



# THE VOICE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN MISSISSAUGA

# COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.8

April 8, 2004

## From the Gavel - President's Message



Well the dust has settled, and the curtain has drawn on yet another Ham-Ex™. The 2004 version of the event can be considered a success, the bottom line numbers, (according to preliminary numbers), are almost the same as last year, so each club will fair quite well from it all.

The thing to remember though is that it is not just about the money, having now worked first hand on the event has shown to me that there is much more to Ham-Ex™. There is first and foremost the pride in organizing and delivering an event, unique in these parts, amongst Ham flea markets. Sure it

is a lot of work, but after a few of these using the current format and when the concept catches on, it will be a much bigger success.

There is something slightly more subtle, however, that should be noted. What is equally important that comes out of this annual event, is the team building and good relations that get built between the two organizing clubs. Typically, history has shown that amateur radio clubs seem to exist unto themselves, which initially is fine. As time marches on though, this soon proves to be its own undoing. The relationship that working together brings to each club, may on the surface, not seem much, but it sets a precedent, as opposed to being locked in the same old way of doing things. It broadens each group's horizons to more ventures, contacts, and possibilities making each club stronger.

Ham-Ex™ itself for those who couldn't attend was reported by many vendors as a busy and profitable venture. And even though less that hoped attended the banquet, everyone had a great meal and the guest speaker gave a talk that everyone including accompanying spouses enjoyed. It was certainly a worthwhile evening.

So what's next? Unlike other years, the Ham-Ex™ committee has already agreed to hold the first meeting next September. The initial drafting of the advertising will be slowly worked on which will give us a good start. I, for one though, am glad that for now the event and all the planning is behind us, leaving a few more cycles to devote to other activities that seem to find their way onto the list.

Both the Field Day Committee and the Repeater Groups are now busy making project plans for their respective tasks that lay ahead for this year. As you may remember, full repeater upgrades are afoot, and this time, the whole effort will follow a detailed and well thought out project plan strategy; by which, hopefully all the subtle details will be worked out and contingencies made well ahead of the actual day of work. This may indeed make the process a little longer, but who wants to stand on top of a 19 story high rise in the cold windy rain? So, we have time to plan. Just thinking of cold windy rain, I for one am just looking forward to some warm weather.

After having walked through a snow storm that Ham-Ex™ day morning, taken down antennas with blowing ice pellets in the afternoon and having gone to more than one's fair share of planning meetings in all kinds of nature's best, yes, I for one am looking forward to a nice warm Bread and Honey Festival or Field Day. You know, I think I have got to get out more.

Robin (VE3VVS)

### This Month

2. Commentary
3. General Meeting #12 Minutes
4. General Meeting #13 Minutes
5. Executive Meeting #07 Minutes
6. RAC News
7. Stranger Than Fiction
8. Maximum Usable Frequency- April 2004
9. Club Calendar
10. RAC Application Form

### 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 May 2, 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 Managers, **Reg (VA3JQA)** or **Morgan (VA3NZE)** if interested in becoming a net controller. 145.430MHz Tone 103.5 Minus (-) offset

#### 75 Metre Sunday Night Net

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



# THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.8

April 8, 2004

## Commentary...



Good evening to all and nice to be back here writing another piece for The Communicator once again. As Robin noted in his piece, Ham-Ex™ was a very successful event for our club. The club table did exceptionally well garnering something close to \$600.00 to bolster the club coffers.

Having served on the Ham-Ex™ committee for the past 5 years or so has been a great experience for me. Our club and the Peel club have worked on this event successfully and in a cooperative spirit. Together we have succeeded in expanding Ham-Ex™ from a traditional Canadian 9:00AM – 12:00PM fleamarket into something of which we should all be very proud.

Through the joint efforts of our clubs, Ham-Ex™ has evolved into something very special and unique in this part of the world, if not the country. We offer testing for those who want to pass their basic, advanced and cw tickets. We offer seminars. We have a banquet with a keynote speaker. This doesn't just "happen".

Is there room for improvement? You bet! Are we up to it? Silly question; of course we are. The planning committee for Ham-Ex™ 2005 will look at ways to improve the banquet attendance for example. There are other areas that will be reviewed and tweaked if necessary. Could we use YOUR input? Of course! Yes, Ham-Ex™ is a venture to bring some funding to both the clubs, but it really is much more than that. It is a time for like-minded people to get together and do what we like to do best – talk about radio, exchange views and ideas and get caught up on one another's news.

