

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

May 9, 2010

L.A.R.C. Executive

President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Vice-President

Pat Ross, VE3CNX

Past President

Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

Treasurer

Brian Bouckley, VA3ATB

Secretary

Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO

Director, Flea Market

Ann Rundle, VA3EOR

Director, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

Director

David Lambert, VE3KKG

Non-Voting

Director, ARES & CANWARN

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

Appointments

LARC Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

Repeater

Operator/Programmer

David Young, VE3EAY

Field Day Coordinator

Pat Ross, VE3CNX

Assistant - David Lambert, VE3KKG

Webmaster

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Newsletter Editor

John Visser, VA3MSV

Auditors

Rob Hockin, VA3HO

William Clothier, VE3BCU

Next Meeting Topic

The next **LARC meeting** will be on **Thursday, May 13**, at 7:30 PM. **John Watson VE3EZP** will discuss his recent travels, and QRP operation, in Greece and Germany, including a demo of the "Ms Mosquita" self-contained QRP carry-on suitcase.

The May meeting will also be our Annual General Meeting, where we elect the club directors for the following year.

Silent Key

CHAPPELL, Kenneth L - VE3BMU - Peacefully at Victoria Hospital, surrounded by his loving family, on Tuesday, May 4th, 2010, at the age of 89. Beloved husband of Hilda Hibbert-Chappell, and the late Patricia Chappell (1987). Proud father of Jill Simpson and her husband, Michael, and Peter Chappell and his fiancée, Cathy Nichols. Dearly loved by his grandchildren Amy and Chad Simpson (Vicki Corcoran), Patrick Chappell (Leigh Garner), Kyle and Michelle Chappell. Ken will be greatly missed by his stepdaughter Carolyn Griffin and her husband Ted, stepdaughter-in-law Rosemarie Hibbert, stepgrandsons Neil Hibbert (Lisa Clarke), Ian Hibbert (Genevieve Samuels) and Bruce Griffin. Ken became an amateur radio operator at the age of 16. Later he attended the radio academy and proudly served as a radio officer in the British Merchant Navy (1940-1946). After the war, Ken served in the Army Militia for 13 years, in #9 Sigs. Unit. He was again a very active 'ham' enjoying his conversations with people all over the world. In recent years he was limited to on air friendships with local 'hams'. For many years his favourite pastime was sailing, mainly at Goderich, and the past 20 years Ken and Hilda enjoyed weekly square and round dancing, as well as travelling to Canadian Conventions from coast to coast. He was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Byron branch.

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on May 13, 2010 at 7:30 pm

All meetings are normally located at St. Judes Anglican Church, 1537 Adelaide Street North at Fanshawe Park Road East in London, Ontario.

The meetings are **normally** held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm EST during the months of September to June.

Next Meeting will be June 10, 2010. This meeting Jim Spicer (VE3CTS) & Tim Spicer (VE3TJS) explore **Terrestrial Digital Television** and the Digital Transition.

Area Repeaters

LARC Repeaters

London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

SORT Repeaters

London

VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz

ULR Link repeater
"SORT" System

VE3SUE 444.400 + 114.8 Hz

ULR link repeater "SORT"
System, IRLP

Ipperwash

VE3TCB 146.940 - 123.0 Hz

Linked to VE3SUE

Grand Bend

VE3RGB 146.750 + 123.0 Hz

VE3SRT 442.050 + 123.0 Hz

Linked to VE3SUE

Goderich

VE3OBC 146.910 - 123.0 Hz

Whitechurch

VE3WWD 443.075 + 123.0 Hz

Other Area Repeaters

London

VA3SIX 53.470 - 114.8 Hz

VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz

CANWARN

Stratfordville

VE3DPL 146.655 - 131.8 Hz

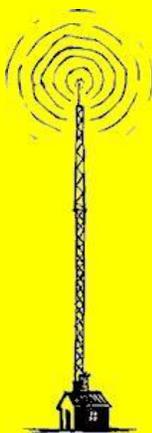
St. Thomas

VE3STR 147.330 + 114.8 Hz

Echolink Node: 72886

VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz

IRLP Node: 2482



If you have a repeater that should be listed here, please forward the information to John Visser, VA3MSV at va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll add it to the list.

Membership Certificates

The Club has created membership certificates for its current members. You can see your own certificate at the following link. <http://www.larc.ca/member-list.htm>

Simply click on your surname and it will bring up a PDF of your certificate suitable for printing.

Flaunt Your Face – Show Your Shack

In our hobby it's not always easy to put a face to all the fellow hams you talk to on the air. To help us all figure who's who, LARC invites its members to submit digital photos of yourself and/or your shack to be published on the membership page of our website. Purely voluntary of course, and if you prefer you can submit just one (depending on whether you think your face or your shack is more presentable).

How will it work? On the membership page, we'll attach your own picture where your first name appears, and the picture of your shack to your callsign. See the entry for Doug Elliott, VA3DAE for an example.

