



The Communicator

Voice of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club

We are Amateur Radio in Mississauga

December 11, 2003

Vol. 6-4



Category 1 Affiliation

From the Gavel - President's Message



Well the snow is on the ground, and there is a definite chill in the air, actually it's down right cold if you ask me but I digress, we are forced to endure the crowded malls to shop for the season. Yes my friends it's the start of winter and Christmas time is just around the corner. Now this time of year is not just a time for gift giving, and turkey eating, although these are splendid things of the season, it's actually a time that we may have some time off and to be able to get together with family and friends. The first part of winter being Christmas and all, it is also a time of the year to give subtle, or not so subtle hints what you might to see under the Xmas tree, and equally, a time for listening carefully to hints given by your significant

other.

Apart from the seasonal festivities at this time of year and now that it's nice and cold, it's time to do some work on your antenna, right?! Never do they need to be attended to on a nice warm dry summers day! Oh no, they simply work just fine in the nice weather. Ah yes, it wouldn't be winter without a good climb up the tower, with a good stiff wind blowing on your neck and a firm numbing cold to stiffen up the fingers. Those cable connectors screw on so much easier when the finger are just shy of frost bite! Of course, these kinds of calorie burning activities do have a positive spin, it helps offset all the seasonal goodies that we indulge in.

Now this makes a nice segue into the subject of seasonal parties and all kinds of treats to consume. By the time you read this it will either be very close to, or just after the clubs annual Christmas pot luck. True, we have two of these pot lucks, one before summers break and one now at Christmas time, but the December event is somehow much more of a party. And as with all Christmas parties, a good time is had by one and all, with good friends and good food.

And with this, I would like to wish each and every member of the club and their families, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. And may the year of 2004 to come be a happy and health year for all. And hears hoping that the new year will bring many good time and new adventures to our club and our hobby.

73 and Happy Holidays de Robin (VE3VVS)

*Merry Christmas and Happy New
Year to All*

See you in 2004

This Month

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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 January 4, 2004

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...



2003 is fast coming to a close and I don't know about you, but I found that it whizzed by incredibly fast. So where did it go??

It was a very busy year for our club. We have a new meeting place which has turned out to be great, and the only negative feedback is that it is further west than the previous spot. There is plenty of parking, the chairs are comfortable and the facilities are well maintained and inviting, plus we occasionally hear the choir(s) practicing in the adjacent rooms. It's like being serenaded, something which I've never had to good fortune to experience. I guess that would depend who is doing the serenading though.

We have a new emergency Coordinator, Sean (VA3MED) who is doing a commendable job in building the ARES group, an important area of operations for amateur radio. In this day and age, emergency planning is being given high priority by our various levels of government, and amateur radio figures prominently in the plan.

We have a new president, Robin (VE3VVS) who has a wonderful sense of humour and is dealing with the running of the club in a professional and conscientious manner. If you've been reading the minutes of our executive meetings, which incidentally, any member is welcome to attend, you will notice that they all finish on time or early. This is a good thing, particularly those that finish early as that gives us a chance to fill in the remaining time with some nonsense.

New on the board of Directors is John (VE3DRZ), our 1ST VP. He keeps us entertained with his quick quips and one liners, but who is also a great sounding board and someone to turn to for practical advice. Of course you have yours truly, whose function it is to write the minutes etc and to provide a little levity along with John (VE3DRZ).

We have Bob (VE3IAB) who is our new 2nd VP. Bob is involved in many areas and he has held a couple of positions on the board. He is a man who has come up with some great ideas that we have pursued. And then there is Jeff (VA3WXM). He's our bagman and keeps our finances up to date and in order...right Jeff???? To complete the Board is Lorne (VE3CXT) our past president who always has the club's interests at heart.

Then of course we have our managers, Earle (VE3XEL) the dean of our education department along with all his assistants. We have John (VE3WJK), our membership guru, Michael (VE3TKI) repeater and all round general worker, Art (VE3SQG), our erstwhile webmaster who must be credited with running a fantastic website that has attracted a number of our new members. Gerry (VE3DOR) and his group who work hard to keep us entertained and informed by bringing in interesting speakers and guests to our meetings. Rick (VE3IMG) our enthusiastic radio station/contest manager and all his assistants. They give VE3MIS national and international exposure. (Yes, we are all working hard to find a home for the club radio station.) We have Brad (VA3ZRT) who is our 2 metre net manager and all the net controllers on both VHF and HF. The club nets are an important function as they give us practical experience in running nets, which becomes very important in emergency situations.