I think one of the really nice things about both our clubs is that over the years we have seen different people become involved on the committees. This year we had one of our new members take on the responsibility of organizing the seminars. He is to be commended for his efforts. He is not the only one to have stepped forward to offer his or her services. It's that kind of initiative that will ensure the future success of Ham-Ex™. It also shows what can be accomplished when clubs can overcome hurdles and come together in a cooperative manner. If we are to see Ham-Ex™ grow even bigger though, we will have to consider extending our horizons beyond just our 2 clubs and perhaps involve others who would be interested in sharing their talents and becoming part of the team.

As many of you know, Gerry Doran (VE3DOR) has moved to new digs in Brampton. Unfortunately for us, but good for the Peel Club, Gerry has decided that it would make much more sense to support and join PARC. Gerry headed up our Programmes committee for the past few years, along with Bob (VE3XBB) and Bob (VE3IAB). (Continued on page 9)

### Mississauga Amateur Radio Club Directors and Managers PO Box 2003, Square One Post Office, Mississauga, Ont., L5B 3C6 Website: [www.marc.on.ca](http://www.marc.on.ca) Email: [ve3mis@rac.ca](mailto:ve3mis@rac.ca)

President.....:	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	905-826-6753
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President...:	Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	905-625-6846
Secretary.....:	Tony Champion	VA3QC	905-828-4004

#### Directors

1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President.....:	John Duffy	VE3DRZ	905-822-4661
Treasurer .....	Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM	905-814-5882
Past President .....	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	905-858-8594

#### Managers

Membership .....	John Kenzie	VE3WJK
Ed. Asst (Theory) ...:	Bob Hawkins	VE3AGC
Ed. Asst (CW) .....	Frank Lamb	VE3HTX
Repeater Mgr.....:	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Repeater Asst 2 .....	Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
HF Net.....:	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Club Station.....:	Rick Brown	VE3IMG
House .....	John Duffy	VE3DRZ
Contest Asst 1 .....	Alex Malikov	VA3UA
Newsletter .....	Tony Champion	VA3QC
Special Events Asst :	<b>OPEN</b>	
Field Day.....:	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Field Day Asst 2.....:	Jody Levine	VE3ION
Field Day Asst 4.....:	Tom Godden	VE3TGW
Programmes.....:	Gerry Doran	VE3DOR
Programmes Asst 2.:	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB

Education.....:	Earle Laycock	VE3XEL
Ed. Asst (Theory) ...:	Alan Barolet	VA3AWB
Ed. Asst (CW) .....	Tony Champion	VA3QC
Repeater Asst 1.....:	Art Sinclair	VE3SQQ
VHF Net .....	Brad Thomas	VA3ZRT
Public Service.....:	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
Club Station Asst.....:	Bob Giddy	VE3IAB
Contests .....	Rick Brown	VE3IMG
Contests Asst 2 .....	Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
Special Events .....	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
QSL .....	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Field Day Asst 1 .....	Tony Champion	VA3QC
Field Day Asst 3 .....	John Duffy	VE3DRZ
Canwarn .....	<b>OPEN</b>	
Programmes Asst 1...:	Bob Giddy	VE3IAB
Webmaster.....:	Art Sinclair	VE3SQQ

#### Public Service Events/ARES

Emerg Asst 1 .....	Art Sinclair	VE3SQQ
Emerg Asst 3 .....	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
Emerg Asst 5 .....	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS

#### Audit Committee

Auditor 1 .....	<b>OPEN</b>		Auditor 2 .....	Bill Dmytrasz	VE3DNY
-----------------	-------------	--	-----------------	---------------	--------



# THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.8

April 8, 2004

## General Meeting #12 Minutes

**Date:** March 11, 2004

**Location:** 3535 South Common Court, Mississauga

**Time:** 7:30PM

**Officers Present:**

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

**Attendance:**

- o 25 including visitors

**Opening Business – Bob (VE3IAB)**

- 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 welcome those who are visitors in the hopes that they may feel more comfortable and to help foster good will with hope that they may join up.

