

# Message from the London Amateur Radio Club

Promoting Amateur Radio in London  
and surrounding areas since 1920



March 6, 2005

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  - Meeting Topic – Towards a 4G World by Mike Cook, VE3ZMC

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## The next Meeting is...

Reminder of the next monthly Club meeting on Thursday, March 10th, 2005 @  
**7:00pm**

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

They are normally held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm EST  
during the months of September to June (no meetings July and August).

**NOTICE: This month's meeting will include a mini flea-market commencing 30  
minutes earlier than the normal 7:30 start time.**

## Meeting Topic – “Towards a 4G world” presented by Mike Cook, VE3ZMC.



We have lived with them for years but do you how they work?

This month we will examine the cellular phone system used in North America.

The basic question of: “How does the cell phone system function” will be explored as well as a presentation of the historical development of this complex technology.

The future possibilities will be discussed especially now that it is apparent that we have a convergence of cell-phone and computer technologies.

### Some related links:

1. <http://www.networkmagazine.com/article/NMG20020304S0010> Fast forward to 4G
2. [http://research.sun.com/features/4g\\_wireless/](http://research.sun.com/features/4g_wireless/) All IP Wireless, All the time
3. [http://www.ee.oulu.fi/~skidi/teaching/mobile\\_and\\_ubiquitous\\_multimedia\\_2002/issues\\_in\\_emerging\\_4G\\_wireless\\_networks.pdf](http://www.ee.oulu.fi/~skidi/teaching/mobile_and_ubiquitous_multimedia_2002/issues_in_emerging_4G_wireless_networks.pdf) Issues in Emerging 4G Wireless Networks

## Other Items of Interest

### LARC's Flea Market Co-ordinator for Hamfest 2005



DOUG TOMPKINS, VE3IDT is now our Flea market co-ordinator for the LARC hamfest 2005.

See the full informational flyer later in this newsletter.

Thank you Doug for taking on this important responsibility!

### Foxhunting in London!



There have been some recent discussions about having a Radio Fox Hunting event in London during April and June (field-day).

Foxhunting is the search for a hidden transmitter using Radio Direction Finding techniques.

For more information, contact:  
Archie, VA3PTV <mailto:archie@execulink.com>

### Some interesting web links on Fox Hunting:

1. <http://members.aol.com/homingin/SCalStyle.html> Let's go hunting
2. <http://members.aol.com/homingin/equipment.html> Equipment ideas
3. <http://members.aol.com/homingin/farsnews.html> Foxhunting News

### Ham Radio Deluxe CD-ROMS



During the Feb meeting, approximately 40 CD-ROMS containing Ham related information were distributed.

We had a full audience and the CD-ROMS proved to be very popular, so much so that we ran out before the meeting ended.

During the March meeting, more CD-ROMS will be made available for the same low price of \$2.



## QRP Canada



This link was recently given to me and I thought it would be of some interest to some of you. QRP is low powered hamming, usually using home built equipment.

With the plethora of stable fox oscillators (usually from computer circuits), I always wondered if they could be used as tiny single frequency transmitters, especially with a transistor driver to give a few more milliwatts. It seems there is a huge following of hams with similar mind sets. If you like to tinker and build, I recommend giving the following links a read through:

1. <http://www.qrp-canada.com/> Homepage
2. <http://www.qrp-canada.com/files/swontqrp%20n1.pdf> Jan 2005 QRP newsletter

## Update on Canwarn 2005 by Tom, VE3OEP



As you probably know Canwarn has been operating in the London area to provide Environment Canada with visual information on severe weather as it passes through our region.

The severe weather season is approaching and Canwarn will begin operations for the summer of 2005 at the beginning of April.

It is currently planned that a training session will be held in April during one of the club meetings. This training is for both amateurs wishing to be spotters and experienced Canwarn members. I hope you will be able to attend.

Canwarn would also like to find some amateurs who are available to run nets in the event of a callout by Environment Canada. The controller would be expected to commit to being available for about 4 weeks during the period from April to October. The weeks will be selected at mutually convenient times. During those weeks the controller will be assigned a pager and will be required to report to the London Central Fire Hall to run the net in the event of a Severe Thunderstorm Warning. We usually try to have one on-call controller to cover the hours of 10 am to 5 pm and an evening controller to cover the hours of 5 pm – 11 pm. This is an ideal activity for a retired amateur who is comfortable with computers, the Internet, and 2m equipment. Experience running a net is not required and training will be provided for those selected.

