

From the Gavel... "Seasons and Changes"



As your new president and on behalf of the club, I would like thank Dave Harford (VA3DFH) for his time, effort and contributions as President during his past 2 year reign. I

can only imagine that managing a club of this size with all its diverse interests and activities was no easy task and had its' trying moments. In previous years, the process of finding a club president has had all the trappings of a shotgun wedding. I know this wasn't the case with Dave who eagerly accepted the position and seemed to thrive on it.

So, what is in store for the club now that I am flying the plane, and how does the future look? I think it looks pretty good. We have two excellent co-pilots, Asim VE3XAP 1st VP and William VE3WPJ 2nd VP to ensure I don't crash the plane. There's Lorne VE3CXT as Program Director to provide the in-flight entertainment with Robert VE3HOW, House Manager serving the food and refreshments. Sean VA3MED our ARES co-ordinator is busily preparing for any possible disaster and Michael VE3TKI our repeater manager is ensuring good air to ground communications. Last, but not least, is our Station Manager, Stephen VA3OBR in charge of expanding our airport terminal facilities. All of these people are experienced Hams who have a vested interest in the club. I look forward to working with them over the next year and hopefully together we can make the club even better than it already is.

I realise that I haven't given credit to everyone who deserves it, but I have already over used the airport analogy. That doesn't mean your efforts have gone unnoticed. When I reviewed the manager and assistant manager appointments, it was immediately apparent that there are a large number of individuals contributing to the running and success of the club. Hopefully our roving reporter, Thomas VA3TMB will be around to interview you all and highlight your contributions.

For those of you who are just sitting back, watching and expecting to be entertained, you don't know what you are missing. I encourage you to participate and help out with as many of the club activities as possible. If the club is not involved in some aspect of Amateur Radio you think it should be, or if you feel that it isn't being run properly, then you have no one to blame but yourself. All it takes is for you to step forward and become involved. Nothing kills a club faster than apathy.

Over the next month, the club will be winding down for the summer months. There is still Field Day to look forward to and the Club Pot Luck dinner as our last get together before the break. Have a good summer and I hope to see everyone back here in September.

Rick VE3IMG

This Month

2. **Commentary**
3. **Club Calendar**
4. **Solar cycle postponed**
5. **The 30 Year Itch is Over**
6. **The Roving Reporter**
7. **April 19 ARES meeting minutes**
8. **April 26 general meeting minutes**
9. **May 3 Executive meeting minutes**
10. **May 10 general meeting minutes**
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... Propagation myths.



“Wait till the end of the year... you can work the world on a coat hanger and 5 watts”... that is what an old hand at this game told me earlier this year. Being at the bottom of the solar cycle sucks big time. More so if you are just starting to enjoy this hobby like some of those who recently graduated from the December 2006 classes. Ever so often - on the Sunday 80 meter net, in the magazines and at meetings - we are reminded the the propagation is just plain bad. Makes one wonder if this is a good time to hang up all your ham gear and pursue some other hobby. Sailing and fishing appear to be good choices. Golfing maybe. Anything where the damn Sun does not interfere with your fun.

It is times like this when you are suddenly hit with a reality check. Listening to the operators report on the weekend ??CW DX?? contest on the 80 meter net last night, Stefan VA3OBS reported that they made 1103 contacts in 48 hours. They worked lands far and wide! So what is the truth? Are DX stations workable or not? The contest operators prove that it can be done but there are also a whole lot of nay sayers. I prefer to believe the operators – to go getters.

It appears that this is indeed the best time for real hams to get on the air. A time that sorts the boys from the men. For what fun is it if all conditions are favourable – great propagation, sophisticated electronics, terrific commercial antennas – and you make a 100 contacts. Should we not salute the men of steel, who can have a QSO under the worst conditions? In fact, I hear that some of our club members are running their stations QRP and still managing to make DX contacts, in these times of poor propagation. This hobby, in my opinion, belongs really to those brave souls. As for working the world with 5 watts and a coat hanger, let’s see when that happens.

