

## From the Gavel...



It is now March and we are up to our necks in snow. Another month or so, winter will be drawing to a close. So will our term as club executive. The year has flown by and it is now time

to prepare for elections.

So, can we expect a campaign process rivalling that of the Democratic Presidential Nominee race between Clinton and Obama? Not likely as most of the existing exec will be "running" for the second term. The only position that must be vacated is that of Treasurer. John Lorenc VA3XJL has served us well in that capacity for the past 2 years and his final duty will be to head up the nominating committee. So here is your chance to grab all the power and the glory if you are so inclined. Uncle "MARC" wants you!

Coming up at the end of the month on March 29th is the Hamex flea market. It is jointly sponsored by the MARC and Peel clubs who have spent the past year organizing the event. Hamex is probably the biggest and best flea market in Ontario, so you won't want to miss it. Quoting a past club member and now silent key Bill Reid Sr. (VE3VBC), "Hamex is the Dayton of the North!"

We could still use more volunteers, so any help would be appreciated. For those who do, your admission will be paid by the club. This event brings in a lot of money, so please help

to ensure its' success. Don't to forget to see Lorne VE3CXT at the club meetings to buy your grand prize raffle tickets for your chance to win a \$1,000 RadioWorld voucher. Thomas VA3TMB will be selling them at Hamex as well.

This month, Asim VE3XAP, Tom VE3TWG and I met with Kevin Duffy, the Fire Chief for the City of Mississauga. This turned out to be a fruitful meeting. We were offered space and the use of abandoned antennas and towers at a number of fire station locations throughout Mississauga. Fire station 12 located near the Burnhamthorpe GO train station on Creditview Road is of immediate interest to the club.

Kevin is knowledgeable on radio communications. He is quite aware of our involvement with ARES, the Red Cross and the City's emergency plan and is eager to help us. We will be establishing a committee to put together a plan on how to best utilize these facilities. Plans may involve moving one or both of the repeaters and/or establishing a wireless LAN network. Stay tuned for details.

73 .... Rick Brown VE3IMG

### This Month

2. Commentary
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### 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 winter we might have had record breaking snow and awful weather to put up with. The arrival of spring may be the sweetest thought for mere mortals. Not for us hams. For us too the excitement is just about to begin, but it is not

just about spring. Hamex is almost here. Those of you who have been there before know it is a big deal – quite literally. It was at the last Hamex that I bought my first brand new HF radio at an unbelievable price. It beat the American price even in the 92 cents-to-a-Dollar days. For the new hams looking to make a big purchase, my advice is hold on to your money. You never know what you will find at the Hamex. Then there are any number of miscellaneous things both new and used that are a must have for the shack. You really want to be there and be there early. I learnt my lesson the hard way. Good stuff disappears quickly.

Hamex is not the only thing we look forward to. The queen of all events is quite simply the Field Day. Vigorous planning is going on as I type this commentary. We have located a new picturesque site this year. It is the most fun a ham can have in two days and one night.

To spice things up in between there are a number of contests, with experienced contesters ever willing to show you the tricks of the trade.

The club is running a series of presentations on HF operations. This can be a real eye opener even if you have been DXing for a while.

With so much happening and with the solar cycle finally turning in our favour, all said and done, we could not be in a better situation.

So enjoy!

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
Past Coordinator & AEC	Sean Conlin, VA3MED
Assistant EC - 1st Day	Michael Brickell, VE3TKI
Assistant EC - 2nd Day	John Duffy, VE3DRZ
Assistant EC - 3rd Day	Bob Boyer, VE3XBB
Assistant EC - 1st Night	Sean Conlin, VA3MED
Assistant EC - 2nd Night	Dave Harford, VA3DFH
Assistant EC - 3rd Night	Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT
CANWARN Manager	Peter Mosher, VA3PKM
Special Events / Walks Manager	Bob Boyer, VE3XBB

## CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2008

### March, 2008

02 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
06 Thu Exec Meeting  
09 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
10 Mon Advanced Class 8  
11 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
13 Thu Club Meeting  
15 Sat Russian DX Contest  
16 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
17 Mon Advanced Class 9  
18 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
20 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
23 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
24 Mon Advanced Class 10  
25 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
27 Thu Club Meeting  
28 Fri CQ WW WPX Contest  
29 Sat Ham-Ex 2008  
30 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
31 Mon Advanced Class 11

### April, 2008

01 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
03 Thu Exec Meeting  
05 Sat SP DX Contest  
06 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
06 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
07 Mon Advanced Class 12  
08 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
10 Thu Club Meeting  
13 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
14 Mon Advanced Class 13  
15 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
17 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
19 Sat Ontario QSO Party  
20 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
21 Mon Advanced Class 14  
22 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
24 Thu Club Meeting  
27 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
29 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net

Provisional Schedule Below...

