



April 2008

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: April 16, 2008 @7:30PM

LOCATION: Fire Hall Number 1, 72 Moira Street West

PROGRAM: The April 16 meeting of the Quinte Amateur Radio Club will be a tour of the Belleville City Fire Hall Number 1, 72 Moira Street West. Members are asked to park off-site then meet at the hall at 7:30 for a tour of the facilities.

Club Repeaters: VE3QAR: 146.985 Mhz / 444.475 Mhz. (118.8 Hz PL)
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:
Kingston Online Services

Belleville K8N 2Y6 (613) 968-7137

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Wednesday 7:30 PM Loyalist College
(Pioneer Bldg.) Room P-2

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

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QARC EXECUTIVE

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NEWSLETTER:	Dave Ackerman	VE3UGT	613-962-3991	ackerman@xplornet.com

QARC Meeting Location Change April Meeting

Note the change in meeting location. Belleville Fire Hall #1 72 Moira St West Belleville.

QARC March Meeting Minutes

Bob Moore, VE3QWB ve3qwb@rac
Secretary, QARC

Meeting called to order by President Mike at 7:28pm.

Executive Present:

President Mike VE3OX

Vice President Tim VE3UO

Past President Peter VE3UR

Treasurer Miles VE3XDX

Secretary Bob VE3QWB

Welcome to:

Brian Smith VA3BS, Matthew Dwight VE3OCC, Don Shears VE3UHO, Al Taylor VE3WV, Sandra VE3HON & Glen VE3CJG Campbell and Hermann Harms VA3VHH

Our guest speaker who will be arriving in a little while, Steph Pilon, Identification Constable with the [O.P.P.](#) Belleville Forensic Identification Services on Wallbridge-Loyalist Road.

Treasurer's Report: Miles reports the club has \$ 4,985.75

Correspondence:

Mike received some QSL cards and asked if we would reply. The club's Corporation papers were received from Industry Canada

News & Info:

Mike sent a message to the Kingston ARC www.ve3kbr.com regarding a joint dinner at Smiling Wilderness in Napanee www.smilingwilderness.com but he has not heard back from them, so maybe our club will do it on our own.

Mike has been asked to give a "Brown Bag Lunch" presentation at the Belleville Public Library on Tuesday May 2, between 1:30 & 2:30pm. www.bellevillelibrary.com Prince Edward Radio Club perc.lks.net will be holding their Auction on Thursday 01 MAY 2008, everyone welcome, bring whatever you want to sell

Don VE3UHO mentioned an article he heard on CBC Radio's Quirks and Quarks program www.cbc.ca/quirks about researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, have developed a way to make gasoline out of solar energy, doing in moments what nature does over eons. By focusing solar heat, they crack carbon dioxide to create hydrocarbons, thus potentially providing a carbon-neutral way to produce hydrocarbon fuels. In effect, they are reversing combustion and turning carbon dioxide back into fuel. You can read about their plans to chemically transform carbon dioxide into carbon-neutral liquid fuels at <http://tinyurl.com/2dqufy>.

Tim reports we have 75 members in our club

Our April meeting will still be held at 7:30pm, but not at Loyalist College. We will be at the Belleville City Fire Hall Number 1, [72 Moira Street West, Belleville](#). A tour of the facility has been arranged by VE3LRM, thanks Len.

Repeater Report: Tim VE3UO reports the repeater was off the air last week because the school was doing some work, but it is back on the air now. We are waiting for equipment to provide back-up power.

Art VE3SQG reports their PERC new repeater will be on the air in about a month. They spent around \$3000 to replace it.

Upcoming Events:

March 29 - HAM-EX in Brampton www.ham-ex.ca

March 29 - 30 - CQ World Wide WPX Contest www.cqwpix.com

April 19 - Durham Region Hamfest drhamfest.tripod.com

June 28 - 29 - Field Day 2008 www.arrrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/ AND www.qarc.on.ca/fd2008

President Mike mentioned there have been discussions about a change of location for 2008. One suggestion was the Conservation Authority building on the north side of Old Hwy 2 just west of Wallbridge-Loyalist Road. Another suggestion was at Loyalist College. Someone is looking into these locations, does anyone have any other suggestions? If so, please contact Mike ve3vmp@sympatico.ca

Last month we announced that Paul VE3TFI was selling off some equipment and he would donate his ICOM 718 transceiver to our club. When Mike contacted Paul's son about picking it up, Mike was informed the radio had been sold.

Door Prize of an " I (heart) Ham Radio " pin and a QARC 60th Anniversary logo pin was won by Ken VE3PBK. The 50/50 draw prize of \$ 25.00 was won by Rob VE3HAR. Tim VE3UO reminds members interested in helping with functions like the upcoming **Pitter Patter Run** on April 20, the Belleville Police Service is holding another day of doing security checks for the public on Saturday April 12.

Coffee Break, featuring more goodies baked by Dave VE3UGT's XYL. Thanks very much Leona, your baking tasted great and was really appreciated.

After the coffee break, [OPP](#) Constable **Steph Pilon** gave a very interesting presentation on the Identification work they do from their office on Wallbridge-Loyalist Road.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40. Attendance was 33.

Thank-you From Al Taylor

I would like to thank all those who honoured me by voting me as a Life Member of QARC. If I make it to the middle June, I'll be 93. A lifetime of great change.