73

Thomas VA3TMB

Executive Directors		
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
Club Managers		
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
Net 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

June, 2007

03 Sun Sunday Brunch - Bread & Honey Festival
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

November, 2007

04 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
04 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
11 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
18 Sun HF - 75/80 Metre Net
25 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.

NOAA announces next solar storm cycle will likely start next march

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2007/s2847.htm>

April 26, 2007 — The next 11-year cycle of solar storms will most likely start next March and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012—up to a year later than expected—according to a forecast issued by the NOAA Space Environment Center in coordination with an international panel of solar experts. The NOAA Space Environment Center led the prediction panel and issued the forecast at its annual Space Weather Workshop in Boulder, Colo. NASA sponsored the panel.

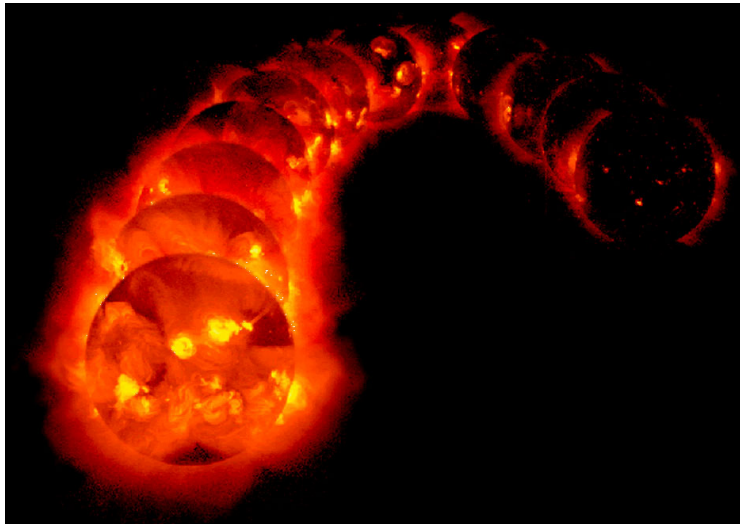
Expected to start last fall, the delayed onset of Solar Cycle 24 stymied the panel and left them evenly split on whether a weak or strong period of solar storms lies ahead, but neither group predicts a record-breaker.

During an active solar period, violent eruptions occur more often on the sun. Solar flares and vast explosions, known as coronal mass ejections, shoot energetic photons and highly charged matter toward Earth, jolting the planet's ionosphere and geomagnetic field, potentially affecting power grids, critical military and airline communications, satellites, Global Positioning System (GPS) signals, and even threatening astronauts with harmful radiation. These same storms illuminate night skies with brilliant sheets of red and green known as auroras, or the northern or southern lights.

Solar cycle intensity is measured in maximum number of sunspots—dark blotches on the sun that mark areas of

heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that major solar storms will occur.

In the cycle forecast issued Wednesday, half of the panel predicts a moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicts a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average



solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. Now the group is evenly split between strong and weak.

The first year after solar minimum, marking the end of Cycle 23, will provide the information scientists need to arrive at a consensus. NOAA and the panel decided to issue their best estimate now and update the forecast as the cycle progresses, since NOAA Space Environment Center customers have been requesting a forecast for more than a year.

"By giving a long-term outlook, we're advancing a new field—space climate—that's still in its infancy," said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson,

director of the NOAA National Weather Service. "Issuing a cycle prediction of the onset this far in advance lies on the very edge of what we know about the sun."

Scientists have issued cycle predictions only twice before. In 1989, a panel met to predict Cycle 22, which peaked that same year. Scientists met again in September of 1996 to predict Cycle 23—six months after the cycle had begun. Both groups did better at predicting timing than intensity, according to NOAA Space Environment Center scientist Douglas Biesecker, who chairs the current panel. He describes the group's confidence level as "high" for its estimate of a March 2008 onset and "moderate" overall for the two estimates of peak sunspot number and when those peaks would occur.

