



THE VOICE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN MISSISSAUGA COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 2004

From the Gavel - President's Message



Almost a year has passed since I began doing these columns, along with all the other associated duties. It has been a busy year but, on the whole, it has been a successful one during which we have had a number of very good changes.

First, we have transitioned to a new ARES Emergency Coordinator, and have worked hard at improving our public image from an emergency readiness point of view. This includes being more noticeable in regional emergency planning lobbying for another example, to put radios in local hospitals for use by amateurs in emergency operations.

Additionally, we have streamlined the public service operation by creating a separate position from ARES, Public Service Coordinator. This helps us not only to organize the walks, but to act as a liaison between us and the public. Now after a slow winter start, we are starting to get recognition from walk and event coordinators. In this manner, we are able to get the right message out; i.e. that we provide communications for events not parking lot attendants.

Not all things actually involve change though. Some of our regular events went along in spite of poor band conditions and miserable weather conditions. We still managed to have a successful abbreviated event at the Halton Radial Railway. Even though the first day got rained out we had a splendid time on the second day.

We have made some very positive moves in better organization, for instance, by starting the planning sessions for Field Day much earlier than usual. This thus allows us extra time to plan for things like improved logging, a wireless inter camp network, not to mention planning to include additional modes like PSK31, packet, and whatever else. The planning will not just stop here. We hope to have better antenna spacing and station camps. Also, the extra planning time allows us to invite more honorary dignitaries to whom we are bound to be able to show off our very well organized "emergency simulation."

As if all this was not enough, we stood up to the challenge of making sure HAM-EX 2004 was a success, despite a late start to planning and a somewhat lackluster initial participation. The club came away with more money than originally budgeted for, not to mention a very profitable club table sales. This only shows we can truly work together as a team which makes this club truly wonderful.

So now after the Annual General Meeting, we have ourselves a new treasurer and secretary. First we should really thank Tony Champion (VA3QC) for his efforts as secretary for the past two years, and I'm sure Lorne (VE3CXT) will do a fine job as his successor. Oh fear not! Tony will still be kept very busy. Indeed, we have plans for him. Next we should turn our thanks to Jeff Stewart (VA3WXM), who has kept our books in order for the last two years very admirably. I know that William (VE3WPJ) will continue the fine tradition set by Jeff.

So what does the future hold for us now? There have been many suggestions made. Some we have touched on already, others, only general thoughts. We have new logos for instance which are being phased in, subtly, first in the newsletter, then on the web site, and soon to come new jackets, hats, and mugs. Where will it stop? I don't know. And with any luck, we may even have a new club station some day soon. I never give up.

Robin (VE3VVS)

This Month

2. Commentary
3. General Meeting #15 (AGM) Minutes
4. Executive Meeting #08 Minutes
5. Field Day Meeting #03 Minutes
6. From Darren (VA3EGG)
7. RAC News
8. Cartoon from Ted (VA3CEB)
9. Club Calendar & Fleamarkets
10. RAC Application Form

Sunday Brunch

Sunday brunches are held on the first Sunday of each month. Time is at **The Golden** located at 6400 **Drive** (905)542-99 **willcreek** **block north** of **Erin Mills Parkway**. The restaurant is on the **side of Erin Mills Parkway**. All are welcome to come out and have an opportunity to chat in an informal setting..

Sunday Brunch
June 6, 9:00AM at Vic Johnson Arena

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 7.9

May 13, 2004

Commentary...



Hello once again to everyone. This past month has been an eventful one for me. On April 18, I was one of the group of volunteers who mustered up the courage to step out into an awful looking Sunday morning to do my civic duty and help out on the Streetsville MS Super walk.

Actually the day started off just dark and threatening or to paraphrase a well known quote, "It was a dark and stormy day". Anyhow, I was assigned to one of the far reaches of the world, or so it seemed anyway, and off I trundled along with my sidekick, a young high school chap who didn't have a name, and my bad knees. After crossing fjords and battling all sorts of wildlife in the wilds of Streetsville, we arrived at our designated spot which turned out to be on Bristol Road.

