

From the Gavel... "Seasons and Changes"



Greetings.

The last two years have been a wonderful time as your president, and finishing off my tenure would not be complete without me taking the time to express my gratitude

to each and every one of you. The success of the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club has only been due to the continued participation and contribution that each of you have made.

In the bible there is verse that goes like this: To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven {Ecclesiastes (KJV) 3:1}. It is the time for change. Change brings opportunity and new ideas. We had our annual general meeting and elected a new board of directors.

I want to personally congratulate all of the new board of directors. Rick Brown VE3IMG your new fearless leader will be your president, and has several ideas that will help and shape the club in the months to follow. Asim Zaidi VE3XAP as your new first vice president along with Rick will no doubt bring you all more into the world of contesting as well as opportunities in the club station arena. William Bressette VE3WPJ as second vice president will continue his valuable contributions to the club. John Lorenc VE3XJL will continue to monitor the finances as your treasurer. Daniel Goodier VE3NI will

be your secretary, and has already stepped up and been doing it for a month or so now.

I am now honoured to become your past president, but take up the position as membership manager. My goal is to help grow the club in membership numbers – but will be also asking your help to do so... I firmly believe that we can grow the club to spite the attrition rate that many other clubs are experiencing. We could easily have a group with an attendance of well over a hundred per meeting. It is not an overnight goal, but one that would certainly make the club a most interesting and even more vibrant collection of amateurs who could really impact the community.

I wish to express my good wishes to each of you, continued success and involvement in the amateur radio world, and specifically here in our Mississauga Amateur Radio Club. Please continue to step up and contribute your time and support for the new board – remember that change also is part of us.

73s and see you further down the log!

Dave VA3DFH

This Month

2. Commentary
3. Club Calendar
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7. Education 2006-2007 Recap
8. The Roving Reporter
10. Minutes of the meeting February 22, 2007
11. Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting
12. 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. 145.430MHz Tone 103.5 Minus (-) offset. Contact our VHF Net Manager, **Lorne (VE3CXT)**, if interested in becoming a net controller.

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.

Commentary... Yagi. Vertical. Dipole. Quad.

One of the most important components of amateur radio is the simple (or complex) antenna. It is the "communication point" needed for all ham radio operators to talk over the amateur band, locally or worldwide. Whether it is a simple 2-meter vertical, or a complex VHF/UHF Yagi, it is the backbone of amateur radio. There are two methods of obtaining the right antenna for your needs. The first method is to purchase a pre-constructed antenna from a local amateur radio dealer. This is the most convenient and simple, since the design has already been determined and the instructions for setup are provided. All that is needed is to connect the antenna unit to your radio to see if it is working properly.

On the other hand, designing/building your own antenna is what makes this hobby fun and challenging. Getting the right components together, mathematical calculations, testing/troubleshooting, setting up the antenna besides your house, or on top of your handheld transceiver, and finally, the big question – "Does it work?" As the old saying goes, if you don't succeed the first time, keeping trying until you succeed. Maybe this is what makes this hobby unique and different. Besides the technical side, the hands on experience is invaluable since it is only obtained by "getting your hands dirty" and not by reading a text book/manual, since anyone can read a book. But building something is totally different and enjoyable, since the time and effort spent will determine the success or "back to the drawing board" rethinking/designing process.

There are a number of resources available to the ham radio operator in designing/building your specific antenna. The internet is probably the biggest and fully accessible medium of information on this topic. But the best teacher on this subject is talking to an experienced ham operator. He/she can give you their own experience, their success and failures. After all, without their personal stories, we would be lost, confused and maybe a little nervous in venturing into building something as major, yet an integral part of amateur radio.

Kim-VE3KTC

President	:	Rick Brown	VE3IMG
1st Vice President	:	Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
2nd Vice President	:	William Bressette	VE3WPJ
Treasurer	:	John (Sr) Lorenc	VA3XJL
Secretary	:	Dan Goodier	VE3NI
Past President	:	Dave Harford	VA3DFH
Executive Directors			
Membership Manager	:	Dave Harford	VA3DFH
Education Manager	:	Earle Laycock	VE3XEL
Practical Radio Labs	:	Reg Vertolli	VA3JQA
CW Courses	:	Tony Champion	VA3QC
House / Visitor Manager:	:	Robert Humphreys	VE3HOW
Newsletter Editor	:	Thomas Bernard	VA3TMB
Researcher	:	Kim Cheong	VE3KTC
Club Managers			
HF Net	:	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
VHF Net	:	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
Repeater Manager	:	Michael Brickell	VE3TKI
Assistant	:	Dave Harford	VA3DFH
Assistant	:	Bryan Jay	VA3BLJ
Assistant	:	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB
Assistant	:	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
Assistant	:	John Duffy	VE3DRZ
Assistant	:	Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
Assistant	:	Tony Champion	VA3QC
Assistant	:	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS
Club Station Manager	:	Stefan Bejusca	VA3OBR
Assistant	:	Rick Brown	VE3IMG
Assistant	:	Asim Zaidi	VE3XAP
Assistant	:	Alex Malikov	VE3MA
Assistant	:	Bryan Jay	VA3BLJ
Field Day Manager	:	Thomas Godden	VE3TWG
Assistant	:	Tony Champion	VA3QC
Assistant	:	Jody Levine	VE3ION
Assistant	:	John Duffy	VE3DRZ
Assistant	:	Thomas Godden	VE3TWG
Assistant	:	Reg Vertolli	VA3JQA
FSV Manager	:	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS
Assistant	:	Sean Conlin	VA3MED
Assistant	:	William Bressette	VE3WPJ
Programs Manager	:	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
Webmaster	:		
Source Code, Database:	:	Dave Harford	VA3DFH
Graphics and CSS	:	Alex Malikov	VE3MA
Legal Consultant	:	Lorne Jackson	VE3CXT
Public Information	:	Tony Champion	VA3QC
Photography	:	Reg Vertolli	VA3JQA
Assistant	:	Dan Goodier	VE3NI
Audit Committee			
Coordinator	:	Open	
Database	:	Open	
Assistant	:	Open	
Assistant - Physical	:	Open	
Public Service			
ARES EC	:	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	:	Dave Stubbs	VA3BHF
Assistant EC 6	:	John Duffy	VE3DRZ
Assistant EC B/U	:	Dave Harford	VA3DFH
Assistant EC B/U	:	Robin Stubbs	VE3VVS
Assistant EC B/U	:	Robert Giddy	VE3IAB
CANWARN Manager	:	Peter Mosher	VA3PKM
Special Events Manager:	:	Bob Boyer	VE3XBB

CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2007

May, 2007

03 Thu Exec Meeting - New leadership hand over
05 Sat Toronto Area CANWARN Training
06 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
08 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
10 Thu Club Meeting
13 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
15 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
17 Thu Radio Night at Club Station
20 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
22 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
24 Thu Club Meeting
25 Fri CQ WW WPX Contest
27 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
29 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
31 Thu Field Day Planning Meeting

June, 2007

03 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
03 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
05 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
07 Thu Exec Meeting
10 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
12 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
14 Thu Club Meeting
17 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
19 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
21 Thu Field Day Planning Meeting
21 Thu ARES Meeting
23 Sat ARRL Field Day Contest
24 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
26 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
28 Thu Club Meeting - POT LUCK DINNER
30 Sat RAC Canada Day Contest

Provisional schedule below...

July, 2007

01 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
01 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
03 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
08 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
10 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
14 Sat IARU HF World Championship
15 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
17 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
22 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
24 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
28 Sat IOTA Contest (RSGB Islands On The Air Contest)

29 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
31 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net

August, 2007

04 Sat North American QSO Party
05 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
05 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
07 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
11 Sat Worked All Europe DX Contest
12 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
14 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
18 Sat North American QSO Party
19 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
21 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
26 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
28 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net

September, 2007

02 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
02 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
04 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
06 Thu Exec Meeting
07 Fri Worked All Europe DX Contest
09 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
11 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
13 Thu Club Meeting
16 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
18 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
20 Thu Radio Night at Club Station
22 Sat Halton County Radial Railway-Special Event
23 Sun Halton County Radial Railway - If 22nd rained out
23 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
25 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Metre Net
27 Thu Club Meeting
28 Fri ISAR Competition - Special Event - Day 1
29 Sat ISAR Competition - Special Event - Day 2
30 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net

October, 2007

07 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
07 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
11 Thu Club Meeting
14 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
21 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
26 Fri CQ WW DX Contest
28 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net

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.

Construction Plans for the Model J146/440

By Al Lowe NØIMW, www.ArrowAntenna.com

Dual Band (2 Meter/70 cm) Solid Aluminium J-Pole

Parts Needed

Radio Shack # 21-961 3/8"-24/SO239 Mount
 Radio Shack # 15-826 TV Mast U-Bolt Clamp Assembly
 About 85 inches of 3/8" diameter Solid Aluminium Rod.
 5 1/2 inch piece of strut angle Aluminium 1 1/2" X 1 1/2"
 X 3/16"
 4 Stainless Jam Nuts 3/8-24 thread (or 3/8-16)

Tools Needed

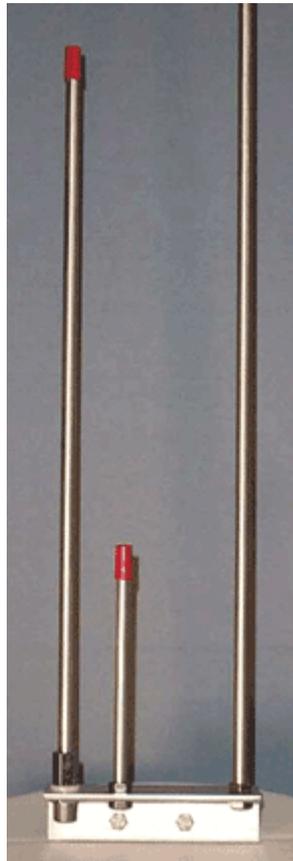
Drill Press with drill Bits up to 1/2".
 Tap & Die for 3/8-24 thread.
 Sander or file to de-burr the cut edges.
 9/16 wrenches & a 3/4 wrench.
 Vice-grips
 Saw

Procedure

Make sure the piece of angle Aluminium is exactly 5 1/2 inches long. Drill two 1/4" holes on one side, centered to fit the U-Bolt for mounting. On the other surface of the angle, measure in 1/2", 1 7/8" and 5" in from left side and drill 1/4" pilot holes. Enlarge the first of the pilot holes to 1/2" for the antenna mount. Enlarge the second and third of the pilot holes to 11/32" then tap the holes with a 3/8-24 tap or 3/8-16. Finish as required.

