

QUINTE QRM NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2000

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: Wednesday, October 18, 2000. @ 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Loyalist College Pioneer Building, room P-17

PROGRAM: This month's Guest Speaker will be Dave Lockwood from radio station CKOL (93.5) in Campbellford who will talk about how a small station can be a viable proposition in a small community.

Club Repeater: VE3QAR 146.985 MHz

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Wednesday 7:30 PM
Loyalist College (Pioneer Bldg)
Room P-17

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

Weekly Net: Wednesdays 7:00 PM VE3QAR 146.985

Foxhunts: Sunday Afternoons @ 2:00 PM

QARC EXECUTIVE: 2000-01

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KINGSTON AND QUINTE ARC HAMFEST/FLEAMARKET 2001

At this time of writing plans are in a very preliminary stage, but the two clubs are looking at hosting a joint hamfest. The date will be in September 2001, possibly the 15th or 22nd.

In order to make this an affair to remember and something that will grow year to year, we are looking at doing some things which you don't usually see at a Canadian Hamfest, namely setting up a HF station, conducting amateur exams (Basic, Advanced, and Morse), seminars and information sessions. BUT in order to make this happen, this project needs your support in giving suggestions for what you would like to see at this hamfest and **YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION !**

Our first agenda item is to nail down a date and location for this event, which hopefully will be done in the next month or two. We are investigating locations in Kingston, Belleville and Napanee.

At this time, coordinators for this event are : Ron Walsh VE3GO (ve3go@rac.ca) for the Kingston ARC and Tim Pekkonen VE3UO (ve3uo@rac.ca) for the Quinte ARC. We are looking for volunteers to help out with the organising committee.

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR - JOTA - OCT 21 & 22

This years JOTA activities will be taking place at the Scout Museum at Sir James Whitney School in Belleville. We will probably be doing a similar set-up as last year on Saturday with displays and activities such as a H.F. station, a

VHF/UHF station, APRS demo, Morse code demo, and a low power (QRP?) FM station where the kids can be a disc jockey with a radio audience approaching TEN people! If you are interested in helping out, or finding out more about JOTA, contact Peter VA3PKH va3pkh@rac.ca at 613-962-1386.

HALLOWEEN SAFE STREETS - TUESDAY OCTOBER 31

As in previous years, members of the Quinte Amateur Radio Club will be helping Belleville Community Policing with this program. The purpose of Safe Streets is to help ensure the safety of young 'trick-or-treaters' on our streets on Halloween. Any suspicious activity is relayed to a base station set up at the Community Policing Office and passed on to the police to deal with. Our role is to act as 'eyes and ears' on the road and not to get directly involved with any suspicious activities. If you are interested in helping out, contact Ron Chapman VE3IVC at 613-966-2910 or via e-mail to rchap@bel.auracom.com.

MINUTES QARC MONTHLY MEETING - SEPT 2000

Executive Present:

President Peter Hodgson VA3PKH,
Vice President Bill Milligan VA3WOW,
Secretary Tim Pekkonen VE3UO
Treasurer Don Dalrymple VE3DQN.

The meeting started off with a practical demonstration of analyzing various 2-meter antennas and configurations. Dave Ward VE3BIP had provided a calibrated receiver, which would compare relative signal strengths across the Loyalist College Parking lot.

The business meeting was called to order by President Peter VA3PKH at 8:05 PM.

Items discussed were:

1) Suggestions for future meetings and club functions - Communications Museum at Kingston (possibly a Saturday trip?) Peter VA3PKH and Tim VE3UO will be at the October Kingston ARC meeting and will have more information at our October meeting.

- Trip to the Hammond Museum in Guelph?
- A practical PSK -31 demo at a QARC meeting.
- Social events such as a golf tournament.

2) Ron VE3IVC mentioned that he is looking for volunteers to help out with Heart Stroke Walkathon Sun Sep 24 at Zwicks Island. The walk starts at 1:30 PM and volunteers should be there about 12:30. The course is 4 km, so it should take about 1 to 1.5 hours to complete.

- Ron is also looking for help for Halloween Safe Streets, which will be organised the same as last year. Tim VE3UO also reported that Safe Streets was mentioned in this week's RAC OBS Bulletin.

3) Tim VE3UO mentioned on behalf of the Trenton ARC that they have a 'boatload' of Motorola MOCOM VHF radios available for FREE. Contact Don Barber VE3IVS if interested.

4) Repeater Update: Awaiting CBC application which was mailed to the QARC PO Box this week. Seeking clarification regarding CBC requirements about insurance required before we can proceed.

5) Don VE3DQN is looking for someone with a small amount of free storage space to store some club items - contact ve3dqn@rac.ca if you can help out.