I noted to myself that I could have driven my car there if I'd known where I was going, and I would have avoided the trek through the jungle and all that it involved along with the rest of this little story. Anyhow, we were there for a few minutes when it started to rain. Oh joy! Oh fun! Now I have to admit I wasn't smart enough to consider bringing along a raincoat,

umbrella or a pup tent which I could have erected and hidden in, so there we stood in the trees (well by the trees, we didn't actually climb them) in the pouring rain with thunder and lightening all around us. My partner was complaining a little about having to do 40 hours of community service over a three year period, which is part of the Ontario high school curriculum. Anyhow, we chatted and I talked about amateur radio to him and what we do for the community. I also explained that when one lives in a community, one should give back a little as it is rewarding. Okay, so much for my moralizing and preaching and back to my story.

Now where was I, oh yeah it was raining. And it was thundering and lots of lightening and we were getting wet as we stood by the trees. It was fun as I really enjoy getting wet. Then the rain stopped and I started to dry out just a little. Oh darn, I was really having a great time getting drenched. Meanwhile the sky was getting blacker and blacker. I began to jump up and down in exciting anticipation of getting drenched once again.

I wasn't disappointed. It came down in buckets, actually I think it was barrels! And for good measure, we had some hail and lots of thunder and lightening. I was just overjoyed as I was getting REALLY drenched and there was no let up this time. I was so excited I started to do the Dance of the Big Rain.

Anyway, we stuck it out to the end and then headed back through the wet jungle, fighting off the crocodiles and other sea serpents in the huge lakes and inland seas that were created during this deluge of water. To say I was soaked is an understatement. My radio was soaked too, but it continued to work, I think. Once I told my partner that we were done, he was gone in a flash never to be seen again. I hope one of those lakes or crocs didn't swallow him up!

In the meantime, back in the rainforest, I finally made it back to civilization and I knew I would survive when I came upon Art (VE3SQG) or a good facsimile of him. I couldn't be sure, as my glasses were so wet I could barely see, but it kinda looked like him and sounded like him, so I assumed it was, in fact, him. Anyhow, we both carried on towards the parking lot in search of our vehicles when it happened. I think Art (VE3SQG) tripped me. Now he'll never admit to that, but there is no other explanation. I fell down. Crash! Bang! Splat! Oh s#*t! Actually I probably said something far worse. Anyhow, I got up and was even wetter, if that is possible, than I had been before. I was also "hurtin' purdy bad". My right hand ached. My left hand ached. The left side of my chest ached. Art, in all innocence, asked if I was alright and I said yes, but I wasn't as it turned out.

(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

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.....	Tom Godden	VE3TGW	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
Emerg Asst 6	John Duffy	VE3DRZ			

Audit Committee

Auditor 1	OPEN		Auditor 2	Bill Dmytrasz	VE3DNY
-----------------	-------------	--	-----------------	---------------	--------



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 2004

General Meeting #15 (AGM) Minutes

Date: April 22, 2004

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
Tony Champion	VA3QC	Secretary
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Past President

Absent:

Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM	Treasurer
--------------	--------	-----------

Attendance:

- o 30 including visitors

Opening Business – Robin (VE3VVS)

- o Opened the meeting by introducing the executive and welcomed visitors.
- o Introduced Art (VE3SQG), Michael (VE3TKI) and Lorne (VE3CXT) 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.

