



THE VOICE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN MISSISSAUGA COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 8.5

January 13, 2005

From the Gavel - President's Message



It is 2005. Another year and time to think of what is behind us and what the future holds. Time to assess what we individually want to contribute and gain from the fraternity we all belong to, the fraternity of radio operators. I like this term much better than Amateur Radio Operators, as we as a group, are more professional than the professionals. And we have a lot to be proud of but are aware that we still can lead the way in new and innovative communication as we have in the past. We have only touched the tip of the iceberg. There is so much more for us to accomplish and our great fraternity is just the group of learned individuals that can do it.

As a "group of people associated or formally organized for a common purpose, interest, or pleasure," (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary definition), we not only derive great pleasure in our time honed craft, but can put it to good and useful purposes. Look at all of the operators that have helped provide, in some cases, the only communications available in the nations hit hardest by the tsunami about two weeks ago. Professionals have a hard time arriving and supplying necessary communications. When, what infrastructure there is breaks down, the much forgotten fraternity of radio operators, all of a sudden appear from ordinary citizens, and answer the call of need. In some ways this is almost better than just giving money, (even though that is often also much needed), as you are actually doing what you can to help.

Even closer to home, just before Christmas, a fire left a local apartment building un-inhabitable. The Red Cross decided that they should offer emergency shelter for those who needed it, and who did they call on - our local ARES group. Now even though we really didn't end up doing much communicating on that call up and it wasn't a full deployment, we were there, and those that could, did answer the call, dropping everything that was already scheduled (the repair of our UHF repeater to be exact) and went, radios in hand, to see what could be done. This is truly a group to which everyone should be proud to be part of.

So as we move forward into yet another year, we must, as I have said so many times before, stand up, with fresh thinking, clear minds, and new ideas and move this society of brilliant and technically capable communication experts toward the new, better and the stronger. Learn only from the past, not live in it, for the past is the foundation, not the supporting structure. The new ways, the new ideas, the new technologies will provide the support for this fraternity in the days and years to come. Good on you all, well done, but you are far from being done, there is so much more we can do for the world we live in.

Happy New Year everyone, and may 2005 be a good and successful year for all, and with each and every one of you out there, lending a hand in some small way whatever possible. I know the year will be a great one. Never think what you can do cannot help, for every little bit all adds to a lot.

Robin (VE3VVS)

On page 5, have a look at "The Future of 40 Metres." If this won't convince those who do not support RAC and DARF, then nothing will. Please consider seriously supporting and becoming a member of RAC. Fill out the application on page 10 or you can join and pay on-line at:

<https://www.rac.ca/store/membership-form.htm>

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 Pickle Barrel** located at Erin Mills Town Centre located at Eglinton and Erin Mills Parkway. All are welcome to come out and have an opportunity to chat in an informal setting..

Sunday Brunch February 6, 2005

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, **Reg (VA3JQA)** 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...



2005! I remember when I first started working way back in the '60's at the CBC that after the first year of my employment, I received a pension printout stating that I would be eligible for EARLY retirement in 2006! I remember thinking, "Gee, I'll be 60 years old then, probably senile, crippled, have no hair, or teeth and nearly ready to enter the loony bin."

There was no way to imagine how things would really turn out as the future couldn't be predicted then, just as it can't be predicted now. Little did I know that this kid from Quebec City would end up in Toronto, specifically Mississauga, 20 years into my career.

I started off in the installation department and in about 10 years time, was "promoted" into management. I put promoted in quotes because it so happened that the union I had been in, had just completed negotiations, and in fact I ended up earning less in my new position than I would have had I stayed in my old department. Plus I lost overtime.

That was OK as I felt that over the long haul, I would be better off. This was in fact what happened. In 1986 I was asked to join the consolidation team being organized for the "Toronto Broadcast Centre Project". This meant a move from Montreal to Toronto and resettling my family here. For me it was great as I had dreamed for years of working on this particular project with all the challenges it offered.

For my wife Shirley, and my children, Jennifer (16) and Heather (13), it was more traumatic, but over time we settled and adapted. Our lives here have been good, with very few complaints and absolutely no regrets on having made that decision to make the move. I, in fact, retired REALLY EARLY at 51 in 1997 and again that is a decision I have no regrets on making. Once retired I made another decision.

This decision would lead me to where I'm writing this little piece. I decided to join the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club as I had heard that it was an active club and had a great group of people as members. Well, that certainly proved to be a true and accurate statement. Once I was a member I decided that I should get involved and at one point I was going to run for secretary, but someone else said they would be interested, but would I like to take on the newsletter editors job. After thinking about it for 5 or so minutes, I said "sure". I enjoy writing. I had the time to work on putting it together and I enjoyed getting to know my fellow members better. That was 8 years ago, and I'm still going strong (well maybe not quite so strong). Oh yeah, on 2 separate occasions, I have been both secretary and newsletter editor at the same time. Of course over time some people moved on. Some unfortunately died, like Tony (VE3FTA) and Bill (VE3VBC) but there is a core of people who are still around. There are newer members who will be our successors. That is the way it should, and must be.