### May, 2008

01 Thu Exec Meeting  
04 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
04 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net

05 Mon Advanced Class 15  
06 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
08 Thu Club Meeting  
11 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
12 Mon Advanced Class 16  
13 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
15 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
18 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
20 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
22 Thu Club Meeting  
23 Fri CQ WW WPX Contest  
25 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
27 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
29 Thu ARES Meeting

### June, 2008

01 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
01 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
03 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
05 Thu Exec Meeting  
08 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
10 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
12 Thu Club Meeting  
15 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
17 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
19 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
22 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
24 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
26 Thu Club Meeting - Pot Luck Dinner  
29 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net

### July, 2008

06 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
13 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
20 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
27 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net

### August, 2008

03 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
10 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
17 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
24 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
31 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net

### September, 2008

07 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
14 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
21 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
28 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter 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.

## *Aruba trip notes*

**By: George VE3YV / K8HI**

For the past three years, my wife and I have vacationed in Aruba. Nice warm weather, great beaches, good food, and a laid back atmosphere. When we go down, I call Martin, P49MR (VE3MR), and Truus, P49TR (VE3MRS), who have a winter home there, to say hello and to see if we can get together for dinner. Martin is very active, especially on 12m, 17m, and when it's open, 6m with a Kenwood rig and a 50 foot tower overlooking the beach.

This year's get together turned out to be a bit more than a quiet dinner. Martin called to say that Andy, K2LE, and his wife had organized a dinner with some of the local hams and a few that were visiting - would we like to join them? Andy is best known for his contest station in Vermont K2LE/1 and also gets on the air with a vertical on the roof (five stories up) of his timeshare as P40LE. It turned out that the other visiting hams were there working on the P40Y contest station, co-owned by another Andy, AE6Y. He had invited down as the rest of the work crew, Tom, N6BT, a DXer/contester best known as the designer and owner of Force 12 Antennas and Ed, W0YK, another well known contester.

They had stripped the three towers and were busy repopulating them with new antennas for 80m to 6m, Force12, of course. Ed was doing the climbing duties 6 to 8 or more hours per day in 32C temperatures and typical Aruba breezes of 20-40 km. Tom, not surprisingly, was the antenna builder, with Andy doing everything else. As the

dinner was on their next to last day on the island, they were pretty tired, with a lot of work to go. Also in attendance was Joop, P43JB and his wife Yvonne. Joop is a cw-only operator active on 160-6m with Ten-Tec Omnis.

It's Joop's Optibeams for 40 to 6 m that you see on the south end of Oranjestad as you're driving north from the airport toward the hotels. Given there are no radio stores on the island, Joop is a master of homebrewing, winding a 160m link coupled antenna tuner from 50 feet of air conditioner tubing that looked like a professional unit in a beautiful wooden cabinet; desert island weatherproofing is about UV protection and blowing very fine sand grit. Also in attendance was another active local operator, Jean-Pierre, P43A, who monitors 6m whenever he's home.

We had a great conversation as he's getting into digital modes - PSK31 and RTTY - and has just started using Logger32 for computerized logging with his FT1000D and MP. It was a great evening of food and a chance to talk with some of the hams that I'd only known previously as a QSO in the log or a name on an article in QST. Much of the talk that evening was how surprising it was that the VP6DX Ducie DXpedition was workable on so many bands, given the sunspot minimum. After returning to the northern cold, I did hear P40LE and get to say "thanks" for a memorable evening. (And yes, Ducie was very workable on 10m-30m in their last two days of operation).

