
LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Keyed-Up

Issue 10

2001-2002

June 2002

The PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Charles McNeil VE3HBB

Well, here it is June . . . again! With the arrival of June we experience the end of the club year, and the promise of a new year to come. It is a time to look back at the year that was, and to reflect on our accomplishments.

So, what was accomplished? To start, we had a very successful Flea Market and Hamfest last September. Kudos to Jeff, Dave and Anne who worked so hard to make it happen. (Yes, I know that there were others involved, too many to mention in this limited space.) Those who put in the time and effort are to be thanked. You'll know who you are.

We were able to bring forward an interesting program each month. Many thanks to all of the speakers who made the meetings worth attending. We had CANWARN training at a monthly meeting. What an excellent opportunity to bring newcomers into our midst.

We now have two brand new club examiners. Thank you Archie and Eric for stepping up to the plate. This year's Hamfest will feature test sessions for those seeking their licenses or upgrades.

Our Christmas party was one of the best I have ever had the privilege of attending. This well-attended event provided opportunities to meet, greet and eat together. The food was outstanding, and an excellent time was had by all.

Our board meetings were always interesting and productive. There are still one or two initiatives yet to be rolled out. Stay tuned. With the departure of the president, I was catapulted into the role of chair prematurely. With the support of the other members of the board, especially thanks to the constant oversight provided by Jeff Peacock our outgoing past-president, I survived. Thanks.

Finally, a special thank you to Ted, VE3BYD who kept the newsletter going. It's a thankless task and I wish you good DX in the months to come, Ted. Thank you for all your efforts.

So, what is next? The June meeting will deal with putting the finishing touches on field day. Let's try to get lots of operators out to this annual event. We will also present the Ham (Amateur) of the Year award to a most deserving club member. Gee, it's tough keeping secrets. With luck the new executive committee will be at the meeting. I know I will be there.

Your new executive for 2002/3 consists of: Charles McNeil, President; Tony Drawmer, Treasurer; Dave Young, Past President; Brian Bouckley, Secretary; Eric Pierce, Director/Webmaster/Newsletter Editor; Carlo Cervoni, Director of Membership; Jack Leeson, Director at Large; and Norm Campbell, Director at Large. Nota bene, we

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still require a member to fill the position of Vice President. (This is a critical situation. Please, someone, come forward.)

Well, that's my time for now, (alright, all right, I've run on and on) and I'll see you all at the June meeting.

Cheers and 73,
Charles VE3HBB
President, LARC



London
Amateur
Radio
Club

P.O. Box 82, Station 'B'
London, ON. N6A 4V3

Past President - Dave Young VE3EAY
Treasurer – Tony Drawmer VE3SQU
Membership Director -
Carlo Cervoni VE3CVA
Director – Jack Leeson VE3KM

President – Charles McNeil VE3HBB
Secretary – Brian Bouckley VA3ATB
Webmaster, Bulletin Editor –
Eric Pierce VA3EP
Director – Norm Campbell VE3MNC

NEXT MEETING

TIME: 7:30 PM, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2002

PLACE: ST. JUDE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BASEMENT

SOUTHWEST CORNER OF FANSHAWE PARK ROAD
& ADELAIDE ST. NORTH

TOPICS: FINAL TOUCHES TO FIELD DAY, HAM OF THE YEAR
AWARD, and MEET THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Website:

The LARC website at

www.larc.on.ca

has been re-organised and updated. Hopefully you will find the new design a bit easier to navigate and it will load a lot quicker, especially on dial up links.

If you have any comments, suggestions, material or links, please contact va3ep@rac.ca . He is looking for people with specific interest in modes such as CW, slow scan TV, RTTY, PSK31, etc. to get some special interest groups going to spark interest in local scheds of these modes for hams new to them in the area.

Next HAM Course:

Eric VA3EP will be running the BASIC Ham "crash" Course June 15, June 22, July 6, Jul 13, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, each morning for the 4 Saturdays. One on one tutorial assistance for those that need it will be provided by Jack VE3KM and Archie VE3PTV. The last time this course was run all the students who wrote the test passed, and we aim for the same this time. The location is tentatively scheduled to be CNIB near the Sick Kids Hospital. Contact va3ep@rac.ca for more information if interested.