How do you submit your pictures?

Just email them to the LARC site webmaster address, which is: webmaster@larc.ca

Mutual Aid

Would you be willing to answer some questions if a fellow ham needed some advice? Got a problem you can't figure out? Want to try something new but need someone to show you the ropes? Check out our new **Mutual AID page** (<http://www.larc.ca/mutual-aid.html>), a new way to get people who are looking for assistance together with the folks who can help supply the answers. **Let us know** what you think of this new facility.

Membership Report

As of May 9, 2010, the London Amateur Radio Club has 102 members. 11 members fall under the Honourary Membership category. Of the 91 paid members, 22 of them fall under the Family Membership category. And we have 21 new or returning members.

Nets



Daily

Trans Provincial Net
7.055 MHz 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday

Swap Net
7.055 MHz LSB 12:00 pm
ARES Ontario Net
7.153 MHz 1:00 pm
7.055 MHz 3:00 pm
3.742 MHz 7:15 pm
IRLP Reflector 9005 8:00 pm

Monday

LARC 2m Net 8:00 pm

Wednesday

ARES Net
145.450 + VE3OME 7:30 pm
ARES Ontario Net
IRLP Reflector 9005 8:00 pm

Thursday

PROCOMM Net
147.180 + VE3TTT 8:00 pm
444.400 + VE3SUE 8:00 pm

Friday

Tech Net
147.180 + VE3TTT 8:00 pm
444.400 + VE3SUE 8:00 pm

Saturday

VE3TTT 2m Net
147.180 + VE3TTT 7:30 pm
444.400 + VE3SUE 7:30 pm
146.940 - VE3TCB 7:30 pm
442.300 + VE3TCB 7:30 pm
447.050 - VE3SRT 7:30 pm
447.075 - VE3BHR 7:30 pm

If you have a Net that should be listed here, please forward the information to John Visser, VA3MSV at va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll add it to the list.

2010/2011 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections

It is that time of year again for us to think about the lineup for the club's executive members for 2010-2011.

Every May we decide who will be responsible for the handling of the money, physical resources, and determining the future direction of the club.

The club's executive requires at least 7 members each year and if you are interested, we request that you make yourself available one night per month to go over club business.

Some of us have been on the executive for several years and enjoy the experience.

We have some simple rules

1. Any current member of the club can request to be a member of the club's executive and added to the ballot.
2. Only members in good standing can vote (must be a paid member)
3. We must have a quorum (at least 25 members in good standing) in order to hold a valid election.

Some of the activities that require planning, coordination or at least some monthly discussions: Monthly meeting topics, fund raising, flea market, field day, repeaters & other equipment, extra activities.

We currently meet the 4th Thursday of the month from 7:30 pm to about 9:00 pm. All club members are invited to attend any executive meeting. If you have some interest but are unsure, and want to come and see what we do, just check with one of the executive as to where we are meeting.

The next page is a snip from the club's by-laws that specifically deal with the election process.

Upcoming Events

Sun., Jun. 6, 2010

[Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket](#)

GARC & KWARC

Waterloo Regional Police Association,
R.R. 2, 1128 Rife Rd. North Dumfries
Township. Beside Hwy 401, between
exits 268 & 275. Lat: 43° 20' 51.20" N,
Long: 80° 24' 58.89" W

Sat., Jun. 12, 2010

[London Vintage Radio Club Annual Flea Market](#)

London Vintage Radio Club
Held at Hammond Manufacturing, 394
Edinburgh Road, Guelph Ontario

Sat., Jun. 26, 2010 –

Sun., Jun 27, 2010

[Field Day 2010](#)

Various Amateur Radio Clubs
Various Locations. Contact your local
club for more details.

Sat., Jul. 10, 2010

[Ontario Hamfest 2010](#)

Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Milton Agricultural Fairgrounds
South of Highway 401; west of Halton
Region Road 25 (formerly Hwy 25), or
locally known as Ontario St. in Milton

Sat, Aug 14, 2010

[Hamfest 2010](#)

Brantford Amateur Radio Club
held in the Burford Fairgrounds

Sat., Sep. 11, 2010

[Barrie-Orillia Hamfest](#)

Barrie Amateur Radio Club & Orillia
Amateur Radio Club
Located at the Oro-Medonte
Fairgrounds

Sun., Sep. 26, 2010

[33rd Annual 2010 London Amateur Radio Club Flea Market](#)

Located at the Western Fairgrounds
Special Events Building. London,
Ontario

Sat., Nov. 6, 2010

[York Reg. ARC Hamfest 2010](#)

Located at the Markham Fairgrounds at
10801 McGowan Road on the North
East corner of McGowan Road and Elgin
Mills Road.

If you have an upcoming event
that you would like to have
listed here, please forward the
information to John Visser,
VA3MSV at
va3msv@hotmail.com and I'll
add it to the list.