## *I've Got my License--Now What?*

**Earle VE3XEL, MARC Education Manager**

Recently I heard parents speak of visiting their son working with an aid agency in Tanzania. A mother brought a very young baby into their compound. The baby looked healthy but didn't make a sound. Her skin was taut. When the baby's blanket was removed, two club feet were revealed. The father refused to feed the child since it would only be a burden to the family in the future. The mother was caught between her maternal love and the reality of life in Tanzania. Such a problem could be remedied fairly easily in Ontario but with 180 surgeons in Tanzania with a population of 39 million people, surgery was not a solution. The baby did die.

This brought home how fortunate we are in Mississauga. We have all the necessities of life and opportunities that others may not even know. Often I am asked by new hams, what can they do, now that they have their license. My best

advice would be to get involved. Make use of the opportunities we are given. Don't be afraid of a small commitment to your hobby. And there are lots of opportunities!

Just got a handi-talkie? Great. Sign up to help with parking at HAMEX at the end of this month. Talk to Asim VE3XAP or Rick VE3IMG. Want to learn about HF? Get involved with Field Day planning and then sign up for a station setup at the end of June. Don't just show up and walk around or operate for 15 minutes! Get involved with a station and learn how to erect a temporary antenna, ground a station or solder a PL-259 with only 10 minutes left before going on the air !

One thing that I have learned over the years (I am a slow learner!) is that what you get out of something is directly

proportional to what you put into it. Another great way to learn about radio is to volunteer to help out with our club station. We need people to operate but we also need hams to string antenna wire and put up antennas. Afraid to climb? OK. Can you hand a wrench to someone who isn't? Call Stefan VA3OBR and volunteer your services.

One of the great rewards for us in Education is to see students become active in our club and share their skills and experiences to help others. There are lots of examples. I will pick out two.

Bob VE3XBB always had a love of radio but after years of raising a family, working and doing a million other things, he took our Basic course. The material was challenging but Bob persevered and got his license. Then he became active in the club and volunteered to take on the special events role. This involves working with fund raising groups like the Juvenile Diabetes Association or the Sunshine Foundation and then getting hams to come out to walk-a-thons to provide communications for the event. It's a lot of fun but there is much planning up front to ensure a successful event. Great work Bob!

Another example is Bryan VA3BLJ. Bryan retired from generating electricity to using it for ham radio. He too took our Basic course and then became active in getting our

station up and running. The early days were filled with dust and sweat but eventually it all came together. There aren't many monthly executive meetings (by the way, our executive meetings are always open to all...come out and say hi!) that Bryan misses and he has taken on a leadership role in the ARES activities in our club. He is also a driving force for HAMEX. Bryan was willing to get involved and dedicate a few hours each month to amateur radio.

If you asked either Bob or Bryan, I am sure they would agree that getting involved has been a rewarding experience for them. You gain knowledge, friends and good experiences. (OK, there will be a few shorts in the coax but nothing that you can't handle with the help of the club members!)

Sometimes you don't even have to have radio skills to be helpful. We are looking for a new treasurer as John VE3XJL has finished his term of office. Do you know how to balance your cheque book? Are you honest hi hi? Then let John know that you are interested in becoming our new MARC treasurer. He has everything organized now at the simplest level so you don't have to reinvent the wheel.

Yes we have lots of opportunities for new hams at MARC. But you have to make an effort to get involved. Believe me, if you do, you will find the experience well worth it.

## *Mississauga ARES Emergency and Disaster Radio Operating Procedures*

### **Radio Operators Guide By: Dan Goodier VE3NI**

#### **OPERATIONS - TECHNIQUES**

##### **CALLING AND COMMUNICATING TECHNIQUES**

The secret to working quickly and efficiently in an emergency net is to use standard procedures. The techniques presented herein are the most common. It doesn't take much analysis to see that standards and guidelines must be established and then utilized.

Before you key your mike, gather your thoughts about what you are going to say. Many hams have a tendency to talk and/or repeat too much. Say what you need to say without unnecessary repeats. Keep in mind that you must strive to get your message through the first time.

In general, there are five parts to Calling and Communications. The more serious or complex the situation, the more important these procedures become. The information printed herein **MUST** be practiced until it is second nature.

**FIRST**, you **MUST** give the tactical call of the station you are calling. This alerts that station that they are being called and that they should listen to determine who is calling.

**SECOND**, say "This is". The called station knows a tactical call follows. This is quite important in cases where there is a lot of confusion or poor signal conditions.