I have met some wonderful people through this club and through amateur radio in general. I find it fascinating that we are from a variety of backgrounds and careers, but the one common element we all have, is our love of radio. To all of you, you are wonderful! Your support and understanding over the years has been appreciated. Here's to many more years of association, and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2005 to all.

Oh yeah, I'm not senile, have bad knees though, still have most of my hair, although it's now gray and thinning, have my original teeth minus 2 wisdoms and no, not ready to enter the loony bin yet. Now some of this may be subject to a variety of different opinions by others.

73 de Tony (VA3QC)

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

Directors

President.....	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	905-826-6753	1 st Vice President.....	John Duffy	VE3DRZ	905-822-4661
2 nd Vice President....	Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	905-625-6846	Treasurer	William Bressette	VE3WPJ	
Secretary.....	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	905-858-8594	Past President	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	905-858-8594

Managers

Membership	John Kenzie	VE3WJK	Education	Earle Laycock	VE3XEL
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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	Reg Vertolli	VA3JQA
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 :	Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	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	VE3TWG	FSV Mgr.....	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS
Programmes	Brian Jay	VA3BLJ	Programmes Asst 1...:	Bob Giddy	VE3IAB
Programmes Asst 2.:	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Webmaster (1)	Alex Malikov	VE3MA
			Webmaster (2).....:	Dave Harford	VA3DFH

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
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Mississauga ARES Group Gets First Deployment

By Sean Conlin (VA3MED), Emergency Coordinator Mississauga

On the morning of December 20 2004 ,at 1030 hours, an apartment building at 2111 Roche Court suffered a major fire in the main electrical room. The Region of Peel Social Services requested that the Red Cross open a reception centre at a local Secondary School. Later, at 1400 hours, the Red Cross requested the Mississauga ARES Group to be placed on standby. Emergency Coordinator, Sean Conlin (VA3MED) attended the reception centre, at a local high school, to assist as a member of the Red Cross Disaster Services, as well as to monitor the situation.

At 1930 hours the Red Cross requested that ARES be stood down only to discover later that ARES would have been useful in providing communications between the incident site and the reception centre. This would have been helpful in keeping track of the number of people and families who were going to take advantage of temporary lodging offered by the Region of Peel Social Services and of those who were going to stay with friends and/or family.

Because of freezing temperatures and the lack of heat, water pipes burst overnight causing further damage to the building. On December 21 2004 at 1250 hours the Mississauga ARES Group was once again placed on standby as it was a possibility that the building was going to be deemed unsafe by local authorities.

At 1320 hours the Red Cross requested that the standby go to full activation of the ARES Group as they would be opening a reception centre at the local Secondary School. As it so happened, several members of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club, including a couple of Assistant Emergency Coordinators and ARES members were at the club repeater site conducting some maintenance work when Sean Conlin (VA3MED) requested that the Club Call Up tree be activated.

John Duffy (VE3DRZ), Bob Boyer (VE3XBB), Michael Brickell (VE3TKI), Tony Champion (VA3QC), Bryan Jay (VA3BLJ) and Dave Harford (VA3BFH) attended the Reception Centre for a briefing from Susan Fitzgerald, of the Red Cross Disaster Services and the Volunteer Resources Coordinator for the Region of Peel and Dufferin.

Susan wanted one of the ARES team who would be attending the incident location to have taken the Disaster Services Training course in order to assist in pre-registration, as she only had one other volunteer at this time. Assist Emergency Coordinators Michael Brickell (VE3TKI), John Duffy (VE3DRZ) and ARES Member Tony Champion (VA3QC) attended the 2111 Roche Court incident site and Assistant Emergency coordinator Bob Boyer (VE3XBB) and ARES Member Bryan Jay (VE3BLJ) remained at the Reception Centre, while others remained on standby at home.

Emergency Coordinator, Sean Conlin (VA3MED), monitored the situation from his office in downtown Toronto later went to both the Reception Centre and the Incident Site to assess the situation as soon as he was able to leave work. At 1830 hours, the Red Cross requested that communication be shut down and all operators attend the Reception Centre for dinner. At 2000 hours all operators were released from the call.

As this was the ARES Group first actual call out, some lessons have been learned and a debriefing session will take place at the next ARES meeting. The writer would like to thank ALL those members who attended this incident and all those who stood by in case they were required.

An ironic twist to this incident: as the communications were winding down, a member of St. John Ambulance advised the group that a multiple alarm fire in an apartment building in the area of Square One Shopping Centre was underway. It was later discovered that it happened to be the building that housed the Mississauga Club's 2 metre and 440 metre repeater but it was still on the air and remained unharmed thanks to the fast work of the Mississauga Fire and Emergency Service.

On December 29 2004 Emergency Coordinator Sean Conlin (VA3MED) received the following email from Susan Fitzgerald, Red Cross Disaster Services Coordinator: " I personally want to thank all of you who provided quick response and assistance to the folks who live at 2111 Roche Court."

With the email was an attachment from Katie Mahoney, the local councillor for the affected area.

I, the Mayor, and the Regional Chair and all of Council appreciate all that you did for the individuals and families. You all went above and beyond showing compassion and dedication to those we serve. We all hope that we never have to put emergency measures into place, but all of you showed your preparedness and willingness to give of yourselves unselfishly to assist those in need. From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of all of those you assisted, many, many thanks.

