

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER

KEYED-UP

ISSUE 17 2003/03

MARCH 2003

London Amateur Radio Club,
P.O. Box 82 Stn. 'B',
London Ontario, N6A-4VA
Incorporated in 1978
Editor: Carlo Cervoni
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Web Site: <http://larc.on.ca>
Web Manager: Eric Pierce VA3EP

March Meeting

Date: March 13th 2003

Time: 7:30pm

**Place: St. Jude Church, All Saints Hall
1537 Adelaide Street North London Ont.**

Topic: "Collecting Heathkits" Eric Pierce VA3EP

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Charles VE3HBB

It's March. The year has moved on and we are growing close to the end of the club year. I feel that we have accomplished much as a club this year and we have next year to look forward to. In the waning months of this year, we will have the Canwarn training and we will most likely have VA3MGI back on the air. Finally, Field Day promises to be exceptionally good this year. We are already planning for it and we have a great new site.

One of the final duties of the outgoing executive is to call for nominations for next year's executive. Here's how it works: either nominate a friend or volunteer to come onto the board. If there are ample numbers of nominations/volunteers we will hold an election. Let the best candidates win! If there are not enough candidates for an election, it will be foregone and the board will be acclaimed. Finally, the board will select from its numbers personnel to fill the executive positions. Your President will remain as past-president, but I do not anticipate having a lot of time available next year and will not likely attend many of the executive meetings. After two years as president, I feel a need for a rest. I won't get one, though, as I will be moving into the position of President of the Unitarian Fellowship of London. This will be a somewhat bigger job!

So, to close, if you are looking for a way to serve your club, get involved. The work is rewarding and you will have an opportunity to help to determine the direction of LARC over the next year or so. Volunteers and nominators may contact me at 474-3545 (evenings) or contact any other member of this year's executive.

73's

Charles VE3HBB

HEATHKIT MARCH MEETING

ERIC VA3EP will be our speaker for the meeting. His topic will be on "Collecting Heathkits".

The Story of Heath

[Excerpted from the Heathkit Catalog]

When Edward Bayard Heath founded the Heath Aeroplane Company during the early 1900's, little did he realize what would eventually evolve from his small "airplane trading post" as it was commonly called. Before he died, Mr. Heath was able to see the fruition of his early dreams. In 1926, he produced an airplane in kit form--the famous Heath "Parasol." For years this light aircraft was a favorite in the flying fraternity. Mr. Heath was killed during a test flight in 1931, marking a tragic end to a brilliant career. From that point through World War II, the Heath Company remained in the aircraft and replacement part business.

But it wasn't until shortly after World War II, that the character of the Heath Company changed. It was then that an ambitious engineer named Howard Anthony, who had purchased the Heath Company in 1935, took a calculated gamble. The ingenious Mr. Anthony bought a large stock of surplus wartime electronic parts, designed and "mail order marketed" an oscilloscope for \$39.50.

Mr. Anthony based the success of his idea on the premise that anyone, regardless of technical knowledge or skills, could assemble a kit himself, and save up to 50% over comparable factory-built models. All that would be required were a few simple hand tools and some spare time.

Orders poured in for the oscilloscope kit and the foundation for the Heath Company as it exists today was established. Mr. Anthony expanded his test instrument line and soon added amateur radio and hi-fi component kits.

The key to the kit-builder's, and consequently Mr. Anthony's, success, was the instruction manual. Its contents still guide the Heath Company today. It contains simple, non-technical instructions and large "exploded" diagrams that take the builder through each and every step...show him exactly what to do and how to do it. Proof that every Heathkit is designed to be "beginner-built" can be found in the cards and letters Heath receives daily from people of all ages and from all walks of life expressing their delight and satisfaction.

Tragedy struck again in 1954 when Howard Anthony was also killed in an airplane crash. Daystrom, Inc. then acquired the Heath Company. In 1962 Daystrom, Inc. was purchased by Schlumberger Limited, a leader in the development of electronic techniques for oil exploration.

