

From the Gavel...



Greetings MARC members and welcome to another Gavel. Before I get rolling I want to congratulate and thank Jim, VE3JIW, for stepping up and

taking on the job of MARC Treasurer. It's always good to have new club members become involved in the running of the club. Scott NMI has left some pretty big shoes to fill but I'm sure Jim will do a fine job! Congrats again and welcome, Jim!

Not only are we in the home stretch as far as the start of summer weather and summer vacation goes but this also marks the beginning of my second term as your President. It's been a very busy and interesting year, comprising both up and down incidents. Anyhow, without further ado here, in no particular order, is a recap of the main goings-on in the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club over the past year.

Six Meter Repeater: After much work by the group of Thomas TMB, Bruce IL and Dave XDS a new six meter repeater was put on the air. It lived for a period of time at my QTH but has finally settled in at the club station. The repeater is functional but we believe there is a desense issue due to one radio ("RF deck") doing the job of receiver and transmitter. We possess a second radio and will be separating the two in due course. In the meantime, if you have a good antenna and a bit of power you can certainly use the repeater: 53.250 with a negative 1 MHz offset

Special Projects Group: Michael TKI, Ed TPV and Robin VVS put together the idea of a special projects group in order to give those MARC members interested in building devices a chance to put their skills to the test and learn a thing or two along the way. For their first project, the group chose to build some bandpass filters. Over the past couple of months roughly a dozen or so MARC members have met regularly at the club station to piece together their first project. Feedback has been positive and it looks like we'll have some filters in time for Field Day. Good job guys!

Mississauga Simulated Emergency Test: For the first time ever our ARES group was invited by the City of Mississauga last September to participate in a simulated emergency test (SET). Working with Catherine Blair, the Emergency Manager for the City, Michael TKI and Dan NI hammered out the details of Mississauga ARES's role in the event. By all accounts the SET was a success. Congratulations to the ARES group!

Ham-Ex 2010: Our annual hamfest and fleamarket was held just a couple of months ago under the close supervision of Rick IMG and Rod Lord, Rick's counterpart in the Peel club. Dozens of MARC (and PARC) members came out to help vendors set up, man the entrance desk and direct fleamarket goers to available parking spots. Through their tireless efforts this year's Ham-Ex was the most successful yet in terms of attendance and money raised. Awesome job everyone and thanks to Rick for bringing it all together.

Fire Hall Repeater Installation: For the past couple of years MARC has been in talks with the Mississauga Fire department about using some space at a fire station as a repeater site. We had prepared a proposal and met with high-level members of the department over the past year. Everyone seemed to be on-board until it came down to ironing out a written agreement. Unfortunately, we could not agree on all the terms and it appears the project has been shelved. However, all is not lost. Tom TWG has been having some meetings of his own to see if any movement might be possible. We're keeping our fingers crossed on this one and we may get a green light after all.

Well, there you have it. A quick recap of some of the events MARC has been involved in over the past year. Looking forward, there will be lots more exciting things to come, especially since 2010 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the club. Sounds to me like a good reason to celebrate!

73 --- Jeff Stewart VA3WXM

This Month

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Sunday Brunch

Sunday brunches are held on the first Sunday of each month. Time is 9:30AM at Symposium Restaurant, 6677 Meadowvale Town Centre Circle, Mississauga (at the corner of Winston Churchill Blvd and Battleford 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



It is May and the winter weather is over. Although, this year, we did not have a severe winter. Spring is here and it is time to look forward to more outdoor amateur activities.

Last month we had an article on electronic QSLing and the LoTW and eQSL. This month we continue with the QSLing theme with the article QSLing, by Michael, VE3TKI, which originally appeared in the December, 1997, issue of the MARC Newsletter. Also included in this May, 2010, issue is an article by your Editor on A QSL Bureau Volunteer's Perspective. I hope that you will enjoy both of these articles.