We have the yahoogroups which is a member only egroup. This is where newsletters, minutes of meetings, etc and where notices of upcoming meetings and events are sent to the members. A first class way of keeping members abreast of the club's activities.

See Commentary (Continued on page 3)

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.....:			Canwarn.....:	OPEN	
Programmes.....:	Gerry Doran	VE3DOR	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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Minutes of General Meeting #06

Date: November 27, 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

PLEASE NOTE: Meeting #5 was a tour of the CBC Facilities in downtown Toronto. No minutes were recorded, but approximately 30 people attended.

Attendance:

- 29 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. 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.
- A response from the Halton Radial Railway was received. They declined our proposal, so...back to the drawing board.
- Pot Luck Christmas get together is December 11 at the regular meeting place. Bring along your favourite recipe and share with others.

HAM-EX™

- Co-chairs are George Van Risen (VA3GVR) and Robin Stubbs (VE3VVS)
- Date is March 20
- Planning meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month beginning December 4th
- Additional time is booked for the third Wednesday of the month if needed
- Meeting locations will be arranged per occasion.

Membership – John (VE3WJK)

- 84 total membership to date. A little behind last year.
- Breakdown is the following: Mississauga 68%, RAC members 60%, Basic course 12.

Public Service - Bob (VE3XBB)

- No report.

Station/Contest Group – Rick (VE3IMG)

- CQ WW cw contest weekend of Nov 29-30
- RAC Winter contest will take place after Christmas.

Education – Jody (VE3ION)

- The exit which is being used for our education class was not locked properly on Nov 18 after classes. We have been requested to ensure that the door is indeed locked. It is very tricky as the striker plate needs minor adjusting.
- Earle is requesting that licensed hams step forward to offer to be elmers to students in the class.

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

- Certificates were issued to the following Assistant Emergency Coordinators: Lorne (VE3CXT), John (VE3DRZ), Art (VE3SQG), and Robin (VE3VVS).
- The FSV needs to be temporarily moved to another location for a short period of time. It will be permanently relocated to an indoor location soon.

50/50 Draw

- Tony (VA3QC) won \$11.50 which he donated to the club.

Presentation

- Falk Mittmann (VE3GNS) gave an overview presentation on Slow Scan TV.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM
A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary
December 8, 2003

Commentary (Continued from page 2)

Our club is fortunate. We have a good mix of members; older, middle aged and younger, male and female. We are a progressive club. Soon we'll have an IRLP link. It's important to move with the times, yet also keep the past in mind. Somehow, and I don't think it's luck, we have managed to get the right balance and mix. A number of our newer members are active and are interested in the success of our club. This, to me is the key to continued success.

Please have a look at the message from Bill Gillis (VE1WG), President of RAC on Page 5, particularly if you are not a member of RAC. Please read it and digest what he is saying. In my opinion, it is an important message that is being conveyed. RAC is a key organization to our hobby.

Merry Christmas to all de Tony (VA3QC)



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Minutes of Executive Meeting #4

Date: December 4, 2003

Location: 3401 Credit Heights Dr. (VE3SQG)

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
Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Public Service
John Kenzie	VE3WJK	Membership
Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Repeater Mgr
Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP	
Alex Malikov	VA3UA	
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 st VP

Absent:

Jeff Stewart VA3WXM Treasurer

City of Mississauga Affiliation

- The City is insisting that we have an 80% membership in order to maintain our affiliation. The club's position is that we do not discriminate between resident and non resident members, nor is it the club's intention to do so.
- As we have repeatedly stated to the City over the years, all our members support all the events that we do in the City of Mississauga; the Bread & Honey Festival, the Santa Parade in past years, Garden Council and others. Even though our percentage is less than the 80% required for affiliation, ALL our members support activities in the City of Mississauga. When called upon to help at Carassauga a couple of years ago for example, residents from Etobicoke, Oakville and Mississauga took part.
- If an emergency were declared by the City of Mississauga, ALL our members would be called upon to help and NOT just those who are Mississauga residents. We feel our situation is unique and therefore the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club should be exempt from the 80% rule.
- A motion was made by Art (VE3SQG) that the club's constitution should remain as is and not be modified to discriminate between Mississauga residents and non residents. It was seconded by John (VE3WJK). The motion passed unanimously.