Eric VA3EP

Basic Course a Job Well Done

" What a difference co-operation and participation makes "

Special thanks to , Mary-VA3NTD, Harvey-VA3HJB, Tim-VE3TJS, Jim-VE3CTS, Larry-VE3LHG, and Pamela Van de Velde.

This past winter, for a duration of 8 weeks consisting of 12 sessions (2 hours per evening) an amateur radio BASIC course was held at the C.N.I.B./London for visually impaired candidates. Mary (VA3NTD) who had hoped to provide just such a course for the past few years and myself Archie (VE3PTV) were hoping to generate enough interest in at least 3 people to start this course . Advertising only via word of mouth, nine very interesting people of all ages and gender appeared as eager and willing candidates for this course. We then set the wheels in motion for our first session on the eve of Feb.05, 2002 . Realising that I had taken on quite a challenge, I was determined to see it come to success for our students.

Mary and Harvey (VA3HJB) looked after personal info gathering, the facility and the never ending task of transposing notes and diagrams into Braille or other suitable formats. All the while I was looking after suitable instructional but tactile materials. Without asking, my wife Pamela would pick up any task, wherever or whatever needed, including much needed feedback on progress made or not made .

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As the student hams were receiving their instructional information ,it seemed like their appetite for more info multiplied many fold. This elevated my determination to feed them any knowledge available to myself, staying within the scope of the course. This just meant a bit more effort and/or ingenuity on my part. During our sessions we made a few radio contacts, worked with some basic electronic components ,visited the LARC club station at the Red Cross, where Jim (VE3CTS) met us to be our guest speaker on the operation of repeaters, links; and computer-assisted modes like IRLP and ILINK. Jim's visit was arranged through his son Tim (VE3TJS) who promised either he or his dad would be present that night (Jim was in Florida at the time). All present enjoyed a fantastic evening.

A few sessions later I got stuck for answers to a few very good questions and promised the students an answer at our next session, answers I thought might be obtainable if I could draw on Larry's (VE3LHG) experience. So via phone I explained my situation to Larry. Much to my surprise Larry's solution was for him to sit in at our next session. Of course I would love that. Not only was the answer provided but I brought the book and the man that wrote it (hi, hi).

Larry sitting in proved to be interesting and entertaining, as a few laughs came along with the more serious dialog .

Well, that was not the end of the questions being asked, however, the excellent company of the now very potential new hams, along with the feeling that no one was walking this path alone, kept all of us looking forward to our next time together until at last we achieved success, as every one passed the exam. If you think people get excited on the well known TV program , The Price is Right , it would only be a fraction of the vibrations felt in our classroom.

The students' success and their excited state brought a great deal of joy and happiness to me, to the point that no words could fully describe.

This joy and happiness I would rightfully wish to share with all who were involved to help make this story a REALITY for the nine new hams, whom I wish to welcome to the amateur radio community.

Mary, Harvey, Tim, Jim, Larry and Pamela , thank you very much for your volunteer effort, time and service that was second to none.
"WHAT A DIFFERENCE CO-OPERATION AND PARTICIPATION CAN MAKE"
THANK YOU,
Archie, VE3PTV

FIELD DAY

From Jeff Peacock VE3IOS

For the first time in its 69-year history, Field Day officially will expand its scope beyond the borders of the US and Canada to include participation by amateurs in all of North and South America--including the Caribbean.

Field Day takes place this year on the first weekend of summer--June 22-23 (Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June). Following this year's event, clubs, groups and individuals taking part will be able to upload photos and comments to the ARRL Contest Soapbox Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/>.

"We encourage interesting photographs that will give those visiting the site sense of the 'flavor' of a group's Field Day participation," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. Henderson says he gets "hundreds of photographs" for possible use in QST, which typically has room for about a dozen. "The Online Soapbox gives groups the chance to display their best efforts for FD," he said.

The Field Day Soapbox area will open Sunday, June 23, at 2100 UTC. Anyone may post stories and photos, but these will be screened before posting.

Groups and individuals still are expected to submit Field Day reports--summary sheets, dupe sheets, proofs of bonus, etc--for the annual QST Field Day report. "Also, we still encourage groups to include their best photographs for consideration for QST," Henderson added. The complete—and official--rules for Field Day 2002 are available on the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2002/rules-fd-2002.html>
and in the May issue of QST (page 108).

