

From the Gavel...



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Welcome back from our short hiatus. I hoped you enjoyed the Christmas break.

For a number of you, Christmas had come early. At the last meeting in November we held an impromptu flea market. Several lucky members bought up all the club radio equipment we had for sale at bargain basement prices. Approximately \$1600 was collected and will be used to fund future improvements to the club station. Asim (VE3XAP) who had cleared out his shack from a recent move, provided the free "door prizes". A few elderly members were nearly knocked over in the ensuing stampede. If only we could get our members to step forward as quickly when we ask for volunteers!

Over Christmas, Santa brought our Station Manager Stephen (VA3OBR) a number of other goodies. A roofing filter was received and installed the MP1000 MarkV to help fight off all the QRM during contests. We also received a remote antenna switch which will allow us to route any antenna to either of two radio positions. We also received one of two band pass filters (the other is on order) that will allow us to operate two radios at the same time using full legal power output without interfering with each other. With Tom's (VE3TWG) help and an EnerSource contact, we received an allotment of hydro insulators for free. They will be used on the guy wires for the ensuing tower installation to prevent detuning of the 80/40m beam.

For those who did not attend the Christmas dinner, shame on you. There was plenty of food, and a good time was had by all. We even

had a visit from Art Sinclair (VE3SQG) (a life member and past president) and his wife. Art is now retired and resides in Wellington near Picton.

During December, Earle's (VE3XEL) basic radio course was over and a number of students wrote their exam. As a result we now have 10 new licensed hams. By now, you have probably heard most of them on the repeater. Earle is looking for Elmers to help coach the new hams in the practical aspects of amateur radio. This will involve answering any questions they might have and perhaps inviting them over to the shack to show them your station. See Earle to sign up.

We ended off the year with the annual RAC Winter contest. We competed in the Multi-operator Single Transmitter, Low Power category where we set a new record with 1018 contacts and 410,380 points. Hopefully this stands up for the win!

That brings us to the new year where plans are already underway to make 2008 even a better year. Lorne (VE3CXT) and Bryan (VA3BLJ) are working hard to line up a source for new club apparel. The field day committee is looking for a new field day site. The Hamex committee is organizing our up and coming hamfest for March. The club is already selling the Grand Prize tickets for this event, so get your tickets early. So many things to do and so little time! That's it for now.

73 ... Rick Brown VE3IMG.

This Month

2. Commentary
3. Club Calendar
4. My First Transmitter
4. What's In Your 'Go' Kit?
7. The Roving Reporter
8. Minutes of the meeting November 22, 2007
9. Minutes of the Exec meeting December 06, 2007
10. 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



This is that very special time of the year when we welcome our newest hams to the club. Of all the activities of the club, I believe, this is the proudest. For what better way to prove that we are strong club than to see newly licensed

operators amongst us? The credit goes entirely to the Education Committee. Congratulations to Earle, VE3XEL and his team. I recall the same time last year when my classmates and I, after 10 weeks of intensive learning passed the exam. It was a proud moment indeed. Let us welcome the following new hams.

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 1. VE3YKW | Dale Crangle |
| 2. VA3AJE | Dale Pyne |
| 3. VA3CBS | Ken Midorikawa |
| 4. VA3PEN | Kihup Boo |
| 5. VE3LMH | Lynne Hutchiso |
| 6. VE3DAL | Peter D Mack |
| 7. VA3NMI | Scott Gregory |
| 8. VE3SVW | Stephen Delong |
| 9. VE3UKE | Andrew Motyliwski |
| 10. VA3JSG | John Grimmett (Advanced) |

In the words of George Iles, "Whoever ceases to be a student has never been a student". I wish these new hams great enjoyment with the hobby and hope to see them earning their Advanced Licence, soon. Er... in case you are wondering the Advanced Course is on right now. If you hurry, you could still join.

On another note, our president concludes his Gavel with this line "So many things to do and so little time!" Read between the lines and you will see he is seeking volunteers. Together we can accomplish great things and it really is not a huge commitment. Just ask any of our volunteers listed on the right hand side of this page.