One disagreement among the current panel members centers on the importance of magnetic fields around the sun's poles as the previous cycle decays. End-cycle polar fields are the bedrock of the approach predicting a weak Cycle 24. The strong-cycle forecasters place more importance on other precursors extending over a several-cycle history. Another clue will be whether Cycle 24 sunspots appear by mid 2008. If not, the strong-cycle group might change its forecast.

"The panelists in each camp have clear views on why they believe in their prediction, why they might be wrong, and what it would take to change their minds," said

Biesecker. "We're on the verge of understanding and agreeing on which precursors are most important in predicting future solar activity."

The NOAA Space Environment Center is the nation's first alert of solar activity and its affects on Earth. Just as NOAA's hurricane experts predict the upcoming season of Atlantic storms and forecast individual hurricanes, the agency's space weather experts issue outlooks for the next 11-year solar cycle and warn of storms occurring on the sun that could impact Earth. Both the NOAA National Hurricane Center and NOAA Space Environment Center

are among nine NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction, part of the NOAA National Weather Service. The NOAA Space Environment Center also is the world warning agency of the International Space Environment Service, a consortium of 11 member nations.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA. NOAA is

dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

The 30 Year Itch is Over...

By Karl, VA3VAS

The year was 1977 and I was in my last year of high school in Quebec. A week to go before graduation, a school mate asked me if I wanted to go to his house to see his new Amateur Radio he just got for his graduation. I knew of the guy but we were not that close. I wasn't doing anything so I agreed. We ended up staying up all night talking to other hams in Europe, the US, and even a couple in Australia. On his bedroom walls were hundreds of QSL cards from all over the world. I thought this was the best thing ever!

Thirty YEARS later (almost to the day), at work, we had a caricaturist come to the office as part of our company celebration. It turned out that I knew the artist from a few years back but that's a different story. Anyway, I noticed that a co-worker's drawing was of him in front of his rig. I casually asked him if he had been in Ham Radio for long. He said about 20 years!

"Wow", I said, "I would like to get my license but can't do the Morse Code test."

"No need", he said, "It's not part of the Basic qualifications anymore. Let me see

if I can get a hold of someone who still has a copy of the study guide."

The next day, a copy was on my desk when I got into work.

I was a Radar Tech in the army so the theory was tucked away somewhere in the back of my head waiting to come out again. It all came back to me... rather quickly actually... "Inductance", "Capacitance", "Impedance", oh my! It's amazing how well you still remember things (with some coaxing) that you enjoyed so long ago. It was those darn radio BLOCK diagrams that kept getting me screwed up. Thirty days later (after studying almost every night and running the Windows ExHAMiner program I found on the internet), I wrote the exam at Doug's place and passed with a 98%. Afterwards, Doug showed me his shack and antenna setup. We even managed to make contact with a guy (John) in England.

There's so much more these days with the computer being a common "accessory" among the rest of the gear in the shack. The sky (or should I say the ionosphere) really IS the limit! Now with my Basic

certificate (and soon to be Advanced), I'm ready to experience the exciting new (and old) world of Ham Radio.... with the help of my new friends in the York Region Amateur Radio club.

Thanks to the following Hams for helping me get my Basic ticket...

Asim (VE3XAP) - Co-worker who got me interested (again) in Ham Radio. John (VE3DRZ) - Asim's friend at MARC who lent me his RAC Study Guide. John (VA3JI) and Geoff (VA3GS) - Co-authors of RAC Study Guide and mentors.

Francois (VA2AAY) - Creator of the Windows ExHAMiner program which I used over and over again.

Doug (VE3CWO) - For picking lucky #7 Exam question booklet from the top of the pile and showing me his rig. John (MOJWK) - My first contact in the UK as an unofficial Ham Operator.

Now off to do some window shopping!!

The Roving Reporter

This month The Roving Reporter spoke with the Education Manager Earle Laycock VE3XEL.