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

- RAC will bill the club a year in advance for the cost of the plaque which the club is sponsoring in memory of Tony Allsop (VE3FTA)SK.

Club/Contest Station

- Several leads are being followed re obtaining a new location for the club station.

ARES/Special Events

- The FSV needs to be moved temporarily from storage on Maingate. It will eventually (shortly) be transferred to the Fewster Street Ambulance facilities and stored indoors. Access will be granted to those who have authorization.
- Sean (VA3MED) also has spoken to the ambulance people re erecting a tower at their location. It will be followed up with the property managers.

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 was held December 3 at the Vesta Restaurant I Brampton.
- Industry Canada will be providing the keynote speaker for the banquet
- Next meeting is in January at the Meals on Wheels in Mississauga.

Repeaters/IRLP

- Robin hopes to have the IRLP running by the end of December.
- Linking the Peel club repeater with ours is being discussed and looked into.
- It has been proposed that the two club's (Brampton & Mississauga) have a joint repeater group. This will provide a greater knowledge base to both clubs.
- The UHF repeater is ready for pickup. Arrangements will be made to pick it up and install it. The existing UHF repeater will be returned to its original owner.

Constitutional Review

- The proposed changes from the last executive meeting are being formalized and will be presented to the general membership for approval shortly.

MARC Ware/Logo

- Alex (VA3UA) presented several logo proposals for the executive to consider. It came down to 2 designs: #4 and #5. A vote of the assembled throng selected #5 as the one to work with. The vote was 4 for #4 and 8 for #5.
- Alex will make further changes as discussed in committee and resubmit.

Grant Application Strategy

- Michael (VE3TKI), William (VE3BPJ) and Robin (VE3VVS) are working together on a Trillium grant proposal. It was suggested that we should include test equipment in our proposal.

New Business

- There was no new business presented.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:12PM. Art started by saying "Hee Haw" because we were done early and he could get rid of us all, but what happened afterwards thwarted that possibility. Several of the others carried on; some saying "Hee" and some saying "Haw". Betsy was smart and left the building! Before you know it we were all braying and putting our hands pointing up by our ears to resemble donkeys. Well needless to say we carried on making asses of ourselves until 9:30PM, at which time we left quietly and peacefully. Our adjournments are quite entertaining!

Next meeting will be February 5, 2004 at Earle's (VE3XEL) at 7:30PM.
Prepared by: A. J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary, MARC
December 9, 2003



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November/December 2003

A Message From RAC President Bill Gillis VE1WG

In today's hectic world we sometimes overlook certain realities about our institutions and we often lose sight of their importance and how they relate to protecting privileges that we all too frequently take for granted. RAC is a prime case in point.

Do we really appreciate that RAC is recognized by the government of Canada and the International Amateur Radio Union as the only organization that actually represents Amateur Radio in this country? Do we recognize the extensive effort RAC is putting forth on behalf of all Radio Amateurs? If we gauge it by the dismal show of support RAC receives, one would have to conclude that Canadian Amateurs could care less about what is being done for their benefit or we have failed to get the story across. Being the eternal optimist, my tendency is to sometimes believe the latter.

The reality that we must sadly acknowledge, however, is that there is indeed a large factor of indifference and some downright skepticism among many Amateurs about the importance and value of RAC. Extremely disappointing is the fact that the source of that disinterest and doubt about RAC's standing comes right from within the Amateur community.

What is it about RAC that is so much ignored and misunderstood? Do we just take it for granted that the spectrum allocations we now have will always be there for us? Do we expect that regulations will remain unchanged forever? If we accept those premises, we're in for a shock.

The demands on Industry Canada by "big business" for additional spectrum allocations is constantly increasing. New technologies and high volume information transfer requirements gobble up huge chunks of frequency space. Amateur Radio allocations are an obvious target in the quest for spectrum reassignment.

How can we expect that the struggle to preserve our frequency allocations and regulations favourable to Amateur Radio will succeed if it doesn't have full support of all Canadian Amateurs? Make no mistake about it, it is a real struggle. And, it's a struggle that is waged daily by a few dedicated officers of RAC.

The worthy contribution by our Canadian representatives at WRC-2003 resulted in major allocation gains and significant regulatory change. However, not all of the desired goals were attained. The battle for full restoration of an exclusive 40-meter band and other objectives still goes on.

