

Message from the London Amateur Radio Club



Promoting Amateur Radio in London
And surrounding area since 1920

February 6, 2011

L.A.R.C. Executive

President

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Vice-President

David Lambert, VE3KKG

Past President

Doug Tompkins, VE3IDT

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Director, Membership

John Visser, VA3MSV

Director

Mike Watts, VE3ACW

Non-Voting

Director, ARES & CANWARN

Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG

Appointments

LARC Repeater Coordinator

Brad Seward, VE3NRJ

Repeater

Operator/Programmer

David Young, VE3EAY

Field Day Coordinator

Dave Lambert, VE3KKG

Webmaster

Doug Elliott, VA3DAE

Newsletter Editor

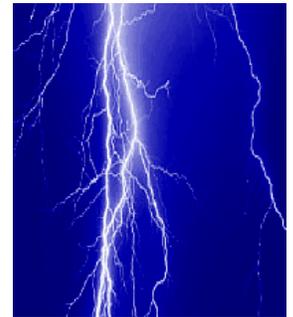
John Visser, VA3MSV

Auditors

Rob Hockin, VA3HO
William Clothier, VE3BCU

Next Meeting Topic

The next **LARC meeting** will be on **Thursday, February 10, 2011** at 7:30 PM. During the February meeting, **Pat Ross VE3CNX** will be discussing the "ins and outs" of **lightning protection for your shack**, with very realistic illustrations.



2011 Field Day Packet Now Available

02/01/2011

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 25-26, 2011! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun.

Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules (including a change for 2011), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations and a kit to publicize your event with the local press.

There is one rule change for 2011. Starting this year, all stations operating in Class A may use a free VHF station without increasing their operating category. This is designed to encourage more activity on the VHF bands, especially 6 and 2 meters, during the best sporadic-E season of the year.

We have also included in the FD packet a brief one-page flier with basic "What is Field Day" information that may be reproduced as a handout for your information table.

Next Meeting is Where and When?

Reminder: The next monthly L.A.R.C. meeting on February 10, 2011 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 March 10, 2011. This meeting will be a presentation by Mike Cook, VE3ZMC. Topic still to be determined.

Area Repeaters

LARC Repeaters

London

VA3LON 147.060 + 114.8Hz

VE3MGI 145.390 - 114.8Hz

Sort Repeaters

London

VE3TTT 147.180 + 114.8Hz
Echolink Node 10741

VE3SUE 444.400 + 114.8 Hz
IRLP Node 2400

VE3TTT 442.200 + D-Star

Ipperwash

VE3TCB 146.940 - 114.8 Hz
Linked to VE3SUE

Grand Bend

VE3SRT 442.050 + 114.8 Hz
Linked to VE3SUE

Other Area Repeaters

London

VA3SIX 53.470 - 114.8 Hz

VE3OME 145.450 - 114.8 Hz
CANWARN

VA3FEZ 444.100 + 114.8 Hz

Grand Bend

VE3RGB 146.760 + 173.8 Hz

Stratfordville

VE3DPL 146.655 - 131.8 Hz

St. Thomas

VE3STR 147.330 + 114.8 Hz
Echolink Node: 72886

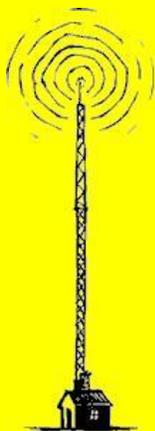
VE3STR 443.825 + 114.8 Hz
IRLP Node: 2482

Goderich

VE3OBC 146.910 - 123.0 Hz

Whitechurch

VE3WWD 443.075 + 123.0 Hz



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

Currently the membership is at 116. As of the beginning of the 2010/2011 year we have gotten 18 new members to the club. Of the 18 Honorary Members brought in from the L.S.R.C., 3 have paid for the current 2010/2011 year and unfortunately 1 became a Silent Key.