Election of Officers for 2004-2005

- o Art (VE3SQG), the chief nominating officer (in fact the only nominating officer) announced that the 2004-2005 executive will consist of the following:
 - President .. : Robin Stubbs (VE3VVS) – year 2 of his tenure
 - 1st VP : John Duffy (VE3DRZ) – year 2 of his tenure
 - 2nd VP : Bob Giddy VE3IAB) – year 2 of his tenure
 - Secretary .. : Lorne Jackson (VE3CXT)
 - Treasurer .. : William Bressette (VE3WPJ)

The Year in Review Highlights

- o Robin (VE3VVS) thanked the previous executive for their endeavours and welcomed the new group.
- o New logos thanks to Alex (VA3UA)
- o New location for our meetings at Thomas A Becket Church Hall
- o IRLP Node up and running (Node #2382)
- o New VHF and UHF repeaters which will be going into service shortly
- o FSV is complete
- o We have 98 members
- o We had 12 students in the basic and cw courses, including Rick's (VE3IMG) son Steve (VA3IMG)
- o 21 autopatch subscribers – down a little from other years
- o Approx 60% of our members belong to RAC, amateur radio's national representative. Our aim is for 100%
- o A successful Ham-Ex™ 2004 bringing in about \$2600 including the club table sales

- o The financial status of the club is good
- o Overall a very positive year
- o Other notables are:
 - o Joint repeater group with Peel, the purpose being to share knowledge
 - o
 - o Sponsorship of the Tony Allsop (VE3FTA)SK memorial award for the Canada Day and Winter RAC Contests
 - o Improved relations with area clubs
 - o The ARES group has grown
 - o HSMM SIG started up
 - o Talking about linking our repeater with Peel for certain events
 - o New and improved logging (we hope) is being developed for Field Day.

RAC Promotion

- o John (VE3DRZ) remarked to the assembled group that we must remember that RAC is our national representative with the Government of Canada and as such we must all promote and become members of RAC for the common good.

Field Day

- o Michael noted that field day is June 26 and 27.

Station/Contest Group – Rick (VE3IMG)

- o Several members of the contest group worked the Ontario QSO party. This year the group stayed in Mississauga and used the FSV.

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

- o Vic (VE3FOX) is looking for someone to man the HF emergency net which runs from 2:00PM for about 2 hours.

Public Service

- o We had a good turnout for both MS superwalks. The feedback from the organizers was positive
- o More walks are coming up...stay tuned!!!

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

- o The group is getting the logging software setup and organized for field day

50/50 Draw

- o There was no draw this week

Presentation

- o See the Year in Review Above.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:58PM
 A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Secretary
 May 4, 2004



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 2004

Executive Meeting #08 Minutes

Date: May 6, 2004

Location: Lorne's (VE3CXT) mansion

Time: 7:32PM

Attendees:

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Secretary elect
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 st VP
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2nd VP
Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM	Past Treasurer
Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Public Service
John Kenzie	VE3WJK	Membership
Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Repeater Mgr
Art Sinclair	VE3SQG	Webmeister
William Bressette	VE3WPJ	Treasurer elect
Brian Jay soon to be	VA3BLJ	
Rick Brown	VE3IMG	Contests/Station
Steve Brown	VA3IMG	
Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP	FD Ant Coord etc

Absent:

Tony Champion (VA3QC) Past Secretary

Opening Business

- o Robin (VE3VVS), our fearless president introduced Lorne (VE3CXT) and William (VE3WPJ) as the clubs new Secretary and Treasurer respectively.
- o Robin (VE3VVS) moved that Tony (VA3QC) be appointed Documentation Manager, henceforth to be given the additional nickname of Doc to go along with his other personalities Jacques and Syd.
- o The motion was seconded by Bob VA3IAB, and was carried unanimously

Ham-Ex™

- o The Ham-Ex™ 2004 Financial Report was discussed and critiqued as to its lack of detail and inaccuracies. It was agreed that there should be a division of labour as between the PARC and MARC Treasurers in handling the recording and reporting of the various financial entries, whereas up till now the PARC Treasurer performed all these functions alone.