For further information on being a controller or on joining Canwarn in another capacity please contact Tom Stewart at [ve3oep@rac.ca](mailto:ve3oep@rac.ca)

### **Reference:**

<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/severe-weather/canwarn-e.html>

## Wanted: Morse code keys and oscillators – by Terrence Edward Hillier



To any one who might have some old morse code keys and oscillators laying about, currently myself VE3TEH and Floyd Donald VE3ONF, Allen McRorie VE3GAM, are teaching morse code to developmentally challenged adults and are in need of morse code keys and oscillators.

This project is going so well it looks like it will be a full time function at the school.

We need morse code keys and oscillators that can be left at the school permanently for them to practice on as well as the fact that the staff will be eventually doing the teaching in other schools as this is working so well for their hand eye coordination.

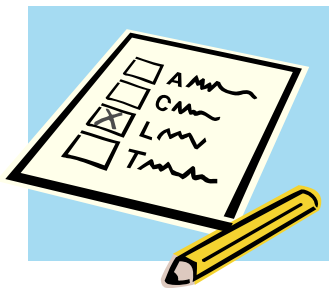
We are not concerned that they get their morse ticket as much that they get the use of their hands back. I can tell you tough we have about 3 or 4 that will not only get the 5wpm but the basic as well.

They really enjoy doing it and we do as well, just ask Allen, he came out once to see what we were doing and hasn't missed a day since.

For more info call me 519-637-2032

**EDITORS Note:** This looks like a good project for some 1<sup>st</sup> time builders. If there is some interest, I can etch some simple oscillator boards if some guys want to try putting them together ([mark@foxhollow.ca](mailto:mark@foxhollow.ca)).

## New LARC executive?



It is that time of year again for us to think about the lineup for the club's executive members for 2005-2006.

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 current executive members have already confirmed their intentions on staying on for another year:

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Role</u>
1. VE3PZR	Mark Bramwell	President
2. VE3GB	Gord Baker	Vice-President
3. VE3IDT	Doug Tompkins	Director & flea market coordinator
4. VE3SMN	Shirley McCall	Director
5. VE3EAY	Dave Young	Director
6. VE3SQU	Tony Drawmer	Treasurer

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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at the Red Cross building from 7:30pm to about 9pm. All club members are invited to attend any executive meeting. If you have some interest but are unsure, drop by and see what we do.

## Field Day 2005



Just to keep everyone in the information loop, the current plan is to once again have field day at Reservoir Hill Park in Byron. It was the location used last year and every one was happy with the location.

**JUST IN...**

**Some of the rules have changed for stations participating in field-day 2005.**

The following links give some information on the changes:

1. <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/> ARRL Contest forms and rules
2. <http://www.hfradio.net/bulletin/feb2705i.html#Contest> Contest News

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the global event, here is a brief description:

**Ham Radio** operators from all over the US and Canada as well as all other parts of the world, take their radios, antennas and equipment into the great outdoors to set up and operate away from electrical power mains.

**Purpose:** an annual exercise where ham's set up and operate radio communications in the event of emergency or disaster conditions. Priority is placed on skills and equipment developed to meet the challenge of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio. Hams work as many stations as possible on any or all amateur bands and, in doing so, to learn to operate in abnormal situations under less-than-optimum conditions.

**Who can attend:** the event operates under the supervision of the local radio club (LARC). That means any person, even those with out a valid radio license, are permitted to show up and operate any radio on any band. For those of you that have thought about working HF, here is your opportunity to get on the air.

**Cont'd on next page...**

**Field Day Committee:**

VE3EAY, Dave Young (Coordinator)  
VA3ARC, Glenn Lee  
VA3MSV, John Visser

VE3SQU, Tony Drawmer  
VE3NLP, Mike Doncaster  
VA3PTV, Archie Van De Velde

**Activities requiring volunteers:**

Band Captains, Tents/lodging, Power, Food

**Band Captains:** None at this time

**Tents/Lodging:** None at this time

**Power:** None at this time

**Food:** None at this time

**Extra Activities:** This year we will hold a foxhunt on the same week-end as field-day.

**For more information, send email to:** [fieldday2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca](mailto:fieldday2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca)

London Amateur Radio Club  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual  
2005 FLEAMARKET

Every year at the end of September, the London Amateur Radio Club sponsors a technology flea market. This year the flea market will be held on Sunday Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at the "London Western Fair Grounds".