6) CHRISTMAS DINNER: Wednesday December 13, 2000 at Northway Restaurant. More info in Oct Newsletter and at Oct meeting.

7) Tim VE3UO mentioned the recently activated QARC E-Group, which is an e-mail reflector for QARC members. Web URL: <http://en.egroups.ca/group/qarc> . Contact Tim ve3uo@rac.ca with any questions you might have about joining the E-Group.

8) Door Prize Winners: Al VE3WV and Hayward VE3BAM. (Icom Grid Square Maps)

Meeting ADJOURNED at 8:45 PM.

Members Present:

VE3EBS Norm Kalnay	VA3WOW Bill Milligan	VE3ENF Gary Raine
VA3ORC Owen Clarke	VE3IVE Clayton Langevin	VE3ZPB Margaret Bosiak
VE3GBJ Jim Ballard	VE3KZD Dave Scarlett	VE3GRA Brian Credico
VE3BAM Hayward Moores	VE3KWT Bill Workman	VE3IVC Ron Chapman
VE3APF Gerry Wilkins	VE3GJS Greg Schatzmann	VE3BIP Dave Ward
VE3AWS Tony Allan	VE3WV Al Taylor	VA3PKH Peter Hodgson
VE3UO Tim Pekkonen	VE3EER Dick Hayes	

MULTI USE RADIO SERVICE MURS

Peter VA3PKH found this in an e-group. I wonder if these will migrate to Canada like FRS did before it became legal. This is a cut & paste from the group.

Here are some notable proposed rules:

2-watt Maximum ERP with NO provisions for power increase.
No license required.
May not use in an aircraft in flight.

Requires no station ID (such as callsign).
MAY USE voice, data and image. (Do I see packet?)

I read no rules pertaining to antennas. This service may allow base-station style antennas or detachable "rubber-duck" antennas as to allow attachment of mobile antennas. The frequency and mode are very similar to the 2-meter ham band. If this is so, you should expect pretty much the same performance as that band. Two watts is pretty good in the 2-meter band. Car-to-car should be several miles. In flat areas you should get 20 miles or better. With a base antenna well placed and a good 5/8-wave mobile antenna, you should get about 10 miles or better.

If these rules are accepted by the FCC, this part of the Citizen's Band Service should answer all the concerns of the FRS community that want greater flexibility. If the trend that was followed by Radio Shack, Motorola and others continue into this service, radio prices should drop dramatically. FRS units cost FAR below other UHF radios on the market. I wouldn't be surprised to see RS, Motorola and others offering MURS units for the \$50 range or less. Standard amateur radio 2-meter antennas could be easily cut for the MURS frequencies.

This means a good mobile antenna would cost around \$20. Base antennas could EASILY be made at home by amateur operators or others possessing the basic knowledge of antenna design. EXAMPLE: I build a 2-meter PVC J-Pole for around \$5 each plus my own labor. You could EASILY make the necessary changes to the basic 146MHz design to work on the 151MHz of the MURS service. This means a good base antenna starting at around \$5.

The VHF frequency doesn't require that you have as good a coax that UHF frequencies require. Short runs of RG-58 would be fine. Longer runs would require a lower-loss coax.

I think the MURS service will be a very good service for families that need 2-meter ham radio type equipment, but are unable to get the required license. I am looking forward to it. Rest assured that the popularity of the FRS radios has peaked the interest in radio manufacturers. They will be QUICK to get their model of MURS units on the market ASAP to establish a foothold in the market. I would expect the inexpensive units early. The sub-\$100 units will be very popular.

The rules for the new MURS will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. As of this date, that still has not happened. However, we can get a general sense of what those rules will be from looking at the TENTATIVE rules as they were published in the recent Report and Order.

To view these TENTATIVE rules, go to the PRIGS Web site
<http://www.provide.net/~prsg> and follow the "What's New" links.

Significantly, the new rules appear to place no restrictions on eligibility (except for the usual "no foreign governments or representatives") for operation, nor on the content of communications.

HEART AND STROKE WALK (RON VE3IVC)

I would like to thank all the following QARC members for their help at the Mother Daughter walk for Heart and Stroke at Zwicks Island on Sept 24:

VE3UO TIM, VE3HZZ SCOTT, VA3PKH PETER, VA3DGV DAVE and VE3CSU RALPH

It was a great day for the walk and we had no emergencies. The walk got started at 1:30 and was finished by 2:15. The Heart and Stroke group will be looking for our assistance again next year.

Thanks again and keep in mind the Halloween Safe Street Night on Oct. 31.