*Katie Mahoney
Councillor, Ward 8
City of Mississauga*



RAC News and News From Here and There

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

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

When to CQ and when not to CQ? (Different Protocols on HF and VHF)

by D. Howard Dickson - VE1DHD

As we move closer to what will be a very different time in Amateur Radio, with potentially many amateur moving up from VHF and UHF to join the HF ranks, this might be an appropriate time to comment on some of the differences that exist between HF and VHF operation.

Although the VHF simplex bands for example are channelized in 15 KHz units (146.415; 146.430; 146.445; 146.475 etc.), the HF bands are not. On 20 metres the band is available exclusively for SSB voice operation from 14.112 to 14.350 Mhz continuously, except for a small window between 14.225 and 14.235 that is set aside for slow scan TV. On this band alone, there is a huge amount of bandwidth available for Radio Amateurs to make contacts. So, how does one go about finding someone to talk to on HF?

Unlike VHF (146.520Mhz), there is no official internationally recognised calling frequency on HF where contacts can be initiated and when once established, the stations move off to an unused frequency to continue their conversation. As a result, it is a matter of hit and miss when trying to make a contact on HF, unless a designated time and frequency have been pre-arranged in advance between individuals for that purpose.

Therefore, if I were to tune up on 14.160Mhz and simply announce "this is VE1DHD on frequency looking for a contact" (which is the standard procedure that is used when looking for a contact on a VHF repeater), it is highly unlikely that I would get a response, unless someone else just happened to be sitting and listening on 14.160. So, in order to augment my chances of contacting someone, who may be simply tuning across the broad 20 meter band looking for a contact, I need to put out a long and persistent call that will attract some attention. The traditional way of doing that when using CW (Morse code) is to put out the call "CQ CQ CQ" which basically is a shorthand form of saying "Calling You / Calling You / Calling You". We have adopted this same approach on the SSB voice areas of the HF bands, and so I would call "CQ CQ CQ; CQ-20 CQ-20 CQ-20 meters, this is VE1DHD in Nova Scotia calling CQ CQ CQ and standing by for a call". This same line of pater would be repeated over and over until someone came back to me, or I got tired of trying.

On VHF (using the local repeater or a link through IRLP to a distant repeater) there is absolutely no need for such a long and persistent announcement of interest in chatting with someone. If you simply key up and say "this is VE1DHD listening on frequency", that should suffice. If there is someone listening on the repeater (and there usually is) they will come back to you if they want to chat with you, and if they don't, they won't.

Persistently calling CQ CQ CQ on a local repeater or on an IRLP link is quite simply unnecessary and indeed it can be quite annoying to those who are listening but don't want to talk.

SCAMP ON-AIR TESTING COMMENCES

The Sound Card Amateur Message Protocol--or SCAMP--has got past being just a conference paper by Rick Muething KN6KB for the ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference in September. On-the-air testing of the digital communication protocol began in late

November, and the first transcontinental communication using SCAMP occurred on December 4.

SCAMP is designed to eliminate the need for pricey external hardware for passing e-mail traffic on relatively narrow-bandwidth channels. Rick Muething KN6KB, says, "SCAMP is an example of what is now possible with sound card, computer and software technology using cooperative amateur efforts." He says, "SCAMP and similar programs like DIGTRX for image transmission offer low-cost alternatives to dedicated or proprietary hardware."

As Muething explains, SCAMP is intended for transmitting messages-text with binary attachments--via 2-kHz bandwidth HF and VHF voice channels. The program is compatible with Winlink2000, and uses the Redundant Digital File Transfer (RDFT) transport layer developed by Barry Sanderson, KB9VAK. (John Wilson VK3LM at Tallangatta VIC was the transmitting end for their trials.) RDFT uses Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)--the technique all "linked" modes use to ensure error-free transmission--and message layer protocols that Muething developed. He says SCAMP offers a moderate-throughput, error-free protocol that works using conventional sound cards and modestly powered computers.

The RDFT utilities and documentation for the Windows and Linux operating systems have been released under the GNU General Public License (GPL).

Muething says a dozen dedicated testers began initial on-air testing on HF and VHF November 27 using an alpha version of a Windows-based SCAMP, and beta testing should start in February.

The first successful US transcontinental exchange of Amateur Radio e-mail messages using SCAMP took place December 4 on 20 meters between N6KZB in California and W3QA in Pennsylvania. Each station ran 70W.

Muething says SCAMP requires only a 1-GHz class Pentium or Celeron processor with a minimum of 128 MB of memory to reach full throughput. Lesser systems may be used at reduced throughput. "The throughput of SCAMP adjusts to the channel quality, reaching a current net maximum of about 4800 bytes per minute before compression gains." Muething says further protocol optimisation continues to up system throughput and improve its robustness in poor HF multipath channels.

The complete SCAMP specification is available and will be released under the GPL as a blueprint for client developers to insure compatibility across different implementations.