**New Logos**

- o Robin (VE3VVS) presented the 2 new logos to the membership for comment and approval. These logos were designed by Alex Malikov (VA3UA).
- o There are 2 versions: One (rectangular) meant for letterhead etc, the other (round) meant for mugs, hat badges etc.
- o Robin explained that it was time to update and modernize the club logo to something a little more modern.
- o Fred (VE3VRO) made known his views concerning the likeness of the Mississauga City hall on the logo. The committee explained that using City Hall was appropriate as it was easily identifiable. Because it is a new depiction that was created, the club wouldn't run into any copyright problems.
- o Robin asked for a motion to approve the new logos. Michael (VE3TKI) moved to adopt the new logos with Bob (VE3IAB) seconding the motion. By a majority show of hands, the logos were adopted. There was one abstention. The new logos will be integrated on our various letterheads, newsletter etc over the next while.

**Nominating Committee**

- o Art (VE3SQG) has agreed to head up the committee this year. While all positions on the executive can be contested, there are only two that need to be filled as the incumbents have held them for the maximum 2 years allowed by the club's constitution. They are: Secretary and Treasurer. Lorne (VE3CXT) and William (VE3WPJ) respectively have stepped forward to stand for election to these positions.

- o Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting which is held on the second meeting in April.

**HAM-EX™**

- o Banquet tickets are on sale. Price is \$20.00 each
- o Raffle tickets are on sale: 1 for \$2.00 – 3 for \$5.00. Grand prize is \$1,000.00 from Radioworld.
- o Need to have volunteers sign up for the various sections.

**Public Service - Bob (VE3XBB)**

- o MS Superwalks on April 18. Need volunteers to sign up.

**Station/Contest Group – Rick (VE3IMG)**

- o ODXA QSO Party coming up in April. Consideration is being made to go to one of several locations. Details will follow

**Education – Earle (VE3XEL)**

- o Local cw courses are complete. Peel will be holding a crash advanced course shortly. If interested contact Earle for further details.
- o Ham-Ex™ will have Basic, Advanced and CW testing, starting at 10:00AM. CW will commence at 11:00AM.

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

- o Sean (VA3MED) stated that the FSV is still located in Brampton. Apparently the ambulance service is concerned about liability issues with the FSV. Sean is investigating and following up.

**HSMM (High Speed Multi-Media) – William (VE3WPJ)**

- o Next meeting will take place after Ham-Ex™. Dave (VA3BHF) and William have been working with the ARRL working group. More on this later.

**Other Business**

- o Gerry (VE3DOR) needs a LED Projector for the next meeting.

**50/50 Draw**

- o Fred (VE3VRO) drew the 50/50 ticket and Bob (VE3XBB) won \$14.50 which he donated to the club.

**Presentation**

- o Gerry (VE3DOR) moderated a panel which was comprised of the clubs 3 past president's. This was interesting, informative and entertaining. A nice idea and well executed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31PM  
A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary  
April 1, 2004



# THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.8

April 8, 2004

## General Meeting #13 Minutes

**Date:** March 25, 2004

**Location:** 3535 South Common Court, Mississauga

**Time:** 7:30PM

**Officers Present:**

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2nd Vice President
Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM	Treasurer
Tony Champion	VA3QC	Secretary

**Absent:**

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 Art (VE3SQG) and Michael (VE3TKI) as club ambassadors for those who are visitors, or new to the club. The purpose is to welcome those who are visitors in the hopes that they may feel more comfortable and to help foster good will with hope that they may join up.

**Nominating Committee**

- o Art (VE3SQG) announced that Lorne (VE3CXT) has agreed to stand for the position of Secretary and that William (VE3WPJ) has agreed to stand for Treasurer.
- o Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting which is held on the second meeting in April.

**HAM-EX™**

- o Wrap-up report: The bottom line is very close to that of last year. A final accounting will occur and the club share will be turned over in the next while.
- o Reg (VA3JQA) had some photos he took at Ham-Ex™ for display to those who were interested.
- o Club table made close to \$600.00, a record I think.
- o Robin (VE3VVS) and Jeff (VA3WXM) both passed their advanced class license exam. Congratulations guys. Well done.
- o Approx. 10 passed their basic course and about 8 passed their advanced. No information on how many passed their CW at this time.
- o 1 new member signed up with the club at Ham-Ex™.
- o The special event stations made about 35 contacts.