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 |
| Basic Theory Courses | Earle Laycock, VE3XEL |
| Basic Theory Courses | Bob Hawkins, VE3AGC |
| Basic Theory Courses | Jody Levine, VE3ION |
| Basic Theory Courses | Don McPhee, VA3BOW |
| Basic Theory Courses | Basil Burgess, VE3JEB |
| Basic Theory Courses | Robert Dutton, VE3ZZF |
| CW Courses | Frank Lamb, VE3HTX |
| CW Courses | Earle Laycock, VE3XEL |
| House / Visitor Host 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 | 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 |
| Assistant | William Bressette, VE3WPJ |
| 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 | Open |
| Assistant – Documentation | Tony Champion, VA3QC |
| Assistant – Logging | Jody Levine, VE3ION |
| Assistant – Refreshments | John Duffy, VE3DRZ |
| Assistant – Site | Thomas Godden, VE3TWG |
| Assistant - Press and Publications | Reg Vertolli, VA3JQA |
| FSV Manager | Dave Stubbs, VA3BHF |
| Assistant | William Bressette, VE3WPJ |
| Programs Manager | Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT |
| Webmaster Manager (Source Code and DB) | Dave Harford, VA3DFH |
| Assistant | Dan Goodier, VE3NI |
| Assistant | Rick Brown, VE3IMG |
| Graphical Support | Alex Malikov, VE3MA |
| Legal Consultant | Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT |
| Public Information & Media Relations Manager | Tony Champion, VA3QC |
| Photography | Reg Vertolli, VA3JQA |

Audit Committee

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Auditors Coordinator | Basil Burgess, VE3JEB |
| Assistant | Robert Humphreys, VE3HOW |

Public Service

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ARES Emergency Coordinator | Dan Goodier, VE3NI |
| 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 / Walks Manager | Bob Boyer, VE3XBB |

CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2007 – 2008

January, 2008

03 Thu Exec Meeting
06 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
06 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
07 Mon Advanced Class 1
08 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
10 Thu Club Meeting
12 Sat North American QSO Party
14 Mon Advanced Class 2
15 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
17 Thu Radio Night at Club Station
19 Sat North American QSO Party
21 Mon Advanced Class 3
22 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
24 Thu Club Meeting
25 Fri CQ WW 160-Meter Contest
28 Mon Advanced Class 4
29 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net

February, 2008

03 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
04 Mon Advanced Class 5
05 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
07 Thu Exec Meeting
11 Mon Advanced Class 6
12 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
14 Thu Club Meeting
15 Fri ARRL International DX Contest
18 Mon Advanced Class 7
19 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
21 Thu Radio Night at Club Station
22 Fri CQ WW 160-Meter Contest
25 Mon Advanced Class 8
26 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
28 Thu Club Meeting
29 Fri ARRL International DX Contest

Provisional Schedule Below...

March, 2008

02 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
03 Mon Advanced Class 9
04 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
06 Thu Exec Meeting
10 Mon Advanced Class 10
11 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
13 Thu Club Meeting

15 Sat Russian DX Contest
17 Mon Advanced Class 11
18 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
20 Thu Radio Night at Club Station
21 Fri CQ WW WPX Contest
24 Mon Advanced Class 12
25 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
27 Thu Club Meeting
29 Sat HAMEX 2008
31 Mon Advanced Class 13

April, 2008

01 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
03 Thu Exec Meeting
06 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
07 Mon Advanced Class 14
08 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
10 Thu Club Meeting
15 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
17 Thu Radio Night at Club Station
22 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
24 Thu Club Meeting
29 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net

May, 2008

01 Thu Exec Meeting
04 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
06 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
08 Thu Club Meeting
13 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
15 Thu Radio Night at Club Station
20 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
22 Thu Club Meeting
27 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net

June, 2008

01 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's
03 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
05 Thu Exec Meeting
10 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
12 Thu Club Meeting
17 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
19 Thu Radio Night at Club Station
24 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
26 Thu Club Meeting - Pot Luck Dinner

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.