This month, The Technical Web Site of The Month, is on Software Defined Radio (SDR). SDR has been around for a few years and could become the face of future amateur radio gear. Now is the time to learn about this fast advancing area of communications.

For those that may not be aware, The Radio Amateurs of Canada web site offers a free service to any licensed Canadian Amateur where you may obtain an e-mail address of the form callsign@rac.ca. See this short article for more information.

The Communicator is one of MARC's methods for communicating information to club members and is your newsletter. Let me know what you would like the newsletter to be and what you would like it to include. I solicit your input on topics for articles i.e. antennas, kits you have built, great operating experiences, operating tips, book reviews, etc. for consideration by the technical committee.

Without your constant support in the form of ideas, suggestions and article submissions, we would not have such a fine newsletter month after month. I look forward to hearing from all you budding or aspiring authors. Your experience is what makes amateur radio what it is. Let's hear from you.

I can be reached at any club meeting or via email at va3tpv@rogers.com (remove spaces).

73, Ed Spingola, VA3TPV

Executive Directors

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Jeffrey Stewart, VA3WXM |
| 1st Vice President: | Rick Brown, VE3IMG |
| 2nd Vice President: | Ki-Hup Boo, VA3PEN |
| Treasurer: | Jim Brampton, VE3JIW |
| Secretary: | Asim Zaidi, VE3XAP |
| Past President: | Rick Brown, VE3IMG |

Club Managers

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Membership Manager | Dave Harford, VA3DFH |
| Education Manager | Earle Laycock, VE3XEL |
| House / Visitor Host Manager | Murray Yewer, VE3JMY |
| Newsletter Editor | Edward Spingola, VA3TPV |
| Net Managers HF Net | Michael Brickell, VE3TKI |
| VHF Net | Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT |
| Repeater Manager | David Shilling, VE3XDS |
| Assistant | Michael Brickell, VE3TKI |
| Assistant | Sheldon Pimentel, VE3SPJ |
| Assistant | John Lorenc (Sr), VA3XJL |
| Trustee | John Duffy, VE3DRZ |
| Club Station Manager | Rick Brown, VE3IMG |
| Assistant | Stefan Bejusca, VA3OBR |
| Assistant | Asim Zaidi, VE3XAP |
| Field Day Joint Chairman | Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT |
| Joint Chairman | Thomas Godden, VE3TWG |
| FSV Manager | David Malar, VA3MLR |
| Assistant | John Duffy, VE3DRZ |
| Program Manager | Thomas Bernard, VA3TMB |
| Assistant | Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT |
| Webmaster Manager | Dave Harford, VA3DFH |
| Assistant | Rick Brown, VE3IMG |
| Legal Consultant | Lorne Jackson, VE3CXT |
| Public Info/ Media Relations | Tony Champion, VA3QC |
| Education Basic Course Prime | Earle Laycock, VE3XEL |
| Advanced Course Prime | Thomas Bernard, VA3TMB |

Audit Committee

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Auditors Coordinator | Basil Burgess, VE3JEB |
|----------------------|-----------------------|

Public Service

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ARES Emergency Coordinator | Dan Goodier, VE3NI |
| Assistant | Thomas Bernard, VA3TMB |
| Assistant | Michael Brickell, VE3TKI |
| Assistant | David Malar, VA3MLR |
| Assistant | Bob Boyer, VE3XBB |
| Assistant | John Duffy, VE3DRZ |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| CANWARN Manager | Peter Mosher, VA3PKM |
| Special Events / Walks Manager | Bob Boyer, VE3XBB |

Special Interest Groups

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Contests Manager: | Asim Zaidi, VE3XAP |
| Assistant | Rick Brown, VE3IMG |
| QSL Manager | Michael Brickell, VE3TKI |