RR: How did you become interested in amateur radio?

VE3XEL: I first learned about amateur radio when I was about 8 years old. I was visiting my aunt who lived in Toronto and she had a beautiful radio housed in a wooden cabinet that picked up SW. I was playing around and suddenly heard two guys talking to each other. Not having heard anything but commercial radio, this really amazed me. It was back in 1958 on shortwave AM.

My mother took me to the Coles Book store on Younge Street (near where the Eatons Centre is now) and we found an American book called "Introduction to Ham Radio" by a ham in Florida. That got me started. Then my mother (bless her) contacted a ham in Gravenhurst where I lived. His name was Keith Bradley VE3AKP (SK) and he took me under his wing and was an Elmer to me. He was a TV/Radio technician in town and had a ham shack in his basement consisting of some home-brew stuff and a converted 19-set. I remember him showing me how RF could light up a neon light in his hand. What great stuff. We were very good friends until he died of cancer. We managed to have a QSO between Gravenhurst and my home in Mississauga on 80m March 28, 1995. It was a thrill to speak with my mentor over the air. Afterwards, another ham came on who had been listening and he said it was the nicest QSO he had ever heard! How lovely.

RR: How long ago?

VE3XEL: I first became interested in ham radio 49 years ago.

RR: Why did you become a ham?

VE3XEL: I was interested in electronics throughout my life and speaking to someone around the world without wires was just magic to me. So I had a desire to have my own station and call sign

from when I first learned of ham radio. There was a local policeman in Gravenhurst, Earl Milligan, who was studying by correspondence course to become a radio/TV repairman. He used to loan me his correspondence courses so I could study them. So between Keith VE3AKP and Earl, I was getting pretty good instruction.

I used to spend my spare time reading the Allied, Layfayette and Heathkit catalogs. Wow! Did I dream of the day when I would have my own station! I was so happy when a new catalog would arrive in the mail. I started subscribing to QST and the Canadian "Electron" magazines too.

RR: How long have you been a ham?

VE3XEL: I finally took the MARC course in 1991 and passed the exam. Although I was interested in ham radio since 1958, the exams were very tough back then and you had to be 16 years old! By that time, I had other more pressing interests!

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

VE3XEL: It's people. I enjoy meeting people associated with ham radio. What a great group! (Well there are a few idiots but we'll overlook them...) I also enjoy teaching ham radio and working with our other instructors...young, old, male, female...it's wonderful to see their wonder and enthusiasm for the hobby. Being an accredited Industry Canada Amateur Radio examiner has also been a lot of fun.

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

VE3XEL: I have an ICOM-737 HF rig that I use mainly for special events and Field Day. Hopefully I will have my home antenna back in

operation soon (it's only been out of service for a couple of years...hi hi) and also be on the air. I also have an ICOM W2A handi. It was one of the first radios that could act as a repeater between 440/2M. Nice radio but has a lousy battery connector. Batteries are always snapping off. I get a lot derisive comments about my handi from Bob VE3AGC. It is a little out dated now in size but it works well. Also have a mobile ICOM 2350-H which I bought from fellow club member Neil VA3NAA. This too has been a great radio but recently developed a power problem when I transmit. I can't complain though. My sons played hockey and their sticks always ended up "resting" (read: being tossed) over the mobile rig in my car. Various knobs have been knocked off and lost over the years but it kept running without complaint until now. I'd like to get a new HF rig with DSP someday and lots of filters...nearer when I retire, along with a beam or quad.

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

VE3XEL: I'd like to play around with digital modes and do more HF. My Morse is getting rusty (don't tell IC !!) and I'd like to be a lot more active on that. Maybe becoming good enough that I could distinguish dits from dahs on Field Day!!! That was a big shock a few years ago. Tony VA3QC, Frank VE3HTX and a few others were running a 10m CW net. My speed was getting up to 15-20 WPM so I thought I was pretty hot stuff. I signed up for HF CW Field Day thinking I could handle it. Well the dits and dahs were coming at me so fast I didn't know what I was listening to. It might as well have been rap! A very humbling experience. I have a lot of admiration

for the club members running CW at some ungodly rate. It's an art form.

