back up. 2 or 3 days into the aftermath, things suddenly changed...NSP had a rep at the EOC and started saying that they were taking their priorities from the EOC organization!

Dick, VE1AI is quite involved with EMO and the EOC and he expressed frustration at the fact that hams are NOT being used to effect. The hams were right on top of it, closed up 12 hours prior to hurricane hitting, and several mobile units ready to go 11 hours prior to hurricane's arrival, but we were never called upon!

Special Event Station VA3IF

The Guelph Amateur Radio Club is setting up a Special Event Station VA3IF from Monday November 3, 2003 to Tuesday November 11, 2003. This event is operated from the Birthplace of Col. John McCrae which is

now a Museum. John McCrae wrote the famous poem "In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow, between the crosses row on row.

They will be operating weekdays from 10-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm. There are also some evening operation. The following bands will be being used: 80mtrs, 40mtrs, 20mtrs, 15mtrs, 10mtrs, 2 mtrs (both VE3ZMG 145.210- and IRLP on Node 2260 [147.540 with a tone of 131.8])

At the Museum, the club works with many groups of School classes, Cubs, Brownies, Sea Cadets etc. explaining about Amateur Radio, letting them talk on air, and promoting World Peace and Remembrance. Anyone who is in the area of Guelph during this event is more than welcome to visit the Museum which is located at 108 Water St., Guelph ON.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to operate, you do not need to be licensed, as a licensed amateur will be on site to guide you. There are also some "hand on" activities for children (of all ages).

(Thanks to Linda, VE3ILJ)

Luxemburg drops Morse

As of the 25th of September, Luxembourg Radio Amateurs holding a CEPT class 2 (equivalent to the Canadian No Code certificate) licence are authorized to use all the same HF bands available to those with a class 2 (5wpm Morse) certificate.

Thanks to Armand Erpelding, LX1MA, Président, via UBA

Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) October 2003

Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) always takes place on the third full weekend in October. The World Scout Bureau announces the dates on their web site. Dates are also available from Scouts Canada's National Office and web site.

Any Radio Amateur with an interest in Scouting can help by having youth members and their leaders visit his/her station for a period during the weekend or by setting up a station at a local Scout location.

Before organizing a station, amateurs are strongly advised to satisfy themselves of the degree of interest within local Scout groups. This may be done initially through a contact with the local commissioner or directly with a group. Participation can vary from being on the air for an hour or two with a few Scouts and leaders present to operating for the whole 48 hours with a large number of participants.

Remember that JOTA is not a contest. The intent is to establish contact with other Scouting stations and have an opportunity to share Scouting information between countries and groups.

Basic Rules

1. Radio Amateurs enter the event by calling "CQ Jamboree" or by answering other stations using this call.
2. Any authorized amateur frequency may be used. It is recommended that stations use the agreed World Scout Frequencies listed below. To avoid congestion, other frequencies close by can be used as well.
3. All Radio amateurs must strictly observe their license regulations.

WORLD SCOUT FREQUENCIES

Band	SSB (Phone)	CW (Morse)
80m	3.740 & 3.040 MHz	3.590 MHz
40m	7.090 MHz	7.030 MHz
20m	14.290 MHz	14.070 MHz
17m	18.140 MHz	18.080 MHz
15m	21.360 MHz	21.140 MHz
12m	24.960 MHz	24.910 MHz
10m	28.390 MHz	28.190 MHz



The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003

UNOFFICIAL FREQUENCIES

Frequencies above 50MHz can also be used during JOTA. Voice (FM, SSB), CW (Morse code), packet and satellite communications are encouraged.

VHF

There are advantages to using VHF:

1. Equipment tends to be smaller and lends itself better to field operations

2. Scouts will learn that there is more to Amateur Radio than HF.

3. The event will help promote activity on the VHF bands.

Suggested VHF Frequencies

6 metre band 5.175 MHz (SSB)

2 metre band 155.250 MHz (SSB)

Any simplex frequencies (FM)

Repeaters linked together for provincial and/or inter-provincial contacts should be linked for the entire JOTA weekend.

SPECIAL SCOUT STATIONS

Each licensed amateur radio station has a call sign. The first one or two letters specify a country. Here are a few call signs of well-known Scout stations you might be able to contact.