**Advanced Class Course**

- o Simon (VA3SFC) of the Peel Club is giving a crash course for those interested in obtaining their advanced

license. The information is: April 17 – all day; May 8 – All day; May 15 exam.

- o To sign up contact Helena at: [imhelena@rogers.com](mailto:imhelena@rogers.com)
- o Location of course: 1715 Meyerside Dr #6 (Dixie north of 401)
- o Cost: \$20.00 to Peel members – Simon thinks that will apply to MARC as well. Check with Helena

**Public Service - Bob (VE3XBB)**

- o MS Superwalks on Sunday April 18. Need volunteers to sign up.
- o May 16 Mississauga Landmark Sports Group Inc. marathon. Will obtain more info on what they want us to provide.

**Station/Contest Group – Rick (VE3IMG)**

- o WPX Contest weekend of 28 March.
- o Plans to talk about Dayton (May 14-16) at a future meeting. Rick has cabin space for about 10 people.

**Education – Earle (VE3XEL)**

- o No report

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

- o No report.

**HSMM (High Speed Multi-Media) – William (VE3WPJ)**

- o No report

**Other Business**

- o Next Field Day meeting is March 31 at Michael's (VE3TKI) starting at 7:30PM.
- o Please note next meeting will be at HAMMOND MUSEUM IN GUELPH starting at 7:30PM. See website for directions.

**50/50 Draw**

- o John (VE3DRZ) won \$21.50 which he donated to the club.

**Presentation**

- o Joe Cooper (VE3FMQ) gave a really good talk on crystal radios and their history.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20PM  
A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary  
April 1, 2004



# THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.8

April 8, 2004

## Executive Meeting #07 Minutes

**Date:** April 1, 2004

**Location:** Michael's (VE3TKI) Den of Iniquity –  
(Especially when his YL is away for the night)

**Time:** 7:37PM

### Attendees:

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
Tony Champion	VA3QC	Secretary
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Past President
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 <sup>st</sup> VP
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2nd VP
Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Public Service
John Kenzie	VE3WJK	Membership
Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Repeater Mgr
Art Sinclair	VE3SQG	Webmeister
Sean Conlin	VA3MED	ARES
Earle Laycock	VE3XEL	Education
Reg Vertolli	VA3JQA	2M Net Mgr
Morgan Jones	VA3NZE	2M Net Mgr
Brian Jay	SWL10	
Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP	Asst contest
Rick Brown	VE3IMG	Contest/stn mgr

### Absent:

Jeff Stewart VA3WXM Treasurer

### HAM-EX™

- o Robin (VE3VVS) gave a synopsis on the whole event and said that we should be receiving a cheque from the Peel club on Saturday, April 3.

### Club/Contest Station

- o Several leads are being followed re obtaining a new location for the club station. Membership will be advised as events unfold. The key is to be patient.

### ARES/Special Events/Public Service

- o The FSV still hasn't been moved from it's temporary location. There is a hangup with insurance and several other issues with the Region of Peel.
- o Sean (VA3MED) will contact Mary Ellen to state the club's priority is to store the trailer in a secure area closer to home.

- o Bob (VE3XBB) noted that the MS uperwalk is on April 18 and he has been in touch with the co-ordinators of the event
- o The ALS walk is June 19<sup>th</sup>?
- o The Dream for Kids (Sunshine Foundation) will be held in June
- o The Diabetes walk is held in the fall
- o Several members will head over to Mary's (VE3MCT) to have a look at several items that she wants disposed or removed from her place.

### Repeaters/IRLP

- o A detailed plan will be devised to install the new UHF and VHF repeaters. The purpose is to make the overall project run smoothly.

### MARC Ware/Logo

- o We are awaiting some news on the new logo stitching.
- o Earle (VE3XEL) was in touch with Goldline. The best times to place orders is the summer because business is slow at that time.