Much work remains to be done and demands on volunteer time and the organizational expense that is required to mount RAC's challenges and responses to allocation and regulatory change is never ending. We need to fully understand and accept that RAC is the one organization which the government focuses on when it deals with frequency allocations and regulations affecting the Amateur Radio Service.

Here are just some of the issues that we currently face and the representational work now underway by RAC on behalf of all Radio Amateurs. It's a list that should convince even the most entrenched doubter and unmoved Amateur that RAC is worthy of their full support.

Even though WRC-2007 is four years down the road, preparatory work is already underway. Included in this task is a comprehensive review of spectrum allocations between 4 and 10 MHz, together with necessary background studies on a potential 135 kHz. Amateur band. All of this requires extensive input from RAC to ensure that Amateur allocations are protected.

- Previously described in this column is RAC's role as a member of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada. RABC is an association of organizations representing most sectors of the telecommunications industry and major radio spectrum users in Canada. RAC Vice President, Jim Dean, VE3IQ, was recently

elected to the Executive of the RABC. RAC is currently debating within the RABC, the advice which will be given to Industry Canada on the 220 MHz. issue. RAC has gone to considerable effort to develop a case for retention of all, or part of, the band between 220 and 222 MHz, while at the same time proposing a secondary allocation from 219 to 220 in harmony with the band in the USA. Industry Canada has encouraged input from RAC on this matter.

- As many of you will recall, the Minister of Industry called for submissions to the National Antenna Tower Policy Review last October. Almost a year of work by Jim Dean and Tim Ellam has gone into preparing RAC's position. Jim has devoted more than 200 hours of personal effort. Along with Tim's experience in contentious tower cases, their collaboration has produced a well-researched RAC paper for presentation. Jim, as a member of RABC's Joint Working Group, has been able to ensure protection of Amateur Radio concerns in the paper being presented by RABC. Tim Ellam is the IARU Director for Area "A" representing Bermuda and Canada and has made significant contributions internationally on the legal aspects of Amateur antenna towers.
- By the time this issue of TCA reaches you, we will have held another meeting under the joint RAC-IC Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board series of consultations. At the invitation of IC, RAC has been requested to advise IC on options with respect to dropping or retaining Morse code as a qualification requirement and recommend procedures for assignment of four-character call sign suffixes.
- Another area in which IC is seeking our advice at the moment, is the whole question of using electrical power wiring to transmit broadband information, and in particular to provide high speed internet connection for consumers. This topic, usually referred to as BPL, is coming rapidly to the forefront and since, as a major user of the HF spectrum, we have an interest in any potential interference caused by BPL, we are in close consultation with IC to ensure that our interests are taken into account.
- Additionally, we are actively participating in discussions related to new technology usually referred to as UWB or Ultra Wide Band. UWB devices transmit over very large areas of the spectrum already allocated to other services. Whether they will be permitted to operate in Canada will depend on the results of current studies to determine the degree of potential interference and how it may be avoided.
- Just recently, IC announced its intention to auction blocks of spectrum for use by wireless communications systems in the 2300 and 3500 MHz. bands in January 2004. Although our status as secondary users of two bands within this part of the spectrum will not change, analysis will be required to determine if new spectrum users will be more likely to cause interference or be more sensitive to interference from us.

From all of the above and other ongoing regulatory issues, it is readily apparent that protecting Amateur Radio interests requires a major effort. In the face of ever increasing demands on the spectrum, carefully laying the groundwork for new and expanded allocations for the Amateur Radio Service taxes RAC's resources to their limit.

RAC's government affairs policy is based on predetermined principles, one of which is that RAC is accepted by the Canadian government and the International Amateur Radio community, as the sole organization that represents and speaks for all Canadian



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Amateurs. It's a major responsibility that deserves far greater support than many Amateurs who benefit from it are willing to contribute.

The responsibility and burden of preparing and conducting the necessary work to fulfill that role and meet the continuing challenges has been delegated to two members of RAC's Executive; Jim Dean, VE3IQ and Ken Pulfer, VE3PU. These dedicated and knowledgeable Radio Amateurs as officers of RAC have devoted countless hours to diligently and effectively meeting their obligations and deserve the wholehearted recognition and gratitude of the entire Amateur community.

What can we, as individual Radio Amateurs, do to support this effort? Joining and maintaining membership in RAC is, of course, the most tangible way in which we can demonstrate that we are solidly behind this effort. We must take every opportunity to convince nonmember Amateurs that they have an obligation to join RAC and bolster the work being done on their behalf. We must also convince our nonmember friends that joining RAC to win prizes, although it might be enticing, has a much nobler purpose.