**THIRD**, give your tactical call sign. Note that we say tactical calls and not ham radio calls. Tactical call signs are important and ham calls are not, egos notwithstanding.

**FOURTH**, give your message. Speak clearly. Don't speak too fast especially if the message needs to be written down. Pause after logical phrases. Do not use the word "break" when you pause. It is confusing, wastes time and has another meaning in formal message handling. Merely unkey and pause. If the other station has questions, they should key up and make their request known. This also permits other stations to break in if they have emergency traffic.

**FIFTH**, end your message with "Over" or "Out".

## EXCEPTIONS OR VARIATIONS

1. It is sometimes permissible to omit the call designator of the station you are calling BUT only after communications have been established and no confusion will occur. Don't waste time, by using superfluous call signs.

2. The term "This is" is used to separate the FROM and TO call signs. If, and only if, confusion will not result, omitting the "This is" phrase is permissible.

3. If you are the calling station and you omit your own tactical call sign, you can create confusion. In certain situations, such as quick replies between operators, it can be accomplished without confusion. You must NOT use this simplification where messages can be interpreted incorrectly.

4. Elimination of the words "Over" and "Out" is possible where it doesn't introduce problems. Unkeying after your message implies "Over". To comply with ISC regulations, give your ISC assigned call every ten minutes OR at the end of a series of exchange communications, whichever comes first. Giving your call sign can imply an "Out" ending. Should giving your call cause any confusion, do not hesitate to add the word "Out". In HF single-sideband radio, it IS necessary to say the word "Over".

## RADIO PROCEDURES DURING EMERGENCIES

1. To transmit in the voice mode, always remember to talk across the face of the microphone! It is unfortunate that TV shows don't use this technique when they present, for example, detective shows. Actually that mike the cop/actor appears to use is dead--they record him on a high fidelity system with a different mike. So to make the picture appealing, the actor holds the mike six inches away and talks directly into it. This is how bad habits are picked up! If you are using a push-to-talk mike, put your lips right at the edge of the mike and talk across it. If you have a fixed station microphone, it is still a good way to get crisp, clean speech across. Talking across the mike cuts down on sibilants, breath sounds, the "popping" of "P's" and similar sounds. This technique makes the communication more understandable.

2. Speak slowly, distinctly, clearly, and do not let your voice trail off at the end of words or sentences.

3. On FM, hold the transmit button down for a least a second before beginning your message. This will assure that the first part of the message is not cut off by a slow squelch system.

4. Know what you are going to say before you push the mike button. Don't clutter the air up with: "Net Control, uh, this is VE, uh, Seven, uh, XYZ, and, uh will you call Mister, uh, uh, Black to uh, the radio uh, for Mister Green, uh, over?" It is very easy to confuse the whole transmission if the operator does not have the facts right on the tip of the tongue and ready to put out the message in a crisp and orderly fashion.

5. Make sure you are not on the air with someone else. Listen before transmitting--the pause you hear from the Net Control Station (NCS) may be deliberate to allow two other stations to complete a transmission.

6. Chewing gum, eating, and other similar activities tend to clutter up the clarity of your speech. Don't.

7. On 2-meter and other VHF bands, look for a receiving "hot-spot" site and use it, particularly when on the fringes of communications. Don't walk around talking while in communications fringe areas. Repeaters have much more power than your handheld. Even if you have a good signal from the machine, it does not mean you are good into the machine.

8. Under stress, many operators have a tendency to talk fast. Even if you are in the midst of the action, remember to talk slowly and clearly in order to get the message across correctly. Accuracy First. Speed Second.

9. Avoid angry comments on the air at all costs. Also, obscene statements reflect on the Amateur Radio fraternity. Remember there are many "scanners" in use by unlicensed but interested people, including reporters, and your operating techniques are under observation all the time.

10. If you are relaying a message for another person, be sure you repeat the message exactly, word-for-word, as it is given to you. If it makes no sense to you, get an explanation before you put it on the air. Refer the message back to the originator for clarification.

11. Sound alert. Nothing destroys confidence as much as a bored or weary-sounding radio operator. If you are tired, get a relief operator.

12. Forget humor on the air during drills and obviously in real emergencies. A radio system suffers enough confusion without wisecracks and jokes. Amateur Radio may be a hobby to enjoy, but the ARES function is serious business and should be treated as such at all times.