CLUB CALENDAR FOR 2010

May, 2010

02 Sun Sunday Brunch – Symposium Restaurant
02 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
04 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
06 Thu Exec Meeting
09 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
11 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
13 Thu Club Meeting - Speaker's night
16 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
18 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
20 Thu ARES Meeting
23 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
25 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
27 Thu Club Meeting - Speaker's night
28 Fri CQ WPX Contest - CW
30 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net

June, 2010

01 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
03 Thu Exec Meeting
04 Fri Bread and Honey Festival
06 Sun Sunday Brunch – Symposium Restaurant
06 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
08 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
10 Thu Club Meeting - Speaker's night
13 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
13 Sun Juvenile Diabetes walk
15 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
17 Thu ARES Meeting
20 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
22 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
24 Thu Club Meeting - Speaker's night
26 Sat ARRL Field Day Event
27 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
29 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
30 Wed RAC Canada Day Contest

Provisional Schedule Below

July, 2010

01 Thu RAC Canada Day Contest
04 Sun Sunday Brunch – Symposium Restaurant
10 Sat IARU HF World Championships
16 Fri North American QSO Party - RTTY
24 Sat RSGB IOTA Contest

August, 2010

01 Sun Sunday Brunch – Symposium Restaurant
07 Sat North American QSO Party – CW
13 Fri Worked All Europe DX Contest - CW
21 Sat North American QSO Party – SSB

September, 2010

02 Thu Exec Meeting
05 Sun Sunday Brunch – Symposium Restaurant
05 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net

07 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net

09 Thu Club Meeting - Speaker's night
10 Fri Worked All Europe DX Contest - SSB
12 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
14 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
16 Thu Club Meeting - Speaker's night
19 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
21 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
23 Thu Club Meeting - Speaker's night
26 Sun HF – 75/80 Meter Net
28 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
30 Thu Club Meeting - Speaker's night

October, 2010

03 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
03 Sun Sunday Brunch – Symposium Restaurant
05 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
07 Thu Exec Meeting
10 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
12 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
14 Thu Club Meeting - Member's night
17 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
19 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
24 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
26 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
28 Thu Club Meeting - Member's night
29 Fri CQ WW DX Contest - SSB

November, 2010

02 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
04 Thu Exec Meeting
07 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
07 Sun Sunday Brunch – Symposium Restaurant
09 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
11 Thu Club Meeting - Member's night
14 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
16 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
21 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
23 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
25 Thu Club Meeting - Member's night
28 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
30 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net

December, 2010

02 Thu Exec Meeting
05 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
05 Sun Sunday Brunch – Symposium Restaurant
07 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
09 Thu Club Meeting - Member's night
12 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
14 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
19 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
21 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 Meter Net
23 Thu Club Meeting - Member's night
26 Sun HF - 75/80 Meter Net
28 Tue VHF/UHF - 2 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.

The Joy of QSL'ing

By Michael Brickell, VE3TKI

One of the most enjoyable parts of amateur radio is receiving a QSL card to confirm a contact you have made. There are various ways to send and receive QSL cards, and a number of things to consider when you qsl. The information presented here is summarized from the references in the bibliography.

Sources of QSL cards:

You can obtain a commercially made card from one of the advertisers in CQ magazine or QST classified ads, or from the sources on the internet (see bibliography). Many advertisers will send sample cards to you, free or a small fee. Alternatively, you could make up your own card. A photograph, perhaps of your shack, or a local post card, might be a possible starting point for your own card. The card should be the standard size of 3.5 x 5.5 inches.

Your QSL Card

The purpose of your QSL card is to clearly convey information about your contact so that the other amateur can quickly and easily find you in his log. It is best to use a simple design. Your call sign should be printed in large type. Your address, including the country, should appear on the same side of the card as your call sign. As well it is most convenient for the receiving amateur if all information about the contact is on the same side of the card as your call sign.

Information about the contact must be clear and unambiguous. It must include the other amateur's call sign, date and time of the contact, the frequency or band the contact was made on, the signal report, the mode (eg., CW or SSB, etc.) and must state that the contact was two-way. You must also sign the card (first name is OK), as some awards require signed cards for confirmation.

