

## From the Gavel...



It's now December, we've already had our first bit of snow, and Christmas is now around the corner. The meeting night on December 11th will be our annual Christmas Pot Luck

Dinner. This is your chance to impress everyone with your culinary and baking skills. Murray VE3JMY, our House Manager will be supplying the china, cutlery and drinks. Non-alcoholic of course! Feel free to bring the wife and kids. This is our last get together of the year. The second meeting of the month is cancelled as it falls on Christmas day. So, please come out and join in the festivities.

While December is a busy month for Christmas shoppers, it is also a busy month for testers. A better alternative to wading through busy malls and long line-ups would be to fight your way through crowded band conditions and pileups. The ARRL 160m CW contest starts on December 5th. While this is a night time contest, there will be lots of activity. The following week is the ARRL 10m mixed phone/cw contest. The evening of December 26 starts the 24 hour RAC Winter phone/cw contest. Surely this beats lounging around in your favourite chair sleeping off a big turkey dinner.

Contesting won't be the only club activity. Thomas VA3TMB has ambitious plans to

build and install a 6m repeater at the club station prior to Christmas. This project includes building a duplexer from scratch using heliax cable in lieu of conventional cans. The controller for the repeater has arrived and the crystals for the repeater are on the way. If you are interested, give Thomas a shout before it's too late.

At the same time, Jeff VA3WXM and Tom VE3TWG are negotiating with the Assistant Deputy Fire Chief of Mississauga to have the 6m repeater located to the Erindale fire station at Creditview and Burhamthorpe Rd. The tower at this location is no longer in use. A repeater here would resolve coverage problems we have in the west end of the city. If this proves successful, we may consider moving the existing UHF/VHF repeaters to this location.

So, that's it for yet another year. Time flies when you're having fun! Happy Holidays and hope to see you and your family at the dinner.

P.S. If you're that last minute shopper looking for the perfect stocking-stuffer, the club is selling the Collins Linear amplifier for \$700. I'll help you sneak it into the house.

73 and Merry Christmas .... Rick Brown VE3IMG

### This Month

2. **Commentary**
3. **Club Calendar**
4. **WebSDR**
5. **Portable Tower**
6. **The Roving Reporter**
7. **A "Real" Ham's Test**
8. **For Sale**
9. **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.



## CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2008 - 2009

### December, 2008

04 Thu Exec Meeting  
05 Fri ARRL 160 Meter Contest  
06 Sat NEWS  
07 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
07 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
08 Mon Basic Class 12  
09 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
11 Thu Club Meeting - Potluck dinner  
12 Fri ARRL 10 meter Contest  
14 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
15 Mon Basic Class 13  
16 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
18 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
21 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
23 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net  
25 Thu Christmas - NO Club Meeting  
26 Fri RAC Canada Winter Contest  
28 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net  
30 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net

### January, 2009

01 Thu Exec Meeting  
04 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
05 Mon Advanced Class 1  
08 Thu Club Meeting  
10 Sat North American QSO Party  
12 Mon Advanced Class 2  
15 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
17 Sat North American QSO Party  
19 Mon Advanced Class 3  
22 Thu Club Meeting  
23 Fri CQ WW 160-Meter Contest  
26 Mon Advanced Class 4  
29 Thu ARES Meeting

Provisional Schedule Below...

### February, 2009

01 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
02 Mon Advanced Class 5

05 Thu Exec Meeting  
09 Mon Advanced Class 6  
12 Thu Club Meeting  
19 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
23 Mon Advanced Class 7  
26 Thu Club Meeting

### March, 2009

01 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
02 Mon Advanced Class 8  
05 Thu Exec Meeting  
09 Mon Advanced Class 9  
12 Thu Club Meeting  
16 Mon Advanced Class 10  
19 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
23 Mon Advanced Exam  
26 Thu Club Meeting  
29 Sun Ham-Ex 2009

### April, 2009

02 Thu Exec Meeting  
05 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
09 Thu Club Meeting - Church not available  
16 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
23 Thu Club Meeting  
30 Thu ARES Meeting

### May, 2009

03 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
07 Thu Exec Meeting  
14 Thu Club Meeting  
21 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
28 Thu Club Meeting

### June, 2009

04 Thu Exec Meeting  
07 Sun Sunday Brunch - Shopsy's  
11 Thu Club Meeting  
18 Thu Radio Night at Club Station  
25 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.