13. Watch certain words. They sound almost like the opposite meaning. For example, "can't" almost sounds like "can," and with a poor signal--who knows. "Unable" is a better choice. Use "affirmative" instead of "yes." Use

negative" instead of "no." "Roger" is a good word. It means "message received," implying that it is understood. It does not mean "affirmative" or "yes." The use of Q signals on ARES voice circuits is not advisable! They are too easily misunderstood, rarely save time, and often result in errors.

14. Identification of units in a multi-station ARES network is a requirement under Industry Canada regulations. However, if the NCS and each of the outlying ARES stations give a complete identification at least once in a thirty minute period during the contact, the use of abbreviated call-sign identification or tactical ID is acceptable. As an example, VE7XYZ can use "7XYZ" or "First-Aid 1" or "Command Central" as long as the complete call is given as VE7XYZ at 30-minute intervals during the contact and at the end of the communication.

15. Always identify your unit at the beginning of each transmission. The NCS, or anyone else for that matter, needs to know who is calling because voice identification may be difficult. Identify your unit again when the message exchange is completed, as required by the regulations.

16. The word "break" is never used unless there is an emergency. State your call letters (or tactical ID) to gain access to the net.

17. Remember that the strongest signal "captures" the receiver on FM. When two or more stations are on the air at the same time, confusion can result. Check to see that you are not overriding someone or blanking out their communications with your signal.

18. Do not act as a "relay station" unless the NCS, or another radio station, asks for a relay--and you can fulfill the requirement at your station.

19. When transmitting numbers (house numbers, street numbers, telephone numbers), always transmit the number sequences as a series of individual numbers. Never say numbers in combinations. Example: "12345 SW 148 Ave." is given as a series "one, two, three, four, five, south west, one, four, eight Avenue." Do not say: "Twelve three forty five south west A-hundred forty-eight Avenue." There is much confusion when sending combinations of numbers.

20. There is no such thing as "common spelling" in ARES work. If there is a proper name to be transmitted, always spell it out using the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) phonetic alphabet. Do not improvise a phonetic alphabet; if you don't know the ITU-recommended phonetics, now is a good time to learn it and use it in your daily operations:

A	Alfa	J	Juliett	S	Sierra
B	Bravo	K	Kilo	T	Tango
C	Charlie	L	Lima	U	Uniform
D	Delta	M	Mike	V	Victor
E	Echo	N	November	W	Whiskey
F	Foxtrot	O	Oscar	X	X-Ray
G	Golf	P	Papa	Y	Yankee
H	Hotel	Q	Quebec	Z	Zulu
I	India	R	Romeo		

21. Always acknowledge calls and instructions. You can acknowledge by just giving your unit identification or tactical call sign. Nothing is more disruptive to the smooth flow of communications than dead silence in response to a message. If you cannot copy, or respond to the call immediately, then tell the caller to repeat or stand by. Otherwise, acknowledge each call immediately.

22. Never acknowledge calls and instructions unless you understand the call or instructions perfectly. If you do not understand, ask for a repeat. Make sure you have the instruction right before acknowledgment.

23. NCS stations frequently are very busy with work that is not on the air. If you call the NCS and do not get a reply, be patient and call again in a minute or two. If it is an emergency, call more often and so state; otherwise, just space the calls to the NCS until they answer. You may be in a dead spot; try moving your position slightly until acknowledged. Above all, be patient.

24. Only transmit facts. If your message is a question, deduction, educated guess, or hearsay, identify it as such. Do not clutter up the air with non-essential information. Particularly important is information regarding ARES emergency work where rumors can be started from overhearing a transmission on a scanner or other non-ARES receiver. Be careful what you say on the air!!

25. Always know where you are located. If you are mobile or portable and moving around, always keep a sharp lookout for location identification. The NCS and many others may need to know exactly where you are physically located, so keep a sharp eye on surroundings. If called upon, you can accurately describe your location at any time. This is particularly important if you are with a search team or other mobile units.

26. Always keep a monitor on the net frequency. If you must leave the frequency, ask permission from the NCS to

change. Advise the NCS of the change and always report back to the NCS when you have returned to the net frequency. It is vital that the NCS knows the whereabouts of each station in the net. Keep the NCS advised.

27. Stay off the air unless you are sure you can be of assistance. It does no good to offer advice, assistance, comments or other input to a net unless you can truly provide clarification. It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt!

