



{editor} Please excuse me for interrupting: This newsletter may look a little different, This is because my old 2008 Macbook Pro finally died, but by the wonders Of The Apple Time Machine back-up every thing was recoverable. To make up for my loss, I got a new 2015 Mac Book Pro. Yet with all that the old version pages that was using would not even run. To cut a long story short, I've had to convert to new, and "better" software.

The Gavel – MARC October 2015 Newsletter

Hello and welcome back MARC members! It has been several months since you last read what was in my mind. The club is in full swing now that the summer break is behind us and we've had a great response to membership renewals. Thank you all for your continuing support! I also understand that the turnout for this year's Basic class has been overwhelming. Great job and many thanks to Basil VE3JEB for his instructional talent, and to Rick VE3IMG and Jim VE3JIW for signing up and squaring away the new students.

In my last Gavel I asked everyone several questions about the amateur radio hobby in general, how you got into it and why you chose to become a MARC member. I also asked how you think MARC can best move forward into the future. I did receive some feedback and it appears a neighbouring club is taking a similar introspective examination: The Burlington ARC actually drafted a survey and circulated it to its members recently. One set of questions focused on ideas for future club programs and projects, ranging from APRS to SDR to building a home station. Another set of questions asked about individual members' stations and operating activity. In my humblest of opinions, I think these types of questions are important to gauge membership background and interests, and to help a club be responsive and, frankly, be relevant to its membership. I'm convinced that clubs who don't listen to their members will have a hard time remaining viable; people will simply cease being members if they feel the club really has nothing more to offer them.



I like to think that MARC is a dynamic and passionate club. We certainly have a “critical mass” in terms of membership numbers to allow us to be involved in many different aspects of the hobby. We have many members who are very passionate about their particular amateur radio expertise and they endeavour to share that passion with all of us. Whether it’s the contesters, the project builders, the repeater maintainers or the course instructors, we need to feed and keep that passion going. And to grab and hold the interest of potential new hams we need to show that this hobby is much more than talking on a radio. More specifically, I’ve had members approach me and suggest we delve more into the digital world. We use software defined radios now. We can use PSK31 to make digital contacts with stations that we could never hear before because they were below the noise level. We have planned and in-service D-Star, DRM and, in MARC’s case, Fusion digital repeaters, that not only let us convey voice and data traffic but let us do so in a more spectrally efficient manner. This is all very exciting stuff!

Of course I am not saying that we should forget about where we came from in terms of our amateur radio roots. Indeed, traditional radio is far from dead as has been shown by the successes of our club station in the myriad contest MARC participates in each year. But in order to continue bringing new members into our hobby we need to be able to demonstrate that we are aware of these many new and exciting facets of our hobby. And we need to continue to foster the passion for these different facets as a way to promote amateur radio as the greatest hobby in the world!

73 --- Jeff Stewart VA3WXM



MARC Members Yahoo Group

The MARC Members Yahoo Group is the primary way to disseminate club information about upcoming events. Join the MARC Members Yahoo Group Club receive club related communications and to contact other club members

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marc_members

Club Breakfasts

This much-loved event happens the first Sunday of every month. All you have to do is show up at Bobby's restaurant 20 Queen Street just North of Britannia Road.

The Editors column: from the keyboard of editor in chief Valentine Stubbs VE3VVS

As you might have guessed I was a little depressed about the whole newsletter thing, and for so many smart people in this club in has to take threatening to shut down the newsletter to get some people moving.

It has been suggested by one member, "I've written a lot of articles "in the past" go ahead and re-run them. Well there is two things wrong with that. One, I don't have electronic versions of said articles. Two, publications don't get interesting doing re-runs, if we want to see the same old thing we can watch TV in the summer. While it has been somewhat inspiring with the recent flood of incoming articles, pictures, and other content I was faced with another problem when I decided to take up "pen to paper". My old buy trusty 2008 Mac Book Pro, suddenly died, and to add insult to injury, it's new replacement while being new shiny better built and loaded with the newest and latest software, failed in one point Apple had decided to re-write pages from the ground up. Some how, forgetting a few major pieces of functionality. Well I'll rebuild the template, there is a lot of good publishing software out there.