Club/Contest Station

- o The various difficulties of getting a site for the club station , including the lack of certainty about the Consumers Gas Building possibility were discussed, and it was also discussed that we should pursue as well, simultaneously, other alternatives for running contests such as using the FSV and renting other facilities for the biggest contests. It was pointed out by John (VE3DRZ) that though we tell everybody we apply to for space for the station that said station is for emergency communications, the real main rationale for same is for contests. It was agreed that we will keep following up on any and all leads re same.

ARES/Special Events

- o Michael (VE3TKI) reported that he and Sean (VA3MED) spoke with Sharon Walker, the Peel Emergency Co-ordinator, about the placement of the FSV. She is trying to get us in to the Peel Works Yard on Wolfdale Rd.
- o Robin (VE3VVS) discussed the e-mails exchanged between him and Vic Henderson (VE3FOX) of ARES re the inadequate notice we received re the currently taking place Emergency Measures weekend at Sheridan Mall and our resultant inability to participate as an exhibitor at same

Repeaters

- o Michael (VE3TKI) reported on the loose connector problem on the "new" UHF repeater, which has now been fixed. Said repeater will be tested for levels by Bill Reid (VA3QB) and Michael (VE3TKI) on Friday, May 7th, 2004.
- o Michael (VE3TKI) also reported that our repeater antenna is only a VHF antenna, as confirmed by Bob Morton, and so we will have to install the UHF antenna currently at Lakeview Generating Station by clamping its mast onto the VHF antenna mast at the condo. Getting the tools to do this and a hole drilling mission to bring the feeder inside from outside was discussed as well as what kind of heliax we currently have (75 ohm or 50 ohm).

MARC Ware/Logo

- o Robin (VE3VVS) advised that he has taken over the function, with the assistance of Bob (VE3XBB), of dealing with Goldline re MARC wearing apparel (sporting the new logos). Goldline will be asked to make a presentation at the club general meeting on May 28th, 2004

RAC Annual General Meeting

- o Robin (VE3VVS) advised that he made suggestions to Bob Cooke (VE3BDB) as to a venue for same

Central States & Provinces VHF Conference

- o Michael (VE3TKI) reported as to his discussions with Peter Shelton and the multitudinous volunteers Peter is seeking for this event, which is to take place on July 22, 23 & 24, 2004. The President will liaise with Doug Behl of PARC re such volunteers, A sign up sheet will be placed at the next meetings, so those who wish to sign up may: those who sign up may volunteer but no pressure will be placed on any members to do so. Robin (VE3VVS) will find out if volunteers get free entrance into the conference.

Bread & Honey Festival

- o Discussion thereof and sign up for same was deferred to the next Executive meeting

Adjournment

- o The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45PM.

Next meeting will be June 3, 2004

Prepared by: Lorne Jackson (VE3CXT) – Secretary, MARC
May 11, 2004



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 2004

Field Day 2004: Planning Meeting No 3

Disclaimer: Unfortunately for all concerned, a hungry raccoon, after hearing about VA3QC's unfortunate encounter with a pathway during the rain one day, inadvertently ate the author's original notes of the meeting. Thus these notes are purely a fabrication of what may, or may not have occurred at the meeting. There is hopefully a faint glimmer of truth in some of the following.....

Date and Location:

April 28th at VE3TKI's home, 19:30:47 EDT, or 20.00:47 Atlantic time or 3.5678904 past the doorknob metric time....

Present:

Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB
William Bressette	VE3WPJ
Tom Godden	VE3TWG
Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS
Tony Champion	VA3QC
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
John Kenzie	VE3WJK
Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
Earle Laycock	VE3XEL
Art Sinclair	VE3SQG
Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
Dave Stubbs	VA3BHF

Brian Jay
A box of timbits was initially present but disappeared after the break.

The author apologizes but blames the raccoon if (a) anyone is left out, or (b) horror of horrors, the above list states that anyone was present, who in fact was awol.