28. Many times radio conditions are poor and words must be over-exaggerated to be understandable. In general, speak very slowly and distinctly to carry through static or weak signals. The following list provides pronunciation of numbers in poor conditions:

One - "Wun" Two - "Too" Three - "Tharee"

Four - "Fower" Five - "Fiyuv"

Six - "Siks" Seven - "Sevven" Eight - "Ate"

Nine - "Niner" Zero - "Zearow"

(The number "zero" is never to be pronounced as "oh.")

29. If you do not understand the whole message given to you or if you missed a word out of the transmission, reply with "Say again." Do not say "Please repeat" because it sounds too much like "Received" when conditions are poor.

30. When you have understood the message, acknowledge the receipt with the words "received" or "acknowledged." Do not say "QSL" since it may be misunderstood or even missed under poor conditions.

Above all, analyze your present operating methods and try to polish each element so your contribution to ARES is worthwhile. The NCS may have final authority, but good, crisp operating methods and procedures almost make a net run without an NCS.

## ***The Roving Reporter (Conspiracy finally exposed!!!!!!!)***

Your editor had a call from the Roving Reporter last night. He had an incredible tale to tell. Members will recall that Victor Viggiani came to a meeting awhile ago, with an incredible story of government cover-ups regarding the existence or other wise of UFOs. Well, this rivals that one in importance. After extensive research and consultations with CSIS regarding the accuracy of these claims, and subjecting the RR to polygraph testing, I have concluded that he is telling the truth, and nothing but the truth. So I decided to publish the interview below.

RR: Well let me begin by saying that this story is one of skulduggery and misdemeanours, and miscarriage of justice. It rivals the conspiracy theories surrounding the Kennedy assassination of 1963. I was tossing and turning one night, unable to sleep, and the phone rang. At first I was confused, because I could not tell which phone had rung, let alone which one to pick up. We have a set of those new fangled ones. You know the ones that you can set to ring the William Tell Overture on one, Celine Dion on another, Shania Twain on the next....

Editor: just get on with it, will you, I don't have all day....

RR: Oh, I thought it was important to provide the appropriate background.

But I can see you are about to fire me if I digress too much; how much would I have to blather on to get you to actually fire me?

Editor: Stony silence.

RR: Well anyway, the phone rang. Hello, I said, who's this? It's 3am in the morning, are you selling windows and doors, or ICOM radios cheap, or what? Who are you, anyway?

Hermette: My name is Hermette.

RR: So, why are you bothering me at this ungodly hour? It's still dark outside.

Hermette: But I figured you would be up looking for VP6DX, the Ducie island DXpedition. I won't take much of your time. I read the article in the Communicator about the Club's FSV, and

I just was so VERY upset and could not keep this to myself any longer. There is another side to that story. It's been eating away at me all these years. I want justice and I want it NOW.

RR: Well, if you've got a problem, why come to me? There are lots of lawyers in the yellow pages you know.

Hermette: Well the colour yellow, or orange brings back bad memories for me. Besides, I did call a lawyer and he refused to help me.

RR: Which lawyer did you call?

Hermette: I called Sir Lord Jackson of Crossbow. He practices in Oakville but he said

he could not take on my case as he was too busy defending murderous sheepdogs. But he did comment that he was still a Canadian citizen, and not going to jail anytime soon, and that I should not confuse him with Lord Black of Cross Harbour, who is not one anymore, and is. I'm not sure what the relevance of that is though...

RR: So what's this about the colours stuff?

Hermette: Well, I am a caterpillar, and my fur is orange/yellow in colour.

RR: So?

Hermette: Don't keep interrupting. Let me tell my story or I will go to Peter Mansbridge instead.

RR: OK, OK

Hermette: Well, it was a bright and sunny day on Bucklepost Crescent. Herman (he's my husband, actually to be strictly correct, he was my husband) and I were out for our daily constitutional. Here's a picture of the two of us (Figure 1). That's me on the



bottom. We were chatting about how we thought we should fulfill our lifelong dream.

RR: What dream is that?