Accuracy, simplicity and clarity are essential, considering that you may be one of hundreds or thousands of amateurs trying to get confirmation of a DX contact. A busy DXer will likely not take much to search for your qso in the log if you have the date, time and call sign incorrect.

Always use universal time coordinated (UTC) on your card. Local time should never be used, either in your log or on your QSL card, because the receiving amateur is unlikely to know the conversion between UTC and our local time. It is easy to place a small clock near the transceiver and leave it set to UTC (five or four hours ahead of eastern standard and daylight saving time, respectively). Also remember to use the correct date as it advances a day at 00:00 UTC. As an example, 20:00 EST (8pm) on February 12 is actually 01:00 UTC on February 13.

You should use a standard date format, in the order: day, month, year, with the month either spelled out or indicated

in Roman numerals. A date as 12-09-98 could be either September 12 or December 9th.

Always fill out the card in ink. If you make a mistake, re-do the card rather than correcting the error. A corrected card may be invalid if it is used to claim an award.

QSL Methods

Three methods of qsling exist: direct, via a QSL manager, or via the RAC QSL bureau. Often a DX station running a pile-up will indicate how qsling is to be done every few minutes.

(i) Direct

Direct qsling is the fastest method but is the most expensive. Station addresses can be obtained over the air, from the Radio Amateur Callbook, or via the internet through various call sign data bases, for example the QRZ data base (<http://www.qrz.com>). (The World Wide HamCall Callsign Server, <http://hamcall.net/call> is another source of call sign information: Editor) The "REQQTH" function on a packet bulletin board may also be useful.

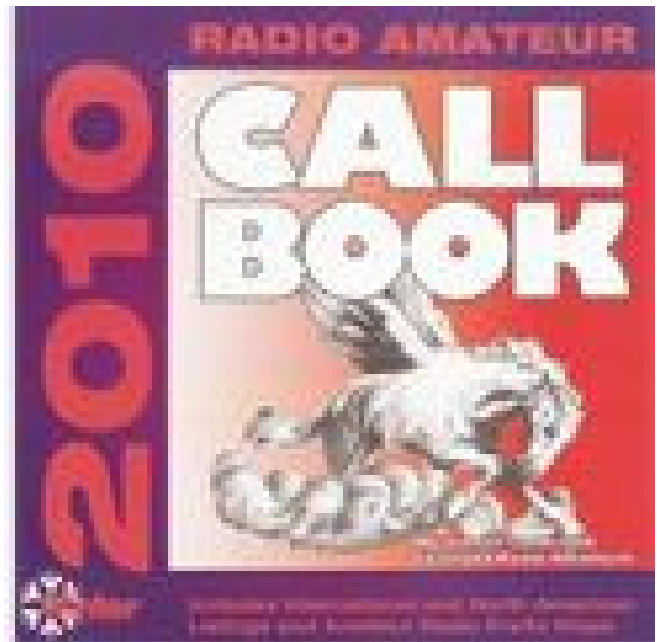


Figure 1: Radio Amateur Callbook

Always enclose an addressed return envelope with your card. For overseas qsling this should be a standard air mail envelope, or you could use a standard envelope with an air mail sticker attached. The return envelope should be folded around your QSL card. Both should be put in an outer envelope, with the fold in the return envelope at the bottom, so that it will not be cut if a letter opener is used. It is helpful if you print the qso information on the back of the return envelope, where it will be covered by the sealed flap (e.g., ZL1AIZ 20 DEC 1994, 10.106 MHz, 0700Z de VE3TKI). Never put your call sign or the DX station's call sign on the outer envelope, as this is an open invitation to theft.

