



December 2001

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

- DATE / TIME:** December 19, 2001
- LOCATION:** Northway Restaurant Banquet Room,
265 N. Front St in Belleville.
- PROGRAM:** QARC Christmas Dinner: will be held on
Wednesday December 19, 2001, "Happy half hour"
at 6:30 PM; and dinner at 7:00 PM. Please contact
Peter Hodgson VA3PKH for reservations as the
restaurant would like to know how many to expect.

Club Repeater: VE3QAR 146.985 MHz. 2 meter net: Tuesday 7:30 PM

QARC HomePage <http://www.qarc.on.ca>

QARC HomePage <http://www.qarc.on.ca/> provided free of charge by:

Lakeshore Internet Services, 199 Front St, Suite 113

Belleville K8N 5H5 (613) 962-9299

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

Foxhunt: Sundays at 2PM. Check in on VE3QAR for details.

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA ADDRESS:

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QARC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Peter Hodgson VA3PKH 962-1386 (E-mail: va3pkh@rac.ca)

VICE-PRESIDENT: Bill Milligan VA3WOW (E-mail va3wow@rac.ca)

SECRETARY: Mike Papper VE3VMP 969-1744 (nancy@lks.net)

TREASURER: Don Dalrymple VE3DQN 968-9242 (E-mail: ve3dqn@rac.ca)

PAST PRESIDENT: Dave Ackerman VE3UGT 962-3991 (E-mail: ve3ugt@rac.ca)

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Minutes

For November 21st, 2001

Mike, VE3VMP

The executive present were:

President	VA3PKH	Peter Hodgson
V. President	VA3WOW	Bill Milligan
Secretary	VE3VMP	Mike Papper

The meeting was opened promptly at 7:30 PM by President Peter Hodgson, VA3PKH.

Ron, VE3IVC, provided an update on ARES advising us that our boundaries have been changed. The **QARC ARES** boundaries are: south of Stirling, west to Brighton and east to Napanee and south to the Bay of Quinte. The **Tri-County ARC** boundaries are now Stirling to Bancroft to the north and from Tweed to Havelock and north Kawartha (part of Peterborough county) and Trent Hills (formerly Campbellford, village of Hastings and Workwarth). Before the QARC looked after this entire area.

Ron also reminded members that there is a very good list of equipment/items that would be useful in case of an emergency in the November/December issue of The Canadian Amateur. This list will be published in our next newsletter.

Ron, VE3IVC and Mike, VE3VMP, will be checking the antennas at all the emergency sites in our area within the next month.

Tim, VE3UO, advised that there is no change in the repeater relocation status from last month. Correction - Read is about 30 kilometers **northeast** (not west) of Belleville.

“Events of the Past Month”:

Tim, VE3UO, reported that the Halloween Safe Streets went very smoothly with very good participation again. Thanks to all participants.

Dave, VE3UGT, was the lucky winner of the major door prize at the recent York Regional Hamfest. Congratulations Dave. It's nice to see a local ham win one of these prizes.

Peter, VA3PKH, mentioned that **Net Controllers** are required for the following dates: Dec 4, 18; Jan 1, 15, 29; Feb 12, and 26. Please contact VA3PKH to volunteer. There are about 10 to 15 check-ins at each net.

Tim, VE3UO, introduced our guest speaker **Ron Walsh, VE3GO**, assistant Regional Director for Radio Amateurs of Canada and a member of the Kingston ARC. Ron's main message this evening was to urge amateurs to join and support RAC. RAC is in trouble; they have the support of only 13% of the amateurs. Since the merge between CARF and CRRL the membership has dropped from 8000 to 6000. Ron explained some of the interesting things about RAC and what it does for the Canadian amateur.

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Minutes

The minutes for the October meeting were not available at press time for the November newsletter. Mike VE3VMP had technical difficulties with his "NON-MAC" computer.

For October 17th, 2001

Mike, VE3VMP

The executive present were:

President	VA3PKH	Peter Hodgson
V. President	VA3WOW	Bill Milligan
Secretary	VE3VMP	Mike Papper

The meeting was opened promptly at 7:30 by President Peter Hodgson, VA3PKH.

Ron, VE3IVC, provided an update on Halloween Safe Street event. Amateurs must register at this meeting to participate. Ron also read a thank you letter from the recent Mother's and Daughter walk-a-thon organizers for the Clubs assistance in communications.