But, it's not just enough to be a member of RAC. Members need to take an active interest in the affairs of their national organization. Members need to keep themselves informed and be assured of the effectiveness of their organization. Members need to be satisfied that policies are in place and adequate funding is provided to support RAC's increasingly important representation to government and to the regulator. Members need to see their elected representatives from all regions of Canada actively involved in making RAC a truly national organization.

Where can members find information on how their affairs are being managed? First by reading the published record of Board meetings and the resolutions voted on by their Directors. All of which are published in TCA and on the RAC Website.

Another means of gaining information and seeking clarification is to enquire directly of your representative on the Board. Members in each of the seven RAC regions are represented by Regional Directors on the RAC Board of Directors who manage the affairs of RAC and establish national policy.

Regional Directors have certain duties and responsibilities to RAC and to its members. Ask where your Director stands and what action he has taken on the various issues. Ask if he is satisfied that the administration of RAC is being conducted in the most accountable and cost effective manner. Invite your Regional Director to meetings of your Club or group and ask questions. Accept nothing less than a complete demonstration of assurance that your Director is overseeing good management practices and fully supporting RAC's all important representation to the regulator.

It is only through a show of genuine concern in the affairs of your organization that you, as a member, can be assured that you are getting the most bang for your membership dollar. Only by taking an active interest in your national organization can you gain any assurance that your representative is acting in your best interest. And, only by continually seeking rightful answers will we all be satisfied that RAC is indeed the very best that it can be.

73, Bill, VE1WG

News From The RAC Website

Quebec to begin trials of Internet over power lines (21/11/03)

The CBC reported on Friday, that Hydro-Quebec is planning to offer high-speed internet service over its power lines.

Users of short wave radio such as radio amateurs and broadcasters have expressed concern that the signals on the power wires could interfere with radio reception.

But the Hydro Quebec spokesman thought it would not be a problem, and pointed out that interference doesn't occur over cables that provide both television and internet service. (None of the "experts" seem to realize that television signals are on a different frequency than the proposed high speed Internet signals, while amateur radio and shortwave broadcasting share the HF band with the proposed service).

German utilities started offering Internet service over power lines the summer of 2001, and in Sweden service is also available. In both countries, tests have shown that interference can be as high as S9 in some locations. Many other tests are underway in Europe, the USA, and some parts of Asia and the South Pacific.

As reported here a couple of weeks ago, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is looking into the potential interference caused by various approaches to Broadband Information Transmission over Power lines, with a view to possibly imposing regulations setting acceptable levels. The International Amateur Radio Union is participating in the studies.

Hydro-Québec is reported to have said that it will start testing in January 2004 and hopes to offer the service in a few years. Without a doubt, Industry Canada will be monitoring the tests closely to measure the interference levels and decide if they are unacceptable. Radio Amateurs in Quebec should also monitor and report cases of interference.

(RAC)

What happened to the ISS Commemorative event on the Nov 29th weekend?

The ARISS team has had several inquiries on what happened regarding crew operation of the ISS Ham radio system during the start of the ISS Commemorative Event this past weekend. With this e-mail I intend to give you all as many facts as we have at this time. As we get more information, we will pass it along.

To our knowledge, it appears that the ISS crew was not on the air this weekend. This is based on a number of reports from hams all across the world. I would like to thank all that took time out to report what happened during the ISS passes in their part of the world. It is helping us convey solid information to our home organizations and to the space agencies.

Several of you were questioning whether the ARISS team did, in fact, get a message to the crew on this weekend's plans. I can tell you that I am certain of this. As was mentioned in my last e-mail, after communications were sent to Mike Foale regarding the special event (through the NASA channels), Mike Foale had responded back that he would support on the order of about 2 passes per weekend. As I stated, the ARISS team got this information through NASA and directly from Mike. Also, today I got confirmation that final information regarding this weekend's event (pass times that we shared with you on the 26th of November) was uplinked to the ISS crew on Friday. So our information was there and the crew knew about the event.

Now, what happened?

We have discussed this with the NASA folks and there are two events that potentially could have impeded on Mike's ability to get on the air.



