



April 2004

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: April 21, 2004 @7:30PM

LOCATION: Loyalist College (Pioneer Building) Room P-2

PROGRAM: Annual Auction. See below for more details.

Club Repeater: VE3QAR 146.985 MHz.

2 meter net: Tuesday 7:30 PM on VE3TJU 146.730

QARC HomePage <http://www.qarc.on.ca>

QARC HomePage <http://www.qarc.on.ca/> provided free of charge by:

Lakeshore Internet Services, 199 Front St, Suite 113

Belleville K8N 5H5 (613) 962-9299

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Wednesday 7:30 PM Loyalist College
(Pioneer Bldg.) Room P-17

Hams 'n Eggs: SATURDAYS 8:00 AM Quinte Restaurant 135 Cannifton Road

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA ADDRESS:

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QARC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Peter Hodgson VA3PKH 962-1386 (E-mail: phodgson@kos.ca)

VICE-PRESIDENT: Bill Milligan VA3WOW (E-mail: va3wow@rac.ca)

SECRETARY: Mike Papper VE3VMP 969-1744 (ve3vmp@sympatico.ca.)

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PAST PRESIDENT: Dave Ackerman VE3UGT 962-3991 (E-mail: ve3ugt@rac.ca)

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Minutes

For March 17th, 2004

Mike, VE3VMP Secretary, QARC

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm by our President, Peter VA3PKH. There was no new or old business at this meeting.

Coming Events:

March 27th, 2004: KINGSTON SIGNALS MUSEUM VISIT: The planned trip to the Kingston Signals Museum is slated for Saturday, March 27th. Members attending will meet at 1PM at the Tim Hortons located on Division Street just off the 401. Alternately Members will meet at the Signals Museum at 2PM.

March 28th: Community Policing Run.

May 8th, 2004: Tour of the County FOX Hunt. Start time as usual at noon ending 3 hours later at 3:00 pm. Visit the Quinte Amateur Radio Club WEB page www.qarc.on.ca for more information.

May 30th, 2004: MS Walk-a-thon. Please contact Ron VE3IVC if you would like to volunteer.

June 6th: Belleville Youth Swim Team is having a beach kids triathlon at the Sir James Whitney School. The Clubs involvement will be to monitor the bicycle event in the neighbourhood.

Our guest speaker for this evening is **Dave Lawrence, VA3ORP** A/Dir Ontario North Radio Amateurs of Canada. His topic is "Ground Waves in the 21st Century"

Prior to Dave's presentation, Eric VE3GSI gave a brief update on software that he uses to predict propagation. He uses IonoProbe and Ham Cap along with DX Atlas. One thing that Eric does before an upcoming contest is to check what the propagation was a year ago at that time. He says that these predictions are very accurate and reliable, so you will have a good idea which bands will be opened or not.

Before Dave began his presentation he gave us an update as to what RAC is doing for us as follows:

1. RAC representatives have attended the preparatory meeting for the World Radio Conference to be held in 2007. Items to be discussed at that conference include:
 - the possibility of an amateur band at 135 kHz
 - allocations in the 4-10 MHz band (excluding 7.0 - 7.2 MHz)
2. Industry Canada is working on a policy to address the use of Ultra Wide Bandwidth equipment in the 500 to 5,000 MHz spectrum. This is directed at low powered, unlicensed equipment that has a potential for causing interference to licensed users.

The Broadband Over Powerline (BPL) issue remains a concern to RAC. Ken Pulfer (VE3PU) represented the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) at a recent International Telegraph Union (ITU) meeting in Geneva where this was discussed. Jim Deal (VE3IQ) and Ken Pulfer, as representatives of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada, recently made a presentation on BPL to Industry Canada. This issue is causing concern world-wide as it has the potential to increase the noise level for all users of the EM spectrum.

Dave also encouraged members to join and support RAC for what they do for the Radio Amateur.

Dave provided a handout of technical reference material to supplement his presentation. The attached is a summary of his presentation. He gave a very detailed and technical overview on the theory of ground waves. Dave said that the signal propagation does not change from day to night; it's the noise level that changes. The signal to noise ratio is most important – you must hear the signal over the noise.

His conclusion was that low frequency HF at frequencies below 10Mhz using ground waves is an alternative to 2M and a HT. You could actually communicate further with your HF rig than with your HT! The range is about 100 miles, 60 miles most of the time. Using ground waves above 10 MHz the absorption is too great. For example, the attenuation at 7 MHz is greater than at 3.5 MHz. And there is a significant variation between day and night. So it boils down to three factors for good ground waves communications – 1. type of soil, 2. day time or night time, and 3. the operating frequency.

