

QUINTE QRM NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 1999

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: Wednesday, February 17,1999. @ 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Loyalist College(Pioneer Building)Room P-1

PROGRAM: Gerry Wilkins VE3APF and Jeff Robbins VE3JTR will
give a demonstration on APRS (Automatic Positon
Reporting System)

Club Repeater: VE3QAR 146.985 MHz

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Wednesday 7:30 PM
Loyalist College (Pioneer Bldg)
Room P-1

Hams 'n Eggs: SATURDAYS 8:00 AM
Northway Restaurant
205 N. Front St, Belleville

QARC EXECUTIVE:

| | | |
|---|--------|----------|
| PRESIDENT: Dave Ackerman (e-mail: ve3ugt@blvl.igs.net) | VE3UGT | 962-3991 |
| VICE-PRESIDENT: Brian Credico (e-mail: credico@mercury.kosone.com) | VE3GRA | 966-1546 |
| SECRETARY: Peter Hodgson (e-mail: va3pkh@rac.ca) | VA3PKH | 962-1386 |
| TREASURER: Don Dalrymple (e-mail: ve3dqn@rac.ca - Packet BBS: VE3HQR) | VE3DQN | 968-9242 |
| PAST PRESIDENT: Dave Ward (e-mail: dward@kos.net) | VE3BIP | 966-9982 |

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA ADDRESS:

Radio Amateurs of Canada Administrative Office
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5

phone: (613) 244-4367 fax: (613) 244-4369 e-mail: rachq@rac.ca

QARC HomePage <http://www.qarc.on.ca>
provided free of charge by:
Lakeshore Internet Services,
199 Front St, Suite 209, Belleville K8N 5H5
(613) 962-9299

The QARC HAM TRADE CENTRE is also accessible through our
home page. If you would like to list an item send e-mail
to: hamtrade@qarc.on.ca

QARC JANUARY MEETING MINUTES: Jan 20/99.

Executive Present:

President: Dave Ackerman: VE3UGT Vice President: Brian Credico VE3GRA

Treasurer: Don Dalrymple VE3DQN Secretary: Peter Hodgson VA3PKH

General Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Dave VE3UGT

Guest Speaker: Brian VE3GRA introduced our guest speaker Joe Eberwein Chairman of the Prince Edward County Private Land Stewardship Council. Joe spoke about the various projects the council was involved in, including Wood Lot Management, and Maple syrup production. The council is also promoting shoreline preservation in the county.

OLD BUSINESS:

The club is trying to operate a "Ride to the Meeting" system for members who are unable to get out to Loyalist. If you are available to give a ride or need a ride please contact Brian ve3gra.

Weekly Foxhunts continue to be held starting at 2:00 p.m. from Ultra Mart on North Front Street. Check in to therepeater between 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. to see if the hunt is on.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive is planning to send out a Newsletter and membership information to hams who are listed in RAC Database as being in the Belleville area. It is intended to have an "Open House at the April meeting and to have various special interest groups or individuals put on displays i.e.. Fox Hunting, Satellite, CW, APRS, Packet, Homebrew, etc. If you are interested in putting on a display or have a suggestion for a display please contact one of the executive.

The weekly QARC Net is being held on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. on VE3QAR. VE3VMP Mike is the Net Manager assisted by various Net Controllers. The net is currently running for about 20-30 minutes, which allows members to also check in to the Tri County ARC net at 7:30 p.m. VE3UO Tim has programmed the repeater message to announce "Check the Net Wednesday at 7:00 p.m." The executive will be e-mailing all members with e-mail a net reminder on Wednesday's This will be done on the basis of "If you didn't get a reminder, send one"

There being no further business to conduct it was moved by VE3UO and seconded by Dave VA3DGV that the meeting be adjourned 9:40 p.m..

GREETINGS FROM TREASURE ISLAND

73 & 88 from VE3CJG (Glen) & VE3HON (Sandra)

It's hard to believe we have been here a month. The weather has been almost perfect with only a few chilly days when we first arrived (but not cold by Canadian standards - 50 to 60 degrees F). We have been keeping up on the weather up home through Canada Calling (radio), Canada News (newspaper) and various other reports. Glen has talked to Eric VE3GSI a couple of times on HF so we know what kind of January you have had!!!

