



# THE VOICE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN MISSISSAUGA COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 8.6

February 10, 2005

## *From the Gavel - President's Message*



As I'm writing this, the weather has a warming trend, and the days seem just a little brighter and little bit longer, and it makes you remember that spring will indeed be soon coming. For the club, that means that it is once again time to nominate and elect a new President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President. To all those in the membership, this then means you have an opportunity to become part of the Executive Committee and see the inner workings of this fine club. Additionally, it means that you have the opportunity to help shape the club and nudge in the direction you feel would serve it best.

For the past two years, I have tried to make everyone aware that it is time to get involved and move forward, change things where it needs to be changed, and question the reason why things are done the way they are. Do I feel I have been successful? Well I'm not sure if success in this case is measured by completion of tasks, as it does take time to turn a battleship, and change does not come overnight. It is often said that it is those who come after the instigator of change who must decide to continue the course of reshaping and rethinking, or to head off in another direction, and to that end it will be my successor who will have the option to continue the path.

There is definitely some benefit to serving on the Executive of the club as it gives a different appreciation of the subtle differences of the other executives, the managers and indeed the membership. In actual fact, I think it should be in every new member's mind that they should aspire to taking a turn at being on the club Executive Committee. Not only would this bring some new ideas to the club, it would also give more people that richer understanding that can only be obtained by serving on the executive. Now I'm not going to lie to you (never have yet and not going to start now), they will say it doesn't take much of your time and there is really nothing to do. Well that is a load of you know what! It does take some of your time, but like everything else, you get out what you put into it.

And what will become of me after my tour of duty as President? Well, I will look forward to sitting in the front row and adding comments where required at general meetings. More seriously though, I will look forward to concentrating on specific individual goals and projects for the club. There are so many things to do and henceforth, many ideas that need to be nurtured. This is a good club and it has good people. It definitely has an excellent future, a future we must keep sight of and soon you will have an opportunity to help reach the future. So think about stepping up, not talked into volunteering an executive position, but stepping up and really wanting to be part of it all.

Robin (VE3VVS)

## **This Month**

2. **Commentary**
3. **Minutes of General Meeting #8**
4. **Minutes of General Meeting #9**
5. **Minutes of Executive Meeting #7**
6. **Minutes of Field Day Planning Meeting #1**
7. **News form Here and There**
9. **Club Calendar for 2005/ Hamfests/Club Badges**
10. **RAC Application Form**

## **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.

## **Next Sunday Brunch March 6, 2005**

## **Club Nets**

### **2 Meter 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.



# THE COMMUNICATOR



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## Commentary...



I was trying to think of something to write about this month. I belong to the AM740 yahoogroups and was doing some reminiscing about the "old" days, when all of a sudden it dawned on me what I was going to say.

As many of you already know, I used to install radio and TV studios for the CBC across the country. I was part of a team of installers and engineers who would travel out of our base in Montreal to the various CBC locations across this magnificent land of ours. As an aside, if you've never travelled much in Canada, you should. It is a diverse and marvellous country and there is a lot to see and do. Anyway, back to my little story.

In 1968, I was assigned to work in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I was married on September 7, 1968, took a week off work for our honeymoon, which we spent up at friends fishing lodge north of Quebec City called the Fief Hubert, a beautiful location out in the middle of nowhere. I returned to work on a Monday, and on Tuesday I was in Halifax for the next 3 months. Yikes!! No way to start a marriage. The first 3 weeks I was there alone, but went home for a 2 or 3 day break and when I returned to Halifax, I brought my wife, Shirley, with me.

Anyhow, during the first three weeks of this job, a fellow CBCer arrived on the scene from the Ottawa Capital Assets Department, name of Danny whose call I can't remember now. Anyway, he showed up at our hotel, The Dresden Arms (or as we fondly called it, The Dreadful Arms) with a portable Heathkit Transceiver. I somehow discovered this and talked to him about amateur radio. He very kindly invited me up to his room. We ran a longwire antenna out the window (remember when windows used to open up at one time in hotels and offices?) of his 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> floor room and attached it to a tree across the parking lot (done clandestinely after dark of course). He then turned on his rig and we crossed our fingers that we wouldn't blow any fuses. Lo and behold, we were on the air with no ill effects, although the lights did dim a little.