Since 1954, more kit products have been added until at present Heath boasts 11 different product lines, consisting of over 300 kits...the world's largest selection. Whatever your interest, you'll find a kit to match it...

In order to produce the vast array of Heathkit equipment, a modern 205,000 sq. ft. plant was constructed in 1958 on the shores of Lake Michigan in St. Joseph, Mich. And recently another 156,000 sq. ft. of engineering and manufacturing facilities were added, bringing the total space to 361,000 sq. ft. If you are planning a visit to Michigan, we invite you to stop in and pay us a visit. We're located on Hilltop Rd. just off Business I-94, south of St. Joseph.

LARC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Charles McNeil VE3HBB ve3hbb@larc.on.ca.

Past President David Young VE3EAY ve3eay@larc.on.ca

Vice President Jack Leeson VE3KM

Secretary Brian Bouckley VA3ATB va3atb@larc.on.ca

Treasurer / Station Manager Anthony Drawmer VE3SQU ve3squ@larc.on.ca

Director/Web Eric Pierce VA3EP va3ep@larc.on.ca

Director Norman Campbell VE3MNC ve3mnc@larc.on.ca

Membership / Bulletin Editor Carlo Cervoni VE3CVA ve3cva@rac.ca

CLUB STATIONS'

VA3LON 147.060+ 114.8 Hz Pl

VE3LON 224.220- 114.8 Hz Pl

VE3RCL HF BASE

Editor's Note:

A question was put forth on Sat. Feb. 9, 03 LARC net," What can be done to promote or advance Amateur Radio?"

Participation on any one of the local nets would be a boost.

VA3LON 147.060+ 114.8 HZ PL. MONDAY 8:00 pm.

VE3OME 145.450- 114.8 Hz PL. WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm

VE3TTT 147.180+ 114.8 Hz PL SATURDAY 8:00pm

VE3STR 147.330+ 114.8 Hz PL SUNDAY 9:00pm St. Thomas repeater

LARC HF NET 7.063 MHz SUNDAY 11:00 am

London Swap Shop 7.063 MHz SUNDAYS 12 noon

ONTARS NET 3.755 MHz DAILY 7am-6pm

TRANS PROV. NET 7.055 MHz DAILY 9am-5pm

Canadian Red Cross Headquarters	14.125 MHz	1900UTC	Sunday s
Communication Ontario Net	7.153 MHz	10:00 am	Daily
Great Lakes Emergency and Traffic Net	3.932 MHz	8:30 pm	Daily
Intercontinental Amateur Radio Traffic Net	14.300 MHz	7am-12 noon	Daily
Michigan Amateur Radio Comm.	3.953 MHz	11:00am Mon. to Sat.	1:00 pm Sundays
Peel Amateur Radio Club	3.685 MHz	10:00am	Sundays
Ontario Ares Net	7.150 MHz	2:00pm.	Sundays
Ontario Ares Net	3.755 MHz	9:00pm.	Sundays
V01/V02 Evening Net	3.785 MHz	22.30UTC	Daily

Check www.tpn7055.ca/nets.html for further available nets

CLUB NEWS

- NEW SITE PLANNED FOR FIELD DAY 2003. RESEVOIR HILL on SPRINGBANK PARK for JUNE 28 and 29 2003. Anyone wanting to volunteer in helping this year contact Dave VE3EAY or Carlo VE3CVA.
 - Archie VE3PTV is holding Basic Amateur Radio Classes on Saturdays starting March 15, 2002 at CNIB 749 Baseline Road East London contact Archie at ve3ptv@rac.ca or phone 289-5481 for details. Estimated 5 classes. Starting at 9am till 1pm Cost \$30.00 per student.
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- Nominations for the 2003-2004 Executive. The nomination committee is looking for members who would be interested in serving on the LARC Executive for next year. May 8th meeting is our Election Day. If you are interested please advise Dave Young VE3EAY or Brian Bouckley VA3ATB or Carlo Cervoni VE3CVA.
 - Ham of the Year Award for 2003. Each year LARC tries to honour a member who stands out in the local Amateur Radio community through their participation in and contribution to the hobby. If you think a particular Ham deserves consideration for this award please advise any member of the current executive. Please provide us with reasons for this recommendation.