Cut a piece of the 3/8" Aluminium rod to about 20". Attach a vice-grip to one end. Using a 3/8-24 die cut in about 8 threads in the other end. Screw on the Coupling Nut that came with the SO239 Mount. Tighten as much as you can. Measure the rod & coupling nut & cut to exactly 19 1/4".

Cut a piece of the 3/8" Aluminium rod to about 60". Attach a vice-grip to one end. Using a 3/8-24 die cut in about 14 threads in the other end. If you don't have jam nuts, cut enough threads for 2 nuts & the thickness of the angle bracket. Screw on one of the jam nuts & tighten as much as you can. Measure from the bottom of the nut and cut the rod to exactly 57 1/2". Remember the nut must be included in the measurement. Repeat for the 6 1/4" long 440 element. Put a small amount of grease on the threads. Screw the element into the threaded hole and tighten. Screw on the other nut and tighten it. Attach the 19 1/4" element in the 1/2" hole using the rest of the SO239 Mount.



Testing

Mount & test your new antenna. SWR should be < 1.2-1 at 146 MHz and < 1.4-1 at 144 & 148 MHz. SWR should be < 1.2-1 from 440 - 450 MHz.

Redundant Test

Remove the 57 1/2" element, there should be no change of 440 performance. SWR on two meters will be high. Reinstall, then remove the 6 1/4" element. No change of the two meter performance should occur. SWR on 440 will not change much but the performance will.

Alternative Method

If all this sounds like too much work or your just not a builder, this antenna can be bought for a very reasonable price from Allen at ArrowAntenna.com

Editors note: When I contacted Allen for permission to publish his article, this is what he had to say: "I am a bit surprised it's still worth building your own, with the rising cost of materials. Might see if there are 10 members wanting to buy one, The 10 pack is still only \$32 ea. with shipping. Check out e-ham.net reviews. (We are changing the way J-Poles are made.)"

The 80-20 rule

By Thomas Bernard VA3TMB

In your shack, what costs 20% but produces 80% of the results? If you said Antenna, then you are probably right! As the saying goes, "If you can't hear them, you can't work them!". The most expensive rig, all the filters you can buy and the best accessories are no match for an efficient antenna. Notice that I said efficient and not expensive. Efficient and expensive do not necessarily go hand-in-hand despite the saying, "You only get what you pay for." In this article, I'll talk about my \$89 G5RV antenna.

Let me start at the beginning. At the Ham-Ex last month, I picked up my first HF radio - the ICOM IC-7000. Needless to say, I am pretty proud of this acquisition albeit this being one of the low cost rigs on the market today. Well, getting the rig was the easy part. The big question always is "how to get this on the air?". If you ask 10 different hams for antenna ideas, you end up with 11 suggestions. On one end of the spectrum are the multi-element beams costing thousands of dollars and then on the other end is a piece of wire, like the one Marconi used, that costs a few dollars. In between you find verticals, dipoles, and any number of combinations thereof.

After much research, soul searching and searching my wallet for any remaining money, after paying for the radio, it was clear that my antenna had to cost \$100 or less. Asim VE3XAP, who I look up to when it comes to antennas, gave me some very good advice. He said many hams buy a good radio and compromise on the antenna. That, he said, is a recipe for disaster. He even went to the extent of offering to loan his vertical for a few months, if need be. When I considered the cost of putting it up on the roof and the thought of having to answer curious neighbours, I gave up that idea. So it was to be a wire antenna after all. Of all

the designs reviewed, I liked the G5RV the best. Its beauty lies in its simplicity. Two pieces of copper wire, each 51 feet long, a balanced ladder feed line and a 1:1 balun and voila you have a G5RV multibander. It is also a very forgiving design. Although meant to be stretched in a straight line, it works as an inverted V, a sloper, a dog-leg, a Z or almost any other shape you can think off, as long as you don't get carried away and go crazy!

It is one thing to consider putting up an antenna when you are already on the air, but when you have none, you are raring to get on the air. It is times like this that test a ham. At this point in time, in a moment of weakness, I committed a cardinal sin - I bought a G5RV. I did not build one like any self-respecting ham would do. The very thought now hurts. I had the design downloaded, the bill of materials compiled, every thing planned and then someone mentioned that he had a brand new G5RV, unpacked, that he didn't want any longer. I grabbed the offer because it was quicker than building one and perhaps more importantly it was cheaper than building one. When you cost in the trips to Sayel, the time spent, compromises made in the design, overall it costs more to build than to buy. But it is more soul satisfying to get one's hand dirty. So, with shame I admit that my shack is an assembly of components that others built. Nothing there is the fruit of my labour! Please don't mention this when you meet me!