### New Business

- o The inactive bank account was closed and the remaining funds transferred into the club's regular account.
- o Michael (VE3TKI) has contacted Peter Chilton concerning the VHF conference. There has been nno response as of yet.
- o Tony (VA3QC) will send along the club information to Inside and Out, The Mississauga bi-yearly book put out by Parks & Rec.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:37PM. As Michael's YL was away for the night, we all decided to bring in the dancing girls and have a real neat party. This part of the "meeting" went for hours and hours with no-one complaining about the time it took.. "Cigarettes and Whiskey and Wild, Wild Women" was the theme.

Next meeting will be May 6, 2004 somewhere, somehow, someway. Whoever will take us.

Prepared by: A. J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary, MARC  
March 8, 2004



## RAC News

### RAC logo license plates now collector's items (2004-04-14)

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation has informed Radio Amateurs of Canada that while it will continue to issue custom call sign license plates, due to a change in policy, it will no longer be able to issue the versions containing the RAC logo. Those of you fortunate enough to have invested the extra few dollars for RAC license plates, will now have collector's items. It might be worthwhile to add a little extra wax to the plates to keep them in good shape for the next while...

(Thanks to Debbie Norman RAC General Manager)

### Developments in Ultra Wide band devices. (2004-04-05)

While most amateurs are focusing on the BPL threat to our HF bands, another possible threat is on the horizon at the upper UHF and microwave bands.

Ultra Wide Band (UWB) devices transmit over bandwidths as wide as 500 MHz, and occupy the same spectrum as existing licensed services in some of the microwave bands. They can be used for short range communications at very high data rates, or for short range radar. Another possible application is for RFID's or Radio Frequency Identification tags, which could, for example, be attached to products in a supermarket, and interrogated at the cash.

In general UWB devices are very low power, and their appeal is that they can be made of few components at potentially very low costs. In many ways they are similar to the spark gap transmitters used by radio amateurs nearly 100 years ago. Most will operate as license exempt emitters. Many may be built into the electrical consumer products we all use

Of course, existing spectrum users (particularly mobile cell phone providers) are concerned about the possibility of interference generated by UWB devices, and so the ITU is studying compatibility problems.

Dr Salim Hanna of Industry Canada is chairing an ITU International Task Group on UWB compatibility. Salim recently reported that:

On March 31, 2004, Industry Canada issued an approval in principle for an experimental license for Rogers Wireless Inc. in Toronto to experiment with an indoor wireless UWB device.

On April 01, 2004, the Australian Communications Authority has granted an interim license for an ultra-wideband ground penetrating radar system. This is the first time an application using UWB technology has been licensed in Australia.

In the USA, industry has been unable to agree on a proposal for a standard for UWB Wireless Personal Area networks. Two implementation proposals are on the table:

1. Multi-band Orthogonal Frequency Division Modulation (OFDM) (supported by the Multiband alliance including Intel, Texas Instruments, etc.), and
2. Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum UWB (supported by Motorola and Xtremespectrum).

Although the multi-band OFDM has more support within the UWB industry, it still failed to get a majority vote during a recent meeting of the standards committee of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers in Orlando Florida. The next meeting of Salim's ITU task group will be held in Boston USA (June 9 -18, 2004).

(VE3PU)

### Ontario students talk to Antarctica via amateur radio (2004 04 02)

Congratulations to the grades 4 to 7 students in the Shortwave Listening and Amateur Radio Club, at R. Tait McKenzie Public School in Almonte Ontario, for their successful amateur radio contacts this week with scientists at the U.S. Palmer research station in Antarctica. The students in the Tuesday and Thursday groups spoke by amateur radio this week with members of the research team at Palmer Station on the Antarctic Peninsula. The contact was made using IRLP.

Although Palmer Station in Antarctica is 12,348 km from Almonte on the other side of the world, amateur radio made it possible for R. Tait students to speak directly with scientists there, and have all their questions answered. The Club members were surprised to learn that Almonte had colder temperatures this winter than Palmer Station in Antarctica. Through their amateur radio contacts this week, the students also learned what a penguin sounds like, why the Antarctic ice looks blue, and how long it takes by ship to travel all the way to Palmer Station. One of the most remarkable things the Club members learned this week is that an entirely new life form has been discovered in Antarctica by scientists at Palmer Station.

Amateur radio, like shortwave listening, is a great way to reach out and bring the world into the classroom.