World Amateur News

On February 1 the entire world was stunned by the Colombia disaster. Three of the seven astronauts who died when the space shuttle Columbia were radio amateurs. Mission Specialists Kalpana "KC" Chawla, KD5ESI; David Brown, KC5ZTC; and Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, were among the crew of mission STS-107 headed by Commander Rick Husband. The other members of the crew were the Pilot, William McCool; Mission Specialist Michael Anderson, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon.

Amateur radio has a long relationship with the space flight programme through Space Amateur Radio Experiment or SAREX- and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station -ARISS.

In the International Space Station, Expedition 6 crew are - Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP; Flight engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA ISS Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, who had lifted off last Nov. on a four-month mission. They have enough supplies to remain on the space Station until at least June and can be re-supplied by Russian progress rockets. NASA has grounded its entire shuttle fleet.

NEWS FROM THE MEMBERS'

Scott VE3CGN writes:

Hello everyone. My name is Scott Carter (VE3CGN), and I have recently been appointed as the ARES Emergency Co-ordinator (EC) for the City of London. Myself, I have always had an interest in emergency communications, and in helping others. I look forward to working with those of you who share this interest as part of our hobby.

My first priority as Emergency Co-ordinator is to confirm our list of ARES members. The second is to make sure that the Club Station, and other emergency stations are in good condition and that they are operational. I would like to setup regular testing of our stations, including schedules with other Amateur Radio stations that communicate on behalf of the Red Cross.

One of the projects I would like to start on, is really not a new one. However, I personally believe it to be an important one for both ARES and LARC. The project is a mobile communications unit. This mobile command post (likely a trailer) would provide a warm dry location for operators during emergencies and during public events such as races. It would attract attention to our hobby and LARC, as well as display our emergency communications capabilities. I believe that with support from the amateur radio community, and donations from the commercial sector, we can complete such a project. There is a lot of initial research that will be required for this project. If you are interested in volunteering some time, or if you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me via email at ve3cgn@rac.ca or by telephone at 519-686-7258.

Scott VE3CGN

Mark VE3PZR wrote:

Promoting Ham Radio in your Neighborhood

Mark Bramwell, ve3pzs@foxhollow.ca

I believe everyone would agree that the mission statement of LARC could be “To Promote Amateur Radio in London and surrounding areas”.

Let us examine that phrase for a moment. Who is LARC? From a textbook point of view, it is an incorporated legal entity. It has the ability to own equipment, incur costs, collect money and pay some bills. In reality, LARC is a collection of people who share common interests. LARC is the people.

What is Amateur Radio? Is it just the slivers of frequency allocated to us by the government? Is someone who spends their hobby hours designing, building and tinkering with weather satellite receiver boards any less of a ham than someone who bangs out CW on 40 meters? Of course not. Our hobby is diverse enough that our definition should be a broad one.

If you check out the ARRL web page, they claim that the first step in obtaining a ham ticket is... (They continue by explaining the levels of licensing). I am willing to argue that the first step is ‘getting the person interested in starting’.

I live in the North West end of London on a quiet street. On a typical summer afternoon, you may find me out in the garage with the door up, tinkering with various electronic projects while a bunch of the neighborhood kids (ages 10 -12) drive up and down the street with their bikes doing what kids do. Eventually they turn up the driveway, come to a stop and yell ‘Hey Mister, whatcha doing?’. They pop their heads in, look at the devices, ask a few questions then go back to racing up and down the street. Some of the kids come back a few times and are interested in knowing more. They ask a few more questions, look around, stutter a few more questions then wander off. I can tell that they are interested and want to know more but are unsure how to ask and are uncomfortable about being a nuisance.