He got on and called CQ and someone came back. We ended up talking to a few people, and then we had a contact in Montreal. This was pretty neat, as this fellow had a phone patch, and was quite happy to phone Shirley at home and we had a short chat via ham radio. I was quite thrilled by it all and it sure was nice to speak with her using this medium.

It took me 24 years before getting my ham ticket, but it was something I really had wanted to do for many years. Family responsibilities and my nomadic work career prevented me from committing to taking courses, as I never knew how long I would be away, or where, at any given time. Portable hf rigs are much smaller and lighter than they were back in those days, but I remember very fondly the time I spent with Danny and his Heathkit, listening to the crackle of the QRN and QRM on the bands with operators having QSO's or responding to Danny's CQ's.

Like many other hams, he was an inspiration and very generous in allowing me to spend time with him enjoying this great hobby. Rest in peace my friend. You're someone I've never forgotten.

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](http://www.marc.on.ca) Email: [ve3mis@rac.ca](mailto:ve3mis@rac.ca)

#### Directors

President.....	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	905-826-6753	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President.....	John Duffy	VE3DRZ	905-822-4661
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
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 .....	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	VE3MA	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 .....	<b>OPEN</b>		Auditor 2 .....	Bill Dmytrasz	VE3DNY
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# THE COMMUNICATOR



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## Minutes of General Meeting #8

**Date:** January 13, 2005  
**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	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
William Bressette	VE3WPJ	Treasurer

**Absent:** Lorne Jackson VE3CXT Secretary

### Attendance:

- o 37 including visitors

### Opening Business – Robin (VE3VVS)

- o Robin opened by welcoming all.
- o Presented an idea of making a donation to the Red Cross for the tsunami relief fund. This idea evolved whereby rather than having a 50/50 draw, that members make a contribution instead to the tsunami victims for this one time. This was agreed upon by all present. See 50/50 draw heading for more.
- o Announced that Brad (VA3ZRT) donated \$100.00 to the club coffers. Thanks Brad on behalf of the club.
- o Noted that Peter Robertson (VE3PG) donated \$50.00 to the club for the help he received from us in selling his radio station. He thanked Peter on behalf of the club.

### Club Station – Robin (VE3VVS)

- o 13 volunteers showed up at the new club station locale to do an initial cleanup and survey. The next phase will consist of constructing a couple of walls etc creating 3 distinct areas: Radio Room, Storage Area, Meeting/general use Space. The club station preliminary drawing was included in the January newsletter on page 8.

### LCD Presentation Projector

- o The club now possesses an LCD projector which was used for the first time at the January 13 meeting. As the author of these most fascinating notes was sitting at the back of the room, I can say that it performed "sans fault" and it was quite visible even with the general lighting turned on. Congrats to those who recommended we obtain this unit. (nothing like patting ourselves on the back eh Mike???)

### Ham-Ex™ -Robin (VE3VVS)

- o There were only 2 members of our club who attended the last committee meeting.
- o Now that Christmas is over, there is some action happening behind the scenes.
- o Date is set for April 9, 2005. Volunteers still are needed to sign up. If planning to volunteer, please inform Robin, or one of the committee managers.

### UHF Repeater –Michael (VE3TKI)

- o As a result of a fire on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of the building which houses our repeater, we have not been able to get up on the roof to do some repair work to the UHF antenna. This task is planned for the week of Jan 16-22, weather permitting.
- o The UHF repeater remains out of service until this work is completed.

### ARES/PSG – Sean (VA3MED)

- o Mentioned that the ARES group had its first deployment a few days before Christmas when the call-up tree was put into action. This was due to an apartment building fire and the need to

provide communications between the incident site and the temporary shelter location. For a full report, see the Jan 2005 newsletter, Page 3

### Education – Tony (VA3QC)

- o Announced that there were 16 people taking the cw course including a family of 4 members.

### Minute Correction Notice -October 28, 2004

- o The minutes of Oct 28 stated under the 50/50 draw that "Tom Godden (VE3TWG) won \$24.00". It should have read "Tom Godden (VE3TWG) won \$24.00, **which he donated to the club.**" The minute taker, his copy editor, as well as the executive editor and publisher, have been severely punished by being strung up by the balls...of their feet and flayed mercilessly on the soles of their feet with a whip made of raw spaghetti. ☺

### Mugs – John (VE3DRZ)

- o Made the sales pitch about a new shipment of mugs going for the bargain price of \$10.00 each.