Nets



Daily

Trans Provincial Net

7.055 MHz 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

London Senior's Net

146.400 MHz 7:00 pm – 7:30 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

147.060 MHz + 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

442.050 + VE3SRT 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.

RAC Bulletin 2011-002E: New National Affiliated Club Coordinator Appointed; Robert Critch VE3QTH joins RAC Team.

2011-02-01

Geoff Bawden Announces The appointment of Robert Critch, VE3QTH as National Affiliated Club Coordinator.

Robert Theo Critch VE3QTH - BIO:

Born in Montreal Quebec 1961 and lived there as a young boy. Then moved to St. Jean, Que. Years later moved to Nova Scotia for awhile before trekking to the Island of Newfoundland. As many young Newfoundlanders do, he moved and settled in Toronto. But the attraction of Barrie Ontario soon called out to him. So he packed up the family and radio gear to land in the beautiful south-end of Lake Simcoe in Barrie Ontario Canada that he now calls home.

Robert has had a long and outstanding career in Voice and Data Communications Technology. He has worked for both large and small organizations over the years and has run several business. His current accomplishments include being the current President of Barrie Amateur Radio Club Inc.(BARC), and being owner & President of a small Telecommunications company. He is active on VHF, UHF, and HF on several Phone and Digital modes. He is also very active in CANWARN, ARES, and BARC activities & Club events. He holds a Basic + license.

Robert will be joining the RAC team, taking over as RAC's National Affiliated Club Coordinator.

"We live in a time of huge accomplishments in Science and Technology and Radio Amateurs have been at the forefront of so many of the advances. Amateur Radio is at its best, when we work together. It is my personal goal to help bring local clubs together under RAC on a national scale, to share in their knowledge, ability and passion for Amateur Radio."

International Marconi Day Date Change

January 14, 2011

A date change for this year's International Marconi Day. As the event would have fallen on Easter weekend the organizers have changed the date to Saturday April 30th for this year only. Look for details on International Marconi Day 2011 to be posted on-line at www.gb4imd.uk in the near future.

Southgate/Amateur Radio Newslines™

Upcoming Events

Thu., Feb. 10, 2010

[L.A.R.C. General Meeting](#)

Located at the St. Judes Anglican Church, London, Ontario

Sat., Feb. 26, 2011

[Burlington Spring Flea Market - Burlington Amateur Radio Club](#)

Located at Royal Canadian Legion - 828 Legion Rd., Burlington, Ontario

Sat., Mar. 26, 2011

[HamEx 2011 - Peel Amateur Radio Club and Mississauga Amateur Radio Club](#)

Located at Brampton Fall Fairgrounds, 12942 Heart Lake Road, Brampton, Ontario

Sat., Apr. 16, 2011

[2011 Durham Region Amateur Radio Hamfest - North Shore ARC & South Pickering ARC](#)

Located at Pickering Recreation Complex, 1867 Valley Farm Rd. (Just one block east of Pickering Town Centre)

Sun., Jun. 5, 2011

[Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket - Guelph ARC & Kitchener-Waterloo ARC](#)

Located at the Waterloo Regional Police Association Recreation Centre R.R. 2, 1128 Rife Rd. Beside Hwy 401, between exits 268 & 275
Location: 43.344939, -80.418376

Sat., Aug. 20, 2011

[Hamfest 2011 - Brantford Amateur Radio Club](#)

Held in the Burford Fairgrounds, 6 Park Ave., Burford, Ontario

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.

RAC Bulletin 2011-001E: Doug Mein VA3DM appointed Special Advisor to the RAC Field Organization

2011-01-13

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Doug Mein VA3DM, Special Advisor to the Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Organization. Doug has been a Ham for many years and holds basic, morse and advanced qualification.

Doug has an extensive background and is retired from Transport Canada after 33 years of service. During the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, Doug was Director of Transport Canada's Air Navigation Services and Airspace Branch in Ottawa, playing a key role in coordinating department operations and taking decisive action on behalf of the Canadian Government. Doug resides in Alliston, Ontario.