OK. So I had the G5RV antenna and now faced the prospect of putting it up. Having neither the experience nor knowledge of this art, I put out a call for help. Soon enough Spiderman and Batman responded. Spiderman, who goes by the common name Lorne VE3CXT, can climb anything - even on roofs when it is snowing. He told me his secret - a pair of \$150 boots from Marks Work Warehouse. (A recent club protocol requires us to address VE3CXT

as Lord Lorne of Crossbow. How that came about is a story for another article). Batman a.k.a. Michael VE3TKI does not bat an eyelid climbing a 20-foot ladder precariously leaning against a very thin branch and with only one leg (i.e. the ladder's) firmly on the ground and the other on very mushy soil. His secret was never revealed. So they both come over when it is starting to snow and there is a gusty icy cold wind picking up. I believed that we were there just to discuss how all this should be done once spring really arrives. But before I knew it, Spiderman was on the snow covered roof with a spool of Dacron rope asking for the feed point of the antenna. Lots of things happened in the next 30 minutes - an anchor point was located, the feed point secured, Batman was on a ladder securing a line high up on the neighbour's tree, the soldering gun was called for a couple of times, the cable brought into the house through the window and the rig turned on.... the moment of truth had finally arrived. Do you remember the joy of listening to your first radio crackling to life for the very first time? Well, I don't, for suddenly everything had to stop. It was Good Friday and nearly 3:00 pm. Michael had to pick up his XYL and I had to take the family to Church! But I went with the knowledge that I had a practically invisible sloper V in my backyard waiting for me when I got back.

The IC-7000 does not come with a built in antenna tuner. Aware of this I had wisely picked up an LDG AT-7000. That has proven to be a wise investment for although the G5RV is stated to resonate on 80, 40, 20 and 10 meter bands, the SWR is around 3:1. This is too high for the ICOM which stops transmitting over an

SWR of 2.5:1. The good thing about the AT-7000 is that it can match anything up to an SWR of 10:1 and that means that I can get on practically any band, save the 160 meter, with my little rig. Boy, am I happy I picked up the AT-7000!

In the next couple of days I made about a dozen of QSOs mostly Europe. Only a

dozen because for the first one and a half days I was only listening, too scared to press the PTT. But once I started there was no stopping. I received quite a few 59 reports and that is impressive for a tiny G5RV, 25 feet in the air, configured as a sloper V. Having worked South Africa and Mexico City among others, I must say I am pretty pleased with what I have. Thanks to Spiderman and Batman

who have been my elmers, ever ready to teach me new things and give me a helping hand when needed, today I am enjoying this hobby. As for the G5RV, I can't praise it enough!

The W3FF Portable Dipole a.k.a. Buddipole

Budd W3FF (<http://www.qsl.net/w3ff/>)

This is for those hams who are seeking a high performance homebrew antenna for hf portable use. Because I wanted to take my radio with me and communicate on HF, I designed a portable dipole antenna out of easily-found and low-cost materials. The Buddipole is the result of those efforts. This is a lightweight, modular, and rotatable dipole (a great benefit, by the way) and is very efficient on the higher bands.

In January of 2000, five years ago, as I write this, I began experimenting with a "walking-portable" ham station. Since then, thousands of stations have been worked on the amateur radio bands, mostly from 10 Meters through 60 Meters, but successful contacts have been made all the way down to 160 Meters in the past few months.

Over 130 DXCC Entities have been worked, and I had a great day early in January, 2001, when all the continents in the world (except Antarctica) were worked with 50 watts and my hand-held antenna in one day with one battery charge. Super conditions on the 12 and 15 Meter bands. In June of 2000, I traveled to the Baltic States and worked over 55 countries in two weeks from Riga, Latvia, and Vilnius, Lithuania. Worked All States came early last year. And then in the Fall of 2004, with half the Buddipole vertically mounted on a mountain bike, all the continents were

worked in one 24 hour period, again with 50 watts and one battery charge.

The radio of choice here has gone from my trusty TS-50 to a Yaesu FT-857ND. And I have added an automatic tuner, a Z-100 Ultra, to the backpack. The batteries at the first of 2005 are high capacity C-Cells, NIMH's. 4500 MAH at 12 volts. Outstanding lightweight batteries I purchased through Batteryspace.com. Wires are protected and fused, and all connections are very secure. The power cord comes out of the backpack for easy charging. An automatic charger at home 'floats' the battery after the voltage comes up to where I like it.

I've settled on one antenna, but it's a very flexible one. It's a five band HF portable antenna that I describe in another part of my web site. Pictures and a description of how to make one is there for anybody interested. If you have a Radio Shack store and a home improvement store or an ACE Hardware where you can shop, you can get all the parts needed to construct this very small and reasonably efficient dipole. It breaks down to a 21" package, and it, and the whole station, including the battery, will fit easily into a suitcase for the airlines. Weight of the antenna and coax is less than 2 pounds.

The mast is important. I have several, but in order to get the radiation up high

over above my head, I use a telescoping aluminum handle that is used for roller-painting ceilings. It is 6 feet long, and it goes up to 12'. I run it at about 11 feet above the ground. It weighs 1.5 pounds.