Tim, VE3UO, provided an update to the repeater relocation project saying that all the paper work has been submitted and the three Million dollar liability insurance is in place. Our repeater antenna will be relocated to the CBC tower in Read and will be about 250 feet high. The changeover will take place in the spring of 2002. Read is about 30 kilometers north west of Belleville.

Eric, VE3GSI, suggested that the club have a code certification night at the February meeting,

Our guest speaker **Ron Walsh, VE3GO**, assistant Regional Director for Radio Amateurs of Canada was unable to attend because of a family emergency. We hope all is well with his family. In his place **Brian Credico, VE3GRA**, volunteered to provide highlights of a once-in-a-life-time America's Cup jubilee sailing regatta going around the Isle of Wight. It took Brian's yacht 7 hours and 20 minutes to sail 57 miles around the island. Brian and his crew were invited because the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club participated in an Americas Cup in 1881. It became known as the America's Cup when the United States beat the British, 150 years ago, who have never regained it since. Two other Yacht clubs from Canada were also invited, but did not attend. There were 200 yachts in this regatta, and the minimum length was 54 feet. Brian's crew placed in the top third of their division. For more detailed information go to www.bqyc.org.

Following Brian's very interesting presentation the meeting adjourned for donuts, cookies and coffee, compliments of the Toronto Auto Sports Club; who thanked the Club for providing communications in a recent rally in the Marysville area.

A Cheap Stealth Antenna

By Dave Ward VE3BIP

Now that we have changed the clocks back and we have enjoyed the extra hour of sleep, antenna season is officially upon us. With this in mind, I thought it would be a good time to describe a simple antenna project I just completed.

I recently needed to add a simple 2-meter antenna at my house for use with IRLP node. It didn't need to be high performance, just get into the repeater a few miles away with a couple of watts. In order to minimize the QRM from other members of the family, it is a good idea to minimize the cost and visual impact of these projects.

I was fortunate to have an unused quarter wave two meter mag mount antenna in the basement collecting dust so I decided to use it to make a ground plane antenna. I started by cutting some triangular wedges from a piece of 2 by 4. The angle of the wedges was measured to match the pitch of the roof. When the wedges were laid on the peak of the roof they created a flat, horizontal surface. Next, I purchased a 12 x 24 piece of sheet metal and some black Tremclad paint from Home Depot. I painted the wedges and sheet metal black, which matches the colour of the roof of my house. Next, I used screws to fasten the wedges to the peak of the roof and to fasten the sheet metal to the wedges. This created a flat, sturdy ground plane just a few inches above the roof. Finally, I placed the mag mount antenna in the middle of the sheet metal plate and connected a piece of coax. The antenna is about 20 feet above the ground. Because the antenna, sheet metal, and wooden supports are low profile and painted black to match the roof, the whole arrangement is barely visible. Since mag mount antennas are intended to be used on a moving car, i.e. outdoors in high winds, I think it should be relatively weather proof.

I measured the SWR and had a good match over the entire two-meter band. I tried it on a few local repeaters and had no problem reaching Kingston, Picton, and Cobourg. The whole thing cost less than \$20, although I was fortunate to have the mag mount antenna and some coax lying around. If you don't have a spare mag mount antenna lying around you can probably pick one up at a flea market. I also recall at one time Radio Shack was selling two-meter 5/8 mag mounts for about \$20. You could also use the same technique to build a dual, or even triband, antenna. In summary, this is a simple way to make a relatively inexpensive, low visibility, antenna with decent performance.

RAC MORSE CODE PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE

Industry Canada has discontinued the requirement for the 12-WPM Morse code qualification and now accepts the 5-WPM Morse code qualification for operating privileges on all HF Bands. This leaves a conspicuous gap in the encouragement of Morse code proficiency at higher speeds for the many amateur radio operations in CW mode on HF and VHF bands.

Radio Amateurs of Canada now offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Morse Code, to be administered by the RAC Awards Manager, to recognize voluntary candidate Morse code

reception proficiency at speeds of 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 WPM. A new dated certificate will be issued with each new 'qualification' earned. The examination and certificate are also available in the French language. A charge of \$5 is assessed to cover printing, handling and postage costs.