(Thanks to teacher Neil Carleton VE3NCE)

### More news on propagation experiments in the 2 km band

RAC Newfoundland Section Manager Joe Craig VO1NA, reports more successful transatlantic QSO's on 2200 metres with G3LDO and M0BMU.

Those of you who have been following the progress of experimentation in the 135 kHz band, will recall that amateurs have been using very slow speed CW, and sophisticated signal processing to read signals well below noise level

Joe has been experimenting with higher speed CW and during the very favorable conditions we've been experiencing lately 1.2 WPM was copied by M0BMU in the UK, and Joes call sign was identified by H. Wolff in Germany. Look for more details in a forthcoming item in TCA.

(VE3PU)

### 8th Annual Ontario QSO Party

Bob Chandler VE3SRE sends a "heads up" that Canada's third largest amateur radio contest....the 8th Annual Ontario QSO Party, sponsored by the Ontario DX Association takes place on the weekend of April 17-18th this year. The contest starts at 1800 UTC on the Saturday and runs till 1800 UTC on the Sunday.

This is a fun and friendly contest where hams in Ontario get on the air in big numbers! Ontario stations work everybody and stations outside Ontario work Ontario hams.

All of the HF bands (except WARC) are included, both SSB and CW, along with the VHF/UHF bands.

There will again be quite a number of "multi-county" mobile and rover stations operating ...along with all kinds of other stations both "big guns" and little folks!

Complete information is available at:

<http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html>

(Thanks to Bob Chandler VE3SRE and Jim VA3KU)



## Stranger Than Fiction

*A story of chance meetings & coincidences*

By Anthony (Tony) J. Champion (1964)

Email:ajchamp@sympatico.ca

*The following story was submitted to the "Blue and Gold", my old high school newsletter for publication. I wanted to share it with my fellow amateurs just to show how radio can bring people together in a rather unique way.*

The following is a true story. The names are real and so are the people. No effort has been made to hide anyone's identity. Nobody could make this up.

My name is Tony Champion (1964) and for the past 11 or so years, I have been a radio amateur operator holding the call VA3QC. My dad, John, is also a ham operator and resides in Riverview, NB, just outside of Moncton. He's been an amateur since 1936, and presently has the call VE9AG.

Since I've had my license, dad and I meet pretty much every morning on the radio and have a chit chat and get caught up in each others news. At some point, another gentleman, named John (VE3EWJ), joined us on Saturday mornings and we'd yak back and forth for a bit.

One particular Saturday morning, dad and I were talking about Quebec City, when John (VE3EWJ) asked if we were from there. Of course, we both said yes, although we hadn't lived there for quite some time. He went on and said that was interesting because his wife was also from Quebec City, so I asked what school she attended. He said QHS (Quebec High School). This of course perked up my interest and I asked what her name was. He came back with Jean McGerrigle. Well, I just about fell off my chair. I remember Jean, but she was a little older than I; but I had been in the same grade as Graeme, her younger brother, so all of a sudden we had a connection and I was able to reconnect with Graeme after so many years. Another coincidence to this story was that John also worked with my next door neighbour here in Mississauga. This we discovered a little later, much to our surprise.

But wait! The story doesn't end there, and in fact, becomes even more interesting. In the Fall-Winter 2003 issue of the Blue & Gold, Veronique Jossinet had asked if anyone could pass along information on behalf of her sister, Pascale, who was wondering where some of her old friends from school had ended up. I glanced at the list of names and saw that she was looking for Jean McGerrigle amongst others. Before sending off information, I wanted to check with Jean that it would be alright, so I waited until one Saturday morning a couple of weeks ago, when John (VE3EWJ) joined us for our morning chat.

I told him that Pascale was looking to re-establish a connection with his YL (wife in ham radio speak) and several others and I asked whether it would be alright to send along Jean's address etc to Veronique, who would in turn pass it on to Pascale. He said he would check and give me a land-line (more hamspeak for phone call). He called to say that Jean definitely wanted to get in touch so I sent along the information. As he hung up he said that he had worked with a Joel Jossinet. I said to myself: "Self, how many Joel Jossinet's are there in the world, and is it possible that this was the same person with whom I had been in school so many years ago?"