It is usual when requesting QSL cards directly from overseas DX stations to enclose a "green stamp" (US \$1 bill) to defray the cost of return postage. The "green stamp" should be hidden, either inside the return envelope, or by wrapping it and the card in an opaque sheet of paper, to minimize the risk of theft. You should note however, that in some countries (such as India) it is a crime to possess foreign currency. In this case IRCs (see below) are better. (2 "green stamps" would be required with today's postal rates: Editor)

Alternatives to a "green stamp" are postage of the country concerned, attached to the return envelope, or an International Reply Coupon (IRC). IRCs can be obtained from the post office, and currently cost \$3.50 (which makes this a very expensive alternative!). An IRC can be redeemed at a post office for one unit of air mail postage and one is normally sufficient for a QSL card. The Callbook indicates which countries accept IRCs. IRCs should also be concealed, for the same reasons that "green stamps" should be.

Note that US and overseas amateurs can not use Canadian postage to return a QSL card to you.

(ii) QSL Managers

Many overseas amateurs and often those on DXpeditions use QSL managers. The monthly DX column written by Carl Smith (Editor) for CQ magazine is a gold mine of QSL manager information. Also QSL manager information can be obtained via the Ohio/Penn DX bulletin, available on the internet (see bibliography for details), or from the DX Cluster on packet. To use the cluster, after connecting to the cluster (VE3CDX, a node of OAKVIL, 147.750 MHz) you would type "SH/QSL EL2PP" to obtain the manager for EL2PP. the cluster responds with N2CYL, the manager.

Often QSL managers are US amateurs and their addresses are usually in the North American Callbook. In this case put appropriate US postage on the return envelope (currently US 75 cents: Editor). Otherwise follow the instructions for direct qsling.

(iii) RAC QSL Bureau

The least costly method of QSLing is via the RAC QSL Bureau. However, it is also the slowest method, and it can take up to several years to get a card back via the bureau.

RAC Outgoing QSL Bureau
P.O. Box 11156, Station H
Nepean, Ontario, K2H 7T9

You must be an RAC member (RAC membership currently cost \$52.50 including GST: Editor) to use the outgoing

bureau; however, there is no other charge. To send cards to the bureau:

- (i) Write the other amateur's call sign clearly in ink on the upper right hand corner of the back of the card. If you are sending a card via the bureau to an amateur who uses a QSL manager, indicate that the card is to go via the manager, e.g., "3D2CA via I4ALU".
- (ii) Sort the cards alphabetically by country prefix. US and Canadian cards should be further sorted by call area (e.g. all W1's, K1's together, all A2's, K2's together, all V1's together, etc.) and put as a group separately. Cards going via managers are sorted via the manager's call, not the receiving amateur's call. (Exception is US call area 4, 1-letter and 2-letter prefixes are sorted separately. e.g. KA4RLD is sorted separately from K4UN: Editor).
- (iii) Enclose a current address label from the Canadian Amateur (TCA) magazine with your cards (it has your membership number on it), or a piece of paper with your membership number. Send the cards to RAC Outgoing QSL Bureau, PO Box 11156, Station H, Nepean, Ontario, K2H 7T9.

You must provide postage to use the RAC Incoming QSL Bureau. The easiest way is to send the Bureau a \$5 cheque (with your call on it) made out to RAC. The bureau will send cards to you from time to time, and will notify you when to send more funds. The Incoming Bureau address is

RAC Incoming QSL Bureau
PO Box 157, Downsview
Ontario, M3M 3A3.

Bibliography

- PSe QSL, An Expert's Guide to Amateur Radio QSL'ing, Bill Welsh, W6DDB, Tiare Publications.
- The QSL Dragnet: How to Get the QSL Card You Want, parts I, II, and III. Don Daso, WA8MAZ, and Roger Burt, N4ZC, CQ Magazine, April, May and July 1987.
- Effective and Efficient QSLing, Mike Thomas, NA5U, CQ Magazine, September 1990.
- Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, Home Page for bulletin: <http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>
- QSL card sources:
 - The QSL Man W4MPY: <http://www.w4mpy.com/>
 - See CQ, QST, and TCA advertisers.
- IRC info: <http://www.n6hb.org/s-a/irc.htm>
- Radio Amateurs Callbook stopped publishing the CD-ROM with the Winter 2003 edition. An alternative product is the HamCall CD-ROM by Buckmaster Publishing. For information see <http://hamcall.net/haminfo.html> : Editor