2010/2011 L.A.R.C. Executive Elections continued

from the LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED - BY-LAW #1

3. Board of Directors

3.1 The day-to-day affairs of the Corporation shall be arranged by a Board of Directors composed of 7 selected Directors, 1 non-voting Director appointed by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (A.R.E.S.) and the Past President of the Corporation.

3.3 To be eligible to stand for election to the Board of Directors one must be a member in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting at which members of the Board of Directors will be elected.

This year's Annual Meeting will be held May 13, 2010

3.4 A Nominating Committee shall be struck by the President at least 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting and it shall begin its activities immediately upon being appointed.

3.4.1 The Committee shall be composed of three members in good standing. The Past President shall be the Chairperson of the Committee.

3.5 The recommendations of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board shall cause such report to be published in the L.A.R.C. Newsletter, which will be sent to all members in good standing as notice of the Annual Meeting. Such report shall also outline the procedure pertaining to additional nominations.

3.6 Additional nominations may be received by the Secretary up to 12 hours prior to the Annual Meeting if submitted by a member in good standing supported by the written agreement of 4 other members and the written acceptance of the nominee.

3.7 The election of the Board of Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting of LARC. The Directors shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members. The Directors shall take office on July 1 of that year.

Please contact the L.A.R.C. Secretary Ruth Dahl, VE3RBO, if you have any nominees or questions. You can reach me at ragann61@hotmail.com.

The May meeting will be our Annual General Meeting, where we elect the club directors for the following year. The current slate of nominees is:

Doug Elliott	VA3DAE	Incumbent
Brian Bouckley	VA3ATB	Incumbent
Ruth Dahl	VE3RBO	Incumbent
Ann Rundle	VE3EOR	Incumbent
John Visser	VA3MSV	Incumbent
Dave Lambert	VE3KGK	Incumbent
Doug Tompkins	VE3IDT	Past President
Mike Watts	VE3ACW	Nominated

Further nominations can be submitted up until 12 hours before the May meeting - see details on the previous page of this newsletter. If there are no additional nominations, the above slate will be elected by acclamation.

Dr. David Toth, VE3GYQ Memorial Service



For those of you who remember Dave, another memorial service will be held, this time in his family home town of Windsor Ontario on Saturday, May 29th at 1:00 pm at the Most Precious Blood Church located at the corner of Meldrum and Tecumseh Road East.

Dave died February 26, 2010 at home in Spencerville, a small community outside of Lima, Ohio. His funeral was held March 3rd and was attended by his family, many friends (naturally several amateur radio operators) and co-workers from the Emergency Medical field.

On the way to the church, Emergency Medical Service squads participated in the funeral procession which paused in front of St. Rita's Emergency hospital to honour Dave where he was known for his dedication to emergency services.

After the funeral, a moment of silence was held before putting Dave's casket into the hearse. The moment lasted longer than usual and as it started to extend into 3 or 4 minutes

you could hear a helicopter approaching. Life Flight, an air ambulance did a low level fly over salute to Dave. At this point there didn't seem to be a dry eye amongst the mourners. I think Dave would have been impressed.

For those of you who didn't know Dr. Dave here is some history the best I can remember.

President Southern Ontario Repeater Team

President London Amateur Radio Club

President Western New York Southern Ontario Repeater Council

President TAPR (Tucson Amateur Packet Radio)

President Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – London Centre

Dave came to London in the early/mid 70's to attend university. Hoping to bring London up to date with FM communications, he along with several other interested hams brought VE3TTT (for Touch Tone Toth) on line with plans to link to the URL system in Toronto. Soon VE3TTT was an incorporated club, the Southern Ontario Repeater Team with an autopatch and over 200 members.

Another project for Dave and London was his packet radio BBS (bulletin board system) that

allowed amateurs to log into his system upload and download programs, leave public messages or pass electronic mail to others. Gee, kind of sounds like the internet ...

I believe Dave may have been one of the first amateurs allowed by Industry Canada to operate an unattended HF packet radio station.

Dave also had several interests besides amateur radio, flying was one of them but even more, astronomy was probably his greatest, and considered it as a career before deciding on medicine. He was well known in the astronomy world. He has travelled to Chile and Australia for NASA to help repair telescope problems and has his photos posted on their web site.

Although he had left London years ago, he was always passing through and you would hear him on the repeaters at all hours of the day. When he wasn't here he would connect via

IRLP or sometimes EchoLink. Recently (within the last couple of years) he had discovered D-Star and of course that meant S.O.R.T. had to have one so he could keep in touch with us. Even in his last final weeks he was still interested in amateur radio and was worried about some unfinished configuration with the Lima D-Star repeater. Although Dave couldn't speak, when told by Fred Vobbe W8H DU everything had been taken care he seemed at ease and indicated he understood.

Dave may be gone, but he's still heard and remembered on the S.O.R.T system's digital voice tracks, and at the top of every hour on VE3TTT D-Star in London and also K8APR in Lima, Ohio.