CONTEST TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE BLIND

Recently a group of Amateur Radio Operators from Eastern Canada, Pennsylvania and New Jersey took part in a "Marathon" to help raise funds for the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind Amateur Radio Association, VA3CGD, in Manotick Ontario. The Marathon was organized by an Amateur in Pennsylvania, who along with all other participants requested that they remain anonymous. A cheque representing the proceeds from this event was forwarded to the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind Radio station (VA3CGD) which is used by blind Hams while they are at the school being trained with their seeing-eye dogs. The "Marathon" rules were simple: Exchange and log, name, QTH, signal report and mode with a Canadian Amateur and mention the CGDB at least once during the QSO. Local sponsors pledged one dollar per contact (to a maximum of 5 dollars per sponsor). Each sponsor received the original log of their sponsored contacts along with a handwritten "Thank You" note and a receipt for their kind donations.

SATELLITE NEWS AS OF SEPTEMBER 26

SaudiSat -1 & 2:

Both the SaudiSat birds have been turned on and are running the initial housekeeping task. Please note, as previously announced, the down links are on only when over ground stations that are participating in the commissioning process (Riyadh, Washington, DC, and Denver).

Further progress will be announced as commissioning proceeds.

Down links are

Saudisat-1 436.775

Saudisat-2 437.075

9k6 FM GMSK. The data will look much like the other 9k6 digital birds. Reception reports appreciated.: Jim wd0e@amsat.org

TiungSat -1

Early on the morning of September 26 Malaysian time, TiungSat-1 was activated from the command station at UKM University (9M2MCS) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Excellent telemetry was received showing that the spacecraft was in good health. Telemetry was also received at the Surrey ground station 1 hour later while the satellite was in sunlight and this confirmed that the solar arrays were generating power and the battery was fully charged.

Currently the spacecraft is transmitting VLSI telemetry which is not (generally) decodable without special hardware. As soon as the flight software is running I'll release the telemetry config file.

The downlink is on 437.325 and is on at all times. Today we will load up the flight software and start the attitude control. With only 1 pass night and morning over Malaysia it will take some time to get everything running. More information as it happens...73, Chris G7UPN (Kuala Lumpur)

September 30 2000: The following information has been received from Chris at the Malayan TiungSat control station Over the past couple of days we have been detumbling TiungSat ready for nadir stabilisation tonight. The satellite is now in a Y-Thomson attitude at a rate of 1 deg/sec (This is a controlled end over end spin). Tonight we will activate the momentum wheel controller to lock the spacecraft pointing.

The first payload was activated yesterday. This is the CEDEX payload for gathering radiation data, and is very similar to the CEDEX developed for P3D (actually the P3D CEDEX was developed first, and the TiungSat CEDEX is the next rev).

Once the attitude is stabilised, further payload testing will be completed.

The downlink frequency is 437.325 MHZ.

Note that the object number seems to have changed recently to 26546 (from 26548). This is normal following a launch as NASA don't know what the spacecraft are.

73, Chris G7UPN (At 9M2MCS, Kuala Lumpur) TiungSat Controller

AMSAT PHASE 3D

The AMSAT Phase 3D satellite is scheduled to be launched by Arianespace from Kourou French Guiana on October 31 or later. The 31st is the earliest window of opportunity, but countdown delays etc could delay the actual launch.

LOCAL SATELLITE ACTIVITY FROM VA3PKH

I had two more Azores contacts on the morning of September 27 one on UO14 and one on AO27. The station was CU6/DL7VTX Jens, he was located on the Island

of Pico HM58 (Is that where Picosatellites come from ? :-)) His home QTH is Hoenow in Germany, I can't find it in my atlas so it must be a small town.

I also had two contacts with WB0TSX who was located in four grid squares, or more correctly at the intersecting point of four squares. EN 00, 01,10,& 11. Kind of a neat idea. He said it was off the highway in a field.

Peter VA3PKH, Tim VE3UO, Greg VE3GJS, Dave VE3BIP, Dave VE3UGT, and Ralph VE3CSU have all been active on the FM Satellites over the summer months.

On one pass of SO35 in August we had VE3UGT & VE3CSU check in from Prince Edward County, VE3BIP from the Warton area, VE3UO & VE3GJS from Belleville, and VA3PKH from Burlington. This prompted the comment "Is this Belleville Night on the Bird ?" from one of the US hams.

On Saturday September 30 Tim VE3UO and I went to the Roseneath Fair to meet Steve VA3SF and Don VE3VRW who were staging a Satellite demonstration at the request of the Heritage Amateur Radio Club. The display's put on by HARC included the Satellite display, plus, HF, VHF, APRS, and PSK31.

Don VE3VRW has written a programme for tracking satellites MacDoppler Pro, it has to be one of the most graphically realistic programs of this kind I have seen. Using the software and a linked set of nine repeaters across the "Golden Horseshoe" they re-transmit the downlinks of all the FM satellites. The satellites can then be easily accessed by anyone using a handheld. Prior to existence of the network hard part had been hearing the downlink.