HB9S World Scout Bureau, Geneva
K2BSA Boy Scouts of America, National Office, Dallas
JA1YSS Boy Scouts of Japan, National Office, Tokyo
PA6JAM Scouting Nederland, National Offices, Leusden
SZ4KSA Boy Scouts of Kenya, Paxtu Station, Nyeri
VK1BP Scout Association of Australia, National Station, Canberra
GB2GP Scout Association, Gilwell Park, London

HB9S

The World Scout Bureau's amateur radio station is located in a permanent radio room at the Bureau's in the center of Geneva, Switzerland. The station is on the air regularly at Scout nets. During JOTA, HB9S will operate most of Saturday and Sunday with short breaks during the night. Transmitters will be on the air simultaneously on the 10/15/20 metre, 160/80/40 metre and 0.72 metre bands. The world JOTA Team is usually assisted by World Bureau staff and an international team of Scout Radio Amateurs to operate HB9S.

Making contact with HB9S requires a lot of patience. Virtually everyone who participates in JOTA will try. The station personnel ask that you follow the instructions given by the operators and do not interfere with on-going contacts. The operators do their best to make contact with as many stations as possible during JOTA.

Operations will begin on Saturday at 00:00 h Geneva time (GMT + 2 h) and run almost continuously throughout the weekend. You may send requests for skeds for both stations in advance to the station manager by packet HB9AOF@HB9IAP or email hb9aof@uska.ch. Please note the propagation predictions when selecting sked times.

For links to JOTA web sites go to:
<http://www.rac.ca/jota>

Thanks to Lena W. Wong, National Organizer, JOTA, Scouts Canada National Office

Ireland and Singapore Drop HF-Bands Morse Requirement

Two more countries have dropped the Morse code requirement for HF bands operation.

On the 15th of September, Ireland announced that they no longer required a Morse test and therefore all Irish B licensees now have Full licence privileges. The text of the announcement from the Commission for Communication Regulation is on the Internet.

The Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society was advised by the Info-comm Development Authority of Singapore that as from the 15th of September the requirement for a Morse code examination for HF operating privileges in Singapore was removed. As from the 16th of September all current and future licenses will be convertible to General Class with full HF privileges. Singapore is thought to be the first country in Asia to adopt the recent amendments of Article 25 of the ITU Radio Regulations.

Thanks to Peter Cook, 9V1PC, and a number of listeners in Ireland and the RSGB News for these stories.

ARRL "Logbook Of The World" Is Off Like A Rocket

Logbook of the World" (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>>--the League's new QSL-cardless awards and contact credit system--has proven to be a huge hit with the amateur community. Since opening September 15, LoTW has acquired more than 2200 registered participants. Another 2400 or so applications are pending, and the QSO database of 4900 uploaded logs had topped 8 million contacts at week's end.

"Certainly the number of Qs that we've gotten is well above what we expected at this point," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, who has been sharing duties with Assistant to the CEO David Patton, NN1N, as point man for LoTW. ARRL Web and Software Development Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, has been handling software development and updating for LoTW.

LoTW is open to all, and applying for a digital certificate is the first step toward taking advantage of the system. The digital certificate authenticates the user's identity.

ARRL will maintain the ballooning repository of log data from casual operators, DXers, contesters and major DXpeditions. LoTW will be able to provide quick QSO credit for awards programs by identifying contact matches within submitted log data. There have been 51,000 such matches to date. Registered participants then will be able to apply LoTW-confirmed QSO credits toward ARRL awards, such as DXCC, WAS and VUCC.

Work continues on the last major LoTW component--the Web pages to apply LoTW confirmations toward ARRL-sponsored awards. Mills expects that LoTW also will one day provide contact credits for non-ARRL programs. "Major award sponsors have expressed interest in using LoTW records, and details are pending," he said.

The key to the ultimate success of LoTW is for users to upload as much log data as possible. The more contacts in the database, the better the chances of a QSO match.

LoTW eventually will be able to search users' DXCC records and find new credits automatically. The program also will provide full viewing of users' DXCC records, automatically alert users to new awards achieved and offer comprehensive support for many other awards.

Mills cautioned new users that LoTW permits just one digital certificate request per call sign. He advised that once users apply for a certificate, they should not attempt to alter it or create another request. Any errors, he points out, can be corrected later. For US users, the first certificate has to be for a current call sign that's in the FCC database. After you get the certificate, you can request additional certificates for formerly held call signs.