### New Business

- o Dave (VA3DFH) noted that he has one of the new J-pole antennas that were recently built at Michael's (VE3TKI) place. He's very happy with it.
- o The following members are due to receive the next batch being made shortly:
 

VE3WJK	VE3SHL
VA3QC	VA3MRB
VE3CXT	VE3ITU
VA3MDB	VE3XEL
VA3XJL	VE3XAP
VE3HOW	VA3PKM
VE3ION	G. Kocho
VE3FQF	VA3BOW
- o VE3XBB, VA3BLJ and VE3DRZ will help in the construction of this batch

### 50/50 Draw

- o As noted in the opening business section, there was no 50/50 draw this evening, but instead members would make a contribution to the Red Cross Tsunami relief fund. \$100.00 was donated by members and the club matched that with another \$100.00 to make a total contribution of \$200.00 to be presented to the Red Cross. Goods stuff everybody and thanks!!!

### Presentation

- o Peter Brickell (VE3PCB) gave an electrifying talk on batteries. We got a charge of listening to him explain the positives and negatives of various types of batteries. He also explained how to bring life back to old, seemingly useless nicad batteries. He noted that his method works many times, but not necessarily all the time. We all left feeling refreshed and charged up to full capacity.

### Adjournment

We finished up at 9:35PM  
Next meeting – January 27, 2005  
A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Documentation Manager  
January 17, 2005



# THE COMMUNICATOR



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## General Meeting #9 Minutes

**Date:** January 27, 2005

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

**Time:** 7:30PM

### Officers Present:

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 <sup>st</sup> VP
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
William Bressette	VE3WPJ	Treasurer
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Secretary

### Absent:

### Attendance:

- o 26 including visitors

### Opening Business – Robin (VE3VVS)

- o Robin opened by welcoming all.

### Club Station – Robin (VE3VVS)

- o Robin (VE3VVS) stated that while the building owner will buy and install the flooring, we ourselves must partition off our shack, which means we must buy, pay for and install drywall and associated materials to build the walls, to be built in accordance with VA3QC's CAD drawings, at a cost of \$500.00 to \$600.00. Robin (VE3VVS) asked for and received approval (unanimous) to expend these monies on such purchase.

### Ham-Ex™ -Robin (VE3VVS)

- o No report.

### UHF Repeater –Robin (VE3VVS)

- o Robin (VE3VVS) announced that this repeater is functional once again. He also stated that the IRLP UHF link radios at the repeater site and Robin's home were tested and work OK.

### ARES/PSG – Sean (VA3MED)

- o No report

### Education

- o The annual pizza party to celebrate the students' graduation from the class took place on January 25<sup>th</sup>/05 and was a success. The top mark was 88%. Four people achieved at least 86%. From the class, the club gained new members.

### Mugs – John(VE3DRZ)

- o Made the sales pitch about a new shipment of mugs going for the bargain price of \$10.00 each or 2 for \$20.00. This is a bargain not to be missed.

### New Business

- o Lorne (VE3CXT) suggested that it would be appropriate to start up a nominating committee for the upcoming elections of officers.
- o Bob (VE3XBB), announced that Denise ?? from St. John Ambulance would be the guest speaker at the next meeting.
- o Bob (VE3XBB) also requested, and received approval, that the club help with several walks on one day. Details to follow.

### 50/50 Draw

- o As William (VE3WPJ) couldn't purchase tickets, there was no 50/50 draw.

### Presentation

- o William (VE3WPJ) gave a talk on power poles and HSMM.

### Adjournment

The meeting finished sometime between 7:30PM and the next morning

Next meeting – February 10, 2005

A.J. Champion (VA3QC) – Documentation Manager with thanks to Lorne (VE3CXT) for his note taking

February 8, 2005

# HAM-EX™ 2005

Peel Amateur Radio Club / Mississauga Amateur Radio Club

Saturday, April 9, 2005

Brampton ON



## Minutes of Executive Meeting #7

**Date:** February 3, 2005

**Location:** Earle's stately lair

**Time:** 7:30PM

### Attendees:

Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	President
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Secretary
John Duffy	VE3DRZ	1 <sup>st</sup> VP
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	2nd VP
William Bressette	VE3WPJ	Treasurer
Earle Laycock	VE3XEL	Education
Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	PSG
Brian Jay	VA3BLJ	Programmes
Art Sinclair	VE3SQG	Webmeister
Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Repeater Mgr
Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP	
Dave Harford	VA3DFH	
Alex Malikov	VE3MA	
Rick Brown	VE3IMG	Stn/contests