The certificate and associated testing is for reception proficiency using the Industry Canada RIC-1 standards of a three minute receiving test with less than 5 errors remaining after a two minute correction time allowance. Testing may be performed by any Accredited Examiner holding a current Industry Canada Letter of Authority who voluntarily chooses to participate in this program. As this program is not related to Industry Canada, Accredited Examiner participation or non-participation in this program has no effect on their Industry Canada appointment.

The examination may be generated by any of several software programs, or audiotapes prepared using such a program, using suitable text selected by the Accredited Examiner. As with 5 and 12-WPM Morse code examinations under RIC-1, the plain language examination text should be limited to the letters of the alphabet, the ten numerals, and the period, comma, dash, question mark and fraction bar character. A candidate who is being re-examined at the same or higher speed should be given a different examination text for each examination.

The blank form to be completed by the Accredited Examiner to 'qualify' the candidate may be downloaded and reproduced as needed. Accredited Examiners may also authorize the form for candidates who produce an original Advanced Amateur, First Class or Second Class Commercial, or military Morse qualification certificate issued by the Canadian government to that candidate, for the same receiving speed shown on such certificate. In such instances, the Accredited Examiner should date the Authorization Form with the date on the certificate produced as proof of proficiency. Once the form is completed by the Accredited Examiner it may be given to the candidate to mail in to the RAC Awards Manager with a money order for \$5. As the certificate conveys no operating privileges, candidates are expected to respect the honour system.

To stimulate interest among newcomers and old-timers alike, amateur radio clubs are encouraged to run periodic Morse Nights so an Accredited Examiner can qualify groups at progressively higher speeds.

To this end it is suggested that the first Morse Code night will be held at the February 2002 QARC meeting. Persons interested in trying a code test can contact Tim Pekkonen VE3UO at 613-969-8012 or ve3uo@rac.ca indicating the Morse speed they would like to try at this first Morse Code night.

Several Morse Code Software programs can be downloaded from the following web site: <http://www.rac.ca/morsepro.htm>. Another Morse program is also available at <http://www.morsecat.de/>

Industry Canada's RIC-1 which outlines the Morse examination procedure can be downloaded at: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf01007e.html> . or from the QARC website at: <http://www.qarc.on.ca/download/ric1.pdf>

Vicariously Yachting via Radio

Brian VE3GRA

Now is the season when there are a lot of private sailing yachts heading south to the Caribbean. One of a skipper's greatest concerns is that of obtaining reasonably accurate weather forecasting. This is needed to avoid upcoming storms and to plan the best sailing strategy with respect to wind directions and strengths.

Unfortunately, there are no government sponsored marine weather forecasting for most of this area. It is out of the range of USA interests and the local islands do not have the facilities.

This gap has been filled for a number of years by "Herb" in Toronto. He runs a two way SSB marine weather forecast, one on one, with private yachts in the Caribbean. Yachts log in with their location and local conditions and Herb provides his views of the upcoming weather. He also sometimes provides advice on how to avoid the worst of a storm or sailing directions to arrive at a destination as easily as possible. He has access to all the satellite weather maps and, with the local information provided by the yachts themselves and has proven to be very accurate.

It is very interesting to tune into these discussions. Often the yachts are on passage and sometimes actually in heavy weather conditions when you can hear the stress in the skipper's voice and sense the seas pounding the boat.

Herb is on the air daily from 2100 GMT, 3:00 p.m. EST, on 12.359 MHz. Radio conditions have been good and the yachts usually come in at 5x4 to 5x7 while Herb is usually 5x8 on my G5RV antenna.

Also, on Marine HF, it is worthwhile scanning the emergency and safety frequencies: 2.182, 4.125, 6.215, 8.291, 12.290 and 16.420 MHz. Although you don't hear much on these, when you do it will be interesting.

For next summer, if you want to keep track of what's happening on the Bay of Quinte waters, tune your VHF radio to these frequencies. 156.800 MHz Calling and distress frequency and Coast Guard notices 156.300 MHz Ship to shore, particularly to marinas 156.525, 156.425 MHz Two of the more popular ship to ship frequencies. You won't hear much on these VHF channels until next spring, however. Even then the influx of cell phones has greatly reduced the amount of VHF marine traffic in this area. But still interesting to keep tabs on, particularly Channel 16, 156.800 MHz, the calling frequency.

And finally, to go beyond the SWL aspect, the ham radio marine calling frequency is 14.313 MHz. This is also where most of the marine nets take place.

So happy sailing this winter!