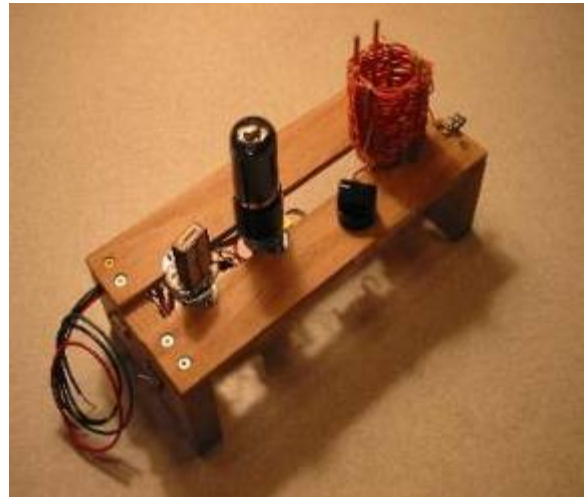
My First Transmitter

By: Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT



I was licensed in 1960 in high school. In those days you had to write an essay type exam and pass a cw test at 10 words per minute, and you were allowed to operate only on cw on the HF ham bands. After one year you could write your Advanced test but you had to also as part of that pass a cw test at 15 words per minute, and if you passed you had phone privileges. Once I was licensed I purchased a Hallicrafters S-40B receiver from another ham and decided to build a transmitter. I had some Radio Amateur Handbooks, and saw in one of them plans for building a simple 3 to 4 watt single tube transmitter on a wooden chassis which used slats from an orange crate for a chassis, popsicle sticks to support the home wound coil and Fahenstock clips (how many of you know what Fahenstock clips are?) to connect antenna and the key. It used a 6V6 triode. In those days you would go to the Yonge and Wellesley district in Toronto, where all the electrical component dealers were, to buy your components, and there were also there war surplus stores selling a lot of World War II stuff, like the 250 volt and 6 volt power supplies I bought really cheap (on a high school student's budget), the former to supply the tube's plate voltage and the latter to power the filament. I put that transmitter on the air and worked all over North America and Europe on cw with a folded dipole made out of 300 ohm twin lead. We were at that time in or approaching the

high point of the solar cycle. For this operation, I had and used a few crystals - there was no VFO - and I operated on



40 and 20 meters using those crystals, which made me pretty much "rock bound" as to frequencies.

The other day I was reading the January, 2008 issue of QST, which issue is the "annual vintage issue". Lo and behold, and most surprisingly, on pages 87 and 88 there is mention of that very transmitter and the author says that you can order a kit to build an identical one from www.pastimeprojects.com, and he goes on to say that it includes all components, instructions, schematics and pictorial diagrams, even an "old stock" 6V6 tube, tested and warranted. So if any of you want to partake of ham radio history with a rather simple building project, this item may be for you. Heck, maybe I'll buy the kit myself, and that way get my transmitter back.

What's In Your 'Go' Kit?

By: C. Edward Harris, KE4SKY <http://www.races.org/gokit.htm>

Many of us take an HT along on our daily activities. Obvious accessories are an extra nicad battery pack, external power cord, some sort of gain antenna and comfort and safety items in case of some unexpected disaster. It only takes your nicad to "go south" when you need to access the autopatch to report a traffic accident, or to get lost or break down on the road in an unfamiliar place to appreciate the value of being "prepared."

The best kit for you may not fit a "canned" list, but should be based upon your operating mode, experience and local conditions. It is better to have the bare essentials always handy than to leave a bulky pack someplace where you can't get to it. A larger kit bag is more practical if you are almost always in or near your home or car.