### Club Station

- o It was agreed to buy from Home Depot materials to construct walls for station room, and John Duffy (VE3DRZ) would contact Jerry the building owner to see if we could use any of his scrap materials on site. Michael (VE3TKI) and Tony (VA3QC) to prepare Bill of Materials needed. We will discuss with Jerry the construction of an access door to station. Work to be done by us will include framing, drywalling, taping, mudding and door hanging, to commence in 1 -2 weeks after the materials are delivered to the site, the work to be done over a few Saturdays. Jerry to install flooring after we have done the partitioning.

### Kenwood TS-50

- o Michael (VE3TKI) advised it is still in the process of being repaired by Kenwood.

### Website

- o Is still being developed by Alex (VE3MA) and Dave (VA3DFH); it was pointed out to Alex that one cannot print out easily the masthead on the new website, so he agreed to make it printable

### FSV Storage

- o It is still at the home of Sean (VA3MED). Other locations for storage were discussed, such as commercial storage places like Lacks where John Duffy (VE3DRZ) stores his

trailer @ \$32.00 per month. Bob Boyer (VE3XBB) will check out OPP station re possible storage space, but at next meeting we will decide whether to store commercially.

### Ham-Ex™

- o Finally it seems that some things are starting to be done, though not much communication has come to us from Peel. Recent e-mails show things now are being done by Peel. The hall has been booked. The seminars are arranged. There was discussion about us having no information about any tables being sold to vendors, so we will bring all this up at the next HAM-EX committee meeting next Tuesday with the Peel guys

### Nomination Committee

- o To be chosen before first March meeting, as required by the Bylaws (i.e Constitution)

### New Business

- o Dave Hanford (VA3DFH) showed sample of new members' badges, white background with black lettering, and he'll get a price from manufacturer to present at the Feb.10<sup>th</sup> 05 general meeting. At that meeting, orders will be taken to be paid by the member customer at time of ordering.
- o Nobody on the Executive is in favour of participating in the Bread and Honey Festival any more. Only a core group of members have over the past years set up, taken down and/or operated. It is on a "hot pavement next to a hot dog stand", were some of the remarks. We cannot recall any new members having joined from our being at that event. It is also too close to Field Day. We have had "minimal returns" only from it. But it will be discussed at the next general meeting, so that if any members want to run it, and be responsible to do it, without reliance on the core group, they can do it and put out their own sign up list at the meeting or subsequent meetings.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned sometime during the night  
Next meeting will be March 3, 2005 at Robin's (VE3VVS) wonderful "make yourself feel at home" casa  
Prepared by: Tony Champion (VA3QC) from notes taken by Lorne (VE3CXT)  
February 9, 2005



## Field Day 2005: Planning Meeting No 1

### Date and Location:

February 2, 2005, at VE3TKI's home, 19:30

### Present:

Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Bob Giddy	VE3IAB
William Bressette	VE3WPJ
Alex Malikov	VE3MA
Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
John Duffy	VE3DRZ
Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
Bryan Jay	VA3BLJ
Reg Vertolli	VA3JQA
Jeff Stewart	VA3WXM

### 1. Review of FD 2004

- More beer is required
- We need to plan for taking equipment down afterwards; all participants should plan on staying until tear down is complete
- See logging section below for further details
- The FSV will be used for the network set up and control and for the visitor centre; a tent will be arranged for Alex VE3MA's cw station

### 2. Site Permit, Details

- Date for Field Day 2005 is June 25, 26, 2005. After the meeting, Michael VE3TKI contacted Jennifer Easton, Manager Youth Services, City of Mississauga Community Services Department, 905 896 5319. She has confirmed in an email to Michael VE3TKI that Camp Totoredaca has been reserved for 2005 for these dates.

### 3. Stations

- The usual list of stations will be posted at club meetings later in the year by VE3DRZ.
- It is important to encourage new members to be part of Field Day. Michael VE3TKI is to talk about this at the next club meeting.
- Consideration will be given to setting up a GOTA (Get On The Air) station
- Is 10m worth doing? To be considered further.

