



The Communicator

Voice of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club

We are Amateur Radio in Mississauga

November 13, 2003

Vol. 6-3



Category 1 Affiliation

From the Gavel - President's Message



Ingenuity and determination are words synonymous with amateur radio, and can be used equally to describe the people in our hobby. The ability to adapt to our surroundings and events is all but legendary, and we prove this inherent skill time and time again.

This comes partly from desire to try new things, and partly due to making do with what's available. This never daunting ability to overcome circumstances can actually be attributed to our never ending battle against one of the most nature's more fundamental laws, Murphy's law to be exact. Murphy's law, which states if anything can go wrong, it will, is proven with as great a frequency as our ability to work around it.

I would, however, propose that it is not just Murphy's law that plays into the equation of challenge that often presents itself to us, but that technology is actually vindictive. That's right, technology has a way of knowing exactly when it is needed most and will, in every effort to prove itself as indispensable, fail. These failures are not just simple fix minor annoyances. These vindictive failures are usually of an unexplainable and undetermined nature.

An example of such a cold vindictive act was ever so true on Halloween night during the preparation for the Goblin Patrol Net. As our EC began his preamble, there was a click, a courtesy tone and silence. Never a good sign. What actually happened was that a perfectly functional radio decided that it was its turn to prove that the technology that we advertise as being masters of, is in actual fact, dependent on its willingness to co-operate. Yes, it was the V7A's turn to be vindictive ceasing to work right at a critical moment. What had been working not just 5 minutes earlier, was now simply shutting off every time the "mic" was keyed.

Well as the old showbiz saying goes, "the show must go on", as did the Goblin Patrol Net. With no time or ability to get another radio, innovation and determination came into play. The Jeep, which was happily parked outside, was pulled up close, turned on, left in idle and a mobile radio was pressed into service. Additionally, an HT was handed to the attending officer so he could monitor the evening's goings on with relative inconvenience and the net ran without further incident.

We are constantly being presented with proof that technology is actually the master, and we are the unwilling pawns in its evil little game. In evidence I offer the events of the simulated emergency test which occurred earlier this month. Four seasoned operators went to the Red Cross Ontario Zone to operate the equipment which is kept under lock and key. Once the cabinet was opened and the power turned on, the task of setting up the radios to the required frequencies began in order that we could take part in the exercise. The first dual band radio, after some familiarization with its controls, tuned up perfectly. The HF rig equally co-operated by simply turning and it sat ready for service on the correct frequency. At this point we should have realized that a plan to foil our efforts was afoot, as our attention was turned to the second dual band when one of the members of the group realized that there was no cable to attach the laptop to the TNC - a minor annoyance at best, while another seemed to be having some difficulty with the second dual band transceiver. It was, I believe preplanned. The technology had already set the plan in place to lull us into a sense of false confidence. Yes, this third radio was going to play the evil villain to prove that technology can be and is vindictive.

At what point, however, does ingenuity and determination, become just plain stubborn. How many times do you actually have to read the manual, reprogram, or fix something before you realize that buying the anti-lemon warranty, or even taking up stamp collecting, might not have been such a bad idea. This was such the case that SET Saturday morning. Four people tried in vain to prove that they truly were the masters of radio, only to be shot down one at a time over and over as the display of the radio blinked firmly under the control of Murphy's law itself.

How many times do these otherwise seemingly unrelated events have to happen before we realize that all the skill and ingenuity in the world isn't going to prevent technology from proving its superiority over us. All we can do is prepare ourselves, test everything out ahead of time not once but multiple times, be ready to meet another challenge, show the ingenuity for the amateur radio operator that each vindictive technological act will be met as just another chance to try yet another unproven idea ... an idea that would curl to toes of most design engineers. Here's to curled toes...

Robin (VE3VVS)

This Month

2. Commentary
3. General Meeting #03 & #04 Minutes
4. Executive Meeting #03 Minutes
5. Samuel F. B. Morse
6. RAC News
8. Note From Peel Police re Goblin Patrol
9. Maximum Usable Frequency- Nov 2003
10. Club Calendar 2003-2004

Sunday Brunch

Sunday brunches are held on the first Sunday of each month. Time is 9:30AM 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 December 7, 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.



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Commentary...



One of the nice things I find about travelling with an hf rig in the car is that it gives me the opportunity to spend some time on the air. One of my favorite things is to check into the TP net (Transprovincial Net) on 7.055.

