



THE VOICE OF AMATEUR RADIO IN MISSISSAUGA COMMUNICATOR



VE3MIS/VE3RCX

Vol 10.02

February, 2007

From the Gavel... President's Message

Pay It Forward



Greetings, one and all. This month's newsletter is devoted to volunteering. This month as in other months, I am hoping to encourage you to step up and do your part. We

have all heard the "eighty-twenty" perception of how many participate, but I would like to put a new perspective on that by the time you finish reading this short article.

Firstly, I wish to express my appreciation for all the work that has been done by many of our members over the last couple of years in the club. To be fair I would almost have to list the membership, and what they have each contributed, but I don't think we have room for that. Instead, I am hoping that each and every one of you knows how much myself and the club appreciate your contributions.

How does one contribute? How do you see yourself within our club? Are you there to be able to attend meetings or socials? Let's take HamEX, which is coming up the end of next month, will need many many hands to ensure that it comes off successfully again this year. Each of us have a way we can help. The call has been put out for all those who have items they would like to contribute to our club table for sale to support the club. The call is about to go out for those who can help in vendor assist, parking, ticket sales just to name a few. So where do you see yourself in this event?

There was a movie that was released about seven years ago, called "Pay It Forward". In the movie, the child was given an assignment from his teacher at school. Trevor conjures the notion of paying a favour not back, but forward – repaying good deeds not with payback, but with new good deeds done to three new people.

Trevor's efforts to make good on his idea bring a revolution not only in the lives of himself, his mother and his physically and emotionally scarred teacher, but in those of an ever-widening circle of people completely unknown to him. What I would like to say is that we as amateur radio operators have more of a pay it forward attitude than we realize. Sometimes it takes years for a person to get from the initial contact of seeing how an amateur radio operator "does his thing" to being able to get his/her license to being on the air to get to the point of being a community based volunteer.

Starting this month, this newsletter will feature interviews with members. Those interviews will often show how one event triggered interest in amateur radio and then influenced them to be part of who they are today. We are by nature beings who require interaction. We see this at the coffee break each meeting, when the level of enthusiasm raises to the point that calling you all back to the speaker's portion of the meeting is almost like pulling teeth. So is it with how we must each participate in reaching out and volunteering.

So instead of seeing how many reasons you can find how not to spend another hour or so volunteering, think about how that time will affect others, and to what effect it will have on you as well. Turn your perspective inside out and see your potential to reach a much larger community, through the efforts of not just yourself but those who we share this activity, this hobby, this enjoyment, called amateur radio!

Dave VA3DFH

This Month

2. Commentary
3. Club Calendar
4. A Salute to HAM Radio Operators
4. Yukon Amateur Radio Association
6. The Roving Reporter
7. January 8, Executive Meeting
8. January 11, General Meeting
8. January 18, Mississauga ARES Meeting
11. RAC Application Form

Sunday Brunch

Sunday brunches are held on the first Sunday of each month. Time is 9:30AM at Shopsy's, 6986 Financial Drive Unit 5 Mississauga (at the corner of Mississauga Rd and Derry Rd). All are welcome to come out and have an opportunity to chat in an informal setting.

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. The VHF net Manager position is currently vacant. If you are interested, contact William, VE3WPJ. 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...



Every time we hear how hams helped in a disaster, we hold out head high with pride. Time and again we hear praise from high profile people and organisations for volunteers who selflessly dedicated time and effort to help those in despair. When you find a US senator getting a license after seeing hams at work after hurricane Katarina, it speaks volumes. Read about this in the article "A Salute to HAM Radio Operators". The best part, I believe,

is that we hams actually like volunteering. Looking around the table at my first MARC ARES meeting in January, I saw eager, enthusiastic faces around me. Right then, I felt the world is a better place because of these people. Sure, there was a lot of debate on every issue that was discussed, but there was passion too. That is what volunteers do... they are involved, not stand by and wait for things to happen. If you haven't been to an ARES meeting, give it a try next time. There's one coming up in June.