73 Dave

Jim Spicer
VE3CTS

Inter - County CANWARN Network

Submitted by: **Bob Gammon., VA3RX**

On: **April 24, 2010**

To all Ontario ARES interests:

The new (ICCN) Inter-County CANWARN Network is being launched this spring and will be activated on the new Ontario Public Service IRLP Reflector # 9030 during severe weather events that generate watches and warnings issued by Environment Canada Toronto.

The purpose and benefit of this network will be to provide a co-ordinated link between adjacent counties in the warned regions and to

create a continuous path for the delivery of urgent weather reports directly to the Toronto Weather Office using the online Meta Page reporting form or the dedicated landline number.

Through objective planning this network will expand and enhance the public service value of the current CANWARN program and bring the resources of amateur radio technology to a new level of service with Environment Canada during severe weather events that can threaten all Ontario communities at any time.

RAC Bulletin 2010-11E - RAC requests Industry Canada for 60m Spot frequency assignments.

2010-04-13

A formal request has been sent to the Director, Spectrum and Radio Policy, Industry Canada for consideration in authorizing for the Canadian Amateur Service the same five 5 MHz frequencies that are now authorized in the USA.

In addition, two spot frequencies are also requested for exclusive Canadian Amateur use. The ground work for this was established at previous meetings of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB).

RAC anticipates this request will go through a lengthy due process of analysis and review at Industry Canada before being published as a Canada Gazette Notice for public comment. If

all goes well, we may see authorization within a year.

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
RAC Vice-President Industrial Liaison

ARRL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

April 16, 2010

The newly redesigned ARRL website is up and running and those visiting it have given it a big thumbs up. Still located in cyberspace at www.arrl.org, the new look makes navigating the site a breeze while at the same time striking what appears to be an almost perfect balance between content and advertising.

Among the most welcome changes are the click-to buttons at the very top of the page. A single mouse click navigates the user to such topics as Licensing, Technology, a Membership area and much more. In all there are eleven

instant access buttons including one to bring you back to the suites home page.

A welcome carry over from the old ARRL web design was the decision to keep the latest news right on the home page as headlines. To read more you just click on the story and the full text appears almost instantly.

The new website was more than two years in the making. Rather than our trying to describe it, you really need to visit it yourself. Just take your web browser to www.arrl.org and then click around. (ARRL)

Girl Guides Canada 100th Anniversary GOTA

By Peter West
May 7, 2010



On May 15th [Girl Guides Canada](http://www.girlguides.ca) will celebrate their 100th Anniversary conducting Rallies across Canada. Many of the Rally venues will be

operating GOTA (Guides on the Air) stations. In Toronto over 6000 guides and leaders are expected to meet at Ontario Place and in cooperation with Guides Canada and Emergency Management Ontario, the Toronto EmComm Group will operate an Amateur Radio Station at Ontario Place so Guides can talk to Guides at other venues across Canada. Rallies expected to take place in Ontario include Toronto, Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Ottawa.

The [Ontario Place station \(VE3EMO\)](http://www.ve3emo.com) will be operational on 20 meters (14.140 -/+) and on the Ontario Public Service Reflector (IRLP) Channel 9035 from 13:00 to 20:00 UTC. (9:00 am to 4 pm ET). We would like to connect with other venues across Canada on this special day for Guiding and would like to hear from other groups running GOTA stations. (Replies to Jim VA3KU at jim.taylor@emergencyradio.ca)

Thanks to Jim, VA3KU, Amateur Radio Program Coordinator for Emergency Management Ontario for this information.

RAC Files For 60 Meter Canadian Allocation

April 16, 2010

Radio Amateurs of Canada has filed a request with telecommunications regulator Industry Canada for some 60 meter spot frequency assignments. The formal request was sent to the Director, Spectrum and Radio Policy, for consideration in authorizing for the Canadian Amateur Service the same five 5 MHz frequencies that are now authorized in the United States. In addition, two spot frequencies are also requested for exclusive Canadian amateur use.

The ground work for this was established at previous meetings of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board. Radio Amateurs of Canada anticipates this request will go through a lengthy due process of analysis and review at Industry Canada before being published as a Canada Gazette Notice for public comment. If all goes well, Canadian hams could see an authorization to this spectrum within a year. (VE3LC)

Lightning Strike

By Peter West
May 7, 2010

Article and photo by Mike Walker, VA3MW.



On Saturday, May 1st, the Toronto FM Communications Society technical committee had the opportunity to take a crane to the top of the ski resort where the repeaters are located (south of Uxbridge Ontario).

The goal was to fix the broken 442.100 (HUB) antenna. This antenna sits 8 meters above the top of the tower. It is mounted on top of the 8 bay Sinclabs 224.860 VE3BEG repeater. For the past year we have discussed how we could easily repair the 440 antenna. We suspected that it was a bad jumper cable into the 440 vertical. The HUB has been operating on a much lower mounted UHF antenna which resulted in much less overall range.