The trunk is the best place to store emergency gear because it is dry, relatively secure and is accessible either at home or away. I actually have three kits. An "everyday"

kit accompanies my HT and is small enough to fit in a briefcase. A larger "backup" bag stashed in the car provides 24 hours of auxiliary power, a spare HT, brick amp, coax and accessories for extended operating. The "disaster" bag has emergency cash, food, water, rain gear, a larger gel cell battery, clothing and shelter to sustain a 3-day activation or evacuation.

The ARRL ARES Field Resources Manual provide excellent guidance on "Go" kits. If you travel through rural areas, you should also include fire making supplies, a pocket knife and a compass in the kit. In the suburbs, you'll want a local street atlas, change for a pay phone and emergency cash or a credit card. A compact, sturdy flashlight, extra batteries, first aid kit, extra HT battery pack and spare eyeglasses of your current prescription are useful everywhere. If you regularly take prescription medications, you should carry those.

A typical "go" kit should sustain a day of continuous operation and be easily supplemented for overnight or weekend trips. The bare essentials are a 2-meter or dual-band HT, some sort of "gain" antenna, auxiliary power source, writing materials, comfort and safety items. You can do a lot with a minimum kit, if you plan its contents carefully. There is risk of not having something you may need if you go "too" light, but obvious "bells and whistles" should stay home.

My "every day" kit stays within easy reach. Including a dual-band HT, it weighs 5 pounds and is 4"x5"x10." It fits in a small waist bag and includes the following:

1. Dual-band HT in padded belt case.
2. Copy of current FCC Operating License.
3. "Tiger tail" (enhances transmit and receive of typical "rubber duck" by 3 db).
4. Extra high-capacity (1000 man) nicad, or backup AA battery case for HT.
5. DC adapter & cigarette plug cord for HT
6. Two extra 2A fuses, for HT cord .
7. Earphone and/or speaker mike
8. Spartan pattern Swiss Army pocket knife
9. Leatherman multi-purpose tool
10. Mini-Mag-Lite, extra bulb and spare AAs
11. Pencil and pocket notepad
12. Emergency gas / phone money (\$10 bill, + four quarters and five dimes in pill box).
13. SO-239 to male-BNC adapter to fit HT to mobile antenna coax and female BNC to SO-239 to fit HT gain antenna to jumper.
14. 6 ft. RG8-X jumper w/BHC male and female connectors to extend HT antenna with suction cups or auto window clip.

15. Spare eye glasses of current prescription.
16. Band aids, moist towelettes and sunscreen
17. Pocket sewing kit, matches
18. Small pocket compass
19. Operating reference card for HT
20. ARES phone and frequency reference card

The "Backup Bag" contains "24-hour" items in a sturdy shoulder bag with carrying strap. I am trying to reduce mine from its 12"x8"x6" size and 18 lbs. weight. I use a padded, ballistic nylon camera bag with external pockets marked as to contents. It stays in the car until needed. Suggested contents are:

1. Neck-lanyard pocket with spare car keys, \$20 emergency cash, credit card, long-distance calling card and ARES photo ID.
2. Second, "backup / loaner" 2-meter HT. (battery packs and accessories should interchange with the dual-bander)
3. Spare nicad and AA-battery pack, ear phone and speaker-mike for second HT
4. Operating manuals for HT's.
5. Fused DC adapter cords with Molex connectors for brick amplifier and HTs
6. Extra 10' AWG 10 gage twin lead extension cord, with battery clips, in-line fuses and Molex connectors to power brick amp or HT.
7. Compact, rugged, 25-40w 2 meter or dual-band brick amplifier. - See note at right>>.
8. Gain antennas for both HTs: (telescoping half-wave Larsen and flexible dual-band Comet CH-72, 1/4-wave VHF, 5/8-wave UHF).
9. HT nicad, and 12V gel cell wall chargers.
10. Four NP2-12 gel cell batteries to power small brick amp at 10w @ 25% duty cycle / 8 hrs.
11. Two refills of AA Alkaline batteries for HT.
12. RG8-X jumpers with soldered PL-259s, two 3 ft., one, 6 ft., one 10 ft. and one 25 ft. with double-female connectors to combine all.
13. BNC-male+BNC female to SO-239;
BNC-male+BNC female to PL-259;
NMO to SO-239 adapters.
14. Cable ties, large and small, 6 each
15. Lensatic compass, 7.5min. series area topo.
16. Two sharpened pencils, pencil sharpener, gum eraser, note pad, permanent marker.
17. ARES Field Resource Manual
18. Compact, rugged, flashlight (Pelican Stealthlite), with extra bulb and AA batteries
19. Two sets of spare fuses (2A, 10A, 15A) for HT cords, mobile radio or brick amplifier.