Muething has more information on SCAMP. Contact him via e-mail kn6kb@arll.net Information on RDFT is available on the Web at <http://www.svs.net/wyman/examples/hdsstv/index.html> (WIA)

RAC Bulletin 04-032E Third party communications regarding tsunami disaster areas (Dec. 29 2004)

In the wake of the Tsunami/Earthquake Disaster, in response to questions from Canadian radio amateurs, Industry Canada has advised RAC as follows:

Canada has no objections to its licensed radio amateurs passing international communications on behalf of third parties in support of an emergency or disaster relief in the countries affected by the recent



tsunami and earthquake, provided that the affected country allows its radio amateurs to carry on such a communication.

This is in keeping with the recent "FINAL ACTS WRC-03 WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE (GENEVA, 2003)" where paragraph 25.3 (2) states that "Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction."

Under normal circumstances, Canadian radio amateurs must respect the third-party agreements and arrangements noted in Industry Canada's Radiocommunication Information Circular RIC-3 - Issue 2, dated April 2002. Canada has concluded agreements or arrangements with the following countries to permit the transmission and reception of international communications by Canadian amateurs on behalf of third parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Under normal circumstances radio amateurs in Canada are obliged to respect these agreements.

(RAC News Service)

RAC Liability Insurance Policy

Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to offer its members another significant membership benefit: liability insurance. No, RAC is not selling insurance, but we are a "named insured" and are sharing the substantial protection of our policy with our members and each affiliated club that registers with us. This is a significant benefit and incentive for joining RAC and maintaining your membership and club registration.

Full details can be found online at: www.rac.ca/service/liabins.htm

(RAC News Service)

The voice of WWV becomes a Silent Key (Dec. 31 2004)

The Voice of time signal station W-W-V has passed away. Marty Edwards, a newscaster who doubled as the voice of W-W-V, died on Friday, December 10th. Edwards did the speech transcripts for the time checks provided by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Standards and broadcast on W-W-V from Ft. Collins, Colorado.

(Published news reports)

Update on RAC Morse Code Proposal (Jan. 7 2005)

RAC has been receiving questions about the status of the Industry Canada response to the RAC Proposal on Morse Code and Related Matters. Interest centres on whether Industry Canada has come to a decision on retaining or deleting the Morse Qualification for access to the HF bands below 30 MHz.

In response to the RAC proposal, Industry Canada decided to seek public comment on the proposal last August. The period for comment on Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04 expired on 20 October, 2004. At the CARAB meeting on 28 October, Industry Canada advised that they were reviewing the comments and that they hoped to publish a summary and the actual comments on their Strategis web site by Christmas. They have missed that target. Nothing is on the Strategis web site as of today, 6 January.

Even when the summary and responses are posted on Strategis, Industry Canada will still have to make its decision on whether to

implement all, some or none of the RAC proposal. A decision until the spring, perhaps April, seems unlikely.

As soon as Industry Canada posts the comments, summary and any other information, RAC will put out a bulletin and also will post a notice on the Latest News page on this web site.

Thanks to Vice President Regulatory Affairs Jim Dean, VE3IQ (RAC News Service)

The Future of Forty Metres (Jan. 7 2005)

Will the broadcasters finally vacate the upper part of the Amateur 40 metre band after WRC 2007, - or will we lose the range from 7200 to 7300 kHz ?

Background

There are over 3 million licensed Amateur Radio operators around the world, and the 7000 kHz band is one of the most heavily used.

In Region 2 (the Americas) the band 7000 to 7300 kHz is allocated to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services on a primary basis. Until 1938, this was a worldwide allocation.

Beginning in 1938 and at successive World Radio Conferences, the upper portion of the band has been gradually transferred to the HF Broadcasting service in Regions 1 and 3 (the rest of the world), so that since 1979, only the band 7000 to 7100 kHz has been available for Amateur use worldwide.

Status at the beginning of 2005

At the present time, short wave broadcast stations in Europe, Africa and Asia are licensed to transmit in the frequency range from 7100-7300 kHz. Furthermore, amateurs operating in the 40-metre band in the Americas must accept any interference caused by the broadcasters. Outside the Americas, most amateurs have only 7000-7100 kHz, although since 2003, some are allowed to use 7100-7200 with limited power, on a non-interfering basis.

In 2003 after a lot of hard work by the IARU, strongly supported by Radio Amateurs of Canada, we succeeded in getting a ruling from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to remove broadcast stations from 7100 to 7200 kHz beginning in 2009, and to allow amateurs in those countries to increase the size of their 40 metre band from 100 kHz to 200 kHz.

What's Next?

At the next World Radio Conference in 2007, we have another chance to finish the job. The remaining range from 7200 to 7300 kHz is now being reviewed. The gains made at 7100-7200 kHz by the amateur service at WRC-2003 are not subject to the review, but because of the claimed needs of other radio services around 7 MHz, there is a very real danger that the amateur service in Canada could lose or at least be forced to share 7200-7300 kHz. We cannot be complacent.

Responding to the challenge, the IARU has maintained its objective of a world wide exclusive allocation to amateurs for the full range from 7000 to 7300 kHz, and has argued in favour of such a change at the pre-conference study meetings taking place at the ITU.

RAC has followed the IARU lead, but so far no consensus has been reached with other spectrum users in Canada. Although we already have the full 300 kHz, moving broadcasters out of the top 100 kHz in other regions is not popular amongst two groups in our country.