The next newsletter will appear in December, 73's till then



IRLP and EchoLink Update

John Lorenc, VA3XJL

The club's EchoIRLP node (IRLP 2998 and EchoLink 404792, VE3MIS-R) is working well and available for both IRLP and EchoLink connections for everyone to enjoy.

Just to let all know, there are three weekly automatically scheduled uses of the EchoIRLP node and the VHF VE3MIS repeater: Monday's from 19:00 to 20:00 for the Weather Radio Listeners net hosted by Gord, VA3WXA; Tuesday's from 20:25 to 21:40 MARC's Tuesday Night net (available via the *TECHLINK* 9229 EchoLink conference for repeater challenged and out-of-towners) hosted by various MARC net controllers; and Friday's from 20:00 to 22:15 for the Tech net hosted by Reg, VK6BQQ. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in these nets. These automated net connections are configured to disable DTMF tones to minimize grief by itchy 73 finger bandits.

A reminder about IRLP / EchoLink etiquette. Before making a connection, LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN. If the frequency is quiet, connect to the IRLP node by pressing PTT and the 4 digit IRLP node number. Connections to EchoLink nodes are made by prefacing the EchoLink node/conference number by the # character. When finished with your QSO, remember to **end with 73 for both IRLP and EchoLink connections.**

There are a few "continuous nets", such as the WIN System IRLP reflector 9100, that are comprised of a large number of repeaters across the US and some in Canada. These are great rag chew opportunities, but can tie up the VE3MIS repeater when a local traffic use is wanted. So remember to 73 your connection when done.

If you like to listen, you can do so by connecting to internet WIN System streams on TuneIn Radio Win System (TuneIn is available for iPhone and Android) and

<http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/8468/web>.

Similarly, the Sunday night LIMARC Tech Net hosted by Dick, K2RIW, on IRLP reflector 9126 can be listened to at

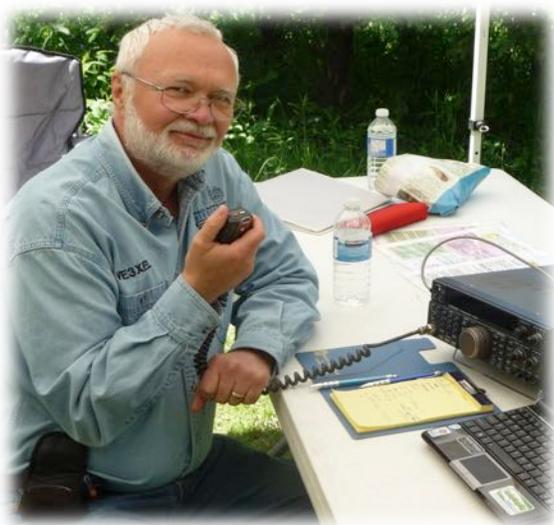
<http://live.monitorlongisland.com/hamradio-limarc>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to post them in the Yahoo MARC members group,

[MARC Members@yahoo.com](mailto:MARC_Members@yahoo.com) or send them to me at va3xjl@gmail.com.

VC3DONATE Special Events Station by Earle Laycock VE3XEL

As I grow older, I am constantly amazed at how our lives are interconnected with so many other people...even more so if the connection takes 65 years to



realize. I experienced such a situation with Art Sinclair VE3SQG, former president of MARC and fellow amateur radio operator.

My story began when I was a youngster growing up in Graven Hurst. My parents were both regular blood donors at the Red Cross clinic in our local church. I guess that made an impression on me as I started donating once off to university in the late 1990's. It just seemed a good thing to do...helping others out without any real cost to me. Over the years I continued to donate and finally received an

invitation from the Red Cross to attend a thank you supper in Mississauga for my 25th donation. Mayor Hazel was there! I thought this was quite the achievement until I realized others were being honored for 50th or even their 75th donation!

I met Art VE3SQG when I joined MARC in the 1990s. We became friends. In 2002 Art collapsed at home with a burst abdominal aneurysm. Art was rushed by ambulance to the Credit Valley Hospital with severe internal bleeding. Emergency staff quickly determined that this was a life and death situation and scheduled immediate surgery. To keep Art alive, 44 units of blood were transfused into his system while a surgeon was summoned from another hospital to head up the surgical team.