We miss the Saturday morning breakfasts. They have a breakfast get-together down here for the Canadian Hams but it's only once a month. They meet at a restaurant in Clearwater so it's a two-hour drive for some of the guys. There are a lot fewer Canadians down here this year so not so many at the Saturday Ham & Eggs. We went to a Ham Flea market last week but there wasn't much and most of it was junk. The prices of things here are the same as home (in dollars) so when you add the exchange it makes everything more expensive.

There are a lot of European visitors (mostly England and Germany) here. For them it is a very reasonable holiday.

The bad news about Theme Parks down here is that they just raised their admission prices.
 The good news for Canadians is that on producing Canadian identification, you get 33% off so that helps.

We leave here on March 24 so please get rid of all the snow by then!!!

TREASURERS REPORT:

Income: Jan 1,1999 to Jan 29,1999

| Revenues: | | Expenses: | |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------|---------|
| Membership dues | \$125.00 | Newsletter Printing | \$24.67 |
| 50/50 draw | \$8.00 | | |
| Total Revenue: | \$133.00 | Total Expenses: | \$24.67 |
| Income: | \$108.33 | | |

Income: Jul 1,1998 to Jan 29,1999

| Revenues: | | Expenses: | |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| Membership Dues | \$550.00 | Radio Course | \$6.18 |
| Directory Sales | | | |
| (disk) | \$225.00 | Nametags | \$24.16 |
| 50/50 Draw | \$17.61 | Insurance | \$432.00 |
| Building Project | \$90.00 | Packet | \$20.97 |
| | | Bank Charges | \$34.02 |
| | | Postal Box Rental | \$74.90 |
| | | Office Supplies | \$165.29 |
| | | Social Events | \$91.26 |
| | | Hall Rental | \$8.56 |
| | | Donations | \$75.00 |
| | | Newsletter Printing | \$147.02 |
| | | RAC Membership | \$39.95 |
| Total Revenue: | \$882.61 | Total Expenses: | \$1,119.31 |
| Income: | -\$236.70 | | |

RIDE TO THE MEETING PROGRAM

Anyone who cannot get to the monthly QARC meeting due to lack of transportation please contact Brian Credico VE3GRA at 966 1546. Brian will try and make arrangements for a ride with another member.

WORKING AN AMATEUR SATELLITE

(Brian VE3GRA)

You all know that us hams have a lot of satellites up there that are being actively used. But did you know that there is one that you can now work using just your regular HF transceiver and HF antenna?

That one is RS13 (for "Russian Satellite 13")

It is presently running in the K mode, which is simply 15 Meter up, and 10 Meter down. That is, the satellite will transmit in a segment of the 10-Meter band anything it hears on a corresponding segment of the 15-Meter band.

All you need to use RS13 is a transceiver that you can transmit on 15 Meters and listen on 10 Meters. Of course, you have to switch between these two frequencies so having the "Split" feature on your rig is very helpful. But if you're fast with your bandswitch and tuning you can use RS13 without this aid.

To use RS13 as your repeater in the sky determine when RS13 will be in view from your location. (Use what ever satellite prediction software you have or use this web page which will tell you when it's over Toronto:

<http://acsprod1.acs.ncsu.edu/scripts/HamRadio/sattrack>

Listen for the RS13 beacon on 29.504 MHz Listen for CQs ("CQ RS13, CQ satellite de") between 29.460 and 29.500 MHz Call the CQ'er between 21.260 and 21.300 MHz corresponding to the last 2 digits, e.g. if you hear him on 29.485 MHz, call him on 21.285 MHz.. Because of the Doppler effect there will be a few hundred Hertz difference between this uplink and downlink calculation, but this gets you close enough for the CQ'er to hear you. Or you could call "CQ RS13" between 21.260 and 21.300 MHz and see if you hear anyone responding via RS13 between 29.460 and 29.500 MHz. Generally the lower 10 kHz or so is used for CW contacts. Keep contacts short, as usually the overhead time of RS13 will be less than 15 minutes on a reasonable pass.

So working hams through RS13 won't replace your regular 15 and 10 Meter operations, particularly now that 10 is open most days. However, if you haven't yet had the thrill of ever working another ham through a satellite, this is your opportunity!