Doug's focus will be with strategic matters that effect the Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Organization nationally.

I know that you will all join me in welcoming Doug.

73

Doug Mercer VO1DTM
Vice President Field Services
Radio Amateurs of Canada
P.O. Box 1042 Goulds
Newfoundland Labrador
A1S 1H2

" We're ALL about Amateur Radio! "

" Tous ensemble pour la radioamateur! "

Recycle Old Radio Mags

Instead of tossing out your year-old QSTs, CQs or other radio magazines, recycle them at your friendly dentist, doctor, hospital or other waiting rooms. The next time you print up some return address labels, print the following also to cover your address on the front of your used magazines:

(Or ask your Club Treasurer for some!)

Complimentary Copy: Provided by
London Amateur Radio Club
For info, go to www.larc.ca

We can promote ham radio and delay some material from going to the landfills at the same time. Who knows, we might get some people interested in becoming hams, or at least read an article or two from a radio magazine.

Original article provided by Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY from the Rochester Amateur Radio Assoc.

London Search and Rescue - Operation Frostbite 2011

On Saturday Feb 5, 14 London Hams provided communications support for the first in what will likely be a series of Search and Rescue competitions. Although the SAR teams do have radio capabilities, they asked us to help out so that more of their people could be part of the competition.



We spent the day at the Fanshawe Sugarbush, near the Northeast part of Fanshawe Lake. Operations were based in the Kinsmen building which where net control was set up about 2 meters from one of the fireplaces. Thanks to Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG and Dave Lambert, VE3K GK at net control who kept everything coordinated including the scoring.



This building was also where an excellent sausage and pancake breakfast provided by the Kinsmen started our day at 07:30. No one went hungry at lunchtime either, thanks to the Salvation Army's Canteen that served chili, hotdogs, cookies and hot drinks.

Six teams, each a mixture of participants from various SAR units in Southwestern Ontario competed, and rotated through 6 outdoor

events (or "stands"). These events consisted of:

- Starting a fire and producing a cup of boiling water for hot chocolate
- Creating a shelter from materials at hand, and in the team members SAR packs
- Finding, treating, and transporting a victim using a Stokes litter
- Improvising a method to carry an injured victim through the woods to EMS
- A snow shoe training and race event
- A short simulated search for a missing cross country skier.



Our roles were to radio in scores for each team at the end of the events, and to relay information back to the search manager for the simulated search event. This last event was the most strenuous, as our intrepid hams (Mike Watts, VE3ACW and Mike Doncaster, VE3NLP) had to stay with the fast moving search team, using snowshoes, to pass information back to the search manager as it was discovered.



Left to right: Paul Fraser, VE3PFN; Romney Abel, VE3RJT; Doug Fisher, VE3DUG; Karen Doncaster, VE3MQA; Stephen Fisher, VA3SFF; Steve Black, VE3SNJ; Sam Abel, VA3SVW; John Visser, VA3MSV; Kevin Richardson, VA3EAR; Doug Elliott, VA3DAE; Dave Lambert, VE3K GK; Brett Gilbank, VE3ZBG; Mike Doncaster, VE3NLP; missing: Mike Watts, VE3ACW

We had a great turnout with 14 Hams helping out, including 4 graduates of our recent Ham course. Everyone had fun and we learned a lot about Search and Rescue, and ways to be prepared to help others. The organizers were happy with our efforts, and presented us with a framed certificate of appreciation in the awards ceremony.



Mother Nature was nice to us, and the weather wasn't too extreme – no wind and temperatures from -5 to -10 Celsius. No cases of frostbite were reported, and in fact no one reported any significant discomfort despite standing outside for long periods of time. The snow held off until almost exactly the end of the last event, and then it really came down. The most dangerous part of the day was likely the ride home, which was whiteout conditions with poor visibility on snow covered road.



All in all it was a great day, and the organizers are already asking us to help out with a much bigger competition they are already starting to plan.