Hermette: Actually, it was a dream but is no longer. Well we had been reading the Communicator and had been looking at the club's web site and had decided that we would both become hams. Ever since we were teenagers we had wanted

to do this, and we had been shortwave listeners for years. As a matter of fact we had just decided to call Earle VE3XEL about this when we heard voices above us, and stopped to listen. From the conversation we gathered that there were two carpenters working on this trailer thing, the one you guys call the FSV. I guess we were getting a bit close to the FSV, because, Michael, the kind and caring carpenter, reach down and carefully moved us a bit away, to a safer place. We thanked him, and carried on with our walk. At one point I stopped to tie my shoes. This took a while as I have lots of feet you see. Herman did not stop to wait. So when I was done I carried on hoping to catch up with Herman. Imagine my shock and dismay when I could not find Herman anywhere. I found something else instead.

RR: what did you find?

Hermette: I found a smear on the driveway. It was orangey and yellow in colour. I have a picture (Figure 2). I immediately suspected the worst. This was all that was left of my beloved Herman - the last thing he would have seen was the underside of a shoe. I was like, SO upset.

RR: Well what did you do then?

Hermette: Well I asked the carpenters if they had seen Herman. The kind and caring one said he thought he had moved us. The other one, Tony, the cruel and

heartless uncaring carpenter, just laughed and said "There's lots more caterpillars where he came from. Why I saw lots over at the dump last week when John and I dropped off those repeaters". I was just crushed and devastated.

RR: Do you mean crushed like Herman?

Hermette: That's not a very nice thing to say.

RR: So what did you do then? Did you call 911 or the police?

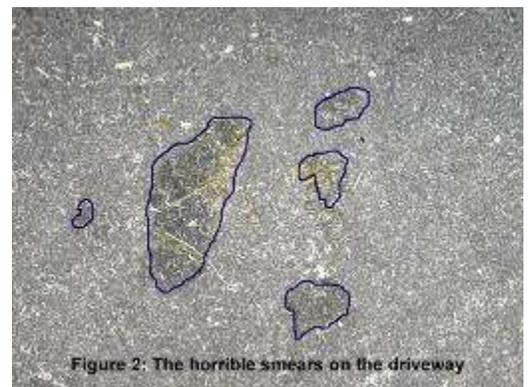
Hermette: Well there was nothing I could do. I could not use my cell phone to call 911 as I do not weigh enough to push the buttons. The cruel and uncaring carpenter refused to call for me. The kind and caring carpenter did offer his condolences, and offered to wash away the smear, in contrast to the cruel and uncaring one. So I went home to tell my son Underfoot what had happened. He was crushed when he heard the news.

RR: Crushed? Surely you don't mean....

Hermette: No no no, it's just a figure of speech.

RR: Oh I get it now. Well yes I can imagine he would be somewhat disturbed to hear your news. So what did you do then?

Hermette: Well life has been hard without my beloved furry Herman.



He kept me warm at nights you know. I have to keep the house really warm now, at 20oC. I know now how Michael VE3TKI feels in his extremely cold house. It's really been a nasty turn of events. And so unexpected. I mean it was just a nice bright sunny day when all this happened. Oh yes, you asked what I did next. Well we had a funeral.

RR: A funeral for a caterpillar, really? Tell me more.

Hermette: Well we did the whole thing, hearse and everything. But of course we had to scrape him off the driveway first, which was somewhat difficult.

RR: Well that must have meant a rather small casket.

Hermette: Well yes, as a matter of fact we used part of a small plain white envelope. There wasn't much left to bury. And we had a graveside ceremony. I visit every day. See, here's a picture (Figure 3). He's buried under that rock by the cross.

RR: Well Hermette; that's an

astounding tale. Have you been able to get any closure from what must have been an extremely trying experience?

Hermette: Well I'm very lonely now, since there's just me left (Figure 4). And recently I climbed up the outside wall of the condo the cruel and uncaring carpenter lives in, to see if I could discuss this with him, but he refused to open the window. A squirrel nearly got me, too, but he was actually a vegetarian and left me alone. And the friendly carpenter asked me over for a cappuccino a couple of days ago. So maybe as time passes I will feel better.

RR: Well thank you for sharing all this with the readers of the Communicator.

Hermette: I did get my licence in the end, thanks to

Earle and Thomas, who are SUCH good instructors. As you can see from Figure 4, I went to Radioworld and they built in some antennas for me. See you on the bands....



Figure 3: The Grave



Figure 4: Alone in the World - just me left...

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