1. Review of Actions

- Re Hydrogenics: Art VE3SQG has contacted Hydrogenics. They are not interested in providing demonstration fuel cell units. We will therefore have to rely on hamsters running in cages as per last year.
- Re low oil shutdown switch. VE3DRZ has purchased the switch. It will be installed at a convenient time.
- Invitations: Susan Fitzgerald has yet not responded to a second email from Michael VE3TKI. Other invitations detailed in Meeting #2 notes still outstanding.
- Box channel mast: Tom VE3TWG has had the mast removed from Mary VE3MCT's place. It is hidden at a secret location. Tom is considering modifying the mast for easier portability.
- Sohail VE3ITU has agreed to look after visitor table set up.

2. Stations and Modes

- John VE3DRZ is to post a list at the April 26 club meeting
- CW operators still needed

3. Facilities

- Something may have been said about this; I forget.

4. Antenna Plan

- Asim VE3XAP to develop this for next meeting.

5. Demonstration of N1MM

- Robin VE3VVS, William VE3WPJ, and Dave VA3BHP successfully demonstrated N1MM set up as a network operation as it is planned for Field Day. There do not appear to be any unresolvable issues. A test on site will be arranged for May.

6. Future Meetings

- May 26
- June 23

Demonstration of logging program: May 10 club meeting

7. Action Items:

- Develop antenna and station site plan (VE3XAP)
- Further investigate wireless networks for logging (VE3VVS, VE3WPJ, VA3BHF)
- Call Steve-Lee Young re FSV on site early, and logging on site test (VE3TKI)
- Invite Hazel McCallion, Robert Delaney, Albina Guarnieri (VE3VVS)
- Arrange to coordinate message traffic with PARC: (VE3VVS)

The meeting adjourned precisely on schedule, sometime during the evening.

Prepared by:
Michael Brickell, VE3TKI
Field Day 2004 Manager
April 28, 2004



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 2004

Item from Darren (VA3EGG)

Hi



Attached are some photos from our trip to Aruba that the club might be interested in. In particular, I went to their monthly club meeting and met a group of folks. The photos attached are of **Marvin (P43K)** at his house, as well as his antenna set up. I thought you might have a spot for them in the newsletter or on the website.

Thanks!
Darren (VA3EGG)



Ed Note: Darren (VA3EGG) is a member of the club and is a freelance photographer. Thanks Darren for the shots .



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 2004

RAC News

RAC Website: <http://www.rac.ca>

Ontario South Region Directors website: <http://www.qsl.net/ve3bdb/director.html>

Emergency Management Ontario needs your help.

We are looking to assemble a team of Amateur Radio Operators to man the Amateur Radio Station at the Provincial Operations Centre located in downtown Toronto.

In case of an emergency in Ontario, we require a number of Amateurs willing to man the Amateur Radio Station handling emergency communications. You do not have to be a RAC member or current ARES member to register with the Provincial Operation Centre ARES Group.

There are some orientation meetings involved to familiarize operators with the station and operations.

Any amateur living in the Toronto area interested in serving their community and the Province in this important role may contact the Emergency Co-ordinator for full details.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Jim Taylor VA3KU POC-ARES-EC 416 466 9361 va3ku@look.ca

Jun. 19 2004 Special Event Call Signs VA2RAQI and VE2RAQI

Authority has been granted to Radio Amateur du Quebec Inc to use the special event call signs VA2RAQI and VE2RAQI on June 19 for the Quebec QSO Party (RAC)

Apr. 15 2004 NATO to study potential BPL interference

During a March 29-31 meeting in Paris, France, the NATO Research Task Group on HF Interference established a work plan for studying the potential effects of BPL and DSL technologies on HF communications. The Task group is chaired by a Canadian, Dr Arto Chubukjian of the Communications Research Centre in Ottawa.

According to Dr Chubukjian, increase of the natural HF noise floor by widespread use of PLC (BPL) and/or DSL may reduce the signal to noise ratio for tactical and strategic HF Radio as well as for HF Communications Intelligence stations in NATO and Partnership for Peace countries.