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The first is that the ISS crew have had some serious issues with the Treadmill and it is understood that Mike put a bunch of time (his own time) this past weekend working on this important device that is critical for the crew's health and well being. The other event is the "crushing" noise heard at the aft end of the Service Module this past week. It has been reported in the press that the crew heard this noise and then initially thought that the Service Module was hit with debris. At this point, this is not believed to be the case, however, the ISS International partners have asked the Russian team to look into the matter further since it occurred in their segment. It was speculated that Mike and Sasha might have gotten instructions from the Russian team to scour the Service Module in an effort to determine the cause of this odd noise.

Some have stated this but I will reiterate it. The Expedition 8 crew are truly die-hard hams. Those of you who have been around a while know that Mike Foale was extremely active on the bands during his flights on the Space Shuttle and on Mir. Sasha Kaleri was also a very active ham on Mir. We have two great hams on board. We also have two guys running an entire space station with a large cadre of scientific experiments. A year ago, that took 3 people. So you can imagine that they are quite busy. This makes ISS Ham more vulnerable when issues occur on ISS. As we continually state, operation of the ISS Ham radio is "completely contingent upon the crew schedule and other duties or issues that might crop up on ISS." We are impressed that the crew agreed to support the ISS Commemorative event. And we hope that they will be on the air in the very near future.

So, where do we go from here?

Well, we have a request into NASA to ask the Expedition 8 crew more details on what occurred this past weekend and, more importantly, if they will be will and able to support some (probably 2) passes this weekend. As we get more information, we will share it with you.

I hope this helps explain what we know at this time. The ARISS team recognizes that it is very frustrating to get expectations up and then not meet expectations. It is never our intent to do this to the world-wide amateur radio community. But we do want to alert you of potential opportunities as they become available. We will continue to do this, as long as you all remember that these contacts are contingent upon the crew schedule.

(Thanks to Frank Bauer, KA3HDO ARISS International Chairman)

The Canadian Trans Provincial Net introduces the Towns & Cities Award

The TPN Editor, Jim VA3KU, informs us that beginning December 1 2003, the Canadian Trans Provincial Net management team is offering a beautiful Award Certificate for participating in the Town's and Cities program.

All amateurs are invited to contact as many amateur radio stations as possible in towns and cities across Canada. The program is open to all Amateur radio operators in Canada, USA and around the world.

Full details can be found on the Trans Provincial Net website at: www.tpn7055.ca

(Thanks to Trans Provincial Net Awards Chairman Eric Olsen VE3GGO)

Progress report on RAC Web Site improvements

Regular visitors to the English language pages of the RAC web site will notice that we have made several changes in recent days.

The changes are intended to improve the usefulness of the material to you, the reader, make it easier to find what you are looking for, and last but not least, make it easier for volunteers to maintain and improve the site.

In the process, some things have been moved around a bit, and URLs for some pages have changed. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to those of you who bookmark pages of interest, but we sincerely believe the end result makes the RAC web site more valuable to all Canadian amateurs.

Ken Pulfer VE3PU, Doug Leach VE3XK RAC Internet Services

Students in a BC high school school enthusiastic about amateur radio

The Nov 21 issue of the Times Colonist of Esquimalt BC (reporter Norman Gidney) describes how students became interested in Amateur Radio in a local high school.

According to the Times Colonist, two students, Tyler Paquette and Alexa Hanson, qualified for amateur certificates over the summer, and several more are ready to follow as a ham radio club gets going at the school.



Esquimalt high school students, from left, Trevor Stocks, Florence Raffaelli and Tyler Paquette

with a donated VHF antenna to be installed on the roof of the high school for their ham radio club.

(Thanks to Ray Smith, Times Colonist)

Ian Soutar, VE7RRU, father of an Esquimalt high student and a communications specialist who

builds custom electronic systems for businesses, said the reason is something called IRLP.

The Internet Radio Linking Project, a combination of Linux software and older hardware, was perfected in B.C. four years ago. Soutar has built four IRLP "nodes" around town, the first in 2001.

He decided that Internet-linked ham radio might interest students. "Realistically, it takes a couple of weekends of study to get your licence," said Soutar.

At Esquimalt high, an antenna and cable were donated by the Victoria Emergency Program. The antenna will go on the roof of the school gym. A four-year-old radio that's no longer used by local police and fire departments since they switched to the CREST system has also been given to the school. When the antenna is installed later this month, the student ham operators plan a live demonstration of the technology at a school pep rally, where they hope to interest more ham fans.