On another note, I am always befuddled when explaining why the ham radio is better than MSN messenger. When interviewing Lorne VA3CXT he mentioned: "Ham radio is like fishing. If you want a fish dinner, you can go to the supermarket and buy a frozen fish for dinner. But, you could also go fishing and catch the fish. I like the latter." Voila, simple explanation, yet deep insight! I now have the answer to the puzzle.

Thomas, VA3TMB

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.....:	Dave Harford	VA3DFH	1st Vice President:	William Bressette	VE3WPJ
2nd Vice President.:	Tom Godden	VE3TWG	Treasurer	John Lorenc	VA3XJL
Secretary	Tony Champion	VA3QC	Past President	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS

Managers

Membership	Reg Vertolli	VA3JQA	Education	Earle Laycock	VE3XEL
Ed. Asst (Theory)....:		Ed. Asst (Theory)	Ed. Asst (CW).....:		
Ed. Asst (CW).....:			Repeater Asst 1	OPEN	
Repeater Mgr	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	VHF Net	OPEN	
Repeater Asst 2	Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP	Public Service	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
HF Net.....:	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Club Station Asst		
Club Station	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS	Contests	Rick Brown	VE3IMG
House	Bob Humphreys	VE3HOW	Contests Asst 2.....:	Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
Contest Asst 1	Alex Malikov	VE3MA	Special Events.....:	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
Newsletter	Kim Cheong	VE3KTC	QSL	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Special Events Asst:	Bob Giddy	VE3IAB	Field Day Asst 1.....:	Tony Champion	VA3QC
Field Day.....:	Tom Godden	VE3TWG	Field Day Asst 3.....:	John Duffy	VE3DRZ
Field Day Asst 2	Jody Levine	VE3ION	FSV Mgr	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS
Field Day Asst 4	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Webmaster (1).....:	Alex Malikov	VE3MA
Programmes	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT	Webmaster (2).....:	Dave Harford	VA3DFH
Document Mger	NOT REQUIRED THIS YEAR				

Public Service Events/ARES

Emerg Coordinator :	Sean Conlin	VA3MED	Assistant EC 1.....:	William Bressette	VE3WPJ
Assistant EC 2.....:	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI	Assistant EC 3.....:	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
Assistant EC 4.....:	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB	Assistant EC 5.....:	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS
Assistant EC 6.....:	John Duffy	VE3DRZ			

Audit Committee

Auditor 1: John Duffy VE3DRZ	Auditor 2: Robert Humphries VE3HOW
Auditor 3: Lorne Jackson VE3CXT (database)	Auditor 4: Sohail Anjum VE3ITU



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CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2007

February, 2007

01 Thursday Exec Meeting
 04 Sunday Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
 04 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 05 Monday Morse Class 5
 06 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 08 Thursday Club Meeting
 11 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 12 Monday Morse Class 6
 13 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 15 Thursday Radio Night at Club Station
 16 Friday ARRL International DX Contest
 18 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 19 Monday Morse Class 7
 20 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 22 Thursday Club Meeting
 23 Friday CQ WW 160-Meter Contest
 25 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 26 Monday Morse Class 8
 27 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net

March, 2007

01 Thursday Exec Meeting
 01 Thursday Advanced Class 0
 02 Friday ARRL International DX Contest
 04 Sunday Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
 04 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 05 Monday Morse Class 9
 06 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 08 Thursday Club Meeting
 11 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 12 Monday Morse Class 10
 13 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 15 Thursday Radio Night at Club Station
 17 Saturday Russian DX Contest
 18 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 20 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 22 Thursday Club Meeting
 23 Friday CQ WW WPX Contest
 25 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 27 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 31 Saturday Ham-Ex 2007

Provisional schedule below...