While the digital certificate is free, LoTW will charge on a per-credit basis to apply credits toward awards. "Logbook of the World is an alternative to collecting QSL cards by mail," Mills said. Fees <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/fees>> range from 25 cents for a single credit to



The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003

15 cents per credit in lots of 500. Users may purchase credits in advance, but LoTW fees do not also cover award fees.

"It turns out that this is a much cheaper way to collect credits for DXCC," Mills asserted. "Overall, we are very happy with the progress and user acceptance."

This week, EchoLink <<http://www.echolink.org>> announced that it would accept ARRL's LoTW's digital certificates to authenticate new users as an alternative to providing a copy of their amateur license.

News and announcements will be posted to the Logbook of the World Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>.

ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 39

Losing our propagation information system

NOAA are looking at pulling the plug on their real time propagation information system, including real time data on the state of the interaction of the earth's magnetosphere with the solar wind, the state of the earth's magnetic field.

This information is vital to both the VHF and HF community as the data is used for such things as predicting Auroral DX openings

on VHF, assessing HF conditions for contesters, and predicting potential for 50 MHz F2 openings etc. These tools have been invaluable to the amateur community worldwide for many years and if we want to continue to have the data available NOAA needs to be aware of the extent to which this information is appreciated and diligently used by millions of Radio Amateurs worldwide.

Drop a note of support, as Canadian Amateurs, to [SEC.Webmaster@noaa.gov] asking that they continue to provide real time Internet based data that is used to predict propagation conditions worldwide at HF and VHF within the Amateur Community and that this information is a vital part of our on-going emergency response capability as well as our propagation research and utilization work.

For Canadians who are not familiar with this data have a look at these web pages if you are not familiar with them:

[www.nws.noaa.gov] [www.sec.noaa.gov/NOAAscales] [ftp.sec.noaa.gov/pub/latest/wwv.txt]

Sept. 29 2003...RAC Bulletin 03-027

Upcoming Fleamarkets

HARC Hamfest 2003
Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Saturday, October 18, 2003, Ancaster ON

York Region 27th Annual Hamfest
York Region Amateur Radio Club
Saturday, November 1, 2003, Markham ON

Contests October/November

October, 2003

SARL 80-Meter QSO Party	1700Z	-	2000Z, Oct 2
TARA PSK31 Rumble	0000Z	-	2400Z, Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest, Phone	0800Z, Oct 4	-	0800Z, Oct 5
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB	1500Z	-	1859Z, Oct 4
California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 4	-	2200Z, Oct 5
QCWA QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 4	-	1800Z, Oct 5
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB	0700Z	-	1900Z, Oct 5
YLRL Anniversary Party, CW	1400Z, Oct 8	-	0200Z, Oct 10
10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z	-	2400Z, Oct 10
Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 11	-	0800Z, Oct 12
EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1500Z	-	1859Z, Oct 11
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11	-	0500Z, Oct 12
and			
	1300Z	-	2200Z, Oct 12
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z	-	2100Z, Oct 11
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z	-	0400Z, Oct 12
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB	1400Z, Oct 15	-	0200Z, Oct 17

JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 18	-	2400Z, Oct 19
ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z, Oct 18	-	2400Z, Oct 19
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 18	-	1459Z, Oct 19
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 18	-	2359Z, Oct 19
Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW	0000Z	-	0200Z, Oct 19
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW	0700Z	-	1900Z, Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 19	-	0200Z, Oct 20
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 25	-	2400Z, Oct 26
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 25	-	2400Z, Oct 26
November, 2003			
IPA Contest, CW	0600Z	-	1000Z, Nov 1 and 1400Z - 1800Z, Nov 1
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 1	-	1200Z, Nov 2
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 1	-	0300Z, Nov 3
North American Collegiate ARC Championship, CW	2100Z, Nov 1	-	0300Z, Nov 3
QRP ARCI Running of the QRP Bulls	2100Z, Nov 1	-	0300Z, Nov 3
IPA Contest, SSB	0600Z	-	1000Z, Nov 2 and 1400Z - 1800Z, Nov 2
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z	-	1100Z, Nov 2 and 1500Z - 1700Z, Nov 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z	-	1700Z, Nov 2
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 8	-	2359Z, Nov 9
Japan Int. DX Contest, Phone	0700Z, Nov 8	-	1300Z, Nov 9
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 8	-	1000Z, Nov 9
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 8	-	1200Z, Nov 9
Anatolian ATA PSK31 Contest	1800Z	-	2400Z, Nov 8



The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003

MAXIMUM USABLE FREQUENCY OCTOBER 2003

The monthly HF propagation forecast chart lists, in MHz, the MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) for various circuits originating / terminating in Canada. The number in each cell is the frequency that will sustain communications 50% of the time during the forecast period, at a specific time and over that specific circuit.