(RAC News Service)

Apr. 19 2004 Changes to the ARES Ontario HF Nets,

After numerous comments and e-mails concerning the Sunday evening ARES Ontario HF Net on 3.743Mhz at 9:00pm it has been decided by popular vote to move this net to Wednesday evenings at 8:00pm on 3.743mhz. This decision has been made to accommodate many that are unable to attend the Sunday nets. With summer around the corner many are away on the weekends and miss the ARES HF Nets altogether.

The net will also follow the Ontario Phone Net protocol, in the event that conditions on 80 meters are poor we will use an alternate 40-meter frequency of 7.070mhz to 7.080mhz. We will use the first available spot within this portion of the band. The frequency of 7.150mhz is on the edge of the American band so splatter could be an issue at this time of the evening. In addition, the TPN frequency is in use by a group in Northern Ontario and Manitoba. The Sandbox Net uses 7.063.5mhz so a distance must be maintained from these two nets.

These changes will be implemented as of April 19, 2004 and we will conduct our first Wednesday Net on April 21 2004. For a brief time the Sunday evening Net will continue as usual until the transition is complete, the Sunday afternoon net will be maintained in its normal time slot.

These changes may not suite everyone's needs but the consensus is that most will be able to check in on either Sunday or Wednesday.

Any ARES member willing to act as Net Control for the Wednesday evening net is asked to contact the Net Manager.

Full details about the ARES Ontario HF Nets can be found on the web at www.hfradio.net/ares

Best regards,
Jim Taylor VA3KU-ARES Ontario HF Net Manager

Apr. 21 2004 Five hams now aboard ISS

International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 9 crew members Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, accompanied by European Space Agency astronaut André Kuipers, PI9ISS, arrived at the ISS right on schedule early today (April 21) aboard a Russian Soyuz vehicle. They join Expedition 8 crew members Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and Sasha Kaleri, U8MIR, whom Padalka and Fincke will relieve.

Docking of the Soyuz spacecraft initiated a nine-day handover period. During his visit aboard the space outpost, Kuipers will conduct a couple of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group contacts and carry out scientific experiments under a commercial agreement between the ESA and Russia. He'll return to Earth April 29 with Foale and Kaleri aboard the older Soyuz vehicle now attached to the ISS.

The Expedition 8 crew has so far spent 184 days onboard the station. NASA says Foale and Kaleri will be exercising rigorously this week to condition themselves for the effects of Earth's gravity upon their return. During their six-month tour of duty, Padalka, 45, will serve as Expedition 9 commander and Soyuz commander, while Fincke, 36, will be the NASA ISS science officer and flight engineer.

(ARRL News Service)

Apr. 21 2004 New Morse "@" character official as of May 3: (.- -.-)

The International Morse code will officially gain a new character on May 3. That's when the now-familiar "@" symbol is set to join the Morse lexicon as the letters "AC" run together. Known as the "commercial at" or "commat," the @ symbol never rose to the level of usage that demanded a unique Morse character until it gained currency as a critical component of e-mail addresses during the past decade or so. Last December, the International Telecommunication Union Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) Study Group 8 agreed on the wording of a Draft New Recommendation ITU-R M.[MORSE] that specifies the international Morse code character set and transmission procedures and includes the new Morse code character. The pending change has attracted some attention in the media, including mentions on National Public Radio's All Things Considered and in The New York Times. The draft new recommendation is completing its circulation to ITU member-states under a new procedure that provides for simultaneous adoption and approval, and there have been no apparent objections. At the suggestion of the International Amateur Radio Union, the new recommendation also calls on ITU-R to define the international Morse code specification after May 3. The Morse specification previously had fallen under the purview of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T), which is responsible for the public telephone and telegraph network.

(ARRL News Service)

May 2 2004 RAC volunteers deal with temporary server problems

The failure of a fan in the RAC server sometime last week was followed by overheating and failure of the main hard drive, taking the RAC web site off the air for a while last weekend. Volunteers Manfred Kahle VA3MWK and Rene Kahle VA3XK quickly donated replacement hardware and installed it, getting the web site up and running again in record time. For the moment, the storage capacity is



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 2004

lower than what was previously available, so that there may be a delay in posting large files, such as the latest list of accredited examiners.