First of all, the Canadian shortwave broadcasters – mainly Radio Canada International, would be happy to see us give up the top 100 kHz so that they could use it for broadcasting here. They have not taken a strong position however, and we may be able to convince them to stick with the status quo.

Secondly, the other principal users of the HF spectrum, the fixed and mobile users – mainly the Department of National Defence, do not



want to give up any spectrum to broadcasters, and any upward movement of broadcasters in other regions might well be traded for broadcast access to spectrum currently being used by DND in Canada. That is what happened in 2003, with Canadian fixed users losing 50 kHz of bandwidth.

Of course we have the rest of the world to convince too. Prospects do not look good at this time. In spite of strong lobbying by the ARRL, in 2003 the fixed and broadcast interests ensured that the US did not support an expansion of the 40 metre amateur band in other parts of the world. There is no reason to believe that they will be more supportive in 2007.

Most countries in Asia strongly resisted any expansion of their 40 metre amateur bands in 2003, with India and Korea taking the lead. Their broadcasters were not happy that they will lose the segment from 7100 to 7200, and have already made it clear that they will once again oppose any expansion in 2007. Although, like us, Australian amateurs already have access to the full 300 kHz, Australia is also opposed to any further expansion in other parts of the world.

European countries, after much arguing, finally agreed to support the amateur case in 2003, but CEPT, which represents the interests of up to 40 countries including many of the former Soviet countries, has made it clear that they do not intend to support us this time around. Russia is almost certain to oppose new amateur allocations.

In 2003, we were able to enlist the support of the majority of Central and South American countries. However given strong fixed interests and some broadcast interests, it is unlikely that they will support a further increase to the worldwide amateur allocation in 2007 unless it includes some sort of sharing which would ease the burden on fixed and mobile users.

That leaves the African and the Arab countries. Africa might be convinced to support us, based on amateur capabilities for disaster relief communications. Almost all Arab countries have little sympathy or interest in amateur radio, and can be counted on to oppose any change to existing amateur bands.

Reading the above would certainly convince most amateurs that our chances at WRC 2007 are almost negligible. Only representatives of countries have a say in the outcome of a World Radio Conference. Organizations like the IARU can twist arms, but are not permitted to argue from the floor during conference meetings. So, we certainly have our work cut out for us. Our best hope is to come up with strong convincing arguments for why we need the full 300 kHz worldwide. Both RAC and the IARU are hard at work preparing to meet the challenge.

RAC played a strong role in the negotiations at WRC-03, and had a major impact on the outcome. Thanks to the support of DARF donors, Jim Dean, VE3IQ was a key player for the entire duration of the WRC. Jim has once again been chosen by the RAC Board to be the Canadian Amateur Radio representative at WRC 2007.

Unfortunately, attending a WRC can cost up to \$10,000 per person, even with "seat-sale" airfare, and minimal hotel and meal expenses. RAC does not have the resources to pay for Jim's attendance at a WRC, and so he has to depend on the generosity of Canadian donors to the DARF fund to cover his costs. Please consider donating.

Donations may be made by cheque or credit card. Cheques should be made out to "The Defence of Amateur Radio Fund", and may be sent by mail to:

Defence of Amateur Radio Fund
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217
Ottawa Canada, K1G 0Z5
(RAC News Service)

Kitchener Waterloo Linux Users Group "install-fest" (Jan. 11 2005)

The Kitchener Waterloo Linux Users Group is holding a Linux "install-fest" Tuesday night, 11 January 2005. This is an opportunity for you to install Linux on your computer with the assistance of experienced Linux users. It starts at 6 p.m. at the Cambridge Holiday Inn (200 Holiday Inn Drive). The event is free but pre-registration is required. For more information visit <http://www.kwlug.org/fest.php>. (Brad Rodriguez, VE3RHJ, AEC Grey County)

Ontario Swap Shop

Looking for that special piece of radio gear to finish off your ham station? Do you have extra radio gear you'd like to turn into some cash?

Well the place to visit is the 'Ontario Swap Shop' held every Sunday at 12 noon on 7055 kHz and 7:00pm on 3755 kHz. Nick VE3NJK and Ken VE3YK host the hour long program and all amateurs are invited.

The Swap Shop list is posted every Monday on the Trans Provincial Net website, [Ontario Swap Shop Listings](#), the swap shop list can also be found on packet by calling up VE3DID (Nick VE3NJK)

Tsunami Relief Net (Jan. 04, 2005)

A group of hams are enroute to Sri Lanka as I type this. They will be landing with US Military and Red Cross personnel at 5AM EST Jan. 5 / 2004. Their mission is as follows:

Primary Directive:

To establish an EOC for the purpose of coordinating local amateur radio operators in their efforts to assist in disaster relief communications

Secondary Objective:

To send health & welfare traffic to the west (i.e.: sending third party traffic such as informing family members that individuals are alive)

Details are at www.tsunamireliefnet.com ... Website is a constant work in progress, so keep an eye on it. All people willing to volunteer as NCS or Traffic Handlers are to click on "Register Here" and fill out the forms.

I am the ops manager for Canada in this effort. If you could inform the various groups that this is taking place and that volunteers are needed, it would be greatly appreciated.