As a boy, I would walk to the railway station and read the telegraphed message of the weather forecast posted by the telegrapher. Now a push of a button and it is on the screen of the TV, or my computer.

Field Day 2008.

There has been some interest in moving the PERC / QARC field day this year to the Moira Conservation Office at the corner of Hwy 2 west and Wallbridge Rd. If there is time at the meeting we will discuss this site. A site tour is planned before the May meeting.

The Spirit of Knoxville:

autonomous trans-atlantic balloon project

In 2005 we as University of Tennessee students were curious to see if we could build something with a real impact, something interesting, like a mars rover, but with our pocket change. We wanted to teach our gadget to survive as long as possible, to fight against the harsh, real world, and to phone home with all the gory details. We finally found stories of people doing something like we were thinking - sailing their electronic creations into the sky, dangling below balloons the size of refrigerators. Since our formation, nearly 20 of those beeping boxes have been whisked skyward from our fingers (usually crossed), and most of them have worked all the way to the edge of space, and back.

Over the radio, it constantly tells us where it is, and how high it's gotten, so we can chase madly after it in a cross-country fox hunt to catch up with the electronic balloon passenger after it parachutes softly back to earth. Things can go wrong, but we try to give the little computer a "Plan B" to try when things get tough, so it can at least have a fair shot for survival. We've always designed these to be fun and interesting, which has led to some truly beautiful photographs and videos, and lots of things that no one - or few others - have done before. Many feats we've cheered at passing are technical and possibly obscure, but we have realized that as we dabbled in various ideas and challenges, such as trying to stay up in the air for as long as possible, that we could put them all together for something truly astounding.

There are more than a dozen groups around the US doing balloons like us, in a frontier era of amateur balloons, doing homegrown experiments, testing ideas, competing together, in friendly races to be the first at everything - how high, how far, how heavy, how long, etc. In December 2005, we decided that we might just be able (and crazy enough) to figure out how to get a balloon from Knoxville to cross the entire Atlantic Ocean. It's been a lot of work, and it was tough sticking to it, as nearly every idea, every trick we thought of, and sent up into the night sky, failed completely. Somehow though, every failure shed a little more light on the right path to take.

Learning from our mistakes, we know the quirks of the Jet Stream, the sucker punches that come at 70 degrees below zero, the unexpected strength of air pressure, and the magic of shortwave radio. We're now at a point where our electronic explorer, the little flight computer, has all the skills to keep a balloon out of trouble for up to a week, and we've found a balloon designer that has brought to us a proven home made design, trustworthy of flying for several days at a time. The next flight we fly will be the first one that is designed to be fully capable of crossing the Atlantic Ocean, and landing on the other side. We have every intention of success, but should it fall into the ocean, we will rest briefly, build it better next time, and fly again until we make it.

We're sending a series of unmanned balloons out to cross the Atlantic Ocean. When (or if) one makes it, it might just be a world record of some sort.

Here's what will happen:

A Spirit of Knoxville autonomous balloon will be released from downtown Knoxville, TN, climb to 42,000 ft, enter the jet stream, and be whisked across the Atlantic Ocean... we hope. All the while a homemade radio will send us its location, height and other

health info about the flight. All of this information will be available right here on our site in real-time during missions.

Sign up and we'll let you know when we're having a launch. We usually get about 48 hours notice that the weather is right. We'll keep launching every few weeks or until we make it to Europe or Africa.

Be a part of history in the making, or at least have fun watching us try!

<http://www.spiritofknoxville.com/index.html>

Your Annual Dementia Test

It's that time of year to take our annual senior citizen test. Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. As we grow older, it's important to keep mentally alert. If you don't use it, you lose it! Below is a very private way to gauge your loss or non-loss of intelligence. Take the test presented here to determine if you're losing it or not. The spaces below are so you don't see the answers until you've made your answer. OK, relax, clear your mind and begin.

1. What do you put in a toaster?

Answer: 'bread.' If you said 'toast,' give up now and do something else.

Try not to hurt yourself. If you said, bread, go to Question 2.

2. Say 'silk' five times. Now spell 'silk.' What do cows drink?

Answer: Cows drink water. If you said 'milk,' don't attempt the next question. Your brain is over-stressed and may even overheat. Content yourself with reading a more appropriate literature such as Auto World. However, if you said 'water', proceed to question 3.

3. If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from?

Answer: Greenhouses are made from glass. If you said 'green bricks,' why are you still reading these??? If you said 'glass,' go on to Question 4.

4. It's twenty years ago, and a plane is flying at 20,000 feet over Germany (If you will recall, Germany at the time was politically divided into West Germany and East Germany) Anyway, during the flight, two engines fail. The pilot, realizing that the last remaining engine is also failing, decides on a crash landing procedure. Unfortunately the engine fails before he can do so and the plane fatally crashes smack in the middle of 'no man's land' between East Germany and West Germany. Where would you bury the survivors? East Germany, West Germany, or no man's land?

Answer: You don't bury survivors..

If you said ANYTHING else, you're a dunce and you must stop. If you said, 'You don't bury survivors', proceed to the next question.

5. Without using a calculator - You are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales. In London, 17 people get on the bus. In Reading, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In Swindon, two people get off and four get on. In Cardiff, 11 people get off and 16 people get on. In Swansea, three people get off and five people get on. In Carmarthen, six people get off and three get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven.

What was the name of the bus driver?

Answer: Oh, for crying out loud!

Don't you remember your own name? It was YOU!!