After a four and one half hour operation, Art's life was saved although another operation was performed two days later to address an infection. Art lay

unconscious in bed for sixteen days and stayed in the hospital for twenty-six days.

In January of 2015, Canadian Blood Services notified me that I was about to



make my 150th whole blood donation and asked if I wanted to do something special to mark the occasion. Their idea was to have a blood donation challenge amongst my friends and co-workers. But I immediately thought about Art and wouldn't it be neat to have a ham radio special events station

commemorating his receipt of blood versus my donations.

I asked Art if he would support me in the special events station and he immediately agreed. In discussing the details of his 2002 aneurysm, I found out that Art is Type O+ blood, the same as me. Although we don't know, it is possible that he had received some of my blood as part of his life-saving 44 units while waiting for emergency surgery.

To set all this up was a bit daunting so I asked MARC club president Jeff Stewart VA3WXM if MARC would help. He enthusiastically agreed. Since the Bread and Honey Festival would be near the time of my milestone donation, I asked Daniel Goodier VE3NI I could piggy-back the special events station on the B&H Festival. Once again, Daniel graciously agreed.

Robert Emerson VE3RHE helped me navigate through the Industry Canada regulations concerning special event call signs. At first, IC didn't like the idea of honoring a personal milestone, my 150th donation, but when they heard that 2015 was the 350th anniversary of the first successful experimental dog-to-dog blood transfusion in England, it was clear sailing. For a mere \$60 IC fee, we had a call sign: VC3DONATE. I thought this would be unique and draw attention to our story. Little did I know the confusion this call sign would cause!

Daniel and his crew had the physical aspect of the station in hand. We were situated on a small island in the Credit River running through Streetsville. It



was truly a beautiful location and if we got bored, we could watch the ducks and geese swim by. Daniel and the club supplied the wire antenna, a Kenwood TS450 transmitter/receiver and an Asus Eee PC with Windows for logging. Everything was powered by a large deep cell battery decommissioned from hospital UPS backup duty.

Canadian Blood Services supplied staff and a tent which was situated near our station. I was especially encouraged by Vanessa Kohut, Coordinator Volunteer Resources for CBS. She and her helpers were able to speak to the public about the importance of donating blood...even booking appointments or explaining the different blood types.

We operated on two bands: 40 m and 20 m and alternated between the Bread and Honey Festival call sign VE3MIS and the special events call sign VC3DONATE. The weekend coincided with "Ships on the Air" so Saturday June 6th was challenging trying to find an open



Around the Club Jim Brampton VE3JIW

Thanksgiving Day was for me recovery. Dinner out at a gathering on Saturday and great food and variety with extended family on Sunday. Monday the radio gods had other thoughts. The IRLP node was not functioning. I grab some tools and a trip to Tim's and off to the club station. I learned something during this visit, don't assume you have found the problem.



The IRLP uses a link radio and the link radio is at the club station. I had looked at the power supply for the radio the previous week. The power supply was running very hot with little load. I show a picture of the hot power supply in the pictures. I was expecting to find a power supply problem. The power supply looked fine, I see a plastic fuse holder back of the radio. The fuse holder has been overheated and the plastic is slightly melted. Obviously a new one is needed. I do find an automotive fused and solder wires to fuse and make connections to the radio. This will be changed to conventional fuse holder in the future. As a ham we have to use what we have and make things "nice" later. The power wire with an automotive fuse soldered inline. Screw terminals added to allow changes without a soldering iron

The radio was returned to the computer and connected the node. I go to the car and still no link operation. Back up to the radio room. Looking at the radio, and it is suddenly obvious, the radio is off. More checking and less jumping in to a repair would have saved me the trouble. The radio equipment suffered a connector failure during the weekend and all the radios were shutoff as a precaution. The cable problem was isolated to the packet section later. Saturday morning the CW crew led by John, VE3JK, continued with the CW class. It is still not to late to show up Saturday morning and get better at hearing CW. Following the CW class the station crew continued their work on the roof. The roof visit was in the sun, it was cool this and afternoon brought a small storm of ice pellets or snow. Definitely winter is coming.