The net is taking place on Echolink Node #123799.

Please forward any questions to me.

Phil A. McBride, VA3QR/VA3KJP

ARES Emergency Coordinator @ Halton Hills, Ontario
Halton Amateur Radio Club / Radio Amateurs of Canada
(Thanks to Glenn VE3GNA)

More on the role played by Amateur radio following the Tsunami disaster (2005-01-04)

The following stories have been provided thanks to Australia's WIA News

ANDAMAN ISLAND VU4

Amateur Radio Operators VU4BRI/VU4NRO were on a DX radio expedition, stopping that activity to help the people. Ram, VU3DJQ in New Delhi says there is an open invitation from Port Blair administration for Indian radio operators for providing emergency communication from Port Blair. Travel and stay at own expense. VU4RBI has left, but 5 further operators will join the team and will operate from many islands as possible. There is severe shortage of potable water in CarNicobar.

VU2MUE told us ham radio operators left for Andaman from Mangalore, Bangalore and Hyderabad to activate ham radio stations in



the tsunami hit smaller islands which are still cut-off from the mainland as well from the capital Portblair. It is expected that ham radio stations would be activated in the areas Hut Bay Island, Little Andaman etc.

VU2MUE heard TV journalist Monidipa Banerjee's voice on the National NDTV channel reporting from the Andamans during one of its evening news telecasts stating that governmental communication systems 'a total failure in Andaman & Nicobar' He heard her emphasising the need of ham radio communication system in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. It may be mentioned that no ham radio operation had been allowed by the Government of India for the last 17 years in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands until YL Bharthi, VU4RBI could get a 'special permission' to activate VU4 DXpedition.

News for Andaman and Nicobar Islands - 7090 7095 14160 14190 14191 14193 14200KHz

INDIA VU

One VU2 Amateur who was feared missing in the after-wake of the tsunami was Binu VU2NGB. Happily VU2NGB is ok and fine in Vypen Island, was due to "QSY" to VK land on the 7th of this month.

In India the public have asked ham radio operators to find missing persons. Contacting VU radio amateurs on the Internet using <http://www.hamradioindia.org> the amateur radio operators then pass the message to Andaman Island on 14.191MHz USB voice or 7.090MHz LSB voice using short wave radio transceivers. Some hams are also using morse code and others have connected their home computer to their ham radio transmitter.

Gopal Madhavan had an eyeball with VU2RBI Bharathi at Chennai airport, on her arrival from Andamans. She was very, very tired, not unexpectedly but happy that she and her team were able to assist at a time of need.

There were also another group of hams led by VU2LIC at the airport, and they are expected to leave for the Andamans also a group from Gujarat is also in Chennai led by VU2CPV and they will also be leaving with relief materials.

INDIAN NETS

India VU2NRO at Hyderabad is on 14.160 to receive QSPs for Portblair. India - 7050kHz

HAM'S VISITING NEW DELHI..145.600MHz "-DUP" SHIFT (-600 KHZ)

SOMALIA 60

Radio amateur Burhan 6O0AP in Galkayo, Somalia has confirmed the death toll. Somalia Tsunami death toll is 200. Missing persons in Somalia are not included. Mr Mohammed Ghedi, Somalia's Prime Minister appealed to foreign countries, international organisations and well-wishers to come to the aid of Somalia. In Hafun, Puntland, North East Somalia (population of 6,000) a third of buildings were destroyed. The surrounding areas are under water. Sam Voron in Somalia says the situation in many areas is unknown and the United Nations is undertaking survey and assistance efforts.

NIGHT-TIME HAM RADIO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FREQUENCY- 3.655MHz LSB (main night time Somalia HAM emergency listening frequency)

DAY-TIME HAM RADIO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FREQUENCY- 7.055MHz LSB (main daytime Somalia HAM emergency listening frequency) or 10.125MHz USB.

To help foreign hams contact Somalia hams use- 14.255MHz USB (main listening frequency for overseas contacts with Somalia) or 18.155MHz USB or 21.255MHz USB.

BANGLADESH S21

Manjurul Haque, S21AM is the General Secretary, Bangladesh Amateur Radio League he reports "here in Bangladesh we have been

operating since the Tsunami first hit on the 26 December 2004 on the Ham Radio emergency networks on 14.190MHz and 7.060MHz. When needed we relay emergency messages.

SRI LANKA 4S7

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister had no contact with the outside world until Amateur Radio operators set up a ham radio inside the Prime Minister's official house. The Prime Minister's satellite phone failed and the only link in his disaster operations centre was the Short Wave Amateur Radio, reports Sri Lankan ham radio operator Victor, call sign 4S7VK.

" As President of the Amateur Radio Society in Sri Lanka it was wonderful even at a tragic time to link up South of Sri Lanka with the Prime Minister who comes from the South and that is where his people are. So we went in and established this HF link. My friends 4S7KE, AK and DZ went in a 4 wheel drive approaching the coastal town of Hambantota from the interior as the main road along the coast was badly battered and full of debris and was impassable. I knew my propagation thanks to George Jacobs and I could be 100% sure that we could keep a link going on 3 and 7 MHz. So when all the cellular and all other means failed Short Wave stood bold and proud. It is so simple and we didn't even have a TS 50 or such a small mobile HF set, but took an Icom IC7400 the best radio we have and two 12v batteries and dipoles some food and water and filled the rest of the vehicle with food for the displaced. I stood by in Colombo at the PM's to run the link in and coordinate. We are trying to expand our coverage but our resources are limited.