April, 2007

01 Sunday Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
 01 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 03 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 05 Thursday Exec Meeting
 08 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 10 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 12 Thursday Club Meeting
 15 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 17 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 19 Thursday Radio Night at Club Station
 22 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 24 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 26 Thursday Club Meeting
 29 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net

May, 2007

01 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 03 Thursday Exec Meeting
 06 Sunday Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
 06 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 08 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 10 Thursday Club Meeting
 13 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 15 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 17 Thursday Radio Night at Club Station
 20 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 24 Thursday Club Meeting
 27 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 29 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net

June, 2007

03 Sunday Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
 03 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 05 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 07 Thursday Exec Meeting
 10 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 12 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 14 Thursday Club Meeting
 17 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 19 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 21 Thursday ARES Meeting
 24 Sunday HF - 75/80 Metre Net
 26 Tuesday VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
 28 Thursday Club Meeting

NOTES

1. Meetings start 7:30PM at St. Thomas A Becket Church Hall, 3535 South Common Court unless otherwise noted.
2. Brunch is at 9:30AM unless otherwise noted.
3. Classes are from 7:00PM - 9:00PM at Meals On Wheels at 2445 Dunwin Drive
 Visit our website: <http://www.marc.on.ca> for any updates of the calendar.



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A Salute to HAM Radio Operators

Reproduced from the United States of America Congressional Records - proceedings and debates of the 109th congress, second session, House of Representatives (www.house.gov/list/press/ar04_ross/morenews/021006d.html)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of American citizens who are members of the Amateur Radio Relay League, known as HAM radio operators. Citizens throughout America dedicated to this hobby--a hobby that some people consider old fashioned or obsolete--were true heroes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as they were often the only line of communication available into the storm ravaged areas.

Amateur radio operators are often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication. As communities across the gulf coast and America learned this year, technology can be highly vulnerable. HAM radios, entirely self-contained transmitters, require no cell towers or satellites,

simply a battery and a strip of wire as an antenna.

Just as after major earthquakes, tornadoes, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11, HAM operators around the country received an alert to stand by their radios to listen for calls for assistance. Following Hurricane Katrina, when cell phones and e-mail were useless, a HAM operator located in Connecticut alerted authorities about a woman trapped for 4 days without food or water and a Coast Guard Auxiliary in Cleveland arranged for a medevac for a woman in labor in New Orleans. These are just a few examples of the many lives that were saved with the critical intervention of HAM operators throughout the country.

Now more than ever, I am proud to be a licensed amateur radio operator. It is important to realize that every HAM radio

operator in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a volunteer. This year, when disaster struck, hundreds of HAMS moved to the gulf coast to help in every way they could. Every one of which did so on a volunteer basis and their only goal was to assist in what became one of the worst natural disasters in America.

The dedication displayed by HAM radio operators in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina sets a tremendous example for us all. The people whose lives were rescued as a result of the tireless dedication of HAM radio operators will forever be grateful to these selfless public servants.

Yukon Amateur Radio Association - Jeff Stanhope and Geoff Grant

Submitted By Krista Mroz (www.volunteer.ca/stories/eng/index.php?f=story&id=518)

Yukon Amateur Radio Association has a series of twelve radio repeaters. They are located throughout Yukon, with the exception of the Watson Lake community, and are linked together. Several units are located above 7,000 feet in mountain top buildings. They are solar and wind powered and require helicopter access. Maintenance may be required at temperatures in some cases in excess of minus 40 C. The system is completely independent of commercial power. There is a ham

radio station at Grey Mountain located at Whitehorse and several ham radio operators have compete stations in their homes. Any ham radio operator can talk from Teslin to Dawson City, from across to Beaver Creek, to Haines Junction from Whitehorse and points in between free of charge.

YARA has an internet repeater linked project. A VHF repeater in Whitehorse is connected to 3,000 other sites worldwide all accessible with a hand held radio.

Amateur Radio today uses a lot of technology to have fun communicating from one person to another worldwide.

Last summer two hams from Utah came through Yukon with a caravan of 40 motor homes and campers. The lead vehicle was approaching Dawson City with "tail end Charlie" in Teslin, roughly 600 kilometers south. There was excellent communication between the two



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units through facilities set up by Yukon Amateur Radio Association.

In many cases amateur radio is the only form of communication where a disaster may occur. In most cases, cellular phones and land line phone services are of little use in early stages of an emergency.