The SSPB Repeater Network

VE3NUS	442.750 ... TORONTO ,(CENTRE)
VE3OBN	443.900 ... TORONTO ,(DOWNTOWN) 127.3 CTCSS
VE3OBN	145.230 ... TORONTO ,(CENTRE)
VA3KLR	443.150... BUCKHORN ,ONTARIO 103.5 CTCSS
VE3OBI	444.525 ... RAGLAN, ONTARIO
VE3WDX	444.100 ... AURORA, ONTARIO 103.5 CTCSS
VA3WHQ	224.220 TORONTO, (CENTRE) 103.5 CTCSS
VE3WOO	444.800 ...TERRA COTTA, ONTARIO 103.5 CTCSS
VE3QCR	443.275 ...COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO 103.5 CTCSS

See : <http://members.home.net/va3sf/amateurprtr.htm> for info on the repeater system,

See : <http://www.qsl.net/va3sf/fallfair.htm> for pictures of the event

See : http://www.dogparksoftware.com/Macintosh_Amateur_Radio_Pr.html for information on MacDoppler Pro

You may also be interested in the story of "Dog Park" at :
<http://www.dogparksoftware.com/aboutdpk.html>

FOX HUNT OCTOBER 1, 2000 (DAVE WARD VE3BIP)

As we discussed at the conclusion of the last fox hunt, the hunt this week will be a little longer than normal. This will be what I would term a medium hunt which I estimate will last 1 -2 hours. Since we have not done this kind of hunt before I thought I would provide some basic information.

LOCATION: I will be located within 50 miles, as the crow flies, of the start point. This extends from approximately 2/3 the way to Bancroft to the north, Kingston to the east, all of Prince Edward County to the south and Cobourg / Peterborough to the west.

For those who like to use a map while hunting and do not have a map that covers the area in detail, I suggest the Map Art map of Eastern Ontario. It is broad enough to cover all of the intended hunt area and has enough detail to show the main county roads.

SIGNAL: This should be considered a weak signal hunt, at least at the beginning. I will be within operating distance of the repeater VE3QAR and I will monitor the repeater in case any of the hunters have problems. However you should not expect to be able to hear the signal at all times including the start of the hunt. If you do not hear the signal at the beginning of the hunt I suggest you move to higher ground or a more open space. Some examples of high spots around town are Riverside Park at the north end of North Park St (our old starting spot), Maitland Drive just north of the 401. Farther from town are spots like Grills Rd, just east of Aikens Rd. As you get farther from town there is Oaks Hills to the north and Mountain View in Prince Edward County. You may want to consider using a better antenna for the first few transmissions such as a handheld yagi mounted on a pole.

Transmissions will be on the usual fox frequency of 146.565 MHz.

TIME: Because you may not be able to hear the signal on every transmission I will synchronize the transmissions exactly. The transmissions will be every 3 minutes and last approximately 30 seconds. The first transmission will occur at exactly 2:00 PM EDT, the second at 2:03, etc. You should probably synchronize your watches to a good clock e.g. something from the internet or CHU. I personally find the CBC news begins almost exactly on the hour (within a few seconds). I will plan to transmit for two hours. At the end of two hours if there are hunters still searching and they wish to continue we can continue the transmissions.

SCORING: Scoring will be done using the usual formula of 1 point per minute and 5 points per kilometer. Note that once you get out of town and drive a little faster, distance becomes more important than time. For example 12 kilometers is the same points as 60 minutes. Therefore there is no need to race around the countryside dangerously. You are better off to take your time with careful readings and minimize the distance.

FINAL THOUGHTS: This is a trial of a hunt that is a little longer than what we usually do. Therefore please comment on what was good and what could be improved. If this works out well, I have some ideas for hunts that could take several hours. Perhaps we could also extend an invitation to neighbouring clubs, Trenton, Picton, Kingston, Tri County, Peterborough, etc.

QARC CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING - WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2000

Northway Restaurant, 205 N. Front St, Belleville at 7:00 PM

Menu:

Roast Beef
Chicken Kiev
Veal Parmigiana
Chicken Stuffed Broccoli
Lemon Pepper Chicken
Pork Tenderloin
Shishkebob
Fillet of Sole
(the above served with baked potato, salad, dessert, coffee or tea.)

\$12.95 plate + 15% gratuity in lieu of room rental.

Prime Rib 14.95
Kids \$4.99

PLEASE CONTACT DON DALRYMPLE ve3dqn@rac.ca WITH
YOUR ORDER BEFORE NOVEMBER 30TH.

The Quinte QRM Newsletter is edited by Dave Ackerman VE3UGT - ve3ugt@rac.ca

END QUINTE QRM NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2000