I came through a bad period in my life 10 years ago when my brother died and I became divorced . Recovering from that

has been a chore and certainly reduced the money I have available for new ham toys. Now that my boys are almost through university and getting more independent, I will have

time and hopefully more money to devote to the hobby. But that is not a big concern. Hams are notoriously frugal (cheap) and I am having lots of fun in the meantime.

Minutes of the April 19 ARES Meeting By Dan Goodier VE3EXI

Location: Club Station

7:35 PM Call to order

Attendance: 12

Sean/VA3MED, Gerald/VA3ALD ??GAK, Michael/VE3TKI, Dave/VA3DFH, Thomas/VA3TMB, William/VE3WPJ, Bryan/VA3BLJ, John/VE3DRZ, Bob/VE3XBB, Bob/VE3HOW, Lorne/VE3CXT, Daniel/VE3NI

7:40 PM Debrief of MS Walks

- Overall the event went well
- Only incident was with St Johns Ambulance when John/VE3DRZ went to introduce himself. St Johns basically said that we were not required since they had their own radios. Sean/VA3MED to follow-up when they make the presentation to St Johns Ambulance.

8:05 PM PAPG Meeting

- Michael/VE3TKI provided a brief summary of what happened at the PAPG meeting
- PAPG is expecting to meet TWICE per year
- The meeting minutes have been posted to the Mississauga ARES Yahoo Group and can be found under http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mississauga_ARES/files/Notes_of_Meetings/Meetings_2007/

8:15 PM EC Meeting

- Meeting of ECs from Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga, Brampton, and Skywide. To a large degree it was a "rehash" of the topics PAPG meeting.

8:20 PM Presentation to St Johns Ambulance

- Sean/VA3MED and Bob/VE3HOW will represent Mississauga ARES

- Meeting to take place on Saturday, April 21, 2007

- Sean will take this opportunity to discuss the "incident" from the Streetsville MS Walk

- Sean/VA3MED will "demo" (show) the yellow case radio system that is intended for the Credit Valley Hospital

- Sean/VA3MED will once again, highlight the benefit of "partnering" with Mississauga ARES for such programs as the Goblin Patrol

8:25 PM Letter from the Credit Valley Hospital

- Sean/VA3MED read a letter than had been received from the Credit Valley Hospital in response to a visit by Sean/VE3MED, Bob/VE3HOW, Bob/VE3XBB, and Bryan/VA3BLJ
- The letter was a POSITIVE response to the addition of emergency radio system (yellow case radio system).
- Well done guys!!

8:30 PM Yellow Case Radio System

- All done but the termination with Anderson PowerPoles
- The question of who was providing the laptop computer it was our understanding that the hospital was. This needs to be verified.
- It was noted that there needs to be a basic manual on how to run the station and that training will be needed to bring operators up to a level of competency with both the hardware and computer software
- Michael/VE3TKI provided a brief demonstration showing that indeed the yellow case radio system was operational

8:45 PM Emergency Preparedness Week Display

- The event this year will be Monday, May 7th in the Great Hall at City Hall from 9 AM till 5 PM
- Setup will be on Sunday
- Sean/VA3MED will be there and was looking for volunteers

8:55 PM Other Business

- Dave/VA3DFH received an unsolicited letter from the CCGA (Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary) seeking our support in providing communications during the International SAR Competition to be held in Toronto September 28 and 29, 2007

- The suggestion from the group was that he should respond to gather further information to their requirements so that we could be in a better position to evaluate if we can be of assistance

9:03 PM Sean/VA3MED adjourns the meeting

- 9:05 PM For the next 30 minutes or so, William/VE3WPJ provides a very educational session on Anderson PowerPoles as he makes the terminations for the yellow case radio system.