A $\frac{1}{4}$ wave vertical antenna is ideal and adequate and also works well for DX. Dave suggested that we should try using ground waves for an ARES exercise so time.

Dave had on display his wireless set # 48 AM & CW that put out .33 watts!!

In an e-mail to my attention, after the meeting, **Dave VA3ORP** wrote: **Many thanks to the members of the QARC for dinner and the great visit. It was a pleasure to see them again and to see the enthusiasm within the club. Well Done!**

The door prize was a Tim Horton \$5.00 gift certificate.

The traditional coffee and donuts were available after the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. The attendance was 23.

Don't forget that next months meeting, Wednesday April 21st is the PERC – QARC annual auction starting at 7:30 pm. See www.qarc.on.ca for details.

PS: A few words about the March meeting. The meeting in March was an open forum about what kind of software Amateurs use with their radios. There are thousands of sites on every possible subject matter associated with radio.

PERC - QARC Annual Auction - April 21, 2004.

The Annual Auction is to be held at Loyalist College - Pioneer Building, room **P2** starting at **7:30 PM**. Although this is primarily a PERC/QARC event, an invitation is extended to members of the Trenton and TriCounty clubs to attend and participate as well.

The auction is held to raise money for our clubs. With that in mind here's how it works:

1. We're looking first and foremost for **DONATIONS** of equipment of all types, from small, (a Tube or Connector or an SWR Meter) to large, (a Tuner or Handi or Transceiver). These items sell to the highest bidder with **ALL** monies going to the seller's club. There are **NO RESERVES** attached to donated items. They sell for whatever we can get with 100% of the selling price going to the club who received the item as a donation in the first place.

2. For those who have something to sell but are not willing to give it away, we also accept items with a **RESERVE** attached. When an item with a Reserve attached sells, say a Kenwood 820S for \$500, then the seller takes the cash and goes home happy...but not before donating **FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%)** of that \$500 to his/her club. If the item does not draw a high enough bid, the owner takes it home unhappy...but not before donating **FIVE BUCKS** to the kitty of whatever club he/she is associated with. We charge the five bucks to encourage people to price their stuff to sell!

Tour of the County

A Hidden Transmitter Hunt In Prince Edward County Saturday, May 8, 2004 Sponsored By: Quinte Amateur Radio Club & Prince Edward Radio Club

All transmitters will be within the natural boundaries of Prince Edward County and they could be located anywhere within the county. All transmitters will be in a publicly accessible area. This will be a combination of a driving and on foot hunt, although it will be possible to drive to within a few hundred meters of each fox. All foxes will be located along roads, which are possible to navigate with a regular vehicle i.e. an SUV, or 4-wheel drive vehicle will not be required.

The hunt will begin at 12:00 noon on Saturday, May 8, 2004 and will begin at Roblin Lake Park in the village of Ameliasburgh. The park is located on County Road 19, behind the Ameliasburgh Township Hall and O.P.P. Satellite Office.

The G.P.S. co-ordinates are: 44 degrees, 3.5 min N; 77 degrees, 26.025 min W. (Grid square FN14gb)

Talk-in VE3QAR repeater 146.985 Mhz, IRLP node 2090.

There will be three transmitters operating on 2 meter FM at a frequency of 146.565 Mhz. The transmitters will transmit for approximately 40 seconds on 20 seconds off in a three minute cycle that is 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, ... The transmitters may be automated or human operated. They will start transmitting at 12:00 PM. All transmitters will shut off at 3:00 PM. The transmitters will be marked and clearly visible from at least 5 feet away. There may or may not be a hunt official at the transmitter locations.

It may not be possible to hear all 3 transmitters at the start location but at least one will be audible. However, once you have found one transmitter the others will be audible.

There are relatively few restrictions on the equipment the hunters can use. You will need 2-meter direction finding equipment. A Prince Edward Chamber of Commerce "red map" of the county will be provided at the beginning of the hunt to all those teams that preregister. However the hunters may want to bring their own more detailed maps. A compass and/or GPS may also be useful but certainly not necessary. All of the equipment must be carried in the hunter's vehicle or by the team for the on foot portions of the hunt. If you are going after all three transmitters be prepared to do some on foot hunting for at least one of the transmitters.

The hunters may not exchange information with anyone else including other hunters. The hunters should not transmit on the fox frequency. If the hunters need more information someone will be monitoring the Prince Edward Radio Club repeater VE3TJU 146.730.

There will be a few directional antennas and attenuators available to be loaned to teams, which do not have any equipment on a first come, first served basis.