Field Day has a long tradition as an emergency preparedness exercise, operating equipment "in the field" using power sources other than the commercial mains. As ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, pointed out in his "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial

<http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2002/05/01/2/>
in June 2002 QST, Field Day also presents an ideal opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio to the general public and to local officials and to convey an important message in the process.

"No matter what, there will be hams and they will be able to communicate with one another. No matter what," Sumner wrote.

While contacts with amateurs around the world always have counted for credit, this year's event will mark the first formal participation by stations outside the US and Canada.

Another significant change this year is the new "Get on the Air" or GOTA station, which replaces the Novice station at Field Day set-ups. The idea is to give Novice and Technician licensees as well as generally inactive amateurs of any class and even unlicensed individuals a chance to participate--under the supervision of a licensed control operator.

One persistent question Henderson says he's been getting concerns how the Field Day rules define a "generally inactive" licensee in terms of GOTA operation. "We do not want to get into hair-splitting or micromanaging a definition of that term," Henderson said. Instead, he points to the frequently asked questions information in the

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Field Day packet, which says, "Clubs should use their judgement in determining the operators of the GOTA station."

Examples in the Field Day packet include operators who have never been on HF or who have been off the air for the past couple of years. Any single GOTA operator is limited to a maximum of 100 contacts of the 400-contact for-credit contact total.

The first "International Field Day" was held June 10-11, 1933, billed as "just a test of portable equipment" for US and Canadian amateurs, according to former ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM. Hart credits then-Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, with coming up with the idea of Field Day. It was not until Field Day 1934 that Handy's Field Day write-up in QST raised the aspect of emergency preparedness.

The ARRL Letter Vol. 21, No. 22 May 31 , 2002

From RAC Headquarters

Two new directors at RAC

May 23, 2002

The RAC Board of Directors has approved the appointment, of Bjarne (Bj) Madsen, VE5FX of Tisdale, SK and D. Howard Dickson, VE1DHD of Tantallon, NS, as Directors for the Midwest and Atlantic Regions respectively. These appointments are effective immediately filling unexpired terms to December 31, 2002, of Directors Lord and Bartlett, resigned.

New Canada Day Contest Manager

May 24, 2002

Joe MacPherson, VE1CH, First Vice President, Radio Amateurs of Canada, is pleased to announce that the Moncton Seniors Amateur Radio Club Inc., of Moncton, N.B., is taking over responsibility for the management of the RAC Canada Day contest effective immediately. Email enquiries or electronic logs related to the RAC Canada Day Contest should be directed to ve9qed@rac.ca.

In order to simplify the processing of electronic logs, ALL such logs for RAC sponsored contests, from July 1st, 2002 onward, MUST be in either the Cabrillo or ADIF format. Electronic logs submitted in other formats will not be accepted. Regular non-electronic logs, for the RAC Canada Day contest, should be mailed to the Moncton Seniors Amateur Radio Club Inc., at P.O. Box 73, Moncton, NB, Canada E1C 8R9. Contest logs for the RAC Winter Contest should continue to be sent to Dave Shipman, VE7CFD.

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In order to further reduce the burden on contest managers, for RAC sponsored contests, RAC HQ has taken on responsibility for producing certificates and plaques after notification by contest managers of the winners in the different categories.

ARESONTARIO

On 25 May 2002 at 15:04, Peter Gamble wrote:

Exercise Exercise Exercise

On Thursday May 23, 18:00 hrs, Coron Air flight 123 crashed into a residential area near the Ottawa International Airport. Airport crews assisted the City Of Ottawa emergency response at the crash site.

The Hospitals activated their emergency plans and prepared to receive casualties. Forty five minutes later, the intra-Hospital radio system failed.

Through the City of Ottawa Emergency Measures Unit, the Emergency Measures Radio Group (Ottawa ARES) was activated. EMRG established radio operators at the EOC, local hospitals and the ambulance dispatch centre, to provide a replacement radio system for the hospitals.

The Amateur radio station at the Barrhaven Fire Station was activated as a net control station. The Ottawa Red Cross radio station was activated and radio operators were dispatched to the shelter.

The exercise went quite well and there was a lot learned from the experience. We were a full partner in the planning and execution of the exercise, so radio operators were welcomed into all locations and the end users were pleased with the results.