CARAB 17 Meeting in Ottawa

From: RAC Headquarters

The semi-annual fall meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) took place in Ottawa on November 13, 2001. It was attended by representatives from RAC and Industry Canada.

The following were some of the highlights of the meeting:

- An Industry Canada document pertaining to the examination of disabled candidates will be ready for incorporation into an RIC by January 31, 2002. This document, based on a proposal from RAC, will provide guidance to medical doctors when asked to justify an exemption for disabled candidates for the Amateur Radio examination process.
- A list of Accredited Examiners has been provided by Industry Canada and is now available on the RAC web site. The list is sorted by both city and name.
- RAC again raised concern over the continuing errors and printing problems associated with Industry Canada's amateur radio examination generator software. Industry Canada is looking into the problems and hopes to rectify the situation shortly.
- RAC and Industry Canada entered into discussions regarding the development and maintenance of the Amateur Question Banks (RIC 7 and RIC 8) and the examination generator software. It is hoped that RAC may be able to play a viable role in both programs.
- Industry Canada provided a follow up report on the proposed 'Prudent Avoidance Policy' in the City of Toronto. Health Canada's Safety Code 6 provides guidelines for Radiofrequency Fields Safety. There is a need to establish protocols to provide a model for municipalities to utilize.
- Industry Canada representatives reiterated that IC is prepared to discuss and take action on documented cases of flagrant disregard for regulations. The amateur community must demonstrate to the local Industry Canada offices that such action is necessary, however. For further information visit: <http://www.rac.ca/faqgovt4.htm>
- Industry Canada presented a status report on new reciprocal operating agreements. A Canadian proposal is being considered by the Thai government. Hong Kong has also entered into discussions and is awaiting a response from Canada. Several other countries have shown little interest in setting up reciprocal operating agreements with Canada at this time. Unless policies change, nothing further can be done.
- Discussion took place concerning the CARAB terms of reference and participation. Industry Canada emphasized the importance of having a strong national representative voice for all amateur radio operators in Canada. Industry Canada indicated that it would be open to modification of the terms of reference of CARAB if the current provisions were inadequate for RAC's needs.

Complete details of the meeting will be provided at a later date in the CARAB 17 Minutes and posted on the Industry Canada website at <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf01778e.html>

Treasurers Report

MONTH TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$350.00	Rac Membership	
Coffee	\$17.73	Office Supplies	
50/50 Draw		Incorporation	\$20.12
Hamfest Income		News letter printing	\$14.64
Interest	\$0.14	Insurance	
		Social Events	\$3.95
Total revenue	\$367.87	Total Expenses	\$38.71
		Month to Date Income	\$329.16

YEAR TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$525.00	Social Events	\$3.95
Hamfest Income	\$300.00	Post box rental	\$77.04
50/50 Draw	\$23.50	Office supplies	\$62.53
Coffee	\$28.37	News letter printing	\$42.64
Repeater Move	\$0.00	Door Prizes	\$5.00
Interest	\$1.21	Insurance	\$544.32
		Donations	\$42.75
		RAC Membership	\$39.95
		Hall Rental	\$115.00
Total revenue	\$878.08	Total Expenses	\$933.18
		Year to Date Income	-\$55.10
	Cash on Hand		\$3,886.58

Support Radio Amateurs of Canada

Support the organization that supports you... JOIN RAC TODAY!
In order for RAC to carry on meaningful dialogue with government and industry leaders, it must represent the views of the entire Canadian amateur community. If only 20 or 30 percent of Canadian Hams belong to RAC, then the government may not view this as a clear mandate. As a member, your participation in discussion forums to shape the future of amateur radio in Canada is the best way to ensure that not only are your rights and investments protected, but that the amateur radio service can grow as well.

Don't let the tremendous volunteer effort on behalf of Canadian amateurs by the RAC volunteer Executive, Directors and officials be hampered by lack of support.

New ___ or Renewal ___ ?

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____

City / Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

1-year single at \$39.95 (GST incl.)..... _____

1-year single in NB, NS, NF \$41.43 (HST**incl.)..... _____

Each additional Family member at \$20 _____

(Name/Call sign of additional family members _____

Blind membership (no magazine) at \$20..... _____

(Please provide CNIB registration number)

Foreign 1-year single at \$53 (US funds only) _____

(For Life Membership information, contact RAC Headquarters)

Total _____

VISA/ MasterCard No. _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____