Radio Record Of 2317km On 2.4 GHz Across The Tasman Sea

February 4, 2011

A new distance record has been set between Steve Hayman, ZL1TPH, and Adrian Pollock, VK4OX. This for the first trans-Tasman Sea contact on 13 Centimeters over a path of 2317 Kilometers. That's 1439 miles on a band considered totally line of sight.

ZL1TPH lives in Orewa, New Zealand. He was running 80 to 100 watts at the feed of a 1

meter dish. VK4OX was in Bald Knob, Queensland, Australia pushing only about 20 watts to the feed of a 24 dBi Gridpack antenna about 9 meters off the ground.

Only a few years ago a contact such as this would likely not have been possible. Today's technology has made it so. (ZL4PLM via ZL2BHF)

Amateur Radio Newsline™

LIGHTNING PROTECTION



First of all there is no such thing as complete lightning protection. All a Ham can do is provide the highest level of protection as possible. Depending on your location, lightning may be a very common occurrence (especially in summer) or a very infrequent occurrence. For example, the Mid West and East Coast have frequent thunder storms during the summer months while California has very few throughout the year. But all areas have thunder storm now and then. Not all thunder storms have rainfall but that is not what we are interested in anyway. We are concerned with the damage potential of either an indirect or a direct lightning strike.

An indirect strike is simply a strike, for example, that hits a nearby power line and then feeds into your equipment. A direct strike, for example, might directly hit your tower, come down the feedline and destroy equipment. Fires can start from both indirect and direct strikes. The chance of major damage and/or a fire is a little less with indirect strikes. But none-the-less, we all have to be vigilant about lightning.

The first and foremost method of reducing the risk of lightning damage is proper grounding. A good ground should be as short as possible between the equipment and ground. On the other hand, the buried ground wire and/or pipe should be a good conductor in itself and as long or deep as possible. The ideal ground would use a copper pipe driven 10 feet or more into the ground. This is not always practical. If you live in a area where the soil is

very rocky then driving a copper pipe more than a foot or two into the ground may be nearly impossible. An alternative to this might be 4 or more shorter copper pipes driven into the ground a few feet apart. You could then tie the pipes together with heavy gauge copper wire. If you are able to dig a trench, say 24" deep and 100 feet long you could also bury heavy gauge copper wire in it for either a ground or to supplement copper pipes driven as deep as possible, the key here is to get a much copper in the ground as possible and as close to moisture (for improved conductivity) as you possibly can.

Now when we talk heavy gauge, what do we mean? Some might consider 14 gauge copper wire heavy duty. Others might think it take at least 2 gauge or more. The rule to follow is to buy the largest copper wire you can afford. Keep in mind that if lightning strikes, you may not be able to only afford 10 gauge wire. It would be best to use at least 8 gauge wire but 6, 4 or even 2 gauge would be better. As for the size of copper tubing, again purchase the largest diameter you can afford, up to a point. For example, even if you could afford a 12 foot piece of 6" copper pipe, you might not be able to get it into the ground with damaging it.

What about lightning arrestors?

These are very good ideas, but only if they are installed properly and are of a high quality. My choice is those with gas discharge tubes in them. I also prefer the type that use type N connectors and not UHF connectors. Actually, I dislike UHF connectors anyway. For one, they are not waterproof like an N connector. These also introduce a mismatch since they are not 50 ohms. This is not much of a problem on HF though.

One suggestion with lightning arrestors; don't buy them used. If they have actually been "used" they may offer no protection at all. Other things that need to be considered before purchase is their ability to handle the power of your station. If you run 1500 watts on 2 meters and your lightning arrestor is only rated

for 100 watts at 30 MHz, you have a problem. Also look at the different choices and check the loss numbers. No use giving up half of your received and transmitted signal in a lightning arrester. The better quality products offer a couple tenths of a dB loss at their design frequency.

Place the lightning arrester as close to the point where the cable either enters the ground, or the shack, whichever comes first. For example, if you use direct burial cable, you might place the arrester near the antenna, or at the base of the tower. On the other hand, if you have a run of coax laying on the ground that runs, say 50 feet, and then enters the shack, I would place the device near the point of entry.