RAC owes a large debt of gratitude to the Kahle family who have continuously donated support for the RAC web site since it was first set up in 1996.

(Ken Pulfer VE3PU)

May 7 2004 QRP-Canada web site moved and improved

After several years of operation on donated space on the RAC server, the QRP-Canada web site has moved. At the same time, Jim Theissen VA3KV has taken over from Ken VE3PU as webmaster, freeing up more of Ken's time to work on IARU matters.

The NEW QRP-CANADA Web site is on line and open for business, Jim, VA3KV, the new webmaster has done an exemplary job of creating a new look and making lots of information available...go to www.qrp-canada.com and have a look at the web site.

(Bruce Rattray VE5QRP, QRP-Canada)

May 7 2004 XL To UA On 137 KHZ

Hams in New Zealand and Asiatic Russia have claimed a new world low-frequency distance record. ZM2E at Quartz Hill near Wellington and UA0LE near Vladivostok say that they completed a two-way contact the night of the 20th of March on 137.70kHz. The path length is estimated to be 10,311 kilometers or 6392 miles.

(Q-News, GB2RS)

May 5 2004 W6RO Celebrates 25 Years of Operation from the Queen Mary

W6RO, the Amateur Radio station in the Wireless Room of the *Queen Mary*, recently celebrated 25 years of continuous operation. Permanently berthed at the Port of Long Beach, "The Queen" is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Southern California. During its 25 years of operation, W6RO has presented a positive image of Amateur Radio to more than four million visitors.

W6RO is the club call sign of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, an ARRL Special Service Club. At the center of operations is Nate Brightman, K6OSC. He has spearheaded Amateur Radio aboard the *Queen Mary*, recruited hundreds of operators, garnered equipment donations from leading manufacturers, and maintained excellent relations with "The Queen's" management.

At a 25th anniversary celebration held April 29 in the *Queen's* salon, ARRL Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, presented a Special Service Award to Brightman, who accepted it on behalf of all W6RO radio operators.

"What does it take to sustain a major volunteer operation over a quarter century?" Goddard asked in his remarks. "Vision, persuasion, promotion, persistence and enthusiasm. And a leader like Nate Brightman, K6OSC. The results? A deep sense of personal satisfaction and the presentation of Amateur Radio to more than four million visitors."

Nearly 100 amateurs volunteer at least four hours a month to operate W6RO from 9 AM until 5 PM daily. W6RO also is a regular stop on the *Queen Mary* self-guided tour, and licensed visitors may log in and get on the air. Thanks to K6OSC, the Amateur Radio Today video runs continuously for all the ship's visitors. The former passenger liner now is on the National Register of Historic Places. Since the *Queen Mary* is nearly impervious to earthquakes, W6RO is equipped with an emergency generator to keep the station on the air during emergencies.

There's more information on the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach W6RO on the *Queen Mary* Web site:

www.mpicomputers.com/ham/queen

(ARRL News Service)

The ARES Ontario Section Leadership Team,

had the opportunity to mark the 2004 Emergency Preparedness Week with a visit and meeting at the EMO Provincial Operations Centre.

Maureen Griffiths - Assistant Chief, Response and Recovery; and Tom Kontra - Operations Supervisor; acted as hosts for the afternoon event. Members of their staff attended portions of the meeting as appropriate to their specific functions.

During the afternoon items of interest included relationship building, ARES structure, roles and capabilities, Digital communications, ARES Operations, Community Liaison and Training issues. A draft Memorandum of Understanding was presented to the ARES team from the EMO for review and input over the next few months. The meeting was concluded with an EMO presentation, a tour of the Operations Centre and the ARES Communications room. The ARES team is grateful for the cordial reception and opportunity afforded to them and to ARES Ontario by the Emergency Management Operations.