With the weather being so dry as of late, we got permission from the ski hill owner to bring the crane to the top since the ground was so hard. With the use of a man (maybe that should be... person?) bucket, we hoisted Neil VE3SST to well above the top of the tower. In short order, he was able to remove the 440 antenna and lower it to the ground for testing. We quickly determined that it was not a jumper problem, but that the antenna was truly 'busted'.

As Neil installed the spare (doesn't everyone have a spare 440 vertical?), I took to cutting into the dead antenna housing. What I quickly found out was that that rod that starts to make up the antenna in had vaporized and the bottom 6" was totally missing.

What was also missing was the coil that made up the DC ground. It too had vaporized. In one of the attached pictures, I have a flashlight shining down the base to the point where the actually antenna rod should have been physically attached. More pictures can be found at <http://www.walkerphotography.ca/Hobbies/TFMCS> including the high definition picture of the entire towers that is a blend of 12 static pictures.

That was one amazing lightning hit. The antenna did die a hero and none of the equipment in the shack was damaged by that hit.

The crane rental was expensive, however it did allow us to very easily and very safely do the work required on the top of the tower in a difficult place. The use of a Gin pole was not practical as we would not be able to get the sling in place above the balance point of the antenna stack. There was also risk of more damage to other antennas while lowering or raising the antennas.

With the new antenna in place, the coverage for the 442.100Mhz HUB has been increased greatly. As this is a HUB repeater, there is no 'tail' on the repeater should you happen to make a call on it. That doesn't mean that it isn't there, it is just being stealthy.

The Toronto FM Communications Society <<http://www.tfmcs.com>> has repeaters on 10M, 6M, 2M, 220, 440, 1.2G and D-Star (UHF and VHF). As well, we are fortunate enough to have 2 repeaters located in the CN Tower on 145.410- and 444.400+. We also provide linking via RF to points north of the repeater site, via IRLP and D-Star.

Geomagnetic Storm Brings Aurora Opening To North America

May 7 2010

A high-speed solar wind stream hit Earth's magnetic field the night May 2nd and into the early hours of May 3rd. The eruption sparked a geomagnetic storm that lasted more than 15 hours, and bringing with it some interesting propagation.

In Scandinavia, the Northern Lights were so bright they could be seen through the glow of the midnight sun. Meantime, what's reported as a red colored aurora spilled across the Canadian border and were spotted in several Northern U-S states. Some good 6 meter auroral DX is reported to have accompanied the aurora.

Later in the day on May 3rd there was a major opening trans-equatorial opening to the Caribbean and South America DX Stations reported as heard or worked in eastern and central North America during the storm included P43JB on Aruba on 50.099 running CW, FM5CD in Martinique on 50.096 using CW, PJ2LS in the Netherland Antilles on 50.162 SSB and LU8YD in Argentina on 50.120 also on SSB.

Meantime a West to East E-skip opening brought the mountain states into southern California. Stations like K0DU were strong

enough to be recorded off an FT-847 transceiver and an AEA loop only 6 feet off the ground at the Newline studio. This, as he worked a station in grid square D M Zero 4.

To the North, Dave Bernhardt, N7DB, in Boring, Oregon, says over the V-H-F Reflector that his first contact was at 17:11 UTC with Dave Wagner, W7CI at down in Sierra Vista, Arizona. He also heard beacons from California, Mexico and South America.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the AM activity detected up on 50.4 MHz. While signals were far to weak to detect much audio or even get a call sign, the type of fading indicated them to be E-Skip and likely from the same regions being heard down the band on C-W and SSB.

In all it was a good day on the 50 MHz band for any ham who bothered to listen or call CQ. As we go to air, sporadic openings on 6 meters are still continuing. (ARNewsline™)

SHOCK ABSORBER POWER SUPPLY

April 23, 2010

And finally this week, imagine being able to power your radio gear and recharge your car's battery with power derived from your auto's shock absorbers. Well its more than a pipe dream as we hear from Amateur Radio Newsline's Frank Haas, KB4T

In a recent study, mechanical engineers from the State University of New York designed and tested a retrofit regenerative shock absorber that recovers a vehicle's vibration as energy. The researchers built a small scale prototype of the regenerative shock absorber, and demonstrated its ability to harvest 2 to 8 watts of power during typical driving conditions. This, at a speed of about 45 mph.

The researchers predict that a full-scale system on a four-wheel car should be able to recover up to 256 watts under real world driving conditions. They also believe the ability to harvest approximately 64 watts per wheel will increase considerably when the system is used on irregular or poorly paved roadways.

In their research the scientists also discovered that the power regenerated by this system is proportional to the square of the magnetic flux across the coils in the shock absorber system. Consequently, increasing the flux by a factor of two quadruples the peak power output. More on this discovery is on line at <http://iopscience.iop.org/0964-1726/19/4/045003/> (Elektor E-Magazine and WIA News)

NPR Says Ham Radio OK

By Peter West
April 5, 2010

This just in thanks to our friends at the ARRL.