Consider also, running half of this homebrew antenna vertically on a mount of your choice. Clamp it on a picnic table, the handlebars of a bike, or on your backpack. Choose an appropriate radial, and you are in business for working folks anywhere and at any time, depending on band conditions.

My son, W6HFP, Chris, suggested we go commercial with the Buddipole, and we did that back in 2002, in July. You can see the commercial products at Buddipole.com. Chris now runs the company, and I do the technical support and help the homebrewers with any questions.

If you'd like to chat about it, email me at: w3ff@aol.com. Also, go to Yahogroups.com on the internet and check out the "Live-Wires" and "Hfpack" groups. You will find lots of portable and manpack people there.

73, Budd W3FF

Education 2006-2007 Recap

By Earle VE3XEL

Since first hearing two amateur radio operators speaking over the air in the late 1950's, I dreamed of getting my ham license. As a young kid, I spent hours reading the Heathkit, Allied and Lafayette catalogs and thinking one day I'd be on the air. That dream came true many years later when I joined MARC and took the Basic course in 1991. Tony VE3FTA (SK) was the lead instructor and I looked forward to every class with great anticipation. After successfully getting my license, I volunteered to help Tony teach the class by taking one or two simple subjects for him. With Tony's untimely passing in 2002, the torch passed unexpectedly to me with a great deal of help from other club members.

There is no better feeling that helping someone get their license! Each year, eager students of all ages, sex and backgrounds hear of our course and join in. Fortunately for me, and even more so for the students (!!), I have been helped by some very able instructors. This year our instructors included Basil VE3JEB, Bob VE3AGC, Frank VE3HTX, Jody VE3ION, Michael VE3TKI and Rob VE3ZZF. Basil, Bob and Rob are professional instructors. Basil has a special interest in computer technology as it relates to ham radio and has given talks to the club on DSP. Bob of course brings a wealth of practical DX experience to his talks along with a wealth of show and tell equipment. One evening Bob dropped by and I asked him to speak to the club for a bit. After a completely impromptu lecture, the class gave him a rousing round of applause! Rob just became licensed recently but has a special interest in getting high school students involved

with the hobby. Michael has bolstered our knowledge of repeaters and propagation. Frank's specialty is CW and helped teach the Morse Code part of the course despite his XYL, May, breaking her leg in nasty fall.

Jody is another story. While the hobby has an abundance of male "grays", as my niece described older folks on a voyage to Hawaii that she took a year ago (sheesh that hurts!!), Jody brings both youth and enthusiasm as well as a female perspective to the course. One time I mentioned to her that I was glad she agreed to teach as she was a role model to the YLs taking the course. She was surprised at my comment and said that she had been working in engineering for so long that she doesn't even think in those terms!!

So what did we accomplish this year? We helped 10 people get their ticket: Anthony Gifford VA3AGT, Hyun Keun Lee VA3LHK, Thomas Bernard VA3TMB, Mazamil Anas VA3MBA, Sue Duffy VA3SEM, Judy Bierma VE3JBQ, Roman Karaim VE3EPU, Michael Bacchus (upgraded score), Kenneth Gansel VA3KWG, Sneha Bernard VA3AMU and Jordan Soares VA3JQS. Anthony and Judy are hoping to use ham radio to navigate up to Greenland or down to the Caribbean this summer. Hyun was licensed in South Korea, I believe, and wanted to get his Canadian license. John VE3DRZ must be popping his buttons with Sue getting her license! And so each has their own story and reasons for getting involved in ham radio.

Four others obtained their CW Qualification: Hyun Keun Lee VA3LHK, John Shouwstra VE3CAA, John Vandermey VA3RLC and Thomas Bernard VA3TMB. In addition, John Waddell VE3JXF and Thomas Bernard

VA3TMB both obtained their Advanced Qualification by studying on their own.

We try to cover as much information as we can into the course to expose students to all they need to know in order to pass the exam. We know that certain areas are lacking...one being practical on-air experience. To address that deficiency, we encourage students to visit our club station and to pair up with Elmers. Elmers are licensed hams who are willing to have students over to their shack and give them practical on-air QSOs. This year, our Elmers were: John VA3JK, Lorne VE3CXT, Michael VE3TKI, Don VA3BOW and Mike VA3MRB. An additional benefit of the Elmer program is that lasting friendships are made. Thanks guys for supporting this important part of our course!

Each year we end the course with a graduation ceremony and pizza night. Graduates receive special prizes. RadioWorld donated a \$25 gift certificate, won by Anthony Gifford VA3AGT, the ARRL Handbook 2006 by Hyun Keun Lee VA3LHK donated by MARC and a RAC Operating Guide by Thomas Bernard VA3TMB and donated by Asim VE3AKP.

My thanks to everyone for their support. If you would like to become an Elmer or instructor, please give me a call. If you know of someone who is looking to get their ticket, our next Basic course begins in September 2007. We hope to offer an Advanced class as well early in 2008.

The Roving Reporter

This month The Roving Reporter spoke with the new Club President Rick VE3IMG and Past President Dave VA3DFH. Here is what each had to say about himself.