### 4. Antenna and Location Plan

- Asim VE3XAP kindly was volunteered to undertake the role of antenna coordinator since he did such a great job last year.
- The antenna plan used last year appears to be fine.

### 5. Meals

- John VE3DRZ agreed to look after dinner and breakfast arrangements, including purchase of supplies etc.
- We will again get Swiss Chalet dinners, with a cake for dessert.
- Michael VE3TKI has the club BBQ stored in his garage (it will be accessible by the summer).

- VE3VVS, VA3QC and VA3JQA have agreed to be the cooks.

### 6. Generators

- We will have the same generators as last year. Fred VE3DVG, Earle VE3XEL, and Jamie VE3GXQ are to be asked if we can borrow their generators again

### 7. Transportation

- To be organized later

### 8. Computers and Logging Software

- N1MM will be used again.
- Some improvements to logging are needed: (a) all computers should use the same (CW capable) driver to avoid problems with log compilation; (b) it is essential that everyone use the same version of N1MM; (c) we need one person to submit the logs afterwards, Jody VE3ION has offered to do this; (d) we need a person to prepare the "soapbox" comments; Reg VA3JQA has agreed to do this.

### 9. Publicity

- Tony VA3QC is to be asked to do the press release for the Mississauga News, other papers, Rogers Cable, and City Pulse.
- Robin VE3VVS is to invite other officials as per last year
- Sohail VE3ITU is to be asked to coordinate the visitor table. A guest list and operators log is required.
- Pierre Mainville VA3PM, and Susan Fitzgerald (Canadian Red Cross) are to be invited by Michael VE3TKI.

### 10. Tents/Accommodation

- Bob VE3XBB has a number of tents.
- John VE3DRZ and Michael VE3TKI will bring their camper trailers.
- VA3QC to be asked to bring his tent

### 11. Safety/Security

- Sean VA3MED is to be asked to do the usual security/safety functions.

### 12. Message Traffic

- We will coordinate message traffic to and from the Peel ARC, and send the usual ARES message to the Section Emergency Coordinator.

### 13. Future Meetings

- Once per month, first Wednesday, at VE3TKI's qth. Next meeting: March 2, 2005

Prepared by:  
Michael Brickell, VE3TKI  
Field Day 2005 Manager  
February 3, 2005



## News from Here and There

### Director Bob Cooke VE3BDB retires (Jan. 26 2005)

It is with sincere regret that the RAC Board of Directors announces the retirement of Ontario South Director Bob Cooke VE3BDB. In his letter to President Earle Smith, Bob expressed, in part, that "my health being what it is I would rather look forward to 2005 with pleasure especially when I plan to retire from my gainful employment at the end of June.

During his tenure, Mr. Cooke has defined in no uncertain terms, the positive aspects of reaching out to the grass roots level of amateur radio in Ontario South. Through his efforts and that of his team of Assistant Directors, his leadership has yielded unqualified success demonstrated by the large number of new RAC members, membership renewals and the sale of RAC products, all giving RAC significant sources of new revenue.

As the chair of the Membership Services Committee Bob was instrumental in the development of new promotional materials; a solid membership recruitment and retention programme; the finalization of RAC's Tru-Ca\$h affinity programme, and establishing the guidelines for continued membership recruitment.

The RAC Board and Executive, on behalf of the RAC membership, extends heartfelt thanks to Bob and his wife Sue, VE3SUH, with best wishes for a relaxed and happy retirement.

73, Earle Smith VE6NM

President Radio Amateurs of Canada & Chair Board of Directors (RAC News Service)

### History shouldn't repeat itself, but it does.

by Charles Leggett VE3CFL

This article is about the importance of having "long-range" communication facilities onboard sailing vessels.

On November 16, 1982 *South Bound II* under skipper Herb Hilgenberg (VE3LML & VP9LM) set sail from Beaufort, NC, with Herb, his wife and two young children aged 6 and 14. Herb had no long-range communication facility such as Marine or Ham SSB onboard his vessel. During the passage, they were hit by one violent storm after another, and in the process Herb broke his arm (1). Fearing not only for his own life, but also for his wife and children, he struggled on in great pain. Six days later they arrived in the Virgin Islands. Thankful for his life, he decided then and there that he would never go blue-water sailing again without having SSB capabilities onboard. Secondly, realizing the poor weather reporting systems that existed in those days, he would study weather and all its variations, and start a weather network for sailors at sea. Those of you who have used Herb's daily SSB network know how terribly important this life saving facility has been over the years(2). He had decided that "History", as far as he and his family were concerned, would not be "repeated"!