- It is concluded by most that there is a great benefit to ARES members to utilize Anderson PowerPoles in their home stations because of the flexibility it provides at the base station, in a mobile environment, and when interoperating with other ARES groups.

Minutes of the April 26 General Meeting By Dan Goodier VE3EXI

Location: St Thomas A Beckett Anglican Church

7:36 PM Call to order

7:37 PM Visitors: None, Attendance: 29

HAM Activity:

- Not a lot of activity
- 6 or 7 operators showed up at the Club station for the Ontario QSO party

Club Events:

- Dave/VA3DFH went over the list of upcoming Club events
- The item that generated the most discussion was CanWarn. When prompted 8 attendees out of 29 admitted that they had not attended the CanWarn training sessions yet. They were strongly encouraged that it would be well worth their time and effort to attend

7:45 PM Reports

Field Day John/VE3DRZ

- Field Day will be June 23/24, 2007
- John/VE3DRZ presented the new signup sheet and encouraged early signup
- Whoever is supplying a logging computer please indicate on the signup sheet so that we can ensure that they have the latest software and are configured correctly
- Pricing for meals will be made available later in May
- The setup/tear down signup sheets will be circulated later in May

Special Events / Walks Bob/VE3XBB

There are no walks scheduled till later in May. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

Club Managers Rick/VE3IMG

Rick/VE3IMG stated that he will be confirming with each of the Club managers their commitment to remain in their position. The one SIG that requires a new Club manager is Digital Group/HSMM.

FSV Michael/VE3TKI

Michael/VE3TKI identified the need to have the telescoping antenna mast repaired. It is currently located at the Club station and will need to be repaired before it could be used for Field day.

7:50 PM Break

8:20 PM 50/50 Draw - \$34 was up for grabs and George/VE3YV had the winning ticket. George/VE3YV donated his winnings back to the Club. The Club ended up with \$68

8:22 PM **Printed Circuit Board design** by James/VA3IJS

To summarize, there are 6 methods to producing printed circuit boards with each one having its pros and cons. They are by hand, photographic, screen printing, send out and "direct-etch"

9:05 PM Meeting adjourned

Minutes of the May 3 Executive Meeting By Dan Goodier VE3EXI

Location: Club Station

Present: Thomas/VA3TMB,
Michael/VE3TKI, William/VE3WPJ, Rick/VE3IMG,
Asim/VE3XAP, Sean/VA3MED, Tom/VE3TWG
Stephan/VA3OBR, Dave/VA3DFH,
Bob/VE3XBB, Tony/VA3QC, Daniel/VE3NI

7:43 PM **New Executive**

Dave/VA3DFH welcomed all to the “official” meeting of the changing of the guard and introduced the new executive.

- President – Rick Brown/VE3IMG
- 1st Vice Pres – Asim Zaidi/VE3XAP
- 2nd Vice Pres – William Bressette/VE3WPJ
- Treasurer – John Lorenc/VE3XJL
- Secretary – Dan Goodier/VE3NI

The letter for the bank detailing the change of signing authority was signed.

The question a real club mailbox (ve3mis @ rac.ca) as opposed to a RAC redirect to personal mailbox was discussed. The question was, how best to share and maintain email history. A number of options were discussed, further investigation into a yahoo group account and a Web2Mail account will be performed by Rick/VE3IMG and William/VE3WPJ.

There was discussion about the membership of the MARC Executive Yahoo Group. Rick/VE3IMG will review the membership list and limit membership to those individuals holding a board, manager or officer position.

The Secretary will now be co-moderating the MARC Members Group.

There was discussion concerning all the Yahoo groups and whether they were all required. There are currently six groups (members, executive, ARES, repeater, club station, and digital). The consensus is that there would be no changes made and it would be reviewed next year.

Manager Positions & Duty Descriptions – Rick/VE3IMG

Rick/VE3IMG reviewed all the manager positions and the following changes were made:

- Addition of the position, Manager, Public Information & Media relations. Tony/VA3QC volunteered to take on this position.