GUIDES ON THE AIR

By Dave Ward VE3BIP

On Saturday, February 20th, 4 members of QARC will be operating a Guides On The Air (GOTA) station for some of the local Girl Guides. The Guides will be on a winter camping expedition near Waupoos in Prince Edward County that weekend so we will be setting up a field day style station. Fortunately, they have a modern heated building with power available so it won't be too rough.

GOTA is an opportunity for Guides, to talk to other members of Girl Guides over Amateur radio. The normal mode of operation is for the amateurs at two GOTA stations (usually HF) to establish contact with another GOTA station, then allow the girls at each station to talk. Many of the girls are "mike shy" and don't know what to say so we prepare a list of questions and comments they can talk about to get them going; things like the weather, "What subject do you like in school", "What is your favorite TV show", etc. We also teach them to say their name phonetically. Of course there is always one or two girls are naturals who can carry on a conversation and operate the whole station with very little supervision.

In addition to the HF station, we will also set a 2 meter station, foxhunt demo, a small low power FM radio station, and a Morse code demonstration. The 2 meter station is always good for reliable, easy to use local contacts the girls don't seem to care if they are talking to someone in Trenton or Timbuktu. With the FM radio station the girls get to play at being Disk Jockeys, they can talk and play CDs. The "broadcast" goes a few hundred yards so they can hear the station throughout the building. I am always surprised at the level of interest in CW, maybe it has some kind of secret code appeal.

This year we will be operating from about 12:00 - 15:00 EST on Saturday February 20th. We will be on HF, 40 - 10 meters, and 2 meters. If anyone else is operating a GOTA station during that time and would like to arrange a sked let me know.

The suggested frequencies for GOTA are:

80 m - 3.733 or 3.93

40 m - 7.088 or, 7.188

20 m - 14.133 or 14.188 or 14.28

15 m - 21.36

10 m - 28.98

If you want more information about GOTA and have World Wide Web access you can see http://www.guidezone.sk1.com/i_ha_index.htm

HAMEX 99

Bryan, VE3TRJ Vice President, Peel Amateur Radio Club.

As the contact person for the Peel Amateur Radio Club, I thought you would be interested in an important upcoming ham flea market. The Peel Amateur Radio Club is hosting HAMEX '99 on March 27. It will be at a new location this year, with lots of parking and space to view all the offerings!

HAMEX 99 is likely to prove to be one of Canada's largest hamfests. All the major suppliers like ICOM, Kenwood, Yaesu will be there, as will RAC, the QSL Bureau, AMSAT, and many other interesting displays. And of course, lots of vendors! Additionally there will be an IC examiner for anyone who would like to write for their ticket.

Please have a look at our club's web-site for the details:
<http://www.peelarc.org/fleas.html>

It would be great if you could let your club members know about this upcoming event.

MORSE CODE

By Dave Ward VE3BIP

This was first printed in The Economist then distributed on the CW mailing list.

The Economist, Jan. 23, 1999

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

... --- ... -. ... ---. (SOS, RIP)

Morse code is being replaced by a new satellite-based system for sending distress calls at sea. Its dots and dashes have had a good run for their money.

"Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence."

Surprisingly this message, which flashed over the airwaves in the dots and dashes of Morse code on January 31st 1997, was not a desperate transmission by a radio operator on a sinking ship. Rather, it was a message signaling the end of the use of Morse code for distress calls in French waters. Since 1992 countries around the world have

been decommissioning their Morse equipment with similar (if less poetic) sign-offs, as the world's shipping switches over to a new satellite-based arrangement, the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. The final deadline for the switchover to GMDSS is February 1st, a date that is widely seen as the end of an era.

For although dots and dashes will not die out altogether -- they will, for example, continue to be used by amateur radio operators, spies, and some members of the armed forces -- the switch to GMDSS marks the end of the last significant international use of Morse. The code has, however, had a good history. From its origins in 1832, when an American inventor called Samuel Morse first started scribbling in his notebook, it grew to become the global standard for sending messages along wires and, later, over the airwaves. Morse code was, in effect, the network protocol for the world's first Internet: the international telegraph network, whose cables trussed up the globe in the second half of the 19th century.