Moving forward in time, it was late fall of 1988. As I sat at home one Sunday morning the telephone rang with a request from a group of sailing pals. They had earlier gotten together and had taken a Blue-Water Sailing Program. It involved, as I remember, a professionally supervised sail-training program from Toronto to Bermuda and back. It covered celestial navigation, chart work and of course vessel handling under all situations. The vessel had a SSB receiver on board but no transmitter. In short, they had no "long-range communication capability". Off the coast of Bermuda they were hit by a tremendous storm. They could hear other vessels calling for help but they were too far offshore for VHF communication. They were alone with the very

real possibility of losing their lives. The memory of that fear and the concern they had at the time for their families was understandably high as they talked to me that Sunday morning.

Their request was simple. As a group, they had collectively agreed that they would never go blue-water sailing without SSB/Ham or SSB/Marine transceiver equipment onboard. They now wanted to know how to obtain a course of instruction that would give them that SSB capability. For them, there would be no repeat of History.

The call had been made from the Toronto Sailing and Canoe Club, and I joined them to discuss the problem. The outcome of that meeting was the formation of the Toronto Marine Amateur Radio Club, and we would teach them. That was fifteen years ago, and in the intervening years, close to 380 members of the sailing community have taken the course of instruction and gained their Amateur Licence.

In 2003, at a meeting of the World Cruising Association, held at Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club, Herb Hilgenberg was asked how many lives he thought he had saved over the years. He answered " We gave up counting at 25!". Had those 25 plus sailors not had "long-range communication facility" they would in all probability have lost their lives.

What choices are available in 2005 for long-distance communication at sea? Cellular Phone; the GMDSS (Global Marine Distress Safety System), which is not to be used in the Great Lakes, but only off the coasts; and of course, Marine and/or Ham Single Side Band (SSB) radio. If you are planning blue-water sailing, check [www.tormarc.com](http://www.tormarc.com) (via Google) for more information on the "what and where" of Long-Range Communication and the How" to get it.

Charles Leggett VE3CFL - President and founder:

The Toronto Marine Amateur Radio Club.

Tel: 416 486 6025

Fax: 416 486 0417

Email: [charles.di@sympatico.ca](mailto:charles.di@sympatico.ca)

For more information on the fascinating story and history of Herb (VE3LML & VP9LM) the following may be of interest:

#### (1) A Voice from the North

Canadian sailing enthusiast Herb Hilgenberg helps mariners by providing weather forecasts and has assisted the Coast Guard during Search and Rescue cases

Story by PA3 David Schuerholz

US Coast Guard Atlantic Area Public Affairs

Go to: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/hehilgen/uscg.htm>

And

#### (2) SHIP-ROUTING / WEATHER FORECASTING for the ATLANTIC

"A dedicated hobby"

(SINCE 1987)

Go to: <http://hometown.aol.com/hehilgen/myhomepage/vacation.html>

### Some New Wrinkles in 2005 Field Day Rules (Feb. 2 2005)

Those planning to participate in this year's Field Day will need to bone up in advance on a few changes in the rules for the ever-popular operating event. Field Day this year takes place June 25-26. The 2261 Field Day entries for 2004 were the most ever. While similar in format



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to a contest, Field Day is primarily a means to exercise and demonstrate Amateur Radio's emergency operating capabilities while having fun at the same time. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, says that among other things rule changes for 2005 expand eligibility for bonus points.

"All groups will be eligible for some kind of bonus points," Henderson said. "Make sure you carefully read Field Day Rule 7.3." That rule spells out how to qualify for such bonus points as 100 percent emergency power, media publicity, message handling, making satellite contacts, using an alternative power source and copying the WIAW bulletin, among other things. Many bonus point categories are available to all entry classes.

Henderson notes that some large clubs often compete among themselves to see who can claim the highest number of transmitters. Under the revised rules, all transmitters must be on the air with an operator to count toward a club's entry class. "You have to actually have individual people and sufficient equipment capable of operating simultaneously," Henderson emphasized, referencing Rule 4. "The key word there is 'simultaneously.'"