Michael Moreau VE3LKI Ontario Section Assistant Manager



Courtesy of Ted Bastien (VA3CEB)
Thanks Ted



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 2004

CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2003-2004

MAY

13 Thursday General Meeting #16-Budget Presentation
 20 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
 27 Thursday General Meeting #17-Budget Approval

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

JUNE

03 Thursday Executive Meeting #09 at ??
 05-06 Sat - Sun Streetsville Founders Bread & Honey Festival

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

Fleamarkets and Special Events

[Amherstburg Hamfest](#)

Amherstburg Radio Club
 Sunday, May 30, 2004, Amherstburg ON

[Streetsville Bread & Honey Festival](#) – Special Event

Mississauga Amateur Radio Club
 Saturday, June 5, 2004, Streetsville ON

[Central Ontario Fleamarket & Hamfest](#)

Guelph ARC & Kitchener-Waterloo ARC
 Saturday, June 12, 2004, Fergus ON

[ONTARIO HAMFEST .. 33rd Year](#)

Burlington Amateur Radio Club
 Saturday, July 10, 2004, Milton ON

[NPARC 2nd Annual Tailgate Hamfest & Auction](#)

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club

Saturday, July 17, 2004, Thorold ON

[Central States VHF Conference`](#)

The Ontario VHF Association ARC -
 VE3VHF
 Thursday, July 22, 2004, Mississauga ON

[VHARA \(Lindsay\) Hamfest 2004](#)

Victoria-Haliburton Amateur Radio Association
 Saturday, August 28, 2004, Lindsay ON

Commentary (Continued from page 2)

Anyhow, I got into my fine warm, dry automobile and drove home with the heater on full blast feeling very sorry for myself and hurting like all getout. Halfway there, I suddenly realized that I wasn't wearing my glasses. Oh s#*t again! They must've popped off when I fell. Never mind, I went home had a nice hot shower, singing along with my XYL's chortling about the good time I must have had. The shower felt good and the dry clothes felt even better, but my left hand was hurting and quite swollen. Matter of fact it was VERY swollen and very "hurting".

I told Shirley what happened and I said I was going back to the scene of the crime to see if my glasses were still there, which I did. Fortunately, someone had found my glasses and had put them in a location where I would see them. I was grateful for that and also that they weren't damaged. I put them on, went for a coffee with William (VE3WPJ) and then went home. By this time my hand is REALLY VERY swollen and REALLY VERY SORE. So was the left side of my chest. I called my doctor on Monday, went for an x-ray and yep, I had a fractured hand in the (insert proper name here) bone between the knuckle and wrist. My doctor said I was lucky I hadn't broken my wrist. Easy for him, he didn't have any broken bones!

Of course there were several of my so-called good "friends", and I use the term very loosely, in the club who began talking about my severed hand and making bad jokes. I told them that if they didn't behave I was going to thump them with my stump or better yet, go out and buy a hook and play "hooky" with them and just "hang" out. That seemed to quiet them down for a while.

It took my shoes about 3 weeks to dry out. My clothes were thrown in the washer along with some soap, no water required and they were washed and dried shortly. I still have no idea whether my partner made it back home or drowned in the huge inland seas along the path back to civilization. My hand is still swollen and I have discovered that one shouldn't try mowing the grass with a broken hand as the vibration of the lawn mower causes pain. My chest has taken about 3 weeks to feel better.

Was it worth it? Yes, as the MS Superwalk is for a good cause. My good friend Steve had MS along with several other serious problems and I will always remember his courage in his final days. Oh yeah, Art didn't really trip me. I managed to do that all by myself, by not lifting my feet high enough. I'll blame the fact that my shoes were loaded with about 20 gallons of water, and if you remember your physics, a cubic foot of water weighs approximately 62 pounds.

73 de Tony (VA3QC)



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 7.9

May 13, 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