This net operates 7 days a week from early morning to late afternoon. They have different controllers, who each typically do an hours shift.

These controllers are an interesting group and each one operates in his/her own style. I usually check in once an hour just to chat and let them know where I'm operating from and what the weather conditions are like etc.

On the way back I heard from the controller in Ottawa that it was freezing rain and someone else reported snow in the Montreal region. I was thus forewarned when we drove into snow around Drummondville QC. This changed as we got closer to Montreal, to freezing rain. Oh joy. The good news was that it wasn't all that severe and we made it to Cornwall safe and sound although a little weary after driving for 13 hours from Moncton.

The following day on the final leg of our journey, another of the controllers talked about a former club that once existed nearby Ottawa. His comment jarred me as he said that the club folded due to politics. They had apparently gone through several presidents and each quit due to internal politics in the club. What a sad commentary. Here we are in the communications field, in a HOBBY that we all profess to really enjoy, yet internal strife killed a club. There are probably other similar stories out there.

RAC is a "club" if you like, or a "union" in the broad sense. It is a group of amateurs who are mostly volunteers, who spend a great deal of their personal and leisure time on our hobby because they enjoy doing it.

It is a union in that it represents the interests of amateurs to the federal government. Although I'm not a strong unionist, this is one union I firmly believe in. It is the only protection we have from other, more powerful lobbies than ours, who want to gain some of the spectrum allotted to amateur radio. This union, like most unions, relies on the membership for support. The more members, the bigger the clout. Look what the CAW can accomplish. Why? Because of large numbers and support. Can you imagine what we, as a community could do if most amateurs in Canada were a member of the radio "union". Industry Canada would take us far more seriously.

There are politics everywhere. It is imperative that RAC survive for our benefit. In order for them to survive and continue the good work they do, they need our undivided support. If you're not a member, please consider joining. \$39.95/year is not a huge expense for most of us. We can find it somewhere. We NEED RAC to survive and to carry on with their valuable work so that WE CAN ENJOY OUR HOBBY. It's as simple as that.

Getting back to the TP net, one of the reasons it exists is to keep the airwaves alive with the sound of amateurs. RAC also exists to keep amateurs on the air. To paraphrase the old saying - don't use it, lose it.

This is the time of year where we pay tribute to our veterans and acknowledge their sacrifices in order that we can live in a free country such as Canada. To all our veterans out there, and to all those who took/take part in our countries defense, thank you. I can't begin to imagine what kind of society we'd be living in if it weren't for your gallant efforts.

Okay, that's it for this month. As Vera Lynn sang "We'll meet again"

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 Kenzie	VE3WJK	Education.....: Earle Laycock	VE3XEL
Ed. Asst (Theory) ...: Bob Hawkins	VE3AGC	Ed. Asst (Theory): Alan Barolet	VA3AWB
Ed. Asst (CW).....: Frank Lamb	VE3HTX	Ed. Asst (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.....: OPEN	
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 Coord.....: Sean Conlin	VA3MED	Emerg Asst 1.....: Art Sinclair	VE3SQG
Emerg Asst 2.....: Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Emerg Asst 3.....: Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
Emerg Asst 4.....: Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Emerg Asst 5.....: Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS

Audit Committee

Auditor 1.....: OPEN		Auditor 2.....: Bill Dmytrasz	VE3DNY
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General Meeting #03 Minutes

Date: October 9, 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
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Past President

Absent: John Duffy VE3DRZ 1st Vice President

Attendance:

- o 32 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. 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 Reviewed the possibility of locating the radio station at the HRR museum. Robin (VE3VVS) will follow up with their Business Manager.
- o The Stage West was to be the location of the Sunday Brunch, but this was changed to the Golden Griddle Restaurant after discovering that the Stage West would not provide single bills to us. Oh, pshaw!!!
- o Field Day 2003 badges are available for pickup for those who took part.

Public Service - Bob (VE3XBB)

- o No report.

Station/Contest Group – Rick (VE3IMG)

- o Contest group meeting has been postponed
- o CQWW contest is the weekend of Oct 25-26.

Education – Bob (VE3AGC)

- o 6 people enrolled and classes are underway.

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

- o Goblin Patrol will be occurring on October 31 (Halloween night). Volunteers are needed. 7 so far, need about 20.
- o The Red Cross Disaster course will be taking place on November 22 (Saturday).

50/50 Draw

- o Robin (VE3VVS) won \$13.50 which he donated to the club

Presentation

- o Pierre Mainville gave an informative talk on the National Traffic System.