• All positions on the Audit Committee are OPEN. Rick/VE3IMG to take the lead on filling these vacancies.

• William/VE3WPJ volunteered to be the new Manager, Digital Group/HSMM

Rick/VE3IMG requested that each manager submit a “brief” description in point form describing the duties of the position.

Rick/VE3IMG requested that each SIG develop a program of what it is they plan to do during the year. The managers could then present their plan of activities to the membership during the first meeting of the new year (September).

Also, it was requested that each group provide 1 or 2 articles for the Club newsletter.

It is requested that the above information be submitted to Rick/VE3IMG by the end of June.

Stefan/VA3OBR as Station Manager will now take the responsibility of administering door codes at the club station.

CCGA Search & Rescue Day & MARC – Dave/VA3DFH

Dave/VA3DFH received a request from the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) requesting our assistance for their ISAR competition on September 28/29, 2007. It is our understanding “at this point” that we are being asked to provide a Special Events Station and possibly “walk type” communications.

Here is their web site:

<http://www.ccg-a-gcac.com/isar2007/english/home/index.asp>

This will be further defined during the planning “test” session scheduled for May 25/26. Dave/VA3DFH will attend to obtain further information.

We need to find out the frequencies used in Halifax 2 years ago and what were the operating frequencies. The Halifax contacts were Dick Grantham VE1AI (dgrantha@fox.nstn.ca) and Scott Wood/VE1QD (ve1qd@rac.ca)

We need to contact IC to start the process to acquire a special events call sign.

Membership – Dave/VA3DFH

Dave/VA3DFH proposed that next years club membership carry a photograph of the member. ARES members would have ARES specific information on the reverse side and be laminated.

The consensus was that the Club would pay to have ALL cards laminated.

Dave/VA3DFH was asked to submit a budget for this item.

Newsletter - Thomas VA3TMB & Dave VA3DFH

Thomas/VA3TMB made the following observations/suggestions:

- Keep the newsletter to 12 pages
- 3 pages remain static
- 9 pages for content

How do we deal with the 20 to 25 members that request their newsletter in printed format?

The decision was that it is important that members get their newsletters in a manner that is appropriate to them. We will print the newsletters and have them available for 2 meetings. If they are still not picked up then they will be mailed to the member.

Thomas/VA3TMB will submit a budget item

Budget / Financial Issues - John/VE3XJL

Managers should submit their budget requests to Rick/VE3IMG and John/VE3XJL for the 2007/2008 budget.

William/VE3WPJ indicated that we needed to keep an eye on the cash flow so we can manage our payments as they arise.

The following timeline was developed:

- Budget requests submitted by May 7th
- Submit "draft" budget to the membership on May 10th
- Executive to meet on May 16th to finalize the budget
- Present 2007/2008 budget to membership on May 24th for ratification

Minutes of the May 10 General Meeting By Dan Goodier VE3EXI

Location: St Thomas A Beckett Anglican Church

7:36 PM **Call to order**

Rick/VE3IMG introduced the new Executive and then went through and reaffirmed each of the Manager positions, asking those individuals to stand and be identified when their names were read.

7:40 PM **Visitors:** Catherine Blair, Attendance: 19

HAM Activity:

Rick/VE3IMG will send an email to all managers requesting the budget requests.

HCRR – Bob/VE3XBB

HCRR is scheduled for September 22nd with a rain date of September 23rd.

The club is committed to this event.

In the past the event has run at a small loss.

Michael/VE3TKI to provide a budget request to cover QSL.

Audit / Inventory

Pretty well everything is under control with the exception of the FSV.

Each manager should be aware of the inventory for their SIG

Rick/VE3IMG to drive the process to have the FSV inventoried.

Field Day – Thomas/VE3TWG

We are still looking for volunteers for Field day which is June 23/24.

William/VE3WPJ volunteered to coordinate the setup of the logging network.