Peter Gamble -VE3BQP

Team Leader -Emergency Measures Radio Group

Emergency Co-ordinator (EC) -Ottawa ARES

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT May 14, 2002

To all radio amateurs

Past ARRL President Robert W. Denniston, W0DX/VP2VI, SK

Past ARRL President and DXpedition pioneer Bob Denniston, VP2VI and W0DX, of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, died unexpectedly in his sleep May 12 or 13. He was 83. Denniston served as ARRL president from 1966 until 1972 and as International Amateur Radio Union president from 1966 until 1974. He later was elected an ARRL honorary vice president.

"He was an Amateur Radio icon, and he will be missed," said ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP. "Our condolences go out to his family and many friends."

After heading up the "Gon-Waki" VP7NG DXpedition to the Bahamas during the second weekend of the 1948 ARRL International DX Contest, Denniston--then W4NNN--was credited with being the "father of the modern DXpedition." The DXpedition's name was a spoof on Thor Heyerdahl's "Kon-Tiki" expedition the previous year.

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Denniston has said he didn't realise at the time that he was inventing the concept, and he credited CM9AA with coining the expression "DXpedition." Denniston remained active on the ham bands until his death--including operation on 6 meters during the tremendous openings last year and early this year.

In recent years, he and a group of friends had commemorated the 1948 "Gon-Waki" milestone each March, setting up vintage equipment and using simple wire antennas and hand keys to replicate the flavour of the original DXpedition from his Tortola QTH.

Denniston's other firsts included Clipperton Island (FO8AJ) in 1954 and Malpelo (HK0TU) in 1969. His strategy of visits to rare prefixes helped earn him a world record ARRL International DX Contest score in 1960 from VP1JH (now Belize).

A native of Iowa, Denniston was first licensed some 70 years ago as W9NWX at the age of 13. He subsequently held W4NNN while attached to the Pentagon, and later became W0NWX--the call sign he held during his tenure as ARRL President. He also was a founding member and on the executive committee of IARU Region 2.

Denniston served for four years in the US Army Signal Corps and was chief of the radio control section of radio station WAR at the Pentagon. At the end of World War II, Denniston was the radio operator aboard the presidential train.

Denniston was ARRL Midwest Division Director from 1956 until 1966, when he was elected as the League's sixth president. In his professional life, he was president of Denniston and Partridge, a firm that operated more than two dozen lumberyards at one point. When he retired to the British Virgin Islands, he ran Smugglers Cove Hotel in Tortola.

Denniston's wife, Nell, died two years ago. A son and daughter are among his survivors. Information on services is not yet available.

FCC proposes two new amateur bands!

Good news for ham radio this week! FCC has proposed going along with ARRL's request for a new domestic (US-only), secondary HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz. The FCC also is ready to permit operation on a 136-kHz "sliver band" in the low-frequency (LF) region. And, in response to a third ARRL request, the FCC has proposed elevating Amateur Radio to primary status at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

"I'm just as tickled as I can be," ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said upon hearing the news. "This is a classic example of our ARRL at work."

The FCC voted unanimously May 2 to adopt the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 02-98. The Commission released a Public Notice May 9, and the NPRM is expected to be released soon. A comment deadline will be announced as soon as it's available.

The FCC said the new 5-MHz band would help amateurs "better match their choice of frequency to existing propagation conditions." The band, if approved, would be the first new amateur HF allocation since World Administrative Radio Conference 1979 gave amateurs 30, 17 and 12 meters--the so-called "WARC Bands." Assuming the 5-MHz band eventually is authorised, it could be a few years before it actually becomes available.

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The League said its successful WA2XSY experiments demonstrated that amateurs can coexist with current users and that the band is very suitable for US-to-Caribbean paths. In comparisons with 80 and 40 meters, the WA2XSY operation also showed the 60-meter band to be the most reliable of the three. The ARRL also argued that a new 150-kHz allocation at 5 MHz could relieve periodic overcrowding on 80 and 40.

If allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis, hams would have to avoid interfering with—and accept interference from—current occupants of the spectrum, as they already do on 30 meters. The band 5.250 to 5.450 MHz now is allocated to Fixed and Mobile services on a co-primary basis in all three ITU regions.

The ARRL asked the FCC for two LF allocations in October 1998--135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 160 to 190 kHz. The FCC said its action on one part of that LF request proposes changes that would enhance the ability of amateur radio operators to conduct technical experiments, including propagation and antenna design experiments, in the 'low frequency' (LF) range of the radio spectrum."