Next Meeting: October 23, 2003

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10PM

A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary

October 5, 2003

General Meeting #04 Minutes

Date: October 23, 2003

Location: 3535 South Common Court, Mississauga

Time: 7:30PM

Officers Present:

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

Attendance:

- o 30 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. 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 Repeater failed this past week, but has been repaired free of charge by Malcolm Kent of Kent Communications. Power output has been reduced to 25 Watts in the hopes that we will have no further heat problems.
- o A letter of introduction was sent to the HRR Museum business manager. Her response was positive, but we will have to await the outcome of their executive meeting which is being held on November 11, 2003.
- o Magnetic signs to identify our vehicles when working on public service events such as the Goblin Patrol was brought up and discussed. Subsequent to the discussion a motion was made from the floor by Michael (VE3TKI) and seconded by Art (VE3SQG). It was moved that 8 sets of magnetic signs, similar to those shown at the meeting, be purchased at a cost of \$33.00/set + applicable taxes (\$37.95 x 8 = \$303.60). A show of hands passed the motion unanimously.
- o Contact was made with the Peel club concerning HAM-EX™ 2004. Robin (VE3VVS) also asked whether those that managed the various positions last year from our club would be willing to do so once again this coming year.

1st VP – John (VE3DRZ)

- o An email was received from Denny (VE3OKD) of the Oakville club inviting any of our members to attend their next meeting on November 10, 2003 at 7:30PM at their Navy Street location.

Public Service - Bob (VE3XBB)

- o No report.

Station/Contest Group – Rick (VE3IMG)

- o No report

Education – Earle (VE3XEL)

- o 9-10 people enrolled and classes are underway.
- o Noted that the students could be invited to partake in the Goblin Patrol

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

- o Will be meeting with the Peel Police in the future
- o Attended the Peel ARES meeting last week
- o Is looking into training and will be conversing with George Duffield on this subject.

50/50 Draw

- o John (VE3WJK) won \$12.50 which he donated to the club

Presentation

- o Sean (VA3MED) gave an overview of the first basics of ARES.

PLEASE NOTE: NEXT MEETING - NOVEMBER 13, 2003 TOUR OF CBC BUILDING AT 250 FRONT

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM

A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary

November 8, 2003



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Executive Meeting #03 Minutes

Date: November 6, 2003

Location: 2123 Waycross Crescent (VE3DRZ)

Time: 7:30PM

Attendees:

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
Tony Champion	VA3QC	Secretary
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 st VP
Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM	Treasurer
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Past President
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2nd VP
Rick Brown	VE3IMG	Contest/Stn Mgr
Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Liaison
Sean Conlin	VA3MED	Public Service
John Kenzie	VE3WJK	Membership
Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Repeater Mgr
Earle Laycock	VE3XEL	Education
Brad Thomas	VA3ZRT	
William Bressette	VE3WPJ	
Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP	

City of Mississauga Affiliation

- Membership totals need to be sent to Russ Pooley for the City Affiliation Programme. Presently, the membership drive is still on, so we are waiting before sending off the final numbers to Russ..

Club Sponsorship of RAC Canada Day and Winter Contests (Multisingle category)

- The following are the costs of sponsoring RAC's Canada Day and the Winter Contest in the multi-single category: \$55.00/contest/year = \$110.00. If we desire the club logo on the plaques, there is a one time charge of \$50.00. \$150.00 is allotted for this in the current budget. The Canada Day contest will be sponsored as a **memorial to Tony Allsop (VE3FTA)SK** by the club on a continuing basis, while the Winter contest will be sponsored by the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club.

Club/Contest Station

- The HRR Museum will be holding their executive meeting on November 11. If a meeting is requested with our group by the HRR Museum executive, several of our members will attend.

ARES/Special Events

- There is a SET coming up on November 8 at the Ontario Zone offices. Michael (VE3TKI), Robin (VE3VVS), Art (VE3SQG), John (VE3DRZ) and Sean (VA3MED) will be in attendance
- The packet radio station will be up and running by the end of the month.

Membership and RAC

- To date here are the numbers: 54 basic, 9 family, 10 sponsored, 4 student, 17 autopatch for a total of 84 members.
- 57 are from Mississauga
- There are 38 RAC members (58.5%). The executive will continue to promote RAC to the membership.
- There are 12 students enrolled in the basic class

HAM-EX™

- The first meeting of the committee will be setup for November 12.

Repeaters/IRLP

- The VHF repeater seems to be working just fine. Time will tell.