Recently, Yukon Amateur Radio Association was called upon to assist with emergency services where no telephone communication existed to aid a hiker in trouble located about 75 kilometers north of Whitehorse. Ham radio operators coordinated a helicopter rescue and the man's life was saved. Another incident saw hams assist with a serious auto accident north of Whitehorse.

The Yukon Amateur Radio Association has about 20 members and anyone may join. Due to a positive working relationship with Government of Yukon, surplus radios are offered to members for a nominal fee so they can get started in the hobby with very little cost.

Government of Yukon has supplied a complete emergency ham radio station for use by members for training and emergency use.

We are professional radio operators, the term "amateur" in it's truest sense means "not for payment". All services are

always donated. YARA meets the first Tuesday of most months with the exception of January, June and July at the Government of Yukon Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) boardroom.

Yukon vehicle licence plates with VY1 (or in Ontario VE3, VA3) they are driven by ham radio operators.

Recently Yukon Amateur Radio Association built two more VHF repeater stations at Whitehorse. One was donated to the Yukon Zone Ski Patrol with a value of \$12,000. All infrastructure is supported by members of our association.

If it were not for the efforts of YARA members, Jeff Stanhope (callsign VY1JS) and Geoff Grant callsign VY1BG) the entire system would fail. Both men have extensive electronic experience with their jobs – Jeff at Industry Canada and Geoff retired from NorthwTel.

During the summer of 2004, Yukon was plagued by forest fires. There was fear a microwave site would burn to the ground. Because the nearby NorthwTel repeater was linked to the amateur system, British Columbia and Yukon forestry staff were in constant contact with emergency officials in Whitehorse. Jeff and Geoff were called to the microwave site in southern Yukon. Both men provided their

skills to work on the forestry radios and changed the radio frequencies so both services, including air tankers, could talk to each other.

Recently both men spent countless hours working on three repeaters north of Whitehorse. The sites are located near Carmacks, Stewart River and Dawson City. Winter conditions using vehicle tire chains to get

to the sites and the tower work in very cold conditions make the job tough.

Both of these men receive no pay, just praise from the members who use one of the best radio systems in North America. Jeff Stanhope began development of the network in 1992 and designed the system to what exists today. Geoff Grant, as a technician at Northwestel, has been of assistance as a ham radio operator to YARA for over 20 years.

It is with pride that the Yukon Amateur Radio Association recognizes Jeff Stanhope and Geoff Grant for their dedication, hundreds of hours of their time donated to the amateur radio hobby in Yukon and their support of emergency services in our community.



The Roving Reporter

We are starting a new series of articles for the Communicator called The Roving Reporter. Every month we will interview one or two club members and publish them here. This month The Roving Reporter interviewed Lorne VE3CXT and Michael VE3TKI.

VE3CXT

RR: Lorne, how did you get into this hobby and how long have you been licensed?

VE3CXT: I got my ticket in 1960 when I was in high school in Toronto. We had a science teacher who ran a ham club in the school. Lots of guys got their license at that time. We used a "19" set, a Second World War army rig that was designed for use on tanks. It was made in Canada for use by Russia. So all labels on it were in Russian! We had fixed a dipole to the school fence and used it a lot on CW. Televisions those days had an IF of 21 MHz and so our transmissions would often interfere with channel 2.

The exams those days were very different from now. We had to go to the government office to take the exam. To get a license one had to pass a 10 wpm CW and write an essay exam. Passing these gave CW access. After 6 months you had access to 10m and a year later full access to all the bands. To pass the advanced exam required 15 wpm and an essay exam. All this changed in the 90's when multiple choice exams were introduced.

In the 60's there was no ICOM or Yaesu. Only Heathkit and you had to build your own radio from Heathkit. There were Heathkit transmitters, receivers and amplifiers all build with tubes. Solid state was not available and no PCBs. Lots of tubes and long wires. There were many more hams in those

days. In the 60's there were lots of electronics stores. In fact the area where the twin towers were built in New York was full of electronics shops.

I got out of the hobby for a long time. One of my clients who came in to write his will was a ham. We got talking and soon took up this hobby again. I find that I am one of the few members is not an engineer and with no technical career background.

RR: Why did you become a ham?