American National Public Radio has just put a very complimentary piece up about the growth and vitality of ham radio in the USA.

Ham Radio Growing In The Age Of Twitter

by Matt Sepic
April 5, 2010



Stanley Hardman, an amateur radio operator, and his family look at transmitting equipment in 1939. - Fox Photos/Getty Images

Only a few years ago, blogs listed ham radio alongside 35 mm film and VHS tape as technologies slated to disappear.

They were wrong.

Nearly 700,000 Americans have ham radio licenses - up 60 percent from 1981, a generation ago. And the number is growing.

Ham radio will never have the sex appeal of the iPhone, but it does have a certain nerd appeal, says Allen Weiner, an analyst at the technology research firm Gartner.

"If it creates its own experience, that's really what's key here," he says. "If it just emulates an experience that you can get online, it's not going to grow."

Newcomers to ham radio include Helen Schlarman, 89, who has a compact, two-way radio in her home in suburban St. Louis. She looks up a friend across town by pushing the talk button, announcing the letters and

numbers of his call sign (W-0-S-J-S), and then announcing her own (W-0-A-K-I).

Steve Schmitz's voice crackles through Schlarman's radio.

"Hi Helen, how you doing, W-0-S-J-S?" he says, ending his response with his own call letters.

Many "hams," as they're known, hang postcards from global contacts on their walls, the way hunters show off deer antlers, but Schlarman's chats are mostly local. She says this hobby is perfect for an outgoing person who spends a lot of time inside.

"It's a different community," she says. "There [are] no stereotypes of age; it's just talking and sharing and enjoying."

Until recently, ham radio was declining as older operators died. Then the Federal Communications Commission phased out the Morse code test that many saw as a stumbling block to getting a license. Last year more than 30,000 new applicants signed up to become ham radio operators, according to Maria Somma, an official with the American Radio Relay League.

At a ham radio convention near St. Louis, the crowd swapping antenna parts and other equipment is mostly male, and over 50. But 15-year-old Jonathan Dunn is attending along with his father. He says Facebook and texting are fun, but making friends using a \$200 radio that doesn't come with monthly fees is more rewarding.

"With ham radio you can talk to new people, all kinds of ages, races, and it's just amazing what a little radio can do. Because no matter where you're at, if you have the right stuff and the right power you can talk to anyone," he says.

Jonathan's dad, Steve Dunn, says the polite chitchat between ham radio operators is good for teenagers. "If young people have the opportunity to communicate with a wide range of people, that instills a certain amount of confidence in their ability to carry on the lost art of small talk," he says.

Even the most die-hard hams concede that amateur radio will never be a mainstream hobby. With smart phones and other devices, people are more plugged in to the Internet than before. But people are still discovering the joy of communicating with a technology that's existed for nearly a century.

Field Day 2010



ARRL Field Day Overview

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs

gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.



ARRL Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many

roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

At A Glance

- **Objective**

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to

learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

- **Dates-**

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2010 will be held June 26-27, 2010.

- **Bands**

Any Amateur Radio band except 12, 17, 30 and 60 Meters.

- **Awards**

Field Day is not a contest; no certificates are awarded.

L.A.R.C. Field Day

Location - Reservoir Park. Most of us will meet at the Cottage Restaurant on Dundas Street at Adelaide Street around 9:00am for breakfast before heading to the park.

Current Band Captains

- **80m Phone** - Doug Elliott, VA3DAE
- **40m Phone** - Mike Doncaster, VE3NLP
- **20m Phone** - Kevin Richardson, VA3EAR
- **15m Phone** - Glen Lee, VA3ARC
- **10m Phone** - Dave Lambert, VE3KGK
- **CW** - Currently Open for Band Captains
- **Wi-Fi** - John Visser, VA3MSV and Mike Argyle, VE3XMA

Kevin and Glen's band could be switched around however 20m and 15m should be covered.

Note to Band Captains. We will be using a wireless network with 3 Wi-Fi repeaters if needed and N3FJP's Field Day logging software which will be available on site from Mike Argyle and John Visser. Mike and John will also have a limited number of notebook computers available if you do not have your own to use for logging.

If you have any further questions about what L.A.R.C. is doing for Field Day, feel free to contact any member of the L.A.R.C. Executive.

More information will be available in June's Newsletter including maps for the Cottage Restaurant and Reservoir Park.

INTERVIEW

Just in case

Our resident expert in lessons learned, Dave Colvin talks about London's emergency readiness

WHILE WIDENING OXFORD Street in 1973, a contractor broke a regulator valve off a natural gas system resulting in multiple explosions. Ten homes exploded and burned, 40 homes were damaged and 3,000 people were evacuated. Luckily, there were only 27 injuries.