Next Field Day meeting is May 31. At this meeting the logging network will be setup, so bring those laptops. The 2nd meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 21.

Honda will not be able to provide us with any generators.

The layout of the site will be similar to the past. The only changes under consideration are a change in antenna direction.

9:43 PM – End of the meeting

Scarborough Reef (BS7) was heard on SSB and CW, best during the late morning. Unfortunately while many tried, no one worked them.

- Swain's Island (KH8) is has been heard and operated. Best opening appeared to be late in the evening.

- Discussion ensued about DX using verticals vs yagis and how this impacts communication and our ability to work them.

- There was further discussion about the importance of Scarborough Reef and the Spratly Island (9M0) from an economic perspective. This was driven by the comment of

why Scarborough Reef (BS7) was even considered for DXCC.

There have been some great openings for 6m and 10m during the past few days. Big opening is Europe and good North/South opening in the Americas.

Club Events:

Rick/VE3IMG went over the list of upcoming Club events.

7:45 PM **Reports**

CCGA ISARS Dave/VA3DFH

- The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) has asked the Club for assistance to provide communications/special events station for their ISARS competition. The dates are September 28/29, 2007.

- Dave/VE3DFH be attending a meeting later in May to find out their requirements and expectations of the service that we can provide.

- Check it out on their web site:

<http://www.ccg-gcac.org/isar2007/english/home/index.asp>

Field Day Tom/VE3TWG

- Field Day is June 23/24, 2007.

- Planning is well under way.

- We need someone to get the FSV to the field day site and to return it back to the fire station afterwards. Any volunteers?

- Still looking for volunteers for setup and takedown.

- Sean/VA3MED volunteered to look after the fire extinguishers.

- Lorne/VE3CXT spoke to Saturday Night dinner and Sunday morning breakfast. Last year it was catered by Shopsy's (where we have our monthly Sunday breakfast). We are going to use their services again this year and the cost will be \$15 for dinner, \$15 for breakfast or \$25 for both. John/VE3DRZ will obtain the traditional Costco cake and Reg/VA3JQA will see about Timmy's.

Membership Dave/VA3DFH

Dave/VA3DFH expressed that we should be joining RAC (Radio Amateurs of Canada) as there are many benefits to be derived from membership.

The major one at this time is the role RAC is taking in the Antenna by-law challenge that is currently underway in Ottawa. Remember, this could just as easily happen here in Mississauga.

Newsletter Thomas/VA3TMB

Thomas/VA3TMB announced that for those members who have asked for paper copies of the newsletters, they are available on the table at the back. If there is anyone not present and you can take and deliver their newsletter, it would be appreciated.

ARES Sean/VA3MED

This week is Emergency Preparedness Week and ARES group had a display at City Hall on Monday. The group was well represented with Bryan/VA3BLJ, Bob/VE3XBB, Bob/VE3HOW, Gerald/VA3GAK, and Sean/VA3MED.

The Niagara ARES group asked for assistance in a communications demonstration for Red Cross, Niagara on Wednesday. Bryan/VA3BLJ and Bob/VE3XBB provided the requested assistance and Sean/VA3MED read a POSITIVE letter of appreciation to the group from Dave Flarity/VE3DVE, AEC for the Niagara ARES group expressing their thanks and detailing the positive impact of the demonstration.

8:10 PM Break

50/50 Draw - Bob/VE3HOW had the winning ticket. Bob/VE3HOW donated his winnings back to the Club.

8:25 PM **Emergency Preparedness** Catherine Blair, CEM

Catherine Blair, the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Mississauga gave an excellent presentation on emergency preparedness which was both enjoyable and educational. She has been in her present position for 14 months and was with the TTC before that, and the Chemical industry prior to that.

The presentation used the City of Mississauga Emergency Plan (By-law 401-2006) for a number of examples. The plan is available on-line at this location:

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/emergencyplan>

9:30 PM Meeting adjourned

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

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

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:
Card Expiry Date (MM/YY):
Name on credit card:



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