VE3CXT: I was always interested in electronics. My dad got me a crystal set and I put it together. I also made a code practice gadget those days.

RR: What is it that interests you most in this hobby?

VE3CXT: My biggest interest in doing the QSO... not just making the QSO. With ham radio, unlike MSN, you don't just focus on the message but are involved in the actual transmission of the message.

My other interests are DXing, slow scans and packet.

RR: What amateur equipment do you use?

VE3CXT: For HF, I have an ICOM 756ProII with an MQ2 mini quad antenna and a sloper antenna. For VHF/UHF I have a Yaesu VX5 HT and a Kenwood D700A in the car. When I won a \$1000 raffle at a ham fest, I used that to buy an ICOM 910H all mode radio for the home.

I use an Ameritron AL80 linear amplifier. I am planning to upgrade my mini quad antenna to a 3-element model.

RR: Do you have a quote for our readers?

VE3CXT: Yes. Ham radio is like fishing. If you want a fish dinner you can go to the supermarket and buy a frozen fish for dinner. But you can also go fishing and catch the fish. I like the latter.

VE3TKI

RR: Michael, how did you get into this hobby and how long have you been licensed?

VE3TKI: As a kid I owned a Meccano set and a train set. I used pieces of Meccano to turn lights on and off on the train set. My father then got me a copy of "Boy's Second Book of Radio and Electronics", by Alfred Morgan. The book described basic electronics and even how to build a crystal radio. So I built a

crystal radio. I was very excited when I could hear Fort Wayne, Indiana from Montreal where I was living. Soon I built a single transistor amplifier to go with the radio.

On a trip from New York, my father bought me a Lafayette kit



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for a regenerative radio in the early 60's. That kit got me into short wave listening. I then saved money and bought a Heathkit GR91 shortwave receiver. It had a PCB and I think some transistors which was all new at that time. Later I built a single tube Heathkit hi-fi amplifier.

I always wanted to be a ham but worried about code. Then when I went to university I forgot all about ham as there was no time. In 1991, when working at Ontario Hydro I worked with Ed Fedorowski (now VE3TXN) and together we decided to get our licenses. We attended classes at TL Kennedy high school in Mississauga and I got my basic license at the end of 1991 with access to VHF & UHF. In January 1992, I passed the CW exam at 5 wpm. After working on my code (which turned out not to be as hard as I thought), I passed the 12 wpm exam in April 1992 and had full access to all the bands.

RR: Why did you become a ham, Michael? What do you find most interesting in this hobby.

VE3TKI: I was always interested in becoming a ham as a teenager but did not have the opportunity till later in life.

DXing interests me a lot. I love contacting different countries. I have DXCC certificates for sideband, CW, 10m, 15m, 20m. I have confirmed contacts from 211 countries and have worked 224 countries. I find it disappointing that I don't get to talk to other people when DXing. I would like to chat with the other person but most often it ends with just an exchange of signal reports.

Field day is my favourite event and I am fascinated by the study of propagation.

RR: What type of equipment do you own?

VE3TKI: I love to build stuff and hope to build a 1000 watt antenna tuner soon. I am

also hoping to build things from the QST magazine.

My first transceiver was a Yaesu FT102. It is a solid state radio with several tubes in the final circuit. I have an FT1000MP with all the filters and a Yaesu FL 2100Z 1 KW linear amplifier (but this is not yet on the air). On the roof I have an MQ2 2 element Miniquad antenna (a small beam) at 26 feet, and an R7 hf vertical, plus an 80m Isotron. I hope to replace the Miniquad with a 3 element version and put it up to 42 feet by extending the tower. I have a Kenwood D700A in the van and a Yaesu VX5 HT. At home, I have a Yaesu FT8800 for 2m and 70cm.

I use a head set and a foot switch a built-in keyer and paddle. The headset makes a big difference.