The roof crew did restore the packet service feed line. The VE3MIS packet nodes will soon be back in service. There was a shortage of a cable adapter to add ground connection to the packet antenna feed line. The last picture is the ground buss for all the station antennas. The grounding project is large and requires every antenna leaving the radio area to pass through the ground buss before heading up to the roof. More detail on the antenna and station grounding will be in later issues.



The power supply, 20 amps, 14 volts. Powers the IRLP radiol missed the first CW class on October 10, 2015. I did make class 2. John, VE3JK, is leading a group that wants more than



a 5wpm endorsement. John is starting the group slowly introducing the characters that we will need to be able to read with our ears. Anyone who has been putting off the learning would find Saturday mornings a great way to resume the learning. MARC is about radios and learning. Less than an hour including chat. About 15 minutes of listening and writing what we think we hear

The other benefit of a visit to the club station is the operating opportunity. Station North was being used and I had no release forms for pictures. The south station was vacant and quiet. A perfect opportunity to learn about the station, radios, antenna, switches, computer, the remote HF station after the class. The box with the bright red and green LEDs is the remote station. The Kewood 480, the Yaesu FT847, and the Yaesu FT2000 and 2 PCs all quiet and dark.nk we hear.

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Ham-ex 2016

By VE3IMG – Rick Brown

It's mid-October and we are already busy planning Ham-ex 2016. I have already met with my Peel Club counterpart, Rod Lord VE3WWP. After a short hiatus, Rod is back at the helm and I look forward to working with him for another successful event.

It will not be without its challenges though. We had to move the event to March 19th, 2016 as it would coincide with an early Easter holiday weekend. This will be a week earlier than normal and will overlap the tail end of the March break. The weather at this time can be unpredictable and we run the risk of snowy blizzards, quick thaws, or torrential rain. In the past weather has impacted the attendance.

This year, we will be bringing back early table registration. Order and pay for your tables by February 15th, 2016 and you can save \$5 per table. In the recent past, more and more vendors were leaving their table reservations to the very last minute. It was becoming difficult to process table sales for those paying by cheque or money order in a timely manner. At times, it was necessary to collect table payments at the event.

After a number of years of faithful service, Robert Emerson VE3RHE has stepped down from his position as Ham-ex Vendor Liaison. Thanks Robert for all the hard work involved in ensuring all tables were sold. We are now in a position where we need to fill his shoes. Vendor Liaison involves the following:



- 1) Monitoring the Ham-ex mailbox for table sales enquires and PayPal orders.
- 2) Work with Peel Club to track table sales by mail/cheque addressed to their Post Office.
- 3) Managing Vendor table assignments and table layout
- 4) Maintaining database of past vendor contacts.
- 5) Mass email notifications to general public advertising Ham-ex.
- 6) Prepare vendor table packages which include vendor passes, vendor wrist bands etc. to be distributed to the vendors' tables on the day of the event.
- 7) Meet with vendors on the day of the event to resolve table assignment or vendor pass issues as they arise.
- 8) Maintain financial spreadsheet detailing all collected table revenues and expenses to be reviewed with Peel Club.

I



If you are interested, please contact me at the club meeting or email at ve3img@yahoo.com.

You will have help and training.

The ham-ex website has been updated with current dates and prices. See www.ham-ex.ca for details.

We will be printing flyers and prize tickets in the near future for distribution for upcoming flea markets at York Region, St. Catharines and Burlington.

A few helpful hints from the editor:

At this time I would like to take a moment to give some helpful hints when submitting articles.

- a) Text should be single spaced, with no headers or footers, and Arial 12 pt, as text is going to be converted into a desktop publishing format.
- b) Most fonts are fine, "Pages" (the software I'm using) has many more fonts than most, but just to be safe side just use standard fonts, like Arial.
- c) Avoid using spaces instead of tabs. Tabs work great in conversion, spaces not so much. If in doubt, just type text unformatted, "Pages" will take care of most the mundane formatting, and the rest I'll do, I'm going to have to do it anyway. Might as well make it easier for you.