Indeed, coincidence of coincidences, yes, it was in fact, the one and only Joel with whom I had been in school. Joel and John (VE3EWJ) had worked, along with my next door neighbour, together at a company here in Mississauga for several years. John knew that Joel was from Quebec City, and Joel knew that John's wife was from Quebec, but neither one went any further than that. Joel was not aware his sister was wondering about Jean, and John had no clue either that his wife knew anyone surnamed Jossinet. If they had made that connection then Veronique would not have posted her inquiry in the Blue & Gold, I would not have established contact with Joel or Veronique and discovered that my next door neighbour had worked with both of these individuals.

All the above due to a chance contact on amateur radio a number of years back. Who would have ever known, or believed it possible. I thought it might be of interest to others to see how small the world can sometimes be.



# THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.8

April 8, 2004

## MAXIMUM USABLE FREQUENCY APRIL 2004

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

ASAPS for Windows is used to prepare these tables.  
© 2003 Jacques d'Avignon, VE3VIA  
monitor@rac.ca





# THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.8

April 8, 2004

## CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2003-2004

### APRIL

04 Sunday Sunday Brunch at Golden Griddle (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 Golden Griddle (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 Golden Griddle (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.

Visit our website for any updates of the calendar

### Commentary (continued from page 2)

On behalf of all the members, I want to thank Gerry for his efforts. He has lined up, over the years, some very interesting people to come out and address our club. This is no easy task as those who have done it in the past know. Thanks once again Gerry for a job well done. Our loss is Peel's gain. May you continue to enjoy the hobby and I'm sure we'll hear that you're active in that club as well. The Peel club have some wonderful people with whom you'll get to know even better over time.

Fred (VE3VRO) passed along the following suggestions to me for our net controllers of the 2 metre phone net. I agreed to publish them as they are good suggestions and something all net controllers should heed.

Suggestion 1: When taking calls, repeat the list you have and ask if anyone was missed. This confirms to all who checked in that they were heard and also allows those who may have doubled to recheck in.

Suggestion 2: Let the repeater cycle before answering. This will allow anyone with emergency or priority traffic to get on the air to be heard and accommodated.

For those who are new to net controlling, I have a couple of suggestions myself.

Suggestion 1: Always give mobiles and portables, when they identify themselves as such, first crack, even if they are down the list. This will ensure they get on the air without delay, while those who are sitting at home can usually wait.

Suggestion 2: If you hear someone who is obviously a "finger bandit" or is purposely trying to be a royal pain in the butt, IGNORE HIM or HER. It is important that we DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE these idiots who have nothing better to do than play the fool on the air. All they want is attention. Don't give it to them.

You will have noticed that I've incorporated the new club logo into the newsletter, along with a couple of small changes to fonts etc. Trust you like what you see. If anyone has any suggestions to improve the newsletter, please feel free to come forward. Likewise if anyone has any articles or items they think might be of interest, please pass them along too. As always, I enjoy doing this newsletter, but if anyone feels they would like to take it on, please feel free to step forward. Trust me, I would not be offended in the least.

Alright then, that's a wrap for another month. Sorry for the delay in getting this out, but it is done finally.

Tony (VA3QC)



# THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.8

April 8, 2004



## Mail-in Application Form to Join RAC



New \_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

1-year single at \$39.95 (GST incl.).....: \_\_\_\_\_

1-year single in NB, NS, NF \$41.43 (HST incl.).....: \_\_\_\_\_

Each additional Family member at \$20 .....: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name/Call sign of additional family members \_\_\_\_\_

Blind membership (no magazine) at \$20.....: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide CNIB registration number) \_\_\_\_\_

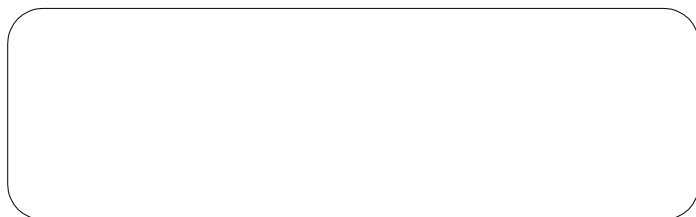
Foreign 1-year single at \$53 (US funds only) .....: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/ MasterCard No: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Mail to:  
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.  
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217  
Ottawa, ON  
K1G 0Z5