It was this incident that triggered Dave Colvin's interest in emergencies. He later found himself pursuing emergency management by assisting with the severe weather watch program as an amateur radio operator and becoming involved with St. John's Ambulance, the Red Cross and volunteering with air search and rescue organizations.

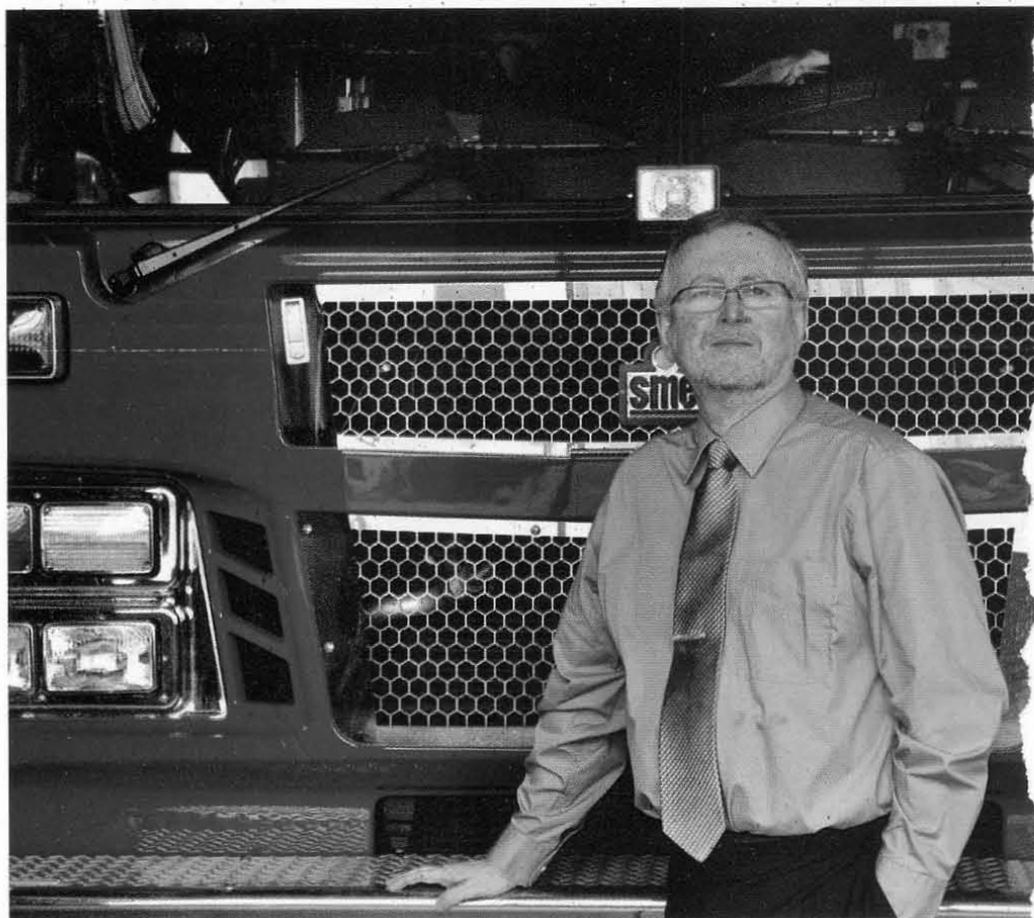
Calvin went on to become the University of Western Ontario's emergency preparedness and response coordinator, and developed the school's emergency management program in response to Montreal's École Polytechnique Massacre in 1989. He is now manager of emergency management for the City of London.

What are London's biggest risks?

For London, its mostly severe weather related—winter storm emergencies, fog, hail, lightning, wind, tornadoes and flooding. Other risks included hazardous material at a fixed site, a transportation emergency, explosions, fires, human health epidemics and energy supply emergencies.

How ready are we?

The city and its agencies have a comprehensive program that exceeds legislative requirements and has had an active program for over 25 years. London has a good program in place with good partnerships.



Dave Colvin

Who would be involved in an emergency?

There is a wide range of organizations. Some are the emergency services of course, the police and fire departments, but also hospitals, transit, London Hydro, the health unit and city departments such as public works and environmental services. Nongovernmental agencies could be involved as well, such as St. John's Ambulance, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and our community of amateur radio operators.

How often are the programs tested?

We have an annual exercise and annual training, but it's really an ongoing comprehensive program. We do basic emergency management training for 60 to 70 people. During the year we run at least two courses.

Is there a central command?

In an emergency that has a site, there would be a site manager. For a large event our emergency operations centre would be activated. It is very much a team effort

and has to be a collaborate environment. You have to ensure the overall impact is looked at. You don't want somebody just worrying about putting water on the fire—you want ensure the safety of the surrounding community, especially if you have a seniors' home, hospital or residence nearby. You also need to look at environmental impacts.

What is your key message?