The flea market is extremely important to the club. It is a major source of revenue and allows us to continue with our various functions and services without raising the membership dues or to put it another way, it stops us from closing the doors due to lack of funds.

The full brochure: <http://www.larc.ca/newsletter/LARC-HAMFEST-2005.pdf>

Inquiries can be sent to: hamfest2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca

**How to support YOUR flea market:**



The most obvious way to support your hamfest is to **attend**. We charge a small admission for people to enter the flea market. Bring a friend or two. The standard ham-radio flea market of today contains several non-hamradio items and has the interest of a broader audience.

**Rent a table.** Many of you have high-quality, under-used equipment that is begging to be updated. Seize the opportunity to sell your old equipment and of course buy new stuff! Start cleaning out your closets and garages NOW and have your goods ready for sale on Sept 25<sup>th</sup>.

Another way to support the flea market is to **volunteer**. We need some people for various activities such as security and setup/teardown on the day of the hamfest. Please send me an email letting me know you are interested in helping.

The real measure of success of a flea market is what happens 'next' year. Many of the SW-Ontario area hamfests are dying due to lack of vendors which has the side-effect of buyers not willing to show-up in subsequent years. We are lucky because some large vendors such as Radioworld have already committed to be a vendor for our 2005 hamfest. Radioworld (and other larger commercial vendors) no longer appear at many of the 'smaller' hamfests which in essence was the last nail in the coffin of those hamfests.

## Bring-and-Buy



Based on the success of last year's bring-and-buy table, we have decided to offer it again this year!

### **The situation:**

Many people like to come to our hamfest and look around and have a good time.

Not many are willing to rent a table because they might only have 1 or 2 items for sale or they simply do not want to sit there all morning dealing with the endless stream of people asking the same questions over and over again.

**Solution:** This year the club will have a bring-and-buy table.

### **Here is how it works....**

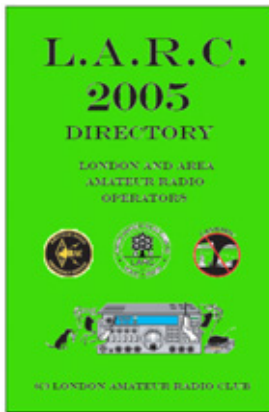
You do not rent a table but you come to the hamfest as a buyer. You also bring your 1 or 2 items and go the LARC table. We will take the item(s) and fill out a for-sale card that describes the item plus your asking price. It will cost you a loonie (\$1) to leave your item on the club table. When the item sells, you will pay us 5% as a commission. If your item does not sell, you pick it up at the end of the hamfest and the only cost to you was the \$1 that you left earlier in the day.

For example: If you asked us to sell your mobile radio, you might put a \$200 price tag on the unit. You left a dollar behind as payment. When we sold your radio, we keep a total of 5% which is normally \$10. Since you already paid a buck, we only keep \$9 giving you back \$191.00.

### **The rules are simple:**

- We are only willing to sell one or two items per person. We are not trying to displace our normal table rentals.
- It costs a dollar per item to have it placed on our table
- We will retain 5% as a sales commission when the item sells.
- Please be reasonable with your pricing; it doesn't do either of us any good if you are asking an extremely high price for boat anchors. Radioworld is a good place to compare prices because they have both a new and used section on their webpage.

## LARC 2005 Directory



The 2005 edition of the LARC directory will be made available at the March meeting.

A single copy of directory will be given to all paid-up members at no charge.

Additional copies will be made available to anyone that is interested for \$5.

The directory contains the over 1,000 names, addresses and call-signs of hams from London and surrounding areas.

Occasionally we get asked (a) where do we get the call-sign information and (b) who gave us the right to disclose this information?

### **The answers are:**

(a) We got the information from the RAC database which is freely downloadable from their webpage: [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca)

(b) Who gave us permission, YOU DID! As a requirement of the privilege of obtaining an Amateur Radio license, you signed on your application form the following consent:

I certify that the statements made in this application are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and that the stations will be used only for the purposes authorized by the Minister of Industry and the Regulations made under the Radiocommunication Act, and I agree that Industry Canada may use, disclose and share the information that it has collected about me in relation to this application, regarding my certificate qualifications, name, address and call signs, for the purpose of establishing a database that will be made public in order that other amateurs are aware of the frequencies and emissions that I have been authorized to utilize.