A QSL Bureau Volunteer's Perspective

By Ed Spingola, VA3TPV

For several years, myself; Michael, VE3TKI; Daniel, VE3NI; Bob, VE3XBB; and Gerry, VE3GRS, have been volunteers with the VA3/VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau. During this time, I have gained an understanding of how this valuable volunteer organization tirelessly works for the Amateur Radio community. Hopefully this article will give you some insight into the operation of the Incoming QSL Bureau.

The world wide QSL bureau system is operated by the member societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). In Canada, the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) is our IARU member society.

The IARU maintains a list of the QSL Bureau addresses¹ in each member country.

Radio Amateur of Canada (RAC) operates the RAC QSL Bureau System which is comprised of the National Incoming QSL Bureau, the various Provincial Incoming QSL Bureaus, and the RAC Outgoing QSL Bureau.

Each of these Provincial Incoming Bureaus is operated as a separate entity with their own local organization of dedicated volunteers.

Note that a Canadian Amateur Radio Operator does not need to be a member of RAC to use the Incoming Bureau System. However, a Canadian Amateur Radio Operator must be a member of RAC to use the Outgoing Bureau System.

The QSL Bureau route has often been characterized as a very slow delivery system. It may take several years for you to receive that most wanted QSL card from an overseas operator.

The operation of the RAC QSL Bureau System would not be possible without the commitment and hard work of the QSL Bureau volunteers. RAC, and all those who benefit, salute these dedicated amateurs and extend sincere appreciation for the long hours they devote to this difficult task.

QSL cards coming into Canada are received by the National Incoming Bureau from IARU member societies. Canadian stations should not send cards to this bureau. Canadian stations should use the RAC Outgoing Bureau

National Incoming QSL Bureau
Sponsored by: Loyalist City ARC
Len Morgan, VE9MY, Manager
Box 51
SAINT JOHN, NB E2L 3X1

The National Incoming QSL Bureau sorts the QSL cards by provincial call area and sends the QSL cards every few months to the appropriate provincial incoming bureau.

In a typical year the VA3/VE3 Incoming Bureau receives from 5 to 7 QSL card shipments. A typical shipment of 17 Kgs is shown in figure 1. This shipment represents approximately 6400 QSL cards. Of these cards, approximately 3900 cards are for the 2-letter suffix call signs, the most active of the amateur radio operator groups.

The incoming shipment is further sorted at the provincial level. This may typically take another week or two. The cards are then sent to the 19 QSL Bureau volunteers handling the VA3 and VE3 2-letter and 3-letter suffix call signs.

Finally, cards arrive at the volunteer sorters who then sort the cards by call sign. In order to minimize postage fees, the volunteer will usually wait until some minimum number of cards



Figure: 1 VA3/VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau Shipment

are received for the amateur station before sending them out.

To speed the sorting process, I have devised the sorting box shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: QSL Card Sorting Box

I find that this sorting box is better than commandeering the dining room table to do the sorting. The sorting box also keeps the XYL happy.

To ensure that the maximum number of cards is sent for a given postage rate and to ensure that no cards are returned for inadequate postage, I use a Sunbeam Precision Electronic Postal Scale, purchased at my own expense, to measure each QSL card shipment.



Figure 3: Sunbeam Precision Electronic Postal Scale

The Bureau volunteer keeps an expense sheet for every Bureau member detailing dates, postage costs, cards sent, and current balance. The Bureau volunteer will inform you when you should send more money or labels.