EMERGENCY NET, Sri Lanka - 7060kHz

THAILAND HS

Ham Radio operator Charlie K4VUD/HS0ZCW in Thailand was interviewed by CNN. He has been relaying emergency Tsunami messages to India using the 20 metre band. EMERGENCY NET Thailand - 7075kHz news 24x7 EchoLink node 46601 hs1wfk-l

INDONESIA YB

Amateurs in Indonesia have established emergency communications between Medan in Sumatra and Banda Aceh, the area destroyed by the Tsunami on the northern tip of Sumatra. They are using the 80 metre 3.815MHz for long distance communications and the 2 metre 144MHz band for short distance communications. Amateur Radio operators YB6ZZ and YB6ZES are operating an earthquake and Tsunami emergency network on the Indonesian amateur radio emergency frequencies of 7.055MHz and 21.300MHz in the 15 metre band. Salvation Army Salvation Army teams have been at the forefront of offering aid and relief to the people. In addition, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) is helping people locate loved ones missing in the region. When there are no other forms of communication, SATERN is a HAM radio team that helps families and emergency workers find each other. In Chicago, National director of SATERN Major Pat McPherson reported that by listening, some SATERN members have been successful in establishing contact with the missing members.

More Web sites for News Reports featuring the Amateur Radio Service

Indo Asian News Service report Ham radio to the rescue in tsunami-hit Andaman <http://www.eians.net/2005/01/02/02hum.html>

Times of India, Kolkata report Radio lifeline for stricken islands

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/978673.cms>

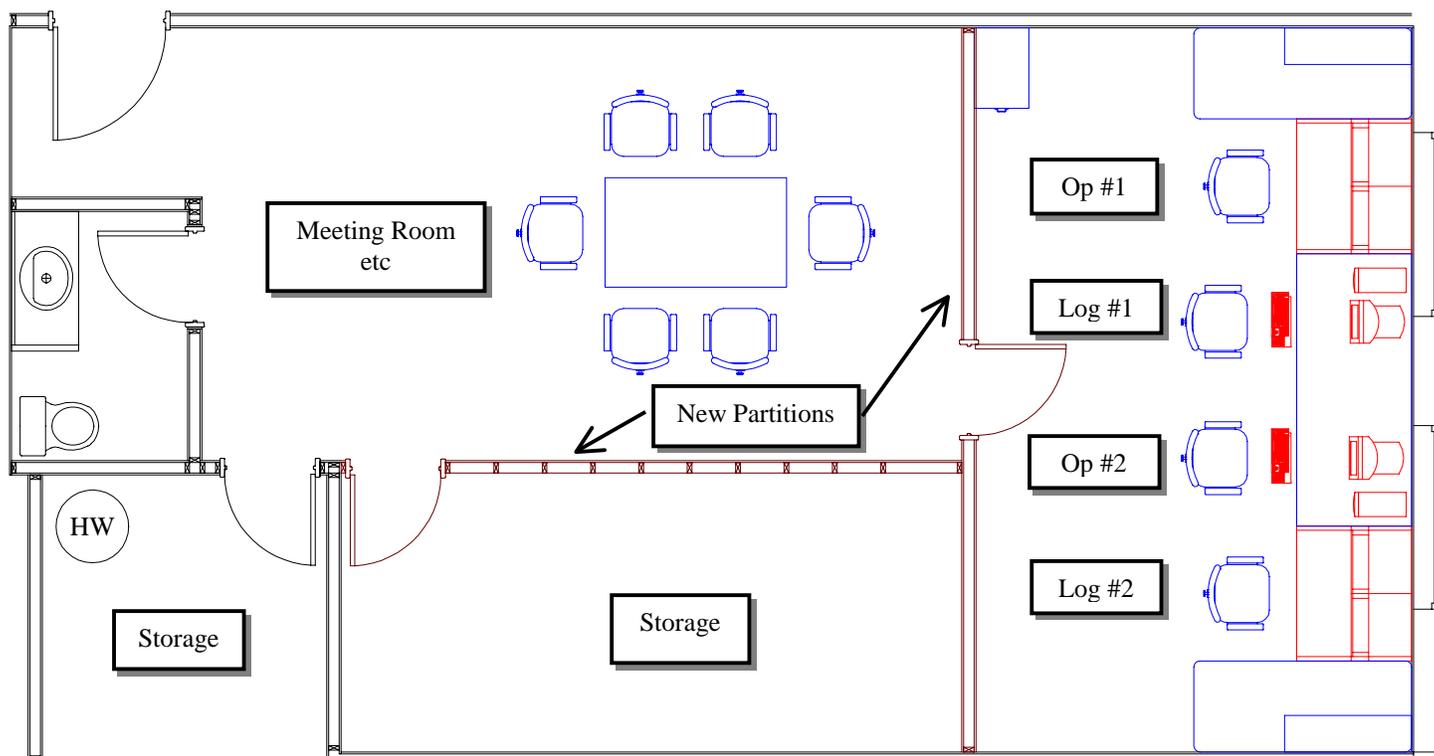
Economic Times report Ham Radio provides the missing link

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/978465.cms>

(RAC News Service)



A Look at the new Club Radio Station



ARLD001 DX news

TONGA, A3. Paul, A35RK has been QRV on 17 meters around 2300z. QSL via W7TSQ.