Our program helps London prepare. People should be thinking about being self-sufficient if something major were to happen. Do you pay attention to the weather? Do you have supplies if you were to loose power for a couple of days? Do you have a family emergency plan? Do you have a grab-and-go bag if you were to have to leave your home? The City of London has an emergency management website. There is also a great document on there addressing people with special needs.

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO
BY EVELYN SYMONS



London
CANADA

The City of London

hereby recognizes

The London Amateur Radio Club

*For their role in London's emergency management
program including the Amateur Radio emergency
service and canwarn programs.*

*Thank you for helping to make London a safer
and more disaster resilient city.*

*Dated May, 2010
London, Ontario*

Anne Marie DeCicco-Best
Anne Marie DeCicco-Best, Mayor

LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

33rd ANNUAL
2010 FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26th
9.00 AM TO 1.00 PM

VENDOR SETUP: 7:30 AM

BOOK EARLY AND SAVE ON ADMISSION

ADMISSION: \$6.00, (Age 10 and up)

TABLES: \$ 10.00



LOCATED AT THE
WESTERN FAIR GROUNDS
SPECIAL EVENTS BUILDING
LONDON, ONTARIO



Talk in VA3LON. 147.060 PL 114.8

Free Parking ~ Air Conditioned
Commercial Dealers ~ Snack Bar Facilities

Wheelchair Accessible with Handicap Washrooms

Bring & Buy: Let LARC sell your item(s) at our club table.
{2 items max} INFO: <http://www.larc.ca/larctable.html>

Inquiries: Email
LARChamfest@gmail.com
Note: All email answered within 72 hrs
Phone: (519) 238-1542 (Ann)

Make Cheque or Money Order Payable to
"London Amateur Radio Club Inc"
(not to Ann Rundle) and mail to:

Ann Rundle VA3EOR
36797 Crediton Rd RR2
Dashwood, On N0M 1N0

ATTENTION 2010 FLEA MARKET VENDOR

Book early, tables are booked on first come first served basis. Loading door available. We do not reserve unpaid tables. No separate hydro for tables BUT there will be a test table with power for seller demonstrations. Only two vendors passes allowed per vendor prior to doors opening on the day of the flea market. Vendor passes will not be sold without table sales. Table information and site Map will be sent to you in your vendor's conformation package.

***Book early (before Aug 1st) and 1 vendor admission is reduced to \$ 4**

Name: _____ Admission(s) x \$ 6 (\$ 4) _____

Callsign: _____ Table(s): x \$ 10 _____

Total: = _____

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____ City _____ PO code _____

Phone: _____

Talk in VA3LON, 147.060 PL 114.8

N 42.9876 W 81.2213



MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

-- Membership application and dues are currently requested.

Our term of membership runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year. Each and every year it is increasingly more difficult to get Amateurs to commit to membership in their local club due to the alternate functions we are asked to fund.

*The **London Amateur Radio Club** has a long history of providing technical support, social support and repeater facilities. Public service efforts are currently provided by a club affiliation with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (**ARES**) and **Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)**.*

Your Directors work tirelessly to provide meeting topics that are informative and entertaining, events that are timely (Christmas meeting, field day, bus trip) and participate in events that display and promote Amateur Radio in the community.

To be effective in its pursuits, the Club needs the support of the local Amateur fraternity through membership.

While we obtain financial support from our Annual Flea Market, we require membership support to fund such things as meeting hall rent, repeater sites rent and maintenance, web site fees, membership cards and liability insurance. For what it's worth, none of these things are getting any cheaper.

The cost of membership has not changed for a number of years and even in the face of increased cost, we would like to keep it that way.

With more than 1000 'hams' in the London area, it's inconceivable that less than 10% support a pastime about which most of us are passionate.

PLEASE, make a choice and do your part to keep the **London Amateur Radio Club** alive and well by purchasing your membership at our next meeting (or by mail – details on our web site). The cost is still only \$25.00 (single) or \$30.00 (family residing at the same address).



Office Use Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Chq	
Membership Card	
<input type="checkbox"/> Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd	
Sticker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd	

**LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PLEASE PRINT

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00 RENEWAL
 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00 NEW MEMBER

Member # 1	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member?	RAC Member #	ARES Volunteer? Email Address
	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____

Member # 2	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member?	RAC Member #	ARES Volunteer? Email Address
	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____

Member # 3	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member?	RAC Member #	ARES Volunteer? Email Address
	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____

Member # 4	Last Name	First Name	Call Sign
	_____	_____	_____
	RAC Member?	RAC Member #	ARES Volunteer? Email Address
	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No _____

Address: _____

_____ Street/P.O. Box

_____ City/Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code

_____ Phone Number

Date: _____

*All information requested should be completed - this will be used for the club's membership database only.
All LARC membership information is held in strict confidence.*

Please make cheque payable to: **London Amateur Radio Club Inc.**

Mailing Address: London Amateur Radio Club
c/o Membership Director, VA3MSV
P.O. Box 82, Station B
London, Ontario, N6A 4V3