The Field Day exchange consists of the number of transmitters on the air followed by the participation category (A through F). Operators would send "3A," for example, for a club or non-club portable setup with three transmitters on the air at the same time. Rule 4 also specifically prohibits switching and simulcasting devices.

The 2005 Field Day rules also modify the number of transmitters eligible for bonus points that a group can claim for its operating class. "You can only claim the emergency power bonus points for up to 20 transmitters," Henderson explains. "That's a maximum of 2000 emergency power bonus points." There no limit on the number of transmitters eligible participants may have on the air, however. Field Day rules already generally prohibit the use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode.

In addition, Field Day 2005 will introduce a new "Youth Element" bonus category (Rule 7.3.15). Clubs or groups operating in Class A, C, D, E or F now can claim 20 bonus points--up to a maximum of 100--for each person aged 18 or younger, who completes a valid Field Day contact. Single-operator Class B stations can earn a 20-point bonus if the operator is age 18 or younger. Two-person Class B setups can claim a 20-point bonus for each operator age 18 or younger, for a maximum of 40 points. The maximum number of participants for Class B entries remains at two.

Another rule change clarifies that Get On The Air (GOTA) stations--instituted a few years ago to encourage new or comparatively inexperienced operators to gain operating practice--use the same exchange as the "parent" station. The maximum transmitter output power for GOTA stations is 150 W, and GOTA stations may only operate on the Field Day HF bands

Free transmitters do not count toward a group's total, and GOTA stations and free VHF stations for Class A entries do not qualify for bonus point credits.

Henderson encourages Field Day participants to submit their Field Day summaries electronically using the [Web applet form](#). "You may input your summary information at that site for a 50-point bonus," Henderson points out. Last year, approximately half of the Field Day entries arrived at ARRL Headquarters via this route.

The Maritime Radio Historical Society's K6KPH, comprised of former operators of the KPH commercial shore station, now an historic site, again will augment WIAW Field Day CW and RTTY bulletin

transmissions for West Coast participants. K6KPH will use the traditional WIAW frequencies.

Finally, Henderson urges Field Day participants to share their experiences and photos with others via the [Online Soapbox](#), which has become one of the most popular additions to Field Day.

The complete 2005 Field Day packet now is available on the ARRL Web site: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/05-fd-packet.pdf>

## Indian Ocean Quake affects Earth's Axis (Jan. 29 2005)

The deadly Asian earthquake of late December may have permanently accelerated the Earth's rotation, shortening days by a fraction of a second. Richard Gross, a geophysicist with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, theorizes that a shift of mass toward the Earth's center during the quake caused the planet to spin 3 microseconds faster and to tilt about an inch on its axis. He says that when one tectonic plate beneath the Indian Ocean was forced below the edge of another it had the effect of making the Earth more compact and to spin a tiny fraction of a second faster. Gross also admits that changes predicted by his model probably are too minuscule to be detected by a global positioning satellite network that routinely measures changes in Earth's spin, but said the data may reveal a slight wobble on the planets axis.

(published news reports)

## Rail Enthusiasts on IRLP (Feb. 4 2005)

Hams interested in trains are invited to join the RailHam Roundtable every Sunday night on IRLP reflector number 9454 at 21:00 Eastern USA Time. This is not a net, just an informal rag chew between hams who like trains, whether it's models, prototypes, passenger, freight, or what have you. There is no net control so just throw out your callsign and ask who else is listening to get things started. For more info point your web browser to:

<http://members.trainorders.com/boteman/railhamnet.html>  
(ARNewsLine)

## CQ to celebrate 60th anniversary with "CQ Gang" on-air event



*CQ Amateur Radio* magazine invites Amateur Radio operators around the world to join in celebrating its 60th anniversary by taking part in an on-air event during the **first 60 days of 2005**. *CQ's* first issue was published in

January, 1945

During the "*CQ Gang*" activity--**January 1 until March 1, 2005**--all hams ever associated with *CQ* as staff members, contributing editors or authors--as well as current subscribers to *CQ*, *CQ VHF and Popular Communications* may sign "/60" after their call signs. Certificates will be issued for contacts with enough /60 stations to garner a minimum of 60 contact points, based on number of contacts times the number of different position multipliers (eg, editor, columnist etc) worked. Shortwave listeners also are eligible to earn contact points and certificates. Endorsements will be issued up to 600 points. *CQ* club station WW2CQ will be active from various parts of the US during the event. Separate certificates will be available for working WW2CQ in all call sign districts from which it is active. Complete rules for the *CQ* Gang 60th Anniversary activity appear in the December 2004 issue of *CQ* and on the *CQ* [Web site](#).