- Michael (VE3TKI) has sent an email to Larry Ornisto re the UHF repeater and the IRLP radios. Awaiting a response.
- Robin (VE3VVS) will contact Sinclair concerning the VHF/UHF antenna setup and whether or not there is any optimization that can be performed.

Constitutional Review

- Michael (VE3TKI) gave a report on the proposed changes to the constitution:
 - Membership:**
 - The board (the elected officers only) to have authority to create/revoke life memberships.
 - The term "honorary members" to be clarified.
 - Executive:**
 - The executive be defined as the elected Board and the managers
 - Duties Of The Board:**
 - Add the right to hold meetings of Board and Executive.
 - Increase the non-budgeted authority for expenses to \$250.00 from \$100.00.
 - Add clause saying that the Board may appoint members to serve in areas of responsibility defined by the Board.
 - ARES:**
 - Correct the reference to Club EC to read Mississauga ARES EC
 - Delete clause relating to duties, and appointment by RAC of the EC
 - Voting:**
 - At Board Meetings, each Board members in attendance has one vote
 - At Executive Meetings, each member of Executive in attendance has one vote.
 - Audit:**
 - An audit will be conducted by the end of June
 - An audit committee will be struck
 - The audit report will be made available to the membership
- The above will be formalized and presented to the general membership in the new year for approval.

MARC Ware

- Ted (VA3CEB) is working on a design for a new logo. Nothing else to report at this time.

Grant Application Strategy

- Michael (VE3TKI), William (VE3BPJ) and Robin (VE3VVS) will work together on a Trillium grant proposal.

New Business

- We have been invited to a joint Executive Meeting by the Peel Amateur Radio Club on the 24th November. Location is the southwest corner of Steeles and Dixie.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:06PM. We chanted a mantra for the remaining 24 minutes, with the audio levels reaching several crescendos. Absolutely amazing. You could say the place was just humming.

Next meeting will be November 6 at Art's (VE3SQG) at 7:30PM.

Prepared by: A. J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary, MARC
November 9, 2003



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Samuel F. B. Morse

From the website: <http://www.morsehistoricsite.org/morse/morse.html>

--Thanks to Sohail (VE3ITU) for the lead--

Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born on April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, just outside of Boston, Massachusetts. He was the son of Jedidiah Morse, a pastor who was as well known for his geography as Noah Webster, a friend of the family, was known for his dictionaries.

At Yale College, Morse was an indifferent student, but his interest was aroused by lectures of the then newly-developing subject of electricity, and he delighted in painting miniature portraits.

After college, to the discomfort of his austere parents, Morse directed his enthusiasm especially to painting, which he studied in England. After settling in New York City in 1825, he became one of the most respected painters of his time, rendering character boldly.

Morse was warmly sociable, was at home with the cultivated and was ardent in conservative politics. A natural leader, he was a founder and the first president of the National Academy of Design, but was defeated in his campaigns to become mayor of New York or a Congressman.

In 1832, while returning on the ship Sully from another period of art study in Europe, Morse heard a conversation about the newly discovered electromagnet and conceived of the idea of an electric telegraph. He mistakenly thought that the idea of such a telegraph was new, thus helping to give him the impetus to push the idea forward.

By 1835 he probably had his first telegraph model working in the New York University building where he taught art. Being poor, Morse used in his model such crude materials as an old artist's canvas stretcher to hold it, a home-made battery and an old clock-work to move the paper on which dots and dashes were to be recorded.

In 1837 Morse acquired two partners to help him develop his telegraph. One was Leonard Gale, a quiet professor of science at New York University who advised him, for example, on how to increase voltage by increasing the number of turns around the electromagnet. The other was Alfred Vail, a morose young man who made available both his mechanical skills and his family's New Jersey iron works to help construct better telegraph models.

With the aid of his new partners, Morse applied for a patent for his new telegraph in 1837, which he described as including a dot and dash code to represent numbers, a dictionary to turn the numbers into words and a set of sawtooth type for sending signals. Morse, discouraged with his art career, was giving nearly all his time to the telegraph.

By 1838, at an exhibition of his telegraph in New York, Morse transmitted ten words per minute. He had dispensed with his number-word dictionary, using instead the dot-dash code directly for letters. Though changes in detail were to be made later, the Morse code that was to become standard throughout the world had essentially come into being.