20. Comfort, safety and basic first aid items: sunglasses, matches, tissues, toothbrush, sun block, sewing kit, insect repellent, tweezers, band-aids, adhesive tape, gauze pads, wound cleaning wipes, etc.

PORTABLE BRICK AMP PARAMETERS:

The purpose of a brick amp for emergency use is to provide better range and clarity with an HT while providing maximum endurance when operating on battery power. When choosing a portable amp to augment a hand held for ARES, it should weigh no more than 1.5 lb., provide 10-15w output when driven by the HT transmitting on its low power setting and 25-40w output when the HT is operating at full power from its normal nicad battery pack.

A portable brick amp should draw no more than 8 amps of current at its maximum output, so that it can run safely from a Series 1545, .093 pin Molex connector and fused cigarette plug. FM mode only is fine. No preamp is wanted or needed, because a preamp usually increases intermod.

Low-priced, no-name amps may overheat and "quit" under heavy use. It is more important to buy a rugged amp with an ample heat sink than the smallest "box." Our ARES group has found the Mirage B-23, BD-45 and RF Concepts Mini-144 to be satisfactory in our experience.

The "Disaster Bags" -- are packed in a duffel, stowed with the "backup bag" in a Rubbermaid storage locker in the car trunk, until needed. Their contents are inspected and changed seasonally to provide a complete change of clothing, shelter, food and equipment to support a weekend activation or evacuation, such as operating a remote Skywarn Net Control station during a power outage accompanying a severe storm event:

1. 3-ring binder with Fairfax County ARES Handbook, Skywarn Net Control Operations Manual, area topo maps and operating manual for auto mobile rig, in zipper portfolio.
2. Dual-band or 2-meter mag mount antenna, with portable ground plane.
3. MS-44 mast kit, tripod adapter, dual-band base antenna and 100 ft. of 9913F coax on reel.
4. AC charger for HT nicads and small gel cells
5. BCI Group 27, 95 ah AGM battery and 1.5 amp charger (48 hrs. power for HT brick amp or mobile rig

on low or medium power, plus 12V, 8w fluorescent light, for use as needed).

6. 12-volt fluorescent drop-light with alligator clips for attaching to auto or gel cell battery, with spare bulb. Adequate light is important for operating efficiency and morale. A strong, battery powered light is safer and more reliable than gasoline lanterns.
7. Weller Pyropen soldering torch with 2 cans of propane fuel, 63/37 eutectic solder and flux.
8. Leather work glove shells, wool finger less liners, warm hat, wind/rain suit, sweater, insulated rubber safety boots, extra dry socks and change of underwear.
9. Tarp or poncho
10. Wool blanket or insulated poncho liner
11. Two message pads, two pencils, grease pencil, two sheet protectors, 12 push pins.
12. Vinyl electrical tape for rain wraps, 1 roll
13. Cable ties, large and small, 1 dozen each
14. Rubber bands, medium and large, six ea.
15. Adjustable open-end wrench, 6"x 0-5/8"
16. Folding hex key set
17. Klein pliers with crimpers and side cutters
18. Needle nose pliers
19. Channel locks or Vise-Grip pliers
20. Small, mobile-type SWR/power meter
21. Pocket VOM or multi-meter w/ test leads
22. Assorted connectors / adaptors including no-solder BNC and UHF for emergency repairs
23. First Aid Kit container.
24. 3 days supply of bottled water and nonperishable food (which can be eaten cold*), mess kit and utensils.
25. Personal hygiene and sanitation supplies.