## WebSDR on 20m, 40m and 80m <http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901>

*On this page you can listen to and control a short-wave receiver located at the amateur radio club ETGD at the University of Twente. In contrast to other web-controlled receivers, this receiver can be tuned by multiple users simultaneously, thanks to the use of Software-Defined Radio.*

### Introduction

On the main page you can listen and control a short-wave receiver. In contrast to other web-controlled receivers (such as those from <http://www.dxtuners.com>), this receiver can be tuned by multiple users simultaneously, thanks to the use of Software-Defined Radio technology.

One goal of (and the original motivation for) developing this software is future use at the Dwingeloo Radio Telescope.



Figure a- the building in which the system is located

### Use

Tuning is done either by clicking or dragging with the mouse on the waterfall display, by typing a frequency into the text box, or by using the up/down buttons. The bandwidth can be changed by clicking the appropriate buttons, and by "dragging" the edges of the yellow passband indication.

### Hardware

The present system consists of the following hardware:

- A W3DZZ trap-dipole for the 80 and 40 meter amateur radio bands, on top of the 40 m high "Hogekamp" building of the University of Twente.
- Simple bandpass filters for the 80 m, 40 m and 20 m bands.
- A quadrature mixer in which the signals are mixed with about 7080.7 kHz. This mixer is a Quadrature Sampling Detector or "Tayloe mixer", the well-known circuit with a four-position CMOS switch, which is also used in many amateur radio SDR front-ends such as the SDR-1000 and the SoftRock.

- Similar mixers operating at 3600 kHz and 14161 kHz.
- A PC with soundcards to receive and process the signals coming out of the quadrature mixers. The PC is an old Pentium-III at 1 GHz, running Linux and the WebSDR server software (written by PA3FWM).

The circuit in the foreground contains the quadrature mixers for 40m and 80m, and preselection filters; the PC is in the background. The PC has several more sound cards, so we intend to add more bands to the system by building more mixers.

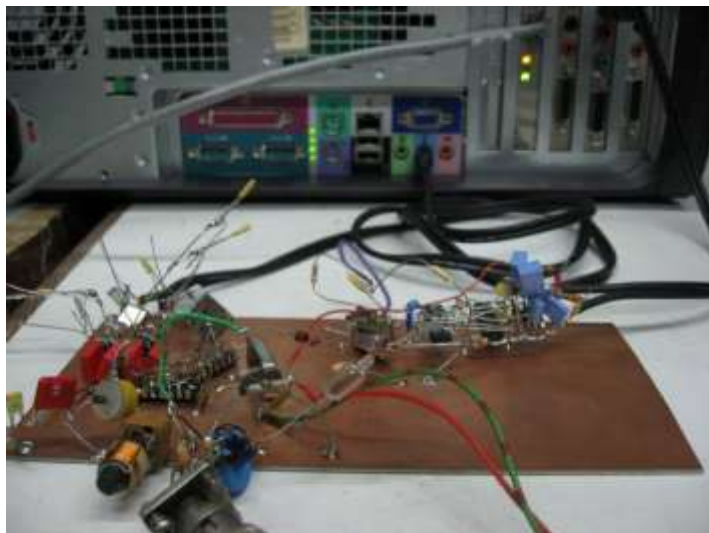


Figure b - the hardware

### Software

The system consists of the following software:

- The WebSDR server software running on the server PC. This software on the one hand does the digital signal processing to produce the audio data streams and the waterfall pictures, and on the other hand is a simple web server to offer this data and some static files to the users.
- A small Java applet running in the user's web browser, to send the audio data received from the server to the user's sound card.
- Another Java applet running in the user's web browser, which fetches the data for the waterfall display from the server and displays it.
- Some Javascript code on the web page, to "glue" things together.





use by Fire Departments and Police Departments. It could be used by farmers for auxiliary light out in the fields or other areas. Remember, this is a light tower and may find uses by many other groups or individuals for various reasons.

There are several options for mounting an antenna at the top of the tower. A coupling with a 2-inch to 1-inch bushing and a stub 1-inch pipe (10-12 inches in length) may be used with 1 ½-inch U-bolts.

## The Roving Reporter

*The Roving Reporter recently interviewed Mike Butler VA3MDB. Read the article and you will realize that Mike has more hobbies than you have fingers in your hands. Despite being an armature photographer, astronomer, handy-man, tv buff and more, mike finds time to do radio. With an attic choc-full of antennas, it is easy to know where his priorities lie!*

RR: How did you become interested in amateur radio?