After talking to some of the parents, I decided to sponsor something I call the ‘Foxhollow Radio Awareness Test’. Basically I told the kids that if they took a short test, I would give them FREE RADIOS! I decided to pick up some cheap FRS radios. These small UHF FM hand held transceivers put out 500mw at 462 MHz. At Wal-Mart you can buy a PAIR for under \$30 plus tax. I passed to word along to the kids expecting them to lineup for the FREE RADIOS! Much to my surprise it was a hard sell. I am not sure if the word ‘test’ scared them off or is it the lure of the internet and video games. Eventually some starting asking some questions and I gave them the test.

Ham Radio as we know it is an endangered species. The government is always nipping at our heels trying to pull back our frequency allocation. We should all take on the task as ham-radio ambassadors whenever possible. Sometimes it is the little things that reap the biggest gains.

References:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamradio.html> ARRL – What is Ham Radio

<http://www.commtchreview.net/frsradio/> - What is FRS Radio

Note: Here is the test that was given to the kids. As you can see, I tried to keep the language simple enough for a 10 year old. I tried to gently cover the subjects of equipment, privacy (or lack of) concerns & radio procedures. After the test, a short debriefing was made as we went over the questions. FRS gives the kids access to *something* without too much pain & suffering (and cost). Also note that although they had to answer all questions, I didn't care if they were answered correctly. Mistakes were pointed out during the debriefing.

PS: Before you head for my place for the "FREE RADIOS!" the offer was for my street only ☺

Foxhollow Radio Awareness Test

From Mark Bramwell
31 Foxhollow Crescent
473-3618

Rules:

You must answer all of the questions.
You may use the Internet to find the answers.
You may go to the library to find the answers.
You may ask your parents to help you.

Name:

Phone:

If you answer all of the questions, you will get a FREE two-way FRS radio!

1. What do the following letters mean when someone says the radio is for F.R.S. ?

Hint: The "R" means radio

2. If you are in your house talking to a friend on the FRS radio, can anyone else hear what you are saying?

3. If you have your FRS radio set to channel 1, can you hear someone talking if they are using channel 2?

4. Two-way radios are used by many people in their jobs. Please give 2 examples of jobs where you might use a radio? Hint: Taxi drivers are dispatched via radio

5. In the above question we talked about the different types of radios available. Can you talk to someone on a radio if their radio is not FRS?

Example: Can you talk to a cop on their police radio?

6. If you are in your basement talking on the FRS radio, and your friend is at their house, also talking in the basement. The signal might be weak and scratchy. What might you do to improve the signal?

7. If you are talking on the FRS radio, the screen might go dim and the radio might start to go 'beep beep beep'. What might be the problem?

8. While talking on the radio, it is important to be polite at all times. Please give an example of something that you should not do.

HAM FESTS and FLEA MARKETS

HAM-EX 2003

PEEL & MISSISSAUGA ARC's HAM-EX 2003 annual event is to be held on March 22, 2003

Place: Brampton Ont. Brampton Fall Fair Grounds ; Take Hwy. #401 north until it becomes Heart Lake Road just past Bovaird Drive. Continue north 7.5 km to Old School Road. Fairgrounds is on southwest corner.

Times for vendors is 7:00 am and general public is 9:00am. Grand Banquet is 6:00 pm

Admission is \$6:00 vendors 6ft. table \$20.00 8ft. table \$30.00

Talk-in on 2m on VE3PRC 146.880- and VE3MIS 145.430-

Contact. Ham-ex@sympatico.ca or www.peelarc.org

HAMFEST

Whitby Amateur Radio Club

Saturday April 12th 2003

Location: Jubilee Pavillion #55 Lake View Park Oshawa Simcoe Street south of Hwy. #401 on the shores of Lake Ontario off Hwy. #401 Exit #417 eastbound, #418 westbound.

Time: vendors 7am Public 9am till 1pm

Cost Admission \$5.00 vendors an 8ft. table \$10.00 e-mail info to va3dx@rac.ca
www.smith.com/fleas.htm

Tak-in VE3WOM 147.150+ and VE3RPT 147.060+

HAMVENTION 2003

Dayton Ohio May 16,17 &18th 2003

Annual Ham Fest this year their 52nd year E-mail www.hamvention.org.