* 1 gallon of water per person/day, is needed for drinking and washing. Good are canned soup, beans, tuna, juices, fruits, veggies which can be eaten cold, or warmed without further preparation; also peanut butter, cheese spread or jam in plastic jars, lots of hard candy, instant coffee, tea, dried fruit, crackers. Sterno is best for warming. Military MRE's are light weight and convenient, but some find them both expensive and boring. You get better variety, more appetizingly and cheaply at the grocery store, if weight is not a problem.

All of the above seems like "overkill," but ARES mutual response teams must be entirely self-sufficient, otherwise they cease being an asset and become a liability. The above is not the "last word", but is offered as a "thought starter" for your family or group disaster planning.

The Roving Reporter

This month the Roving Reporter interviewed Don McPhee VA3BOW.

VA3BOW

RR: How did you become interested in amateur radio?

VA3BOW: I had heard about ham radio as a kid. As a teenager, I built a Heathkit shortwave radio and I would get up early and listen to weather reports from Australia. I just had a long wire antenna on the roof. I remember buying the ARRL Handbook and thinking it was very technical in nature and probably very expensive to become a ham.

One of my friends joined the navy, and I joined shortly after him, after Grade X. I was sent to the radio school at the Cornwallis base near Halifax, where I learned the Morse code, to a speed of 22 wpm. After that I went to sea for a short time and later went back to school and then university where I studied business administration. I then taught high school, business subjects for 29+ years. I taught Accounting for over 20 years and finished off teaching computer based subjects.

I had always wanted to pursue the amateur radio hobby, and had bought a few handbooks over the years, but somehow never had the time to follow it up. As well I had always figured it was very costly. One day I was browsing on the internet and came across an extensive web page created by John Shannon, K3WWR, <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/> who is a qrp operator. After reading much of what John had on his web site I was convinced that you did not have to "break the bank" to become a ham.

Don Meaker, VE3KHN sold me a Heathkit HW-8, a qrp transceiver. I then decided to look around for course to study and get my license. After contacting Earle VE3XEL I joined the

basic class as well as our club. I got my call in December 2004 and my 5 wpm CW in January 2005. I liked the sound of the letter "B" in CW so I asked my wife for a three-letter word with this letter in it. She reminded me of the name our first son had called his Teddy Bear, "BOW." I asked for, and was given the call sign VA3BOW. It just seemed right.

RR: Tell me about your station?

VA3BOW: In January 2005 I bought a whole station of equipment from Peter Robertson, the former president of the Oakville ARC. I first saw this station advertised in our club newsletter. I ended up with a Kenwood TS-570S transceiver, power supply, station analyzer, 80m and 40m Isotron antennas, a 6m vertical antenna and a Cushcraft R5 vertical, along with two 2-metre transceivers and lots of coax. In May 2006 some members of the club helped me put up a 40 ft TV tower at the side of our home with the 17-foot R5 vertical on top. It all went up in about thirty seconds, from the horizontal to the vertical. This was, of course, after many hours trying to get the antenna tuned.

My son and I put up the 6m vertical on a similar 40 ft TV tower at the back of our home. Each tower has a couple of yardarms complete with pulleys and lanyards. I have just ordered a Traffie HX-5Bi Hex-Beam. This is a 5-band array covering the 10-12-15-17-20M bands. The Hex-beam will replace the 6m vertical I have on my back yard tower.

I am currently working on an 80 metre inverted "V", which should be up soon. Eventually a 40- metre dipole will go up. It is in the planning stages.

For CW I use a Bengali Simplex paddle, and a Logikit keyer, which I built with the help of Idiom Press.

I use a logging program called ACLog 3.0.

RR: How are you going to deal with the neighbour's objections to all these ugly antennas?