VA3MDB: I remember listening on a friends SW radio to John Glenn's Mercury capsule orbital space flight in 1962, when I was 10, and thinking that it was neat. I had an uncle who was a ham and visited his station in Cornwall once. I was a short wave listener and also had a scanner for many years. I remember being at my brother's cottage about 10 years ago, and listening to my scanner, and thinking I want to do more than just listen. When I got back to Mississauga I looked on the web and found that the Mississauga club was just around the corner, two blocks away, from where I lived. So I took the MARC course in 1997 and got my callsign in January 1998. Tony Allsop VE3FTA was the instructor. I got my cw in February 2000.



RR: What do you have as a station?

VA3MDB: My first ham radio was an Atlas 210X transceiver, which turned out not to be so great as it drifted on transmit, even though it was a solid state design. I eventually traded it for a Radio Shack 10m ssb transceiver. I worked 87 countries on 25 watts with it in a year, back when sunspots existed. I had a Kenwood TS570S for a while, and then I got my current hf radio, a Yaesu FT1000MP MK V Field, which I am very pleased with. I

To erect the tower I use a piece of 5/8 inch rod driven into the ground with about 4 inches left out of the ground for the tower to set upon so as not to allow the bottom to kick out. I attach three guy wires 120 degrees apart at the top of the first section to stakes driven 10 to 12 feet out from the tower. It could also be erected on a 2-inch square into the hitch of a car with a strap placed from the pipe to the luggage rack.

also have a Yaesu FT897 which I use for 6m and 2m. I have an LDG autotuner for the FT897, and an external DSP unit. I have just bought an ICOM 91AD handheld, the one with DStar capability.

I am restricted for antennas as I live in a townhouse. All of them are in my attic. I have an Alpha Delta DXEE (10m through 40m), an 80m Isotron (which does not work very well), a loop antenna for 2m ssb, and a homemade dipole for 6 meters. I have one of the club 2m/70cm J poles, and also a discone scanner antenna. So my attic is somewhat crowded!

I use Logger32 for logging, and I am trying to integrate it with HamRadio Deluxe, so that I can use the computer to control the station as well as

having the electronic log.

I would like to get an antenna switch so that I can connect both HF radios to my LDG tuner and antennas more easily.

RR: What areas of amateur radio interest you?

VA3MDB: My main interest is dxing on hf and 6 meters. I have my DXCC all band award with 150 confirmed, also the 10m DXCC award, and the VUCC award for 6 meters (100 grid squares confirmed). As well I have the CQ WAC (Worked All Continents) award, which was my first one. Presently I have 201 worked and 194 countries confirmed. I'm just about ready to apply for the DXCC 20m ssb award

and hope to get the 15m award if we ever get any sunspots again. Also I'm working on WAS and WAZ awards.

I have done some RTTY and some PSK31 stuff. These modes are good for late at night to avoid disturbing my wife by calling CQ! The digital stuff is just casual operating, using the MK V and a VOIP interface. I would like to get a TNC so I could set up APRS at home. I think APRS tracking is an interesting area.

As well at the moment I'm trying to figure out the DStar handheld.

RR: What are your other interests?

VA3MDB: My other interests are computer systems building and upgrading them. Also I enjoy photography using my new Sony Alpha A350 digital camera and its various lenses, and I like astronomy. A would not call my renovating a hobby but a necessity I have done a lot of work in my new place, building banisters on the stairs, laying floors, redoing the kitchen and painting the whole house. My other major interest is developing my home theatre systems. In my rec room I have a 50 inch Toshiba CRT rear view TV along with a 5.1 Sony receiver and a Toshiba HD-A1 HD DVD player. Up in the living room I have a 42 inch Toshiba HD Plasma. Hoping to get a Blue Ray player at Christmas. My favourites are the SciFi and action movies.

## A "Real" Ham's Test

1-Aliens from a highly advanced planet visit's earth and you are the first person they encounter. They give you a small, metallic disc that can eliminate all disease, bring world peace, and a stable economy. Do you:

- A - Give it to the president of the United States
- B - Deliver it to the United Nations
- C - Take it apart to see how it works

2-As you grow older what quality of your youthful life do you miss the most?

- A - Boundless Energy
- B - 39 Cents per gallon gas
- C - Peak Sunspot Cycles

3-When is it OK to hug another male?