If you prefer to use the OWF (Optimum Working Frequency) it is in theory, 80% of the MUF for the same period and on the same circuit. Multiply the value in the cell by 0.80 and you have the approximate value of the OWF. But the ALF (Absorption Lowest Frequency) might be higher than the OWF and communications might be impossible to establish on the circuit at that frequency.

If you use a frequency higher than the listed MUF, your chances of establishing and maintaining reliable communications decrease very rapidly. At MUF the chances of establishing a reliable contact or hearing clearly an international broadcaster are only about 50%.

When the ALF is higher than the MUF the table will contain an asterisk (*). This does not mean that communications are impossible but that they are highly improbable, try and use the last listed MUF or below for that specific circuit.

The notation (P) after the name of one of the terminals of a specific circuit denotes that this is a polar circuit and that you should expect poor to unreliable communications on this circuit during geomagnetic disturbances. This notation will not appear in the circuits originating in the "Nunavut" and

"West Arctic" listing, as these two terminals are normally located inside the theoretical auroral zone.

For the purpose of establishing these tables, all the circuits are assumed to be fully reciprocal, thus the listed MUF's can be used for transmission / reception from either end of the circuits. This assumption is not totally correct but the differences in frequencies are minimal

The District/NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) forecast frequency calculated for the six areas of Canada, can be used for local communications within 300 kilometres of the station. To properly use this propagation mode it is essential that an antenna having a maximum radiation angle between 75 and 90 above the horizon be used, such as a half-wave dipole erected no higher than 1/8 to 1/4 wavelength over the ground. Most of the RF energy radiated by such an antenna and on the listed NVIS frequency will be returned to earth within 300 kilometres of your station.

NVIS propagation mode can be very useful for emergency communications when the regular VHF repeaters are out of commission. For more information on this peculiar and interesting propagation mode and its possible uses see "The NVIS Propagation Mode and the Ham" in the "ARRL Antenna Compendium, volume 5."

UTC >>>	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
EASTERN TO																								
District/NVIS	7	6	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	8
Atlantic Canada	11	9	8	7	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	7	10	13	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	12
Central Canada	12	10	8	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	9	11	12	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	13
Pacific Canada	18	16	13	11	10	9	8	8	8	8	7	7	8	10	13	16	18	19	19	20	20	21	20	20
Nunavut	12	11	9	9	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	10	13	14	15	16	16	16	17	17	16	15	14
Western Arctic	17	15	12	11	10	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	9	11	14	16	18	18	19	20	20	20	20	19
Eastern USA	10	8	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	8	11	12	12	13	13	13	13	13	14	13	12
Western USA	22	18	15	12	11	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	10	12	16	21	22	23	23	24	24	25	24	24
South America	21	18	17	16	16	15	15	15	14	14	13	16	22	28	30	29	29	28	29	29	29	30	28	25
Western Europe	12	11	11	11	11	10	10	11	10	10	11	14	19	21	23	24	24	23	22	20	18	15	13	12
Eastern Europe (P)	11	11	11	10	10	12	13	12	12	12	12	16	20	23	24	25	25	23	21	18	15	13	12	12
North Africa	13	13	13	12	12	11	11	10	*	*	*	15	19	22	23	24	25	25	21	17	15	14	14	14
South Africa	19	17	15	14	14	13	13	*	*	*	*	20	25	27	28	29	29	30	30	30	30	29	26	23
Middle East (P)	14	14	14	14	13	13	12	12	*	*	*	16	20	22	24	25	23	20	17	16	15	15	15	15
Central Asia (P)	14	16	15	15	14	13	13	13	12	13	13	14	18	20	21	19	17	16	15	14	14	13	13	13
India (P)	15	16	15	15	14	*	*	*	*	*	12	13	18	21	22	20	18	17	16	15	15	15	15	14
Indonesia (P)	22	20	17	15	*	*	*	*	11	11	11	11	12	15	20	22	23	25	19	15	14	19	26	24
Australia	24	22	18	16	*	*	*	*	11	11	11	11	12	14	19	22	22	19	17	17	17	22	26	26
China (P)	19	17	15	15	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	15	19	18	17	16	15	15	15	15	14	15	17
Japan	21	19	16	14	13	13	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	16	22	25	23
South Pacific	28	24	19	16	15	14	14	14	14	13	13	13	13	17	18	15	17	24	29	30	30	29	28	29