Notes of January 8, 2007 Executive Meeting

Location: Club Station

Present: VA3DFH, VA3XJL,
VE3WPJ, VE3TKI, VE3CXT,
VE3XAP, VE3IMG, VA3CKI,
VA3BLJ

VE3TKI took notes

Meeting Times:

Executive meeting times to be 19:30 in future as 19:00 is too early

Badges:

VA3DFH to investigate ordering more badges as we have none left. Badges to be ordered only for those who want them unless there is an minimum order

in which case we will have to order blanks also. Dave will canvas the members before ordering to get an idea of numbers.

Education Report:

VE3XEL reported that 11 people passed the basic exam, 7 with honours. Pizza night is Januray 22. VE3HTX is helping with the cw class.

Inventory:

VA3XJL asked people to send in inventory sheets.

Hamex:

March 31. On track. VE3WPJ is to give the Paypal account password to VA3XJL.

ARES Training:

VA3MED and VA3DFH discussed the proposed ARES training. They think that 2 nights is not enough to complete the training, and suggested delaying the training until May. Afetr discussion it was decided that it would be helpful to give the detailed training package to the AECs first. Our training package will be used as the basis for a revised RAC training package.



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HF NET

VE3TKI will do up a schedule for 2007.

Second Meeting In January

VE3TKI to discuss mast stress calculations.

Finances

No issues at present.

Notes prepared by Michael Brickell VE3TKI

Notes of January 11, 2007 General Meeting

Location: St Thomas A Becket Anglican Church

Officers Present: VA3DFH, VA3XJL
VE3TKI took notes

Visitors:

VA3LCL Louise Sawitzki
VA3OBO Mark Richardson, guest speaker

19 present

Introductions & General Remarks

VA3DFH did the usual introductions, reviewed upcoming events, and enquired as to recent dx events. He mentioned that we need volunteers for Hamex 2007 (March 31) and congratulated Thomas VA3TMB on achieving 94% in the advanced examination and noted that Thomas's

daughter Olivia had passed her basic exam. Olivia's new call is VA3AMU. The class pizza night is Monday January 22, at 19:00 at the Red Cross Meals on Wheels. The cw class started January 8 with 10 participants.

50-50 Draw

VE3TXN won the 50-50 draw.

Contest Activities

VE3MIS won the RAC Winter Contest in the multi-single class, thereby winning (again) the plaque the Club sponsors.

Speaker

After the break, John Duffy VE3DRZ introduced Mark VA3OBO, the guest speaker. Mark gave an interesting talk about the methods used to teach amateur radio to high school students in the Burlington area. Highlights: over several years 93 students and 3 teachers got their tickets; it's difficult to attract the attention of students who are very busy with other after school activities such as jobs, sports etc; the success rate was better when the school curriculum included physics at grade XI level than when it included physics at grade X, which Mark attributed in part to student maturity issues.

Notes prepared by Michael Brickell VE3TKI

Notes of January 18, 2007 Mississauga ARES Meeting:

Present:

Sean Conlin
Bob Humphreys
John Duffy
Bryan Jay

VA3MED
VE3HOW
VE3DRZ
VA3BLJ

Dave Harford
William Bressette
Bob Boyer
Thomas Bernard
Lorne Jackson
Robin Hood Stubbs

VA3DFH
VE3WPJ
VE3XBB
VA3TMB
VE3CXT
VE3VVS

Tony Champion
Michael Brickell

VA3QC
VE3TKI



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Location and Time:

Red Cross Ontario Zone Office, 5700 Cancross Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, North America, the World, Solar System, etc etc, 1900 EST aka 0030 UTC, 20:00 in Newfoundland

Opening Remarks:

VA3MED, once he arrived, opened the meeting with various and sundry remarks, which soothed the furrowed brows of the assembled multitudes.

VA3MED noted in particular that he had received an email from Susan Fitzgerald of Red Cross Ontario Zone. She has asked that we demonstrate the Red Cross Station at O-Zone to Norman Ferguson VA3ABL (905 843 2704) who is an paramedic for the Region. John VE3DRZ leapt to his feet to graciously volunteered to talk to Norman.

Dave Flaherty VE3DVE of Niagara Region ARES would like to do some communication tests between O-Zone and Niagara Region Red Cross HQ. Sean is to call him and set something up.

Complaints by others who shall remain unnamed regarding the lack of coffee directed at VE3TKI were ignored.