As I discussed above, low impedance grounds are a must here. A 24 gauge wire that runs 20 feet to a 3 foot ground rod will offer nearly zero protection. Go back to the top and read the section on ground rods and wires again. Everything I said there applies here. **DON'T SKIMP** on your ground rods and connections. Big, many, heavy, are good words to apply. Even in areas that do not get frequent thunder and lightning storms. All it takes is one strike.

You can obtain additional information from the National Lightning Safety Institute from their web site. To go there [Click Here Now](#).

For even more information go to this [National Weather Service](#) web site.

WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

Find shelter immediately! If you're unable to find shelter consider the following:

Indoors

Stay away from windows, doors and electrical appliances and plumbing fixtures

Unplug appliances before a storm approaches; not during the storm

Do not use the telephone except for emergency

Outdoors

Go to a shelter equipped with a lightning protection system such as found at golf courses, in some public parks and swimming pools

If you're caught outside and are unable to get inside a building then:

Sit in a car

Stay away from trees and other tall objects by a distance of at least twice their height

Avoid areas that are higher than anything else around

Stay far away from metal objects

Immediately get out of water if you are swimming or boating

Spread out - don't stand in a large group of people

If you feel a tingling sensation and/or your hair stands on end, a lightning may be immanent! Immediately crouch down on the ground and cover your ears. Don't lay on the ground or put your hands on the it.

If after taking all possible precautions and lightning does strike nearby, or even directly, make certain that any injured people receive first aid assistance including CPR if necessary. Then seek medical attention immediately.

No Internet, no problem?

Wednesday, February 2, 2011

PC World has a [good article](#) in response to the Egypt situation.

Does your government have an Internet kill-switch? Read our guide to Guerrilla Networking and be prepared for when the lines get cut.

Hams should give it a read as they are talking about Do-It-Yourself Internet With Ad-Hoc Wi-Fi / Mesh Networks.

The guys over at [Noisebridge](#) were the first to point out that another good reason hams should be building mesh networks is because of proposed internet kill switch bill.

Simultaneously, the United States is debating a bill to create an Internet kill switch, also known as the PCNAA bill. For true redundancy, a non-critical network can and should be built by the amateur service to avoid this single point of failure.

Some 10-20 years ago there were many private networks for automated teller machines, telephone, merchant credit card verification and so forth. Now most of this all happens over the internet. If there were some sort of major internet outage or attack, many day-to-day things would be interrupted.

Simply put, I'm pretty sure there would be major commerce and stock market effects. I have a hard time fathoming what would constitute a national cyber emergency, that would be worth those kind of side effects.

At the same time many ham radio systems use the internet for wormhole-like connectivity. APRS, WinLink, D-Star, IRLP, Echolink and so forth. An emphasis on building our own backbone and infrastructure is just simply not

there. This leaves vulnerabilities in our emergency communications reliability.

There are some unknown vulnerabilities in the upcoming switch to IPV6, such as distributed denial of service attacks on IPv4 to IPv6 gateways. As well as root nameservers, and core internet routing.

The need for Speed and Digital Networks

Nearly 10 years ago a survey conducted by the ARRL Technology Task Force, of League members and other amateurs revealed that the number one interest in new technologies was in high-speed digital networks. Amateur radio, particularly EmComm (this was just after 911), needed some means of data transmission significantly faster than conventional packet radio.

Winlink is severely limited in capabilities and doesn't necessarily even conform to Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) standards. As the population in urban cities grows so does communications. Have you ever thought how long it would take to convey even just 300 messages that loved ones are okay over such an antiquated medium?

If you still need more reasons to explore these wide-band modes, consider the fact that [99% of available amateur allocations go virtually unused.](#)

Steve Lampereur, KB9MWR

DX0DX Operation On Indefinite Hold

January 14, 2011

Some disappointing news for DX'ers. The long awaited DX0DX operation from the Spratley Islands appears to be on indefinite hold and nobody can say exactly when it will take place.