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The Communicator

Vol. 6-2

October 9, 2003

CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2003-2004

OCTOBER

- 01 Sunday Sunday Brunch at ?? (note 2)
02 Thursday Executive Meeting #02 at Robin's (VE3VVS)
07 Tuesday Basic Class #01 Registration & Intro (note 3)
09 Thursday General Meeting #03 – Speaker Night
14 Tuesday Basic Class #02 Ohm's Law, Inductance, Capacitance, Impedance (note 3)
16 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
21 Tuesday Basic Class #03 – Freq & wavelength, Propagation (note 3)
23 Thursday General Meeting #04 –
28 Tuesday Basic Class #04 – Antennas, Transmission Lines
31 Friday Goblin Patrol

NOVEMBER

- 02 Sunday Sunday Brunch at ?? (note 2)
04 Tuesday Basic Class #05 – Tubes, Solid State, Power Supplies
06 Thursday Executive Meeting #03 at John's (VE3DRZ)
11 Tuesday Basic Class #06 – Transmitters and Modulation (note 3)
13 Thursday General Meeting #05 –
18 Tuesday Basic Class #07 – Receivers (note 3)
20 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
25 Tuesday Basic Class #08- Set-up, Operations, Regulations (note 3)
27 Thursday General Meeting #06 –

DECEMBER

- 02 Tuesday Basic Class #09 – Interference & Safety (note 3)
04 Thursday Executive Meeting #04 at Art's (VE3SQG)
07 Sunday Sunday Brunch at ?? (note 2)
09 Tuesday Basic Class #10 - Review (note 3)
11 Thursday General Meeting #07 – Annual Christmas Pot Luck gathering
16 Tuesday Basic Class #11 – EXAMINATION (note 3)
18 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)

2004

JANUARY

- 04 Sunday Sunday Brunch at ?? (note 2)
08 Thursday General Meeting #08 –
15 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
22 Thursday General Meeting #09 –

FEBRUARY

- 01 Sunday Sunday Brunch at ?? (note 2)
05 Thursday Executive Meeting #05 at Earle's (VE3XEL)
12 Thursday General Meeting #10 –
20 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
26 Thursday General Meeting #11 - Nominations Committee Formed

MARCH

- 04 Thursday Executive Meeting #06 at ??
07 Sunday Sunday Brunch at ?? (note 2)
11 Thursday General Meeting #12 –
18 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
25 Thursday General Meeting #13 –

APRIL

- 01 Thursday Executive Meeting #07
04 Sunday Sunday Brunch at ?? (note 2)
08 Thursday General Meeting #14 – Nomination of Directors
15 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
22 Thursday General Meeting #15-Annual General Meeting + Elections

MAY

- 02 Sunday Sunday brunch at ?? (note 2)
06 Thursday Executive Meeting #08 at ??-Executive Turnover Meeting
13 Thursday General Meeting #16-Budget Presentation
20 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
27 Thursday General Meeting #17-Budget Approval

JUNE

- 03 Thursday Executive Meeting #09 at ??
05-06 Sat - Sun Streetsville Founders Bread & Honey Festival
06 Sunday Sunday Brunch. 9:00AM at Vic Johnson Arena
10 Thursday General Meeting #18-
17 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
24 Thursday General Meeting #19-Season wrap-up Pot Luck Social
26-27 Sat – Sun ARRL Field Day

JULY

- 01 Thursday RAC Canada Day Contest
04 Sunday Sunday Brunch at ?? (note 2)

NOTES

1. Meetings start 7:30PM at St. Thomas A Becket Church Hall, 3535 South Common Court unless otherwise noted.
2. Brunch is at 9:30AM unless otherwise noted.
3. Classes are from 7:00PM - 9:00PM at Meals On Wheels at 2445 Dunwin Drive

Visit our website for any updates of the calendar.