ARES Training:

VA3MED and VA3DFH discussed the proposed ARES training material. The basic content is completed. The ARES SOP needs to be coordinated with the training material. We need to develop a clear plan of what we want to accomplish with this training.

Some "crib sheets" covering essential points from the SOP need to be prepared. The Red Cross approach of defining roles and then preparing brief notes on the roles is a useful model.

The intent is eventually to have a complete training package, which could be delivered to interested hams, perhaps in several Saturday sessions. Initially we will plan on an "overview" session for the first club meeting in May 2007.

Various techniques for publicizing the program and attracting the interest of members were discussed. It was suggested that Brad VA3ZRT might have some ideas re publicity approaches.

We need to have an initial page to present to the ARES group asap, so that we as a group are prepared and know what to do if we are asked to assist in an emergency. VA3DFH, VE3TKI and VA3MED will get together very soon to consolidate the package and prepare a draft trial for the group.

ARES Response Call Up Tree:

VA3MED has modified the call up tree so as to create six teams, each of which would be asked to be on call for perhaps a month at a time. Each team will consist of a Team Leader, a VHF/UHF operator/logger, a digital operator/logger and an HF operator/logger. In the event that HF was not required in a particular situation the HF operator would be used for other functions.

In a call out situation, VA3MED as Emergency Coordinator (EC) or his delegate if he is not available would activate the team on call, which would then proceed to the site requested, and check in with the appropriate person (from the Logistics group in the Incident

Management System structure). The team would assess the need for additional teams and report to the EC accordingly.

Note that the new approach differs from past practice in that team members would not normally initially check in on the repeater to get instructions, and the entire call up tree will not normally be activated at the beginning of an incident.

Disaster Management Meeting:

VA3MED and VA3BLJ attended a Disaster Management Meeting on January 17, 2007.

Brampton/Caledon ARES in conjunction with the Brampton Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) will be sending a letter to all amateurs in the Brampton/Caledon area, informing them of the existence of ARES and soliciting help. Once Mississauga ARES is better trained VA3MED will approach the Mississauga CEMC (Catherine Blair) regarding the possibility of doing the same in Mississauga.

Credit Valley Hospital Yellow Case Radio Installation:

VE3TKI reported on discussions with Credit Valley Hospital with regard to the installation of the yellow case radio package.

VE3TKI and VA3MED have met with Arthur Uyeyama (Manager Media Services) and Wendy Johnson (who runs the hospital's EOC) to discuss details. Don



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Guthrie, VE3EVZ, has visited the hospital and provided an estimate of the cost of the cable installation.

The estimated cost of the complete package is much higher than the original estimate, because installation costs and the requirement for plenum rated coaxial cable, which is about 4 times the cost of regular RG214 were not included in the original estimate. The final cost estimate has been submitted to the hospital, which now will go back to the donor for additional funds.

Credit Valley Hospital Emergency Service Expo:

The Expo will be Monday January 22 and Tuesday January 23, from 10 to 4. VA3MED will meet VE3TKI, VA3BLJ, VE3XBB and VE3HOW on Monday morning at 8 am at the hospital, to set up the display. We will be borrowing a yellow case radio from Jim Shields VE3HPC of Toronto ARES. VA3MED will pick the case up Sunday and VE3TKI will return it Monday before 6 pm.

VA3MED is to provide the Walter Cronkite video. The hospital will provide a laptop.

The expo is to be in the auditorium, with outside access for an antenna.

VA3DFH agreed to be on call for demonstration VHF contacts via the

repeater. Also we will attempt to check into the Toronto ARES nets.

Mississauga ARES Meeting Schedule:

The next Mississauga ARES Meeting will be Thursday April 19 at Red Cross Ontario Zone, at 19:30 est.

VE3TKI will attend Peel ARES Planning Group meetings as needed. VA3BLJ and VE3HOW will attend Disaster Management meetings, and VE3WPJ will attend the HRECT meetings. VA3TMB will help out with meetings as well.

Notes prepared by Michael Brickell VE3TKI, Mississauga ARES



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