**IC Form: 2381BD (2000/06)**

Some questions and answers dealing with Ham Radio from the Canadian Government: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf01812e.html>

Questions or concerns about the privacy of your information should be directed towards Industry Canada, not LARC.

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On a personal note, if you feel the need to work and live in secret including transmitting from a non-disclosed location, perhaps Ham Radio is not for you and I suggest finding another radio service that best suits your needs.

Mark Bramwell, VE3PZR  
Feb 6, 2005.

## **New Adobe Acrobat reader available! (for Windows 2000 & XP users)**



The latest update requires Windows 2000 or Windows XP. If you are running an older version of Windows, you must stay with an older version of Adobe Reader.

Although you could go to the Adobe Website and find the update yourself, I have downloaded the various versions and have placed them on a London server.

Here are quick links to the versions of adobe and their required operating systems:

Windows 95 & 98

<http://hamster.foxbollow.ca/acrobat505.exe>

Windows 98SE & 98ME

<http://hamster.foxbollow.ca/acrobat601.exe>

Windows 2000/XP

<http://hamster.foxbollow.ca/acrobat7.zip>

## **Is your Address Correct? (Industry Canada)**



We have noticed that many of the addresses given on the Club Renewal Form do not mach with the address in the RAC call-sign database.

RAC receives a monthly update of all Canadian Amateurs. Even though you are no longer required to pay yearly licensing fess, you are still required to notify Industry Canada of any address changes.

## **Excerpt from RIC-2**

### **14. Change of Address**

The holder of an Amateur Radio Operator Certificate shall notify the Department within thirty (30) days with respect to a change of mailing address.

Visit the RAC website to lookup your own call-sign & address information: [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca)

## LARC Sponsors

This year we decided to print a callsign directory (booklet) of the radio amateurs from London and surrounding areas. We received quotes from various vendors for the printing and were surprised at the amount of the increase in costs over such a short period of time.

We decided to contact some of the often-used vendors to see if they would sponsor LARC in some of the club's activities. Without sponsorship, the final selling price of the booklet would have been much higher.

I would like to thank each of the following for their support:

- **Radioworld** Toronto based equipment supplier selling amateur radio, GPS and telescope equipment. Also known by many hams as the 'toy store'.
- **Counterparts** London based electronic component parts and gadget supplier.
- **Big Rig CB Shop** Sales and service (Radio tune-ups and antennas). Owned and operated by a family of 3 hams. Located at the Husky truck stop (Belmont).

# Radioworld®

Toll Free Order Line: 

**1-866-666-8600**

[About Us](#) | [Location](#) | [Contact Us](#)



## New LARC email and Web addresses



I have retired the old LARC email address of:  
[LARC@hamster.foxhollow.ca](mailto:LARC@hamster.foxhollow.ca)

It was receiving more spam than real email.

The new email address is: [LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca](mailto:LARC2005@hamster.foxhollow.ca)

Hopefully this will not confuse any inbox filters some of you may be using. The old address will continue to operate for 30 days; after that period the email will be bounced back to the sender.

The LARC web site now has a new shorter name: [www.LARC.ca](http://www.LARC.ca)

The old name of: [www.LARC.on.ca](http://www.LARC.on.ca) will continue to work until August, 2005

## Are your friends receiving this bulletin?



Last September we collected hundreds of email addresses from people interested in receiving the monthly club bulletin via email. Each month I received bounced email from accounts that are no longer active. With the availability of cheap (free) email addresses, many of us move around on the Internet leaving our old mailboxes behind. If someone you know is no longer receiving this bulletin, tell them to send a message to the club with their current email address.

## Have anything to say?



If you have a comment or announcement that might be of interest to the club, feel free to send me a message and I'll include it in the next mail out.

My email address is: [mark@foxhollow.ca](mailto:mark@foxhollow.ca)

**Our Club Web page is:** <http://www.larc.ca>

**For list of upcoming events:**  
[http://www.larc.ca/meet\\_2004\\_5.htm](http://www.larc.ca/meet_2004_5.htm)

**If you want to be added or removed from our Mailing list, send an email to:** [mark@foxhollow.ca](mailto:mark@foxhollow.ca)