According to a posting on DX World dot net by Team Leader Chris Dimitrijevic, VK3FY, the decision to abort the attempt at this time was brought about by what he termed as circumstances beyond the control of the DX0DX Team.

VK3FY said that the situation leading to the decision to postpone the operation began when the expedition's transport by ship was

damaged back in October of 2010. They then opted to fly in, as there were no ships deemed to be safe to make the voyage to Pag-Asa available.

VK3FY says that they had landing permission and booked an aircraft with security cleared pilots. However, there was conflicting agreements and the aircraft could not get approval of its flight plan. As time was running out for this window of opportunity, and before more operators became stuck in Palawan in the hope of making the last leg of the voyage, the decision was made to postpone the operation.

The authorities overseeing access to the islands has been advised of the postponement. Also, all of the equipment that was to be used for the operation will be exported out of Philippines to comply with current Philippine Customs Law.

VK3FY ends by noting that his team has a license as well as the authority to land via ship.

He says that when a ship becomes available, it is his intention to activate this entity sometime in 2011.

More on this story is on line at dx-world.net. We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (DX-World)

Amateur Radio Newsline™

Programmer Needed For South African Cubesat Project

January 14, 2011

The planned South African CubeSat project is in need of a volunteer with expertise in the area of programming PIC or 8051 microprocessors. According to Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, this person will be a critical member of the CubeSat team and will be responsible for

the development of the onboard controller software. Anyone interested in volunteering for this mission or any other aspect of the satellites development should send a resume by e-mail to saamsat@intekom.co.za. (SA AMSAT)

Amateur Radio Newsline™

Ham Radio And The Egypt Uprising

February 4, 2011

The mass media claims that ham radio has been an information channel out of Egypt during the uprising against President Hosni Mubarak, while others are not so sure. But the media still seems to be jumping in without any way to confirm its stories on ham radios involvement.

Once you spend the time to vet all these stories of ham radio involvement in Egypt you realize not a one of them can be true.

First off, most reports are credited to unspecified hams or websites around the world. Not one callsign or name has been attached to any report so that it can be verified.

Second, if there were Egyptian hams on the air, it would be their neighbor hams in Israel and the world's "Big Gun DX Super-Stations," rather than Joe Ham with his dipole and 100 watt transceiver hearing them. But to date nobody has heard one word from any of the worlds well known DX'ers or the Israeli amateur radio community. That in itself is more than enough to make a reporter suspicious.

As we said, all reports so far have been rumors, most coming from websites sympathetic to the Egyptian people who are demonstrating. And some do claim that unnamed hams in their group have heard reports transmitted in Morse code of conditions in Cairo and elsewhere. Reports that at the time were impossible to confirm since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had banned all news reporting out of that nation including the pro-Arab Al Jazerra News Network. News reporting that has since been partially restored.

But let's take this a step further. If you bother to look up a listing of hams licensed by the Egyptian government, the total is only about two dozen. Someone may claim a Morse message posted on a website sympathetic to the plight of the Egyptian people was delivered by ham radio, but if here are people transmitting from Egypt it's more likely to be that nations equivalent of unlicensed Freebanders than a person holding a valid SU prefix callsign. If there are stations sending reports in Morse, there is a far better chance that it's some fool in New York City, London or Paris taking advantage of the situation than a station in Cairo, Alexandria or Giza risking his or her life.

Of course for the moment we freely admit that this is all conjecture, but ask yourself this. If there were valid ham radio stations on the air from Cairo or anywhere in Egypt, who would be the ones hearing them? The answer as we said is the hams next door in Israel who have to be listening in because they can hear just about any signal coming out of Egypt. Also, the multi-million dollar DX and contest stations worldwide can usually hear a pin drop on the other side of the world when band conditions are good. But with High Frequency band conditions in the doldrums, even for the very best of competition grade DX station installations would have little chance that any

of the reported transmissions come from Egypt, if they exist at all.