- A - When it's your father & you haven't seen him in over a year
- B - When you are performing the Heimlich maneuver
- C - When The homebrew antenna you and your buddy just put up actually works

4-In your opinion the ideal pet is:

- A - Cat
- B - Dog
- C - A parrot that can ID for you every 10 minutes without prompting

5-One morning your XYL tells you she is not feeling well and asks you to get the 3 children ready for school. You reply:

- A - "We have three kids?"
- B - "Is there anything special they need to take to school?"
- C - "Sorry, I'm Net Control at 0700 for The Old Ragchewers Net"

### How to score:

Give yourself 20 points for every time you answered C, 10 points for any other answer

100 Points-A Real Ham

80 Points-You Have The Potential Of Becoming A Real Ham

60 Points-Better Start Reading QST, CQ & The ARRL Handbook

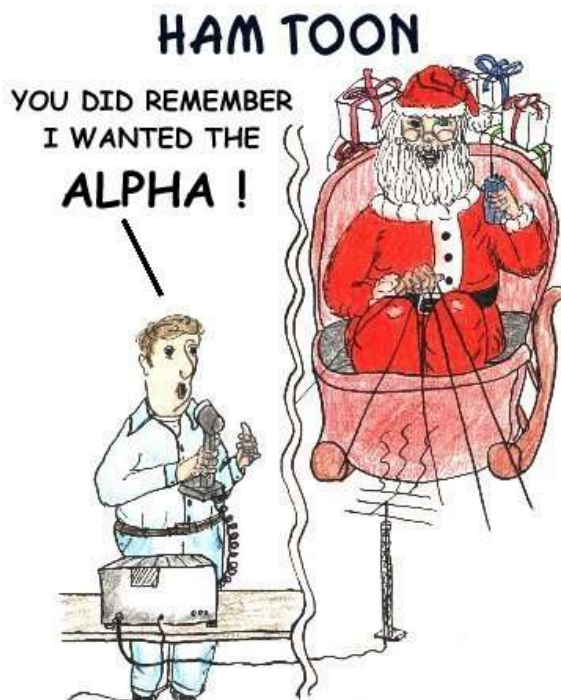
50 Points Or Less-No Hope. Better donate your equipment to a school radio club and take up another hobby like yard work, collecting paper clips, or go shopping with the XYL.

## For Sale

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Yaesu Antenna Tuner/Switcher FC-102                  | \$250.00 |
| 2. Yaesu Monitor Scope (with spare CRT) YO-100          | \$140.00 |
| 3. Yaesu Speaker/Phone Patch SP-102P                    | \$75.00  |
| 4. Yaesu World Clock (all zones, Collector Item) 7RW002 | \$75.00  |
| 5. Heathkit Electronic Keyer HD-1410                    | \$35.00  |
| 6. Heathkit Relative Field Strength Meter HD-1426       | \$35.00  |
| 7. Kenwood Interface IF-232C                            | \$35.00  |
| 8. Kenwood Desk Mic MC-85                               | \$100.00 |
| 9. Lambic Keyer   | \$30.00  |



Call Don Meaker, VE3KHN at 905-624-9839 or email [meakerdc@sympatico.ca](mailto:meakerdc@sympatico.ca) for further information.



BY Woody Epp  
Thecartooner.com



## RAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/SUBSCRIPTION TO TCA MAGAZINE

**Please enter applicable choice(s)** →

COMBINATION PACKAGE: 1 year RAC membership; (includes \$44.95 subscription for TCA) @ <b>\$49.95</b> *	
1 year RAC membership only; no subscription to TCA @ <b>\$44.95</b> *	
1 year TCA subscription; no membership to RAC @ <b>\$44.95</b> * +	
Family membership; price per extra family member @ \$20.00 per year (one TCA per family) * (Does not apply to simple subscriptions.) ( <b>\$20.00 x</b> )	
<b>GST: 5%</b>	
*Taxes applicable: 5% GST, 15% HST (NB,NS,NL) not included in the above amounts + Ontario PST of 8% applicable to TCA subscription without membership. <b>PST (if applicable): 8%</b>	

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

### DONATION OPTIONS

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

### PAYMENT OPTIONS (Cheque or)

<b>Visa/MasterCard No:</b>
<b>Card Expiry Date (MM/YY):</b>
<b>Name on credit card:</b>

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