VE3IMG

I have had my license since 1976. I have been with the club for approximately 15 years now. I have mostly been involved with building the clubs radio station and contesting at both the new and old locations. When I started thinking about the questions you asked me below, I realised I had a bit of a story to tell. Here it goes ...

I first became aware and interested in ham radio in High School, Grade 13 as I recall. I heard an announcement over the Public Address system that there was going to be a meeting of the Amateur Radio Club. I turned to my friend who was an avid CB operator to ask him what it was all about. He didn't really know either, so we went to the meeting to check it out. The electrical shop teacher was a ham and he was on the air talking to a station in Germany. I was quite impressed with this and wanted to know what was involved in getting on the air. He handed me a book to read. He had me come to class early in the morning before school where I practiced my Morse code sending and receiving. I also started a night school course at T. L. Kennedy in Mississauga to help me get ready for the exam.

I was learning about electronics for the first time. While studying to get my license, I had become so interested in it, I decided that it would be a good career choice. I applied and was accepted to the Electrical Technology program at Ryerson. I join the Ryerson Amateur Radio club immediately (VE3RIT) and before the end of the first semester was ready to write my first exam. I booked an appointment with the Department of Communications where a DOC inspector would administer the exam. What an experience that turned out to

be! I made the fatal mistake of walking in there with my Ryerson leather jacket with "Ryerson" and "Electrical Engineering" splashed across my back in bright gold lettering. "A Ryerson electrical student eh?" he said with a snicker. This exam should be really easy for you"! He introduced himself as VE3JPC, Victor Echo 3 Just Plain Crazy, and he was.

Back in those days, (1976), you had to pass a Morse code test at 10 words a minute (sending and receiving) before you got to the theory. The exam consisted of oral questions, questions with written responses, multiple choice and oral exam on a typical receiver and transmitter block diagram. After I had passed the Morse code requirement, the real test began. I guess it was a slow day, or because I was an electrical student, the inspector grilled me all morning on radio theory. The interrogation only ended because it was lunch time and the rest of the inspectors wanted to go out and get something to eat. They invited me along and paid for my dinner, out of guilt I guess. After lunch, I finally got to the written portion and a few more questions. I probably hold the record for the longest exam to date. Thank god I passed the first time! The following year I did the 15 wpm code and the advanced exam. That was a much easier experience.

Now that I had a license, I needed to get on the air. I bought my first tube radio, a Heathkit SB102, an HF radio covering 80 through 10 meters. It was in kit form, and it was my first electronic project. It came with a manual with step by step instruction on how to assemble and test it. My dad bought me my first soldering iron and I started to put it together. After I vaporized the first couple of solder joints, I realized the soldering iron was meant to solder copper plumbing pipe. I got a new soldering iron, and after a week, it was finally built. I was now doing all the

recommended tests and encountered a short circuit where it should have read an open. I retraced my construction steps hundreds of times and concluded that I had done nothing wrong. With great anticipation, I turned my radio on, and there was a bang and a cloud of smoke. As it turns out, I had over tightened a metal variable tuning capacitor that was separated from the chassis by a thin peace of Mylar plastic. It had cracked and shorted to ground. After I finally figured that out, and replaced all the burned out parts, the radio finally tested ok.

I put up 40' of TV tower and a Mini Quad beam at my dad's place (I was still at home at this time) and was ready to make my first Morse code contact. Back then, your first license allowed you HF privileges, but you could only use Morse code. After a year you could go for your advanced. I started a CQ and then heard my father screaming and cursing at me. He was playing an electronic organ with his head phones on. My CW signal got into the front end of the amplifier after the volume control. I blew the head phones right off and his ears were ringing for the next hour. Needless to say, I was already on notice as to when I could operate.

I later graduated from Ryerson, got a job with Bell Canada where I started a radio engineering position. Soon afterwards I got married and bought a new house in Burlington. It was time to take the old tower and antenna down. My dad helped. I couldn't lift the 10' mast up above the tower as it

was too long and heavy. I removed the rotor and rotor plate and slid the mast down the inside of the tower. Unfortunately I forgot to take the metal cap that covered the bushing and surrounded the mast at the top of the tower. When I climbed back up the tower to get it, it shook off. I stuck my foot out and deflected it (boy did that hurt), but it still landed on my dad's head. It didn't knock him out, but it caused a large gash requiring quite a few stitches. He cursed me again and all the way to the hospital while he bled all over the inside of my car. To this day he hasn't let me forget it and still threatens to cut me out of the will.

For the new place, I bought a new 60' tower, a TH6DXX (6 element HF beam) and a 22 element 2 meter beam to be driven by a Hygain Tailtwister rotor. It was a warm summer Saturday and I had assembled a crack team of Bill Reid (VA3QB not licensed at the time) his brother Alan, and Bob Giddy (VE3IAB) to put every thing up. Fifty feet of tower set in concrete was already in place and the TH6DXX was built lying on the ground taking up the whole back yard. It was time to raise the top section, mast, rotor and 22 element beam together in one shot. The entire neighbourhood was outside in their back yards watching the spectacle, drinks in hand. I should have charged admission. When we managed to haul the whole array up, I couldn't get the tower section straight enough to slip it over the top section as the rotor plate was too wide and butted up against the gin pole. So it had to go down again. Bill and his brother, who are like oil and water, started arguing over how to resolve the issue. They came up with the brilliant idea to take a sledge hammer and bash the plate around the tower rung instead of cutting it with a hack saw. I was stuck 50' up on the tower and couldn't stop them. I watched helplessly. By this time a number of kids had gathered at the front of the house and were chanting for me to