(ARRL News Service)



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## CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2004-2005

FEBRUARY			MAY		
15	Tuesday	Code Class (note 3)	21	Thursday	Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
17	Thursday	Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)	28	Thursday	General Meeting #15 –
22	Tuesday	Code Class (note 3)			
24	Thursday	General Meeting #11 –			
MARCH			JUNE		
01	Tuesday	Code Class (note 3)	01	Sunday	Sunday Breakfast at Pickle Barrel (note 2)
02	Wednesday	Field Day Planning Meeting at VE3TKI	04	Wednesday	Field Day Planning Meeting at VE3TKI
03	Thursday	Executive Meeting #08 at Earle's (VE3XEL)	05	Thursday	Executive Meeting #10 at Lorne's (VE3CXT)
06	Sunday	Sunday Breakfast at Pickle Barrel (note 2)	12	Thursday	General Meeting #16 –
08	Tuesday	Code Class (note 3)- Final Class & Test	19	Thursday	Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)
10	Thursday	General Meeting #12 –	26	Thursday	General Meeting #17 –
17	Thursday	Public Service/ARES at RC (Cancross)			
24	Thursday	General Meeting #13 –			
APRIL					
03	Sunday	Sunday Breakfast at Pickle Barrel (note 2)	01	Wednesday	Field Day Planning Meeting at VE3TKI
06	Wednesday	Field Day Planning Meeting at VE3TKI	02	Thursday	Executive Meeting #11 at Art's (VE3SQG)
07	Thursday	Executive Meeting #09 at Michaels (VE3TKI)	04-05	Sat-Sun	Bread & Honey Festival
14	Thursday	General Meeting #14 –	05	Sunday	Sunday Breakfast at Pickle Barrel (note 2)
			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 updates of the calendar.

### Upcoming Hamfests

**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

### Club Badges

The MARC executive is pleased to offer new name badges for our members. The badges will be 3" x 1.5" with rounded corners, with your name and call sign personalized (see actual size sample below) the logo and text being black on white. The standard badge comes with a locking pin backing – you can optionally order a magnet/plate so as to not destroy your shirts. Pricing as of this printing is not known, but should be in the \$15.00-\$20.00 range. Further questions should be directed to Dave (VA3DFH) email: [va3dfh@rac.ca](mailto:va3dfh@rac.ca)



Orders need to be in by March 31, 2005



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## RAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/SUBSCRIPTION TO TCA MAGAZINE

Please enter applicable choice(s)

COMBINATION PACKAGE:		
1 year RAC membership; (includes \$44.95 subscription for TCA) @	\$49.95 *	
1 year RAC membership only; no subscription to TCA @	\$44.95 *	
1 year TCA subscription; no membership to RAC @	\$44.95 * +	
Family membership; price per extra family member @ \$20.00 per year (one TCA per family) * (Does not apply to simple subscriptions.)	(\$20.00 x )	
	GST: 7%	
*Taxes applicable: 7% GST, 15% HST (NB,NS,NL) not included in the above amounts		
+ Ontario PST of 8% applicable to TCA subscription without membership. PST (if applicable): 8%		

### CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Call sign:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	
<b>Province:</b>	<b>Postal Code:</b>
<b>Family Member Name</b>	<b>Family Member Call sign:</b>
If you enter something on line above, a charge of \$20.00 will be added to your membership	
<b>Email:</b>	<b>Phone #:</b>

### DONATION OPTIONS

Donation to the RAC Foundation enclosed	\$
Donation to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund enclosed	\$
Donation to the Youth Education Programme enclosed	\$
<b>Grand Total:</b>	\$

### PAYMENT OPTIONS (Cheque or)

<b>Visa/MasterCard No:</b>
<b>Card Expiry Date (MM/YY):</b>
<b>Name on credit card:</b>



Mail to:  
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 Ottawa, ON  
 K1G 0Z5