During the next few years Morse exhibited his telegraph before savants, businessmen and committees of Congress, hoping to find the funds to give his telegraph a large-scale test. He met considerable skepticism that any message could really be sent from city to city over wire.

On his own, in 1843, without significant help from his discouraged partners, Morse finally secured funds from Congress to construct the first telegraph line in the U. S. from Baltimore to Washington D.C.

After Morse directed the wires to be set on poles instead, the work advanced well, and by May 1844, the first inter-city electromagnetic telegraph line in the world was ready. Then, from the Capitol building in Washington, Morse sent a Biblical quotation as the first formal message on the line to Baltimore, a message that revealed his own sense of wonder that God had chosen him to reveal the use of electricity to man: "What Hath God Wrought!"

After twelve years in which most Americans had ignored his efforts to develop a telegraph, Morse had quickly become an American hero.

By 1846 private companies, using Morse's patent, had built telegraph lines from Washington reaching to Boston and Buffalo, and were pushing further.

By 1847, with enough money from the telegraph, Morse was at last able to bring his scattered family together in an ample country home of his own. He bought a house with one hundred acres of land just outside of Poughkeepsie and named it Locust Grove.

In 1848, Morse was married a second time to a poor cousin of only 26 years who was considerably deaf and dumb. Morse explained that he chose her in part because she would be dependent on him. Morse's family grew with several more children.

In the early 1850's, Morse rebuilt the Locust Grove house in the then popular Italian villa style.

In his later years, Morse, a patriarchal figure, attained recognition at home and abroad which is seldom accorded a living hero of the arts of peace. As a wealthy man, he was generous in giving funds to colleges, including Yale and Vassar, benevolent societies and to poor artists.

He died of pneumonia in New York City on April 2, 1872, at the age of 80.

He is buried in Brooklyn's Greenwood Cemetery.

Biography of Samuel F. B. Morse, adapted by Carleton Mabee from his book *The American Leonardo, a Life of Samuel F. B. Morse*



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RAC News

Brief report by Radio Amateurs of Canada at the conclusion of the twenty-first IC-RAC Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting held in Ottawa, ON, October 23, 2003.

Among several on-going regulatory subjects on the agenda, were the following:

- RAC presented its Board-approved recommendation that Morse code be dropped as a qualification requirement.
- Possible options for consideration related to four-character call sign suffixes were discussed.
- RAC provided IC with a copy of its submission to the Committee on the National Antenna Tower Policy Review.
- RAC's efforts to bring more young people into Amateur Radio through the RAC Youth Education Program were introduced and discussed.

Industry Canada invited RAC to submit detailed proposals on dropping Morse code and the use of four-character call signs. Industry Canada expressed appreciation to RAC for its prompt and comprehensive response to the department's request for input on significant changes to regulations arising out of the WRC-2003 decisions.

RAC was represented by President Bill Gillis, VE1WG, Vice-president Regulatory Affairs Jim Dean, VE3IQ, and Directors David Nimmo, VE1NN, and Bj Madsen, VE5FX. Also participating through presentation of their work as members of the RAC Ad Hoc Committee on qualifications were: Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ and Brice Wightman, VA2BW/VE3EDR

Industry Canada was represented by Senior Director, Spectrum Management, Mike Connolly, Director Eastern Ontario District Office and Amateur Radio Service Centre Line Perron, Directorate of Spectrum Operations staff members, Rob Cepella and Gary Steckly, and Harold Carmichael, Program Manager, Quebec City District Office.

RAC response to the National Antenna Tower Policy Review

The Townsend Committee conducting the National Antenna Tower Policy Review under contract to Industry Canada has requested input from interested individuals and organizations

RAC Vice President Jim Dean VE3IQ, with support from legal expert Tim Ellam VE6SH, has spent a good part of the past year preparing a comprehensive response that has been submitted directly to the Committee as well as participating in the preparation of a separate submission from the Radio Advisory Board of Canada.

In a 24 page letter to Professor Townsend, RAC gives a detailed overview of the amateur radio service and its contributions to social and economic development. In addition, the letter makes recommendations as to how tower policies and procedures at Industry Canada may be improved.

The RAC letter is accompanied by five annexes giving examples and legal precedents to support the recommendations.

Both the letter, and the annexes are now available for download from this web site.

The letter, in pdf format, is available at Townsend Letter (150 kilobytes). The Annexes are contained in a zip file at Townsend Annexes (a very large zip file, almost 6 Megabytes)

The letter contains an excellent overview of Amateur Radio, and is well worth reading by all amateurs, regardless of their interest in antennas and towers. It is highly recommended that clubs download the letter and make it available to membership. For those experiencing difficulties dealing with

local city or municipal authorities on tower matters, the annexes may also be of use.