jump. I felt like it, but to their dismay I didn't oblige them. We finally got the top section up and it was time to raise the TH6DXX. You should have seen the looks on the neighbour's faces as this monster antenna went up and dwarfed the house. I struggled to mount the antenna to the mast as it was a bit windy. I swear the neighbours were taking bets on whether or not I would make it. Finally the show was over, and I was the talk of the town. Especially once they learned later that I was struck by lightning and smoked the heat pump and a computer. My radio equipment was ok. To this day, my wife still can't sleep at nights when there is an electrical storm.

I am presently using the same tower and antenna at my current location in Mississauga. I also have an Alpha delta covering 160 to 10m. I also have a vertical to cover 6m, 2m and 440 MHz FM. I have upgraded my HF equipment to a Yaesu 847 all mode (HF, 50 MHz, VHF & UHF) transceiver. Despite my rough beginnings, I continue to enjoy the hobby some 30 years later and have no plans of giving it up.

VA3DFH

RR: How did you become interested in amateur radio and how long ago was that?

VA3DFH: I guess the earliest point was when my Uncle Arthur queried me about what a resistor was. At the time I was in my very early teens, but had already developed a keen sense of electronics and interest in radio transmissions. As I look back on it now, my enthusiasm was so much higher than my actual knowledge. I had tried to even build an antenna to pick up signals from the new satellites that had been launched. Not knowing anything in specifics, I set out to build an antenna with a wood back board, with multiple angled pieces of metal that I screwed into the wood and connected them all together with some wire. I intended to connect the wire up to my AM/FM radio to pick up the signals...

Well I learned two things from that experience. One was that satellite signals don't show up on the regular AM/FM bands. The other was that when you go to build an antenna, make safety your top priority as you could also manage (as I did) in getting a piece of the antenna lodged into your hand and requiring multiple stitches to repair it (the hand that is – much to my mother's concern). I still have that scar on my right hand to this day. I, by the way entered high school the next fall and entered into the four year electrical / electronics course stream they had offered. I then went onto college to study electronics technology.

The real amateur radio experience started a year or so later when a neighbour invited me into his home and showed me his ham shack and the hordes of electronic components he had collected (maybe that is where I got the idea that any piece of electronics can be a goldmine to build from later – to my wife's horror!) When he showed how he could talk to people around the world through his HF rig it fascinated me. While he was talking to people in other countries, he was also showing me how amateurs were also locally involved in the community through various community events. Although he may have showed me the VHF/UHF "walkie talkie" type of equipment as well, it was really the HF that grabbed my attention.

I was extensively involved in community television stations, doing various roles in the production of television shows, starting at high school and for several decades. After graduating college as an electronics technologist I spent most of my

career in communications related positions servicing government, taxi or general two way radio repair, and in the private broadcasting support area.

RR: Why did you become a ham?

VA3DFH: For me I believe the strongest attraction of the hobby is the community service through such things as ARES, and Field Day (being advertised as it often was). I have always had a desire to contribute to my community, and this was the best way I thought to marry that drive with my interest in communications.

RR: How long have you been a ham?

VA3DFH: I should really at this point give special credit to Chris Allsop, VE3SKH, who introduced me to the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club. Were it not for him and how he said that Industry Canada did not require the Morse code to be licensed, I would not have tried again to get my licence. I officially got my licence after completing the course offered through MARC, 29 November 2004. In hind site, it was so much easier than when I had tried some thirty years earlier on more than one attempt when it was necessary to master Morse code, to spite having high marks in the technical, digital and regulations exams.

RR: What is it that interests you most about amateur radio?

VA3DFH: I would say firstly being able to keep in touch with my other fellow amateur radio operators via various repeaters. Secondly the priority for me is public services and support for the community through things such as ARES and EOCs.

RR: What amateur equipment do you own now, and what would you like to have?

VA3DFH: My very first rig was a handheld unit – the ICOM T90A (a gift from my wife along with a headset, charger station and spare battery). I currently also own a pair of Kenwood D700s (one set up as a base station the other is my mobile) and my HF rig is a Kenwood TS-570S. I have a J-pole (built by our own Michael VE3TKI) as well as a couple of isotrons (40&80 meters) plus a “slinky” antenna from Steve VE3LEH, and a vertical HF antenna that needs extensive repairs – all of which I am hoping will be mounted within the next month or so... I also have an antenna and node for the club HSMM digital network also to be mounted soon.

RR: Do you have plans to change what you do as a ham? e.g. add towers, equipment, try new modes etc.