Technical Web Site of The Month

By Ed Spingola, VA3TPV

Software Defined Radio (SDR) has been around for a few years now. Tobias, DH1TW, offers a straightforward, nicely-illustrated introduction to Software-Defined Radio on his web site <http://www.dh1tw.de/understanding-the-sdr-concept>. It makes for a good introduction to the subject and more advanced treatments of the subject, including

Callsign@rac.ca

By Ed Spingola, VA3TPV

Callsign@rac.ca is a little known service provided free of charge by RAC to any licensed Canadian amateur radio operator.

Any licensed Canadian amateur radio operator can have an e-mail address of the form **callsign@rac.ca**. This means that you no longer have to advise all your contacts of any new e-mail address if you change your internet service provider.

Volunteers make every attempt to contact amateurs who may not be a member of the incoming QSL bureau. Cards are kept for several years but are eventually returned to the DX Bureaus if the cards are not claimed.

Provincial Incoming Bureaus

The name and address of the VA3/VE3 Provincial incoming bureau is given below. Although RAC sponsors the bureaus, all Canadian amateurs may use them.

VE3 Incoming Bureau
C/O Gary Westhouse, VE3NIT, Manager
PO Box 157,
Downsview, ON, M3M 3A3

The VA3/VE3 Incoming Bureau prefers Method D: - Credits with labels.

With Method D, the Amateur sends the Bureau in your call area \$5.00 together with a supply of self-addressed adhesive labels with print large enough for use on envelopes and postal sorting machines.

I trust that this article has been helpful.

References:

- 1) IARU QSL Bureaus: <http://www.iaru.org/iaruqsl.html>
- 2) RAC QSL Bureau System: <http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/services/qsl-bureaux/>

some of the other SDR articles on the site. (from AMSAT bulletin ANS-094) (<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>). Information on SDR kits may be found on WB5RVZ's Home page <http://www.wb5rvz.com/sdr/>. See the Flex 5000A at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cx47Rvb42kk>.

The service is provided for the benefit of all Canadian radio amateurs by Radio Amateurs of Canada. You need not be a RAC member to register for the service.

Unfortunately, owing to their policies, RAC cannot forward e-mail to hotmail.com.

You can set up a **callsign@rac.ca** by going to <http://aliases.rac.ca/>.

You can find answers to the most frequently asked questions about your **callsign@rac.ca** address, or about unwanted SPAM mail that you are receiving, by going to http://aliases.rac.ca/faqalias_e.php.

RAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/TCA SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

For two- or three-year memberships or renewals please contact the RAC Office given at bottom of this page.

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Please indicate New or Renewal: | |
| 1 year RAC membership; (includes \$45.00 subscription for TCA) @\$50.00 plus GST or HST as applicable Total \$52.50 in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, PE, NT, NU Total \$56.50 in NL, NS, NB | |
| 1 year RAC membership only; for a blind person <u>NO MAGAZINE</u> @\$20.00 plus GST or HST as applicable Total \$21.00 in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, PE, NT, NU Total \$22.60 in NL, NS, NB | |
| Family membership; price per extra family member @ \$20.00 plus GST or HST as applicable per year (one TCA per family) (Does not apply to simple subscriptions.) Total \$21.00 in BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, PE, NT, NU Total \$22.60 in NL, NS, NB | |

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 (plus taxes) will be added to your membership | |
| Family Member Name | Family Member Call sign: |
| If you enter something on line above, a charge of \$20.00 (plus taxes) will be added to your membership | |
| Email: | Telephone #: |

DONATION OPTIONS

| | |
|--|----|
| Donation to the RAC Foundation enclosed | \$ |
| Donation to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund enclosed | \$ |
| Donation to the Youth Education Programme enclosed | \$ |
| Donation to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Programme enclosed | \$ |
| Grand Total: | \$ |

PAYMENT OPTIONS (Cheque or)

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| Name of person credit card is issued to: | |



Mail to:

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Ottawa, ON, K1G 0Z5
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