The mother of all networks:

Appropriately for a technology commonly associated with radio operators on sinking ships, the idea of Morse code is said to have occurred to Samuel Morse while he was on board a ship crossing the Atlantic. At the time Morse was a painter and occasional inventor, but when another of the ship's passengers informed him of recent advances in electrical theory, Morse was suddenly taken with the idea of building an electric telegraph.

Other inventors had been trying to do just that for the best part of a century. Morse succeeded and is now remembered as "the father of the telegraph" partly thanks to his single-mindedness -- it was 12 years, for example, before he secured money from Congress to build his first telegraph line -- but also for technical reasons. Compared with rival electric telegraph designs, such as the needle telegraph developed by William Cooke and Charles Wheatstone in Britain, Morse's design was very simple. It required little more than a "key" (essentially, a spring-loaded switch) to send messages, a clicking "sounder" to receive them, and a wire to link the two. But although Morse's hardware was simple, there was a catch: in order to use his equipment, operators had to learn the special code of dots and dashes that still bears his name.

Originally, Morse had not intended to use combinations of dots and dashes to represent individual letters. His first code, sketched in his notebook during that transatlantic voyage, used dots and dashes to represent the digits 0 to 9. Morse's idea was that messages would consist of strings of numbers corresponding to words and phrases in a special numbered dictionary. But Morse later abandoned this scheme and, with the help of an associate, Alfred Vail, devised the Morse alphabet, which could be used to spell out messages a letter at a time in dots and dashes.

At first, the need to learn this complicated-looking code made Morse's telegraph seem impossibly tricky compared with other, more user-friendly designs. Cooke's and Wheatstone's telegraph, for example, used five needles to pick out letters on a diamond-shaped grid. But although this meant that anyone could use it, it also required five wires between telegraph stations. Morse's telegraph needed only one. And some people, it soon transpired, had a natural facility for Morse code.

As electric telegraphy took off in the early 1850s, the Morse telegraph quickly became dominant. It was adopted as the European standard in 1851, allowing direct connections between the telegraph networks of different countries. (Britain chose not to participate, sticking with needle telegraphs for a few more years.) By this time Morse code had been revised to allow for accents and other foreign characters, resulting in a split between American and International Morse that continues to this day. On international submarine cables, left and right swings of a light-beam reflected from a tiny rotating mirror was used to represent dots and dashes.

Meanwhile a distinct telegraphic subculture was emerging, with its own customs and vocabulary, and a hierarchy based on the speed at which operators could send and receive Morse code. First-class operators, who could send and receive at speeds of up to 45 words a minute, handled press traffic, securing the best-paid jobs in big cities. At the bottom of the pile were slow, inexperienced rural operators, many of whom worked the wires as part-timers. As their Morse code improved, however, rural operators found that their new-found skill was a passport to better pay in a city job. Telegraphers soon swelled the ranks of the emerging middle classes.

Telegraphy was also deemed suitable work for women. By 1870, a third of the operators in the Western Union office in New York, the largest telegraph office in America, were female. Just as skilled operators found that they could recognize each other over the wires from their style of Morse code, many operators claimed to be able to recognize women operators. Inevitably, romances were initiated over the wires -- just as they are today by e-mail. There were even a handful of weddings by telegraph.

In a dramatic ceremony in 1871, Morse himself said goodbye to the global community of telegraphers he had brought into being. After a lavish banquet and many adulatory speeches, Morse sat down behind an operator's table and, placing his finger on a key connected to every telegraph wire in America, tapped out his final farewell to a standing ovation. By the time of his death in 1872, the world was well and truly wired: more than 650,000 miles of telegraph line and 30,000 miles of submarine cable were throbbing with Morse code; and 20,000 towns and villages were connected to the global network. Just as the Internet is today often called an "information superhighway", the telegraph was described in its day as an "instantaneous highway of thought".

But by the 1890s the Morse telegraph's heyday as a cutting-edge technology was coming to an end, with the invention of the telephone and the rise of automatic telegraphs, precursors of the teleprinter, neither of which required specialist skills to operate. Morse code, however, was about to be given a new lease of life thanks to another new technology: wireless.