Several countries in Europe and elsewhere already have 136-kHz amateur allocations. The first amateur transatlantic contact on the band was recorded in February 2001.

Hams would be secondary to the Fixed and Maritime Mobile services in the 136-kHz allocation. The League said its engineering surveys suggest that hams could operate without causing problems to power line carrier (PLC) systems already active in that vicinity or to government assignments. Unallocated Part 15 PLC systems are used by electric utilities to send control signals, data and voice.

The FCC said its proposal to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation at 2400 to 2402 MHz to primary "seeks to protect current amateur use of this band." Hams have shared their other 2.4 GHz spectrum on a secondary basis with government users.

Amateurs already are primary at 2390 to 2400 and from 2402 to 2417 MHz. The ARRL has said primary status in the intervening spectrum slice was needed "to provide some assurances of future occupancy of the band segments for the next generation of amateur satellites."

The ARRL has expressed its belief that hams can continue to accommodate Part 15 and Part 18 devices at 2.4 GHz

Ham of the Year

I would like to take this opportunity, still in total secrecy, to congratulate the Ham of the Year for 2002. The announcement and presentation will be made next Thursday, at the meeting. However I do not think there has ever been a more deserving candidate for the award. This Ham epitomises the very spirit of amateur radio as written in the Amateur's Code. When the announcement is made, I'm sure we'll all be saying, "Well, of course! Why didn't we think of this before?"

So to you, the Ham of the Year, Congratulations and my personal thanks for your great service to the amateur community.

Ted VE3BYD

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tED's Final Thoughts

by Ted Haynes VE3BYD

(At Last! tED's last hoorah.)

Yes, this is the last bulletin that I will publish. I have tried for the past three years to keep you informed, interested, and edified. I have not always succeeded, but I have tried. I owe many thanks to a few people who were good enough to keep sending me technical and operating articles, as well as accounts of club events. I can't name them all, because my memory is not so great, but I do have to thank particularly Bob Morden VE3EIM, Dave Steeles VE3UZ, Jeff Peacock VE3IOS, Anne Skipp VA3FRO, and Dave Young VE3EAY, who all regularly sent me articles which they thought would be of interest to you, because it interested them. There were others who sent material from time to time. I thank you all. In fact, at times I couldn't use all I got, because I didn't have space, or the ability to transpose the article to my computer. Everything was interesting or informative or both!

There were times when I begged for material, and at the very last minute something would arrive from one of the old faithful to bail me out. Again, thank you.

I have not tried to upset anyone over these years, nor have I intended to tread on anyone's toes. I have stated my own opinions for what they were worth. For the greater part, there has been no reaction at all. However, lately there has been some nasty and rather abusive backlash, which frankly I don't need, or think I deserve. Hence, my "retirement". Amateur Radio is a hobby! I don't need the politics, power trips or abuse. I believe I have done my service as Editor and Director for the last three years to the best of my ability (such as it is), and in some ways have paid the price. Now I'm going back to being a ham operator who actually gets time to operate on-air. WOW!

Please keep the principles of service and loyalty in your minds as you carry on with this great hobby. Stick to the Amateur Code. Always help your brother ham as well as the public at large, and keep your integrity intact. If something's broken, try to help fix it, rather than just walking away after putting down the guy who might have inadvertently fouled it up. That makes you just as guilty, and useless. If something is wrong, don't just sit and howl. Try to do something about it! If we as individual hams won't stand up for our rights and RESPONSIBILITIES as Amateur Radio Operators, WHO WILL? The very life of this club depends upon ALL of the members to stand up and put some effort into making events work. Too much is having to be done for too many, by too few, for too little satisfaction. For what it's worth, serving the club as a Director seems to be more and more an exercise in frustration and futility, because of the apathy of many of the members. This has to change, and we are all responsible for making that change. PARTICIPATE! Let the Directors know what you want, and what you think of what is going on. Tell them what you expect of them. Otherwise NOTHING happens or changes. I know! I've been there, and done it. (However no T-shirt!)

You gave the new Board of Directors a mandate, even though it was by default, (i.e. acclamation). Now please give them a break by lending them a hand and some positive support. They will need it!

GL & CUL.

73

Ted