VA3DFH: I would like to study and get my Morse as well as my advanced endorsements. Once I am on the (HF) air more, I would like to try out doing satellite either via the Toronto nodes or

maybe direct if I could. I used to run a BBS twenty years ago for people to connect to via modem – I think I would like to try setting up a new one that merges internet and packet radio. I also have a project that I have started that would convert an old Collins test box into an emergency portable station similar to that which we have put in the hospital. I plan on having the case painted the international alert orange with black reflective vinyl lettering for identification. It would have one of my D700s, a packet unit, several gel cells, charger circuit with optional external DC power feed and an Alinco power supply. The unit once finished would be perfect in just about any emergency situation with or without power.

RR: Do you have any last comments?

VA3DFH: I would like to express my appreciation to the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club for helping me to get licensed, but also for mentoring me, and giving me the opportunity to be the club president for two years. Thanks to all, and my best to you all. “73s and talk you further down the log.”

Minutes of the meeting February 22, 2007

By Lorne VE3CXT

21 attendees.

Visitors: YO3GJC, Dan; VE3GNS, Falk

On air activities reported:

Falk VE3GNS: SSTV to VK6 land;

Michael VE3TKI: contacted Greenland

HAM-Ex: Michael VE3TKI announced:

- the event is to take place on March 31;

- there will be a team leader meeting on March

5th @ 7:30 pm at club station

- 45 tables have been sold

Upcoming Elections:

Lorne VE3CXT requested candidates for the Secretary and President positions.

There then followed the contesting lecture by VE3IMG, Rick.

Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting By Dan Goodier VE3EXI

April 12, 2007

Location: St Thomas A Beckett Anglican Church
7:36 PM Call to order
7:37 PM Attendance: 33 Visitor: Steve Roberts/VE3LEH

HAM Activity: Michael/VE3TKI reported that he had heard Swain Islands/N8S at approximately 0400 UTC. And that George/ VE3YV had worked N8S on 20m SSB at approximately 0330 UTC and 30m CW in the early morning.

7:41 PM Reports

Financial

- We have approximately \$3,731 in the bank
- Revenue from HAM-Ex was \$3,293.70

A detailed report was attached

Membership

- Paid membership stands at 69

HAM-Ex

- \$2,755 was our half of the profits
- The attendance was approximately the same as last year
- The grand prize ticket sales were approximately the same as last year
- The revenue generated from the club table was approximately \$525

Special Events / Walks

The MS Super Cities walks go this Sunday, April 15. There are two walks, the Lakeshore and Streetsville. We are looking good but the sign-up sheets were passed around again.

Newsletter

Copies will be left at the front table for those members who do not have email or Internet access.

7:55 PM The President awarded Certificates of Appreciation. The recipients are listed below:

Alex Szkabarnicki, VA3CKI	1st Vice President 2005/2006
Asim Zaidi, VE3XAP	Contests Manager Assistant
Bob Boyer, VE3XBB	Special Events / Walks Manager
Earle Laycok, VE3XEL	Education Manager
John Lorenc (Sr) , VA3XJL	Membership Manager 2005/2006, Treasurer
Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT	VHF UHF Net Manager, Programs Manager
Michael Brickell, VE3TKI	HF 80 Metre Net Manager,

Reg Vertolli, VA3JQA	Repeater Manager, Field Day Manager 2005 & 2006
Rick Brown, VE3IMG	Membership Manager, VHF UHF Net Manager
Robert Humpherys, VE3HOW	Contests Manager
Robin Stubbs, VE3VVS	House Manager
Sean Conlin, VA3MED	Past President, Club Station Manager
Thomas Bernard, VA3TMB	ARES Emergency Coordinator
Thomas Godden, VE3TWG	Newsletter Editor
Tony Champion, VA3QC	2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President 2005/2006
William Bressette, VE3WPJ	Newsletter Editor, Secretary Treasurer 2005/2006

7:58 PM **Elections**

The elections were managed by Lorne/VE3CXT and Reg/VA3JQA

Motion "That John/VE3XJL be acclaimed to the position of Treasurer for the upcoming year". Moved by Lorne/VE3CXT, Seconded by Gerry/VE3GRS

Motion "That Daniel/VE3NI be acclaimed to the position of Secretary for the upcoming year". Moved by Lorne/VE3CXT, Seconded by Thomas/VA3TMB

Motion "That William/VE3WPJ be acclaimed to the position of 2nd Vice-President for the upcoming year". Moved by Lorne/VE3CXT, Seconded by Michael/VE3TKI

Motion "That Rick/VE3IMG be acclaimed to the position of President for the upcoming year". Moved by Lorne/VE3CXT, Seconded by Sean/VA3MED

There were two individuals vying for the position of 1st Vice-President, Dave/VA3DFH and Asim/VE3XAP. The election was by show of hands. Asim/VE3XAP was elected to the position of 1st Vice-President

- 8:10 PM Break for 20 minutes
- 8:38 PM Sean/VA3MED and Michael/VE3TKI presented "An Introduction to ARES"
- 9:10 PM Sean.VA3MED dealt with questions from the floor.
- 9:18 PM Meeting adjourned

RAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/SUBSCRIPTION TO TCA MAGAZINE

Please enter applicable choice(s) →

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1 year RAC membership; (includes \$44.95 subscription for TCA) @	\$49.95 *	
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If you enter something on line above, a charge of \$20.00 will be added to your membership	
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DONATION OPTIONS

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS (Cheque or)

Visa/MasterCard No:
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