VHF Transatlantic beacon on the air

The Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland and the Baccalieu Amateur Radio Club of Carbonear have been successful in placing a VHF Transatlantic beacon on the air. The beacon is transmitting on 144.400MHz. The transmitter 250 W PA is the same one previously used by VE1SMU beacon. The VHF exciter board and the CW ID board have been built by Joe Craig VO1NA. The 11 element Cushcraft yagi, 1/2 inch hardline feeder and 35 amp power supply to run the beacon have been donated by Frank VO1HP. The yagi and feeder were in-stalled by Boyd VO1CBS, Roy VO1XP and Joe VO1NA on August 30, 2003. The repeater site is in the middle of a large field at a turkey farm!!...and it has a clear view of the North Atlantic ocean through the mouth of Conception Bay on the South East coast of VO1 land. It is in the town of Carbonear at co-ordinates N47 45'24" W53 12'59" [GN37js] with the antenna is at about 300' (90m) ASL.

The transatlantic VHF beacon VO1ZA was placed on the air October 19, 2003 at 1330UTC on 144.400Mhz by Frank VO1HP and Boyd VO1CBS. The beacon is sponsored by the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland and the Baccalieu Amateur Radio Klub. All beacon co-ordinates and information previously released to the public are still valid. Any amateur station who claims to have heard this beacon are asked to send reports via e-mail to either vo1hp@rac.ca or vo1na@rac.ca . Please describe what you have heard and if possible the complete information being transmitted by the beacon.

Thanks to Tom VA3NFA

RAC Board recommends that examinations be revised and mandatory Morse testing dropped.

Following the change, in July 2003, of the international regulations governing the requirement for Morse testing as a prerequisite for access to the amateur bands below 30 MHz, the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada established a small ad-hoc committee to review the results of consultations with Canadian amateurs, and to make recommendations as to appropriate action. The Ad Hoc committee, composed of Chair Jim Dean VE3IQ, and members Brice Wightman VE3EDR and Bob Kavanagh VE3OSZ submitted their report to the RAC Board in September.

The RAC Board approved the report and it was presented to Industry Canada at the fall meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board, held in Ottawa on October 23 2003. Industry Canada has subsequently asked RAC to submit a formal proposal.

In particular, the report recommends that:

- Morse proficiency cease to be a mandatory requirement to qualify as a radio amateur, although an optional Morse test should be retained for Canadian amateurs who may need it to qualify for operating privileges abroad.
- To maintain an adequate standard needed for HF privileges, the report also recommends an increase in the examination pass marks.
- The result of these changes would be a progressive, three-tier, scheme of qualifications: Basic, Intermediate (replacing the present Basic + Morse) and Advanced.



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- Finally, the report recommends certain enhancements to the privileges granted to holders of the Intermediate Qualification.

These recommendations are such that the authors believe they could be implemented by Industry Canada relatively quickly and would not prejudice a possible restructuring of the system of qualifications which might be contemplated for the future.

The report also examines, in a preliminary way, other aspects of the system of qualifications and examinations. In particular, it suggests that consideration be given to replacing the present Basic Qualification by a new entry level qualification. This would resemble the entry or foundation levels existing or planned in other countries to encourage the entry of new people, particularly young people, into Amateur Radio while maintaining a high standard of proficiency.

It also suggests that the Intermediate syllabus, in future, would include increased emphasis on operating procedures and on modern technologies.

Because these concepts will require further time and effort to refine, the authors suggest that the report be considered to be an interim report and that the ten specific recommendations contained therein be acted upon forthwith. They also suggest that the ad hoc committee be authorized to continue its efforts concerning these matters of qualifications and examinations with a view to submitting a further report in due course.

The complete report (17 pages) can be downloaded from this web site in MS Word format, or in pdf format by clicking on the addresses below.

http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse_report.PDF or
http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse_report.doc

Also available, are the results of the RAC web site survey on the Morse question at:

http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Survey_results.PDF or
http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Survey_results.doc

Progress report on Broad Band over Power Line (BPL) Studies

During the past couple of weeks RAC VP Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, participated in meetings at the ITU in Geneva on behalf of the International Amateur Radio Union. One of the important topics discussed at the meetings, was the protection of radio systems from interference generated by the transmission of High Speed Data over the electrical power lines - commonly referred to in North America as BPL. With currently designed BPL systems, most of this interference is concentrated in the lower HF bands. VE3PU presented an IARU document expressing the concerns of radio amateurs, and proposing a course of action for setting protection limits.