VA3BOW: I'm going to paint everything with invisible paint so the neighbours won't object. They won't notice anything out of the ordinary until the paint starts to wear off. All the US hams with these beams do it, you know.

RR: What are your operating interests?

VA3BOW: I enjoy CW the most. My first qso was with Hans in New Hampshire on 80m CW, using the Isotron. I was so excited I told my wife I "Made my first contact." She said, "Was it ET" since my statement reminded her of the movie of the same name. I said, "No, but close. His call was WA1UFO" (no kidding!). Another interesting contact occurred after I came home from a club meeting one night and worked an Australian ham on 17m CW.

RR: What else interests you in ham radio?

VA3BOW: I enjoy rag chewing and making DX contacts. I'm hoping to improve my cw speed, which is currently around 18 wpm now. I would like to build more things, in particular the control switch for the external antenna switch some members of the club built a while back. I enjoy working on antennas. I'm constantly amazed that you can communicate around the world on such a small amount of power. I enjoy Field Day, and the Ham-Ex hamfest. I feel that it is a privilege to be a member of RAC.

RR: What about other non ham-related interests?
VA3BOW: I've been an ordained permanent deacon in the Roman Catholic Church for 31 years. I serve at St. Patrick's Church and at the Mississauga site of Trillium Hospital.

Minutes of the meeting November 22, 2007

Location: St Thomas A Beckett Anglican Church
7:35 PM Call to order Rick/VE3IMG
Visitors: Robert Schaffrath, N2JTX
Attendance: 28

HAM Activity/Operating News:

The previous day, Michael/VE3TKI, Bryan/VA3BLJ, and Daniel/VE3NI had removed a Hygain TH5 MK2 off of a Delhi 64 ft, self supporting light duty tower. Now what was interesting was that the tower had a wind load rating of 3 sq. ft. and the antenna has a 7 sq. ft. wind load rating. Needless to say the tower was overloaded. The became very evident when one of the two guys (polypropylene rope) was removed from the gate where it had been tied and sent Daniel who was at the top for a little swaying action. Bryan quickly grasped the rope and stabilized the swinging motion. The antenna was very quickly removed and Daniel descended intact.

Rick/VE3IMG took the opportunity to point out the need to ensure that we are using the appropriate tower for the antenna.

Equipment Sale:

- Rick/VE3IMG went over the equipment that was for sale (a combination of donated equipment from VE3TY and surplus Club station equipment). It is being offered to Club members first and any equipment not sold will be listed on Ontario Swap Shop.

In the end, some of the large set of items were broken apart and purchased by different individuals.

Club Events:

The December 13 meeting will be our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. There will be no planned agenda. There will be NO meeting on December 27.

Reports:

ARES Daniel/VE3NI

- There will be a SET debriefing at the Club Station on Friday, November 30 at 7:30 PM.

Repeater/IRLP Michael/VE3TKI

The Phoenix radio has been swapped out - The IRLP board has been acquired. Don/VE3KHN has donated a computer. We need to install an antenna at the Club Station for use with IRLP. Robin/VE3VVS has donated his yagi, the one currently in use, however someone will need to retrieve it from on top of the roof.

Education Earle/VE3XEL

- Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum turned out pretty well. Peter and two other Hams were at the station. The station at the Museum is fairly small, it accommodates 4 people "comfortably".
- Classes are coming to an end, the Exam is scheduled for December 17. There is a prize for the highest mark, donated by Radioworld.

Membership Rick/VE3IMG

- We are at 96 members of which 48 are members of RAC. Rick once again emphasized the importance of being a member of RAC.

Club Station Rick/VE3IMG and Stefan/VA3OBR

CQ WW CW on November 23

ARRL 160 Meter Contest starting November 30

10m Contest on December 15

RAC Winter Contest on December 29

There is still a question whether the 80m beam will go up this year. The decision will be made tomorrow (Friday, November 23). The club station gave a breakdown on how their funds had been spent: Stefan passed around the Dunestar Mod 600 band pass filter that had just arrived today.