One problem with ham radio is that most people who know how to use it in Egypt were probably trained by the military and may be opposed to the protests. Others may be wary of transmitting because they are worried about who might be listening.

The bottom line: It won't be until this uprising is over that we might find out if ham radio really played any part in the information flow out of Egypt. That is, if we ever really do, find out.

*(Various sources)
Amateur Radio Newslite™*

Emerging Technology: ESPN To Launch All 3D TV Network

January 14 2011

ESPN will launch the broadcast industry's first 3-D television network. Called ESPN 3-D, the new network will showcase a minimum of 85 live sporting events during its first year, beginning with the FIFA World Cup match on June 11th that will pit South Africa vs. Mexico. Other events to be produced in 3-D include the Summer X Games, college basketball and college football. Additional events will be announced at a later date.

Sean Bratches is ESPN's executive vice president of sales and marketing. He describes

the new venture to be a meaningful step to drive adoption of 3-D television sets and at the same time afford opportunities for its affiliates to create value through new product offerings.

According to its press release, ESPN has been testing its 3-D technology for more than two years. Last fall the network produced the USC vs. Ohio State college football game in 3-D. It was shown in select theaters as well as to 6,000 fans at the Galen Center on USC's campus. (ESPN, B&C)

Amateur Radio Newslite™

Emerging Technology: Video DNA May Put An End To Movie Piracy

February 4, 2011

Video pirates beware. A new system called Video DNA may land you behind prison bars.

Three Israeli researchers have come up with what they believe to be a sure fire way to end video piracy. Dr. Alex Bronstein working with his twin brother Michael and Israeli researcher Professor Ron Kimmel, has developed a way of treating video footage like DNA.

Dr. Bronstein who is with of Tel Aviv University's Department of Electrical Engineering says that it is not only members of the animal and plant kingdom that can have DNA. He says if a DNA test can identify and

catch criminals, his group believes that a similar code might be applicable to video. Then if the code were copied and changed, it would be obvious to law enforcement.

As video does not have a real genetic code like members of the animal kingdom, Dr. Bronstein and his team created a DNA equivalent that can be applied to video files. The result is a unique DNA fingerprint for each individual movie anywhere on the planet. When scenes are altered, colors changed, or film is bootlegged on a camera at the movie theatre, the film can be tracked and traced on the Internet. And says Dr. Bronstein, like the films,

the video thieves themselves can be tracked and caught.

If the entertainment industry adopts this new video DNA coding, it could mean that a lot of

video pirate could eventually be looking at the world from the other side of prison bars. (adapted from Science Daily)

Amateur Radio Newslite™

Emerging Technology: Smarter ID Tags That Use Less Energy

February 4 2011

Researcher Bjorn Nilsson's research has developed a system that makes RFID tagging technology even more effective and more energy efficient. Nilsson has come up with a new protocol or rules for communication between readers and tags that use less energy and permit reader unit batteries last longer. This means that it is now possible to produce simpler and cheaper tags.

Today's active tags have been relatively limited since they have been energy-consuming and expensive to produce. There has long been a demand for more energy efficient tags with a longer lifespan. There's also the quirk that if multiple tags pass a reader at the same time, it might be that all tags are not read. But with Nilsson's protocol tags cannot interrupt one another leading to greater accuracy.

The next step is to develop an active tag with a single circuit and Nilsson is already working on this. Together with his colleague Emil Nilsson at Halmstad University, he is running a project where Björn's job is to see to it that readers and tags communicate with each other, while Emil is developing the electronics to make it all more efficient.

RFID tags are found on numerous items in a great number of different areas where someone wants to trace, identify, and store information. It's believed that industries such as logistics, transportation, and animal husbandry can be made considerably more efficient with the aid of Nilsson's more modern tags. (VHF Reflector, KB9TVD)

Amateur Radio Newslite™

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? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | RAC Member # _____ | ARES Volunteer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | Email Address _____ | |

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

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

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

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