Following the invention of radiotelegraphy by Guglielmo Marconi in 1896, its potential for use at sea quickly became apparent. For the first time, ships could communicate with each other, and with the shore, whatever the weather and even when out of visual range. In 1897 Marconi successfully sent Morse code messages between a shore station and an Italian warship 19km (12 miles) away. The first sea rescue after a distress call sent by radiotelegraph took place in 1899, when a lightship in the Dover Straits

reported the grounding of Elbe, a steamship. Two years later, Marconi sent the first transatlantic radio signal: three dots, the letter "S" in Morse code. By 1910, Morse radio equipment was commonplace on ships.

The sinking of the Titanic in 1912, however, highlighted the need for radio operators to listen at all times for distress signals. After the disaster it emerged that the liner Californian had been only a few miles away, and that hundreds of lives might have been saved had the Californian's radio operator been on duty and so able to receive the Titanic's "SOS" distress call. At the first International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), held in London in 1914, it was agreed that large vessels should maintain 24-hour radio watch. This rule has remained ever since, with subsequent SOLAS conventions gradually introducing new rules to keep pace with the development of technologies such as radiotelephony.

The advent of satellite technology led the International Maritime Organization to amend the SOLAS convention in 1988 to introduce GMDSS, an automated emergency communications system based on satellite and radio links. Optional since 1992, GMDSS equipment will be compulsory worldwide from February 1st on all ships that exceed 300 tonnes, carry 12 or more passengers, or travel in international waters. (Owners of smaller vessels can install the equipment if they wish.) Under GMDSS, anyone on board a ship in distress merely has to press a button to send a distress call containing the vessel's identification number and its precise location--there is no need for a skilled Morse operator. And so, after nearly 170 years, Morse code will finally slip beneath the waves.

Over and out:

As communications protocols go, Morse has lasted a surprisingly long time--admittedly with a few tweaks here and there. So how might its modern descendant, the Internet Protocol (TCP/IP), fare in comparison?

TCP/IP was devised in 1973 by Robert Kahn and Vinton Cerf (a man with Morse-like stature in the Internet world who is often known as the "father of the Internet"). As with Morse code before it, TCP/IP is being improved to respond to new challenges and technologies. Its addressing system is now being overhauled to make room for billions of additional connections, to allow for the wireless devices expected to proliferate over coming years and to enable even household appliances to go online. Mr Cerf is also working on how to extend the Internet to such other places as the moon and Mars, since the time delays as radio signals travel through space make the current protocol unsuitable.

Further improvements will follow: indeed, since it is spoken by computers, not humans, TCP/IP is easier to adapt than was Morse. Even so, in today's fast-changing computer world, it seems unlikely that TCP/IP will remain in continuous use for anything like as long as the century and a half managed by Morse code, its distant digital ancestor.

73 de K5RW, Neal McEwen, at "The Telegraph Office", nmcewen@metronet.com

A WWW Page for Telegraph Key Collectors and Historians

http://fohnix.metronet.com/~nmcewen/tel_off.html

WARNING! PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY! THIS IS SERIOUS!

If you get an envelope from a company called "Revenue Canada", DO NOT OPEN IT! This group operates a scam around this time every year. Their letter claims that you owe them money, which they will take and use to pay for the operation of essential functions of the Canadian government. This is untrue! The money that RC collects is actually used to fund various other corporations, which depend on the money it gives them, to stay in business. This organization has ties to another even more shady outfit called the Canada Pension Plan, who claim to take money from your regular pay cheques and save it for your retirement. In truth, the CPP uses the money to pay for the same misguided corporate welfare that RC helps mastermind. These scam artists have milked honest, hard working Canadians out of billions of dollars. Don't be among them!

FORWARD THIS MESSAGE TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW!

QSL CARD SOFTWARE

(Dave Ward VE3BIP)

For anyone interested in making their own QSL cards there is a very nice piece of free software available to allow to do just that. You can download the software from:

<http://members.tm.net/jjmcd/qslmake.htm>

This is a very nice, easy to use program. You can customize the colour scheme, the layout of the card and of course callsign and address information. There are a few "radio theme" backgrounds available or you can provide your own in the form of a bmp file.

I bought some paper card stock for my printer for about \$12 which is enough to make 500 cards. I imagine the most expensive thing will be the ink cartridge for the colour printer.

END QUINTE QRM NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 1999.