NAURU, C2. Udo, C21HC has been QRV using QRP on 20 meters after 0600z. QSL via DL9HCU.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. A number of amateurs will be QRV as 3G0YM using SSB and 3G0YP using CW, RTTY, SSTV and PSK, from January 8 to 18. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, not including the newer bands. QSL via LA6EIA.

TAJKISTAN, EY. Jean, EY8/F5NHJ has been QRV using RTTY on 15 meters around 0900 to 1130z. QSL to home call.

SUDAN, ST. Dane, ST2T has been QRV on 17 meters around 1400z. QSL via S57DX.

MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Apollo, SV2ASP/A has been QRV on 80 and 40 meters between 1730 and 1830z, and 20 meters between 0830 and 0930z. QSL via operator's instructions.

GABON, TR. Alain, TR8CA has been QRV on 17 meters around 1600z. QSL via F6CBC.

MACQUARIE ISLAND, VK0. Dave, VK0MT is QRV from here until March 31 while on assignment. He is active in his spare time, and has been QRV on several HF bands between 1000 and 1100z. QSL direct via JE1LET.

ANTARCTICA. Bhagwati, VU3BPZ is the Communications Officer for the XXIV Indian Antarctic Expedition, and is active from Maitri Base. QSL via operator's instructions.

CAMBODIA, XU. Peter, NO2R will be QRV as XU7ACY from January 9 to 21. He will be active on 160, 80 and 40 meters. QSL via K2NJ. Meanwhile, Claude, XU7ABN has been QRV using RTTY on 17 meters between 1200 and 1300z. QSL direct.



THE COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 8.5

January 13, 2005

CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2004-2005

2005 JANUARY

18 Tuesday Code Class (note 3)
 20 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
 25 Tuesday Code Class (note 3) + Pizza Night
 27 Thursday General Meeting #09 –

FEBRUARY

01 Tuesday Code Class (note 3)
 03 Thursday Executive Meeting #08 at Robin's (VE3VVS)
 06 Sunday Sunday Breakfast at Pickle Barrel (note 2)
 08 Tuesday Code Class (note 3)
 10 Thursday General Meeting #10 –
 15 Tuesday Code Class (note 3)
 17 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
 22 Tuesday Code Class (note 3)
 24 Thursday General Meeting #11 –

MARCH

01 Tuesday Code Class (note 3)
 03 Thursday Executive Meeting #09 at Earle's (VE3XEL)
 06 Sunday Sunday Breakfast at Pickle Barrel (note 2)
 08 Tuesday Code Class (note 3)- Final Class & Test
 10 Thursday General Meeting #12 –
 17 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)

24 Thursday General Meeting #13 –

APRIL

03 Sunday Sunday Breakfast at Pickle Barrel (note 2)
 07 Thursday Executive Meeting #10 at Michaels (VE3TKI)
 14 Thursday General Meeting #14 –
 21 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
 28 Thursday General Meeting #15 –

MAY

01 Sunday Sunday Breakfast at Pickle Barrel (note 2)
 05 Thursday Executive Meeting #11 at Lorne's (VE3CXT)
 12 Thursday General Meeting #16 –
 19 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
 26 Thursday General Meeting #17 –

JUNE

02 Thursday Executive Meeting #12 at Art's (VE3SQG)
 04-05 Sat-Sun Bread & Honey Festival
 05 Sunday Sunday Breakfast at Vic Johnson Arena at 9:00AM
 09 Thursday General Meeting #18 –
 16 Thursday Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
 23 Thursday General Meeting #19 – Pot Luck End of Season
 25-26 Sat-Sun Field Day 2005

NOTES

1. Meetings start 7:30PM at St. Thomas A Becket Church Hall, 3535 South Common Court unless otherwise noted.
2. Breakfast 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: <http://www.marc.on.ca> for any updates of the calendar.

Upcoming Hamfests

Big Event 27

The Niagara Peninsula Amateur
 Radio Club
 Saturday, February 5, 2005
 St Catharines ON

Burlington Spring Flea Market

Burlington Amateur Radio Club
 Saturday, February 26, 2005
 Burlington ON

HAM-EX™ 2005

Peel Amateur Radio Club /
 Mississauga Amateur Radio
 Club
 Saturday, April 9, 2005
 Brampton ON

Whitby Amateur Radio Clubs

#3 Annual Hamfest
 Whitby Amateur Radio Club
 Saturday, April 16, 2005
 Oshawa ON

Durham Region Amateur Radio Hamfest

North Shore ARC and South
 Pickering ARC
 Saturday, April 23, 2005
 Whitby ON

Annual Spring Hamfest and Fleamarket

The Skywide Amateur Radio Club
 Saturday, May 14, 2005
 Toronto ON



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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