There are really two different kinds of BPL to worry about, The first, is the use of the power wires to set up local area networks within a home, to allow computers and other electronic devices to communicate with each other without using additional wires or cables. In this case, the amateur receiving antenna is close enough in most cases to be in the near field of currents carried in the wiring, and the interference picked up can be S9 or greater.

The second case, when BPL is used to connect computers in a home to the Internet, uses the outdoor power wiring. In this case, the power lines can behave as radiating antennas at HF, and the interference may travel long distances, and may even be propagated by the ionosphere. Very little is

known about this case, because the radiating characteristics of the power lines are not well understood. Some amateurs are worried about the cumulative effect of hundreds of thousands of power line radiators, adding up and raising the background noise all across the HF bands.

Amateurs are not alone in expressing concerns about BPL interference. Other radio users including Radio Astronomy, National Defence, Marine and Aeronautical communications are also concerned.

These Geneva meetings were just first steps in a long process which we hope will eventually regulate the use of BPL internationally so as to minimize its effects on HF radio communications. In the meantime, of course, RAC will continue to work with Industry Canada to make sure that they are aware of our concerns and take them into account in setting up emission limit controls for BPL devices in Canada.

Canadian Provinces Award introduces a new award level!

Starting November 1 2003 earn points toward this new level award. The goal is to earn 500 points to achieve this beautiful award. To kick things off we are having a November blitz. For the month of November only we are offering a 11 point bonus for each contact made with another Canadian Ham.

Also to encourage Canadian Amateurs to participate in Canadian Nets we are offering 1 bonus point for each contact made while acting as a Net Control Station on any Canadian Net.

Example: If you take a spot on the Trans Provincial Net and get 30 checkins during your hour you could receive 30 bonus points for logged stations.

Note: Please check with the Net Manager of the net you participate in for approval. Please do not work on this award on any NTS or ARES Nets as these nets are for formal & emergency traffic.

Full details about this award can be found on the Trans Provincial Net website: <http://www.tpn7055.ca>
Eric Olsen VE3GGO
Awards Chairman

AMSAT-NA President's Letter October 2003

My apologies for writing this so late in the month, but I wanted to include some information from the AMSAT Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Meetings, and Space Symposium that took place in Toronto October 17 through October 20. My other excuse is that with three computer crashes I am now typing it for the forth time!

When the AGM etc. is held it is natural for those who worked to put it on to feel apprehensive until the reviews start coming in. Well I am pleased to tell you that we had a great time and I must thank the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel together with Barry Delong VA3BJD, and the crew of hams who worked hard to put the show on. I was able to sit in on all the presentations at the Space Symposium and found them to be both stimulating and inventive. A copy of the majority of the papers can be obtained from the AMSAT office, just ask Martha. The cost is \$20+ mailing and worth every penny. If AMSAT were a profit making organization we would be charging at least \$400 US to attend such a symposium due to the quality of the papers and the work in putting the organization together. What a bargain for \$30! Next year



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we will visit Washington DC, the original home of AMSAT, on our 35th Birthday and I look forward to being there with you.

Our recent membership competition ended up in a tie, both people having 10 new AMSAT members. The two winners were Steve Diggs and Drew Glasbrenner. With only one prize, the toss of a coin settled the matter and Steve won the VX7R which was kindly donated by Vertex Standard/Yaesu. However, Drew did not go away empty handed as he was awarded 3 years membership in AMSAT. My congratulations go to both Steve and Drew, and to the many others who brought in a total of 64 new members to our organization.

During the meetings in Toronto, I announced the start of the "Echo Launch Fund Campaign" . Echo will be launched around the end of March 2004 (scheduled March 31) and the total launch cost will be \$110,000 US. We have to raise that amount before we can think of any further activity on Eagle or other satellites. Every member of AMSAT-NA will be receiving a letter from me in the next few weeks requesting participation in the launch campaign. With AO-27 and UO-14 no longer in service, Echo will be fulfilling that operation as a low earth satellite. In addition there are a number of other things that Echo can do, and we will be developing a schedule of initial operations for Echo in November. Remember there are three transmitters on Echo and we have the opportunity to possibly run two of them at any one time. I look forward to trying to work Echo with my handheld and a whip antenna - it should be possible under the right conditions, perhaps even with a rubber duck!