8:20 PM Break

The 50/50 with a pot of \$45 was won by Bryan/VA3BLJ. Bryan donated half of his winning back to the Club.

8:40 PM Basics of Casual HF Operation – Session 2

Michael continued his presentation on basic HF operating procedures. Once again it generated some excellent discussion amongst members both new and old to the hobby.

9:15 PM Meeting adjourned

Minutes of the Executive meeting December 06, 2007

Location: Club Station

Date: December 6th, 2007 Time: 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Present:

Rick/VE3IMG, Lorne/VE3CXT, Bryan/VA3BLJ, Asim/VE3XAP, Tom/VE3TWG, Stephan/VA3OBR, Bob/VE3XBB, Earl/VE3XEL

MARC Mailbox Pickup

- Mail not being picked up and membership checks not being cashed in a timely manner.
- Bob/VE3XBB to find or arrange second key to lock box.
- Bob/VE3XBB and Bryan/VA3BLJ to pick up mail every 2 weeks.
- Rick/VE3IMG to write letter to Post Office authorizing Bob and Bryan access to Post Office box.
- Large number of membership checks deposited in past few days.

Club Apparel

- Goldline no longer providing club apparel. Returned MARC digitized logo file to club.
- Lorne reviewed 3 potential suppliers. Recommended Embroid ME as they are local and have stock on site.
- Bryan/VA3BLJ and Lorne/VE3CXT to arrange for Embroid ME to present their apparel line to club on second meeting in March.
- Web Site: www.embroidme-dixie.com

Field Day Location Status

- William/VE3WPJ not present to provide status on obtaining Rattle Snake Conservation area as field day site.
- Field Day Committee (Lorne VE3CXT, Tom/VE3TWG, Bryan/VA3BLJ) concerned that this location has not yet been confirmed. William/VE3WPJ yet to respond to email enquires to the above.
- Rick/VE3IMG to follow up with William on status and possibly hand off task to Lorne if need be.
- Field Day Committee to survey other potential sites as backup.
- William to purchase 2.4ghz amplifier for FSV.

Possible New Repeater Site Location

- Previous exec met with City of Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services sometime last term to discuss using the Fire Hall location as a potential repeater site or backup location.

- Tom VE3TWG talked with Kevin Duffy Assistant Deputy Chief Fire & Emergency Services and it appears that we have been approved for Building Space and use of tower and existing antenna.
- Rick/VE3IMG and Asim/VE3XAP to arrange meeting with Kevin to confirm in writing permission to use facilities and discuss logistics of securing and using site.

Budget Update – Club Station

- Sale of radio assets to date: \$1600. This includes the Kenwood TS450 & microphone \$500, Kenwood TS830/VFO/Scope/\$500, Heathkit SB200 amplifier \$350 & Kenwood TS255 2-meter all mode \$250.
- Radio Station Manager Stephen/VA3OBR to determine what is to be purchase next for club station from this money. He will seek approval from club membership at first meeting in January.
- Roofing filter, remote switch and band pass filter has been received. Stephen to submit \$1,000 expense (part of \$1500 budget).
- Rick/VE3IMG to draft letter to Ken Beck of Enersource thanking him for contributions to the club, i.e. guy wire insulators and antennas. Ken to be offered free basic course and club admission for next year.

Pizza Night

- Pizza night for Basic Course graduates and executive scheduled for January 21.
- Location to be determined and will either be at Meals on Wheels or club station. Earl/VE3XEL to review with students.
- Earl to obtain confirmation of attendees prior to meeting to minimize food costs.

Building Generator

- The club has been offered a building generator for free.
- The club has declined because of the cost to remove and transport.
- Generator was offered to Gerry of DanMax. Gerry is interested in obtaining generator.
- Bob/VE3XBB to provide details on generator, i.e. size, weight, model and power rating. A building maintenance contact is also required to determine the removal and transportation costs.

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: 6%	
*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:

Mail to:
 Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.
 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217
 Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z5