Geoff Orme, teacher librarian and sponsor of the new club is quoted as saying, "It's wonderful, the opportunities for kids to connect around the world" .

(Thanks to Ian Soutar VE7RRU)



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The following story was printed in the Saturday edition of the
Ottawa Sun

Hamming it up on the air

Amateur radio attracts thousands of Ottawa residents 22/11/03

By A.J. BLAUER, Ottawa Sun

So the other day I'm fussing with the adapter on my Syrian-made radio when I happen across a tiny frequency switch on the back. The first two frequencies I recognize: That's where I go to listen to music, inflection-afflicted DJs and irritating commercials peddling mattresses and used cars. But there's a third frequency -- a forgotten frequency -- marked by the letters SW. Short wave.

Hey, didn't we study that in science class when we were making communicators out of soup cans and waxed cord?

Curious, I spin the dial, but the short wave yields only dead air and a few itchy-bitsy pips of static. I try again, this time extending my radio's antenna to the ceiling and turning the dial really, really, really slow. And there, inside those itchy-bitsy pips of static, I discover a whole new dimension of broadcasting.

I'm able to tune into a fringe radio station from California, a robotic voice telling me the incorrect time, Shelagh Rogers talking on Radio-Canada International, what sounds like Morse code and -- get this -- personal conversations. Could it be?

My curiosity piqued, I give Ben Price a call. He's the president of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC).

"There's a whole whack of weird and wonderful people in amateur radio," he explains.

In fact, there's about 2,000 of them in Ottawa, broadcasting conversations, dots and dashes and sometimes emergency bulletins over the public airwaves.

They call themselves "hams" (don't ask why -- there are too many conflicting theories) and they have one hock rooted in the past and another reaching for the future.

There's a widely held view that amateur radio operators are just lonely old men who toil away in their basements, bouncing radio signals off the moon to transmit cryptic codes and dull greetings to other lonely old men toiling away in their basements half a world away.

But Price says a lot has changed since the Ottawa Radio Transmitting Association got started more than 70 years ago.

MORSE CODE

"That is still there if that's what someone wants to do," Price says with a chuckle. He himself enjoys dabbling in Morse code once in a while as a "relaxing" alternative to voice broadcasting.

Although the original technology and practices of early radio are still very much in use, Price points out that many local amateur radio enthusiasts (and that includes women and teenagers) have learned to use modern technology to expand the capabilities of their hobby.

"As technology has evolved, so has our interest," explains Price. "Amateur radio operators embrace technology like nobody."

With a few hundred dollars worth of used equipment, a licence from Industry Canada and a little training in the finer elements of broadcast communications, anyone can join this dialogue of ham radio enthusiasts operating from their homes, boats and even their cars when stuck in traffic on the Queensway.

The airwaves can carry conversations around the block, around the world and even into space via satellite and other modern tools of communication.

"It's haphazard by nature," explains Price. "It's kind of like teens at a high school dance -- you dance with whoever's there."

If you were to match signals with a member of OARC, one of several amateur radio clubs in the Ottawa area, you might find yourself talking to a PhD, a high school student or even a retired milk bottle delivery man.

"It's a really wonderful thing to see such a disparate group of people come together," Price says.

They come together for the love of radio and conversation, but in times of crisis, they come together as the Emergency Measures Radio Group to safeguard the city and its residents.

"Sometimes you see a movie where one amateur radio guy saves the world. That's not us," says Price. "We work as a team as a subset of the city."

When a massive blackout struck Ontario and parts of the eastern United States on Aug. 14, bringing phone and Internet service down with it, local ham radio operators fired up their battery-powered radios, working around the clock -- often in darkness -- to link some of the city's key services, including emergency shelters.

"It's a great communication tool when everything else fails," Price points out.

The OARC welcomes new members and those wishing to learn more about amateur radio. The club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at Ottawa City Hall. For more information, go to www.oarc.net.

(Thanks to the Ottawa Sun for permission to reproduce the above story)

Upcoming Fleamarkets

NPARC 26th Annual Big Event
Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
Saturday, February 7, 2004,
St. Catharines ON

Burlington Spring Flea Market
Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Saturday, February 28, 2004,
Burlington ON

Whitby ARC 2nd Annual Hamfest
Whitby Amateur Radio Club Whitby Ontario
Saturday, April 17, 2004,
Oshawa ON



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MAXIMUM USABLE FREQUENCY

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

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

DECEMBER

- 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.