The scoring will be determined by the number of transmitters found and by the total distance driven. In order to encourage safe driving speeds, time will not be a factor in the scoring. The hunters will be provided with a scorecard at the beginning of the hunt. They will mark the card with a coloured pencil that will be fastened to each hidden transmitter.

Anyone is eligible to participate, including people who are not licensed radio amateurs. It will not be necessary for the hunters to transmit. The emphasis is on fun so bring your spouse, kids, grandmother, or family dog. Form a team and have a nice drive/hike in the county.

Each team can choose to find 1, 2, or 3 transmitters and we will declare a winner for each category.

There will be no charge to enter the hunt. Following the hunt there will be a get together with refreshments. Location to be determined.

Prizes

Bragging rights only! Results will be provided at the post hunt get together

Trans Provincial Net News

The Trans Provincial Net is please to announce the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club will be hosting the net Saturday April 24. All amateurs are asked to check in on the TPN during the day with the club members. The TPN management team wishes to thank the Niagara Club and encourage all clubs to make a Saturday on the net a club activity day. The Trans Provincial Net operates daily from 7am to 6pm on 7.055Mhz.

Full details about the net can be found on the web at www.tpn7055.ca.

PC-SAT 2 Ready to Fly

PCSAT 2 has passed its final outgassing tests putting it one step closer to launch. These outgassing tests are some of the most stringent in the space program. They are designed to protect crewmembers from fumes that might arise out of materials used to construct anything going into space.

Commercial manufacturers who spend millions of dollars to develop space safe materials might want to take a lesson from the hams. All the parts in PCSAT 2 are off-the-shelf ham radio items. The new bird uses Kantronics TNC's and Hamtronics transmitter and receiver boards that include all of the original plastic parts.

PCSAT 2 will go into orbit on the first shuttle when they return to flight next year. Additional information about the PCSAT 2 mission is available at: www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/pcsat2.html

Upcoming Flea Markets

Whitby ARC 2nd Annual Hamfest Whitby Amateur Radio Club Whitby Ontario
Saturday, April 17, 2004. Oshawa ON

Durham Region Amateur Radio Hamfest North Shore ARC, South Pickering
ARC April 24, 2004. Whitby ON

Skywide ARC Annual Spring Hamfest & Fleamarket Skywide ARC. May 8,
2004. Etobicoke ON

20th Annual Smiths Falls Amateur Radio Flea Market Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club
inc. Saturday, May 8, 2004. Smiths Falls ON

Two Letter Callsigns

VE3YX, which became available Apr 7, was claimed by Robert Howard of Deep River
(also holds call VE3GQW)

The next 2-letter VE to become available is VE3KU on May 21. Oddly, the follow (Fred Warburton of Bobcaygeon) is still listed on the RAC database, but has been on the silent key list for many months. Presumably, no one from his family has informed Industry Canada. So, Not sure what would happen if someone applies for it on the anniversary date. If IC doesn't have a record of the call being cancelled, I don't think they'd reissue it. Have to wait and see. VE3SU, goes up for grabs May 24...then it's a wait until late August for the next ones (VE3TN on Aug 26 and VE3NQ on Aug 30)

On the VA side of things, VA3RN became available today, good call for a registered nurse! Have to check the database Tuesday to see if anyone snagged it. B-T-W. There are just 16 VA two-letter calls left (most starting with "Q"..For some reason). Won't be long until they're all gone.

Treasurers Report

MONTH TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$200.00	Rac Membership	\$0.00
Equipment Rental		Guest Speaker	\$14.89
		Door Prizes	\$5.00
Coffee	\$10.50	Office Supplies	\$44.74
50/50 Draw		Incorporation	
Donations to QARC	\$0.00	Newsletter printing	\$32.08
Interest		Insurance	\$0.00
		Social Events	\$0.00
		Donations	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$210.50</u>	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$96.71</u>
		MONTH TO DATE INCOME	<u>\$113.79</u>

YEAR TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$850.00	Social Events	
Donations to QARC	\$30.00	Post box rental	\$77.04
50/50 Draw	\$50.00	Office supplies	\$151.68
Coffee	\$43.39	Newsletter printing	\$125.95
Repeater Move	\$0.00	Door Prizes	\$5.00
Interest	\$1.49	Insurance	\$654.48
Equipment Sales		Donations	\$92.50
Equipment Rental	<u>\$0.00</u>	RAC Membership	\$0.00
		Hall Rental	\$60.00
		Incorporation	
		Name Tags	\$8.05
		Guest Speaker	<u>\$40.71</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$974.88</u>	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$1,215.41</u>
		YEAR TO DATE INCOME	<u>-\$240.53</u>
		CASH ON HAND	<u>\$4,525.76</u>