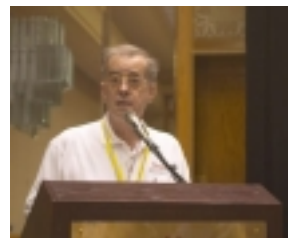
One request from me, for your benefit lets encourage the use and exchange of AMSAT membership numbers in satellite communications, this will, I hope get more people to join AMSAT and thus produce more revenue for more satellites.

One final thought , the "new" Board of Directors met in Toronto (for details see minutes) and the three new member of the Board were present. I was delighted to see the skills that they brought to the board and I am sure that Rick Hambly W2GPS, Gunther Miesse W8GSM and Lou McFadin W5DID will serve you well over their term(s) on the Board. The Board did re-elect me as President, however this will be my last term as your President after serving in this role for four years and previously as Executive Vice-President for two more years I feel that next October will be the right time

to retire, and let others with new ideas take over the leadership of the organization.

73
Robin Haighton VE3FRH
President AMSAT

AMSAT - NA 21st Space Symposium great success



VE3FRH

President Robin Haighton VE3FRH opened the symposium and welcomed visitors to Toronto.

A total of 18 papers were presented, three of which were last moment additions.

VE3NPC



Of particular interest to Canadian amateurs, was the paper by Clare Fowler VE3NPC on construction of an L Band Helix array for uplink to AO-40.

VA3KKZ



Another Canadian paper was presented by University of Toronto Professor Rob Zee VE3REZ who described the Canadian MOST satellite, followed by student Dan Kekez VA3KKZ describing a Canadian designed Microsat.

Note from Peel Regional Police re Goblin Report Goblin Re

Sean,

Thanks to your organization and to you personally. We appreciate the interest and assistance that the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club provided to the Peel Regional Police Service on Halloween 2003. Without assistance from volunteer organizations such as yours, the service that we provide to the citizens of Peel Region would be reduced. We encourage citizens to assist the police and the second set of eyes and ears that your organization provided were a welcome addition.

Thanks again and we hope to see your volunteers again in 2004.

Glen Clement
A/Sgt #1723
Peel Regional Police
12 Division Admin.
(905)453-3311 ex: 1213



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MAXIMUM USABLE FREQUENCY

November 2003

by Jacques d'Avignon, VE3VIA
monitor@rac.ca

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	6	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	6	7	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	7
Atlantic Canada	9	8	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	6	9	12	14	15	16	16	16	16	16	15	13	11
Central Canada	11	9	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	7	10	12	14	15	15	15	15	16	15	13
Pacific Canada	17	14	11	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	15	18	21	22	22	23	23	22	20
Nunavut	11	10	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	8	11	13	16	17	18	18	18	18	17	15	13
Western Arctic	16	13	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	11	15	18	20	22	22	23	23	21	19
Eastern USA	8	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	7	10	12	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	13	10
Western USA	19	15	13	11	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	15	22	24	24	25	26	25	26	25	23
South America	19	17	16	15	15	14	15	15	15	14	13	14	18	25	28	32	31	31	31	31	30	29	27	22
Western Europe	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	12	16	21	23	25	24	22	19	16	14	12	11	10
Eastern Europe (P)	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	13	13	12	12	14	18	22	25	25	22	19	15	13	11	10	10	10
North Africa	13	13	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	10	*	12	16	21	23	25	25	20	17	16	15	14	14	13
South Africa	17	15	13	13	12	12	12	*	*	*	*	16	23	27	29	30	31	31	31	31	31	28	23	20
Middle East (P)	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	12	13	17	22	24	21	18	16	15	14	13	13	13	13
Central Asia (P)	14	14	15	15	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	15	18	17	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	14
India (P)	13	15	15	15	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	15	18	20	18	16	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
Indonesia (P)	21	18	15	*	*	*	*	*	12	12	12	11	11	13	17	21	24	20	17	14	12	17	26	24
Australia	23	20	16	*	*	*	*	*	12	12	12	11	11	12	15	21	24	22	21	20	19	22	26	26
China (P)	17	16	15	15	14	14	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Japan	20	17	15	14	13	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	18	26	23
South Pacific	25	20	17	15	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	12	14	17	15	18	24	30	32	31	31	30	29

ASAPS for Windows is used to prepare these tables.
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CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2003-2004

NOVEMBER

- 13 Thursday General Meeting #05 – CBC Tour
- 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.