



January 2002

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

- DATE / TIME:** January 16 2002 @ 7:30 PM
- LOCATION:** Loyalist College (Pioneer Building) **Room P-17**
- PROGRAM:** The contributions made by Reginald Fessenden to radio communications. Presented by Bill Milligan VA3WOW.

Club Repeater: VE3QAR 146.985 MHz. 2 meter net: Wednesday 7:00 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)

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

QARC Minutes

There were no minutes of the meeting in December as we met at the Northway Restaurant for our annual Christmas Dinner.

RAC Certificate of Morse Code Qualification

Part of the February meeting will be a Morse Code night for those interested in obtaining a RAC Morse Code Certificate of Qualification. The exam will be similar in format to that specified in RIC-1 section 6. 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 Morse Code night. Qualifying speeds are 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 WPM.

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>

Amateur Radio Emergency Services Up-date

The Center Hastings, Eastern Peterborough and Northumberland areas are now being looked after by the Tri-County ARES Group. The Emergency Co-ordinator (E.C.) for Center Hastings is Peter Blakely VA3PGB. Terry Shortt VE3GTS is the E.C. for Eastern Northumberland county. Ron Chapman VE3IVC continues as E.C. for southern Hastings and the Quinte area, and Bill Milligan VA3WOW is the E.C. for the Prince Edward Radio Club.

The Quinte ARES Web pages are now being maintained by Ron Chapman VE3IVC and can be found at <http://www.qsl.net/ve3ivc/>. Check this website for updates of ARES activities in the Quinte area.

QARC Yahoo! Group

The QARC Yahoo Group (originally an 'e-Group') was formed as a service for QARC members to keep informed of club activities, for members to pass along news of their own amateur activities and to ask questions of the group. Members of the group also receive notification of QARC monthly meetings and of notable hamfests of driving distance of the area. Although it is not mandatory for QARC members to join the group, please consider joining. You will have the option of receiving individual messages to your e-mail inbox, or as a daily digest of messages to your inbox. If you are a Yahoo groups user then you can also visit the QARC Yahoo group website <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/qarc> to view messages. Subscribe to the Yahoo group by sending a blank e-mail to: qarc-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca If there are any comments or question about joining the group, please send them to Tim VE3UO at ve3uo@rac.ca

First time on PSK31

Brian VE3GRA

Now that I've gotten a new PC, I was able to bring my old Win 95, P133 down next to the ham shack. The first thing I did was try out PSK31 mode. PSK is an HF digital text mode that squeezes many channels into one standard, 2.5 kHz, voice channel. It provides a highly visual means of seeing the activity within this channel and making and receiving calls. It is also extremely robust.

I had, several years ago while living in the UK, used HF TNC and RTTY with my old Heathkit SB102, an MFJ-1278 Multi-Mode Data Controller and a 486 PC. I enjoyed these digital modes as it gave you a chance to try new ham challenges and also provided a good text communication system.

I had not used digital modes since I returned to Canada, and had also gotten a more modern rig... i.e. the Yaesu FT-890. I had seen Peter's (VA3PKH) demonstration of receiving PSK31 and wanted to give it a try.

I was pleasantly surprised how quick and easy it was to get on the air with PSK31. I made my first contact (with a Hungarian station) literally within a couple of hours of downloading the free software from the Internet. And most of that time was taken up making the appropriate cables to connect between my FT-890's TNC i/o and my PC's sound card line-out and mic-in connections.

For those interested in doing two way PSK31 communications, here are the steps that you could take: go to the PSK31 home page at: <http://www.kender.es/~edu/psk31.html> Read about PSK31 and download and install the "HamScope" software accessed from this page. There are other PSK31 software applications available, but I found this one to be very good. It comes with excellent instructions, including simple diagrams of how to connect between your PC and radio. It also will support other modes including RTTY and even CW. - Once loaded, play with the demo mode in this software to see how PSK signals are displayed and how you take part in two way contacts. There are several ways to connect your radio to your PC's sound card. Essentially, you want your rig's microphone input to be connected to the audio output of your sound card, and your rig's speaker output to be connected to the line or microphone input of your sound card.

Most rigs will have a TNC or phone patch i/o for this, but, with simple resistor attenuation, you can also connect directly in parallel with your mic and speaker. The instructions in HamScope give you examples. Tune to the bottom of the PSK channel for each band, e.g. 20 meters it's 14.07015 mhz. (Yes you are tuning to 10 hz!) Your PC will display all the activity in that 2.5 khz spectrum. That's all there is to it.

To key the transmitter I use the VOX control. However, I'll also use the manual PTT if I'm not sure how much text I want to transmit. Since the PC displays the entire spectrum of the 2.5 kHz channel it's easy to click on the peaks where there is activity and read the copy. To call CQ, just click the mouse somewhere in the 2.5 kHz where there are no peaks and then click the "CQ" button. The audio for generating the PSK text for calling CQ (assuming you have set up the software with your call sign!) is sent from the sound card to your transmitter and keys the VOX.

It's very easy to see when new signals come on the air and click to see what is being transmitted. This makes calling CQ usually very effective. So give PSK a try. The nice thing about PSK is that you can play around with it without actually putting a signal on the air (just turn off the VOX or don't hit the PTT), until you are comfortable with using the keyboard to control what you are sending.

FIRST IRLP 4 KIDS NET A SUCCESS

The first IRLP Kids net held 0200 utc Saturday the 8th of December was an overwhelming success. Teen and pre-teen hams checked in with 12-year-old net controller KC0IIN Jason Nochlin of Centennial Colorado. Dubbed IRLP 4 Kids, young radio amateurs checked in from all over the US, Canada, England and Australia using the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). Despite a 1 hour mix-up due to UTC conversion in the start time, there were still 33 check-ins.

The kids net was an idea suggested by Paul Cassel VE3SY who felt our young Radio Amateurs were lacking a forum to meet other young hams of similar age and interests. "Too often our ham courses graduate young amateurs only to find they are unable to be on the air at a common time to meet other teens" said Cassel. The new IRLP technology is a wonderful breakthrough that allows the linking of amateur repeaters around the world.

A Yahoo Groups mailing list was established and when Jason KC0IIN stepped forward and volunteered to act as net control the 12 year old General Class ham quickly organized the first net which was held Saturday December 8 at 0200 UTZ on (Friday evening North America time)

When the net wrapped up a number of e-mails such as the following from Gary KH6GMP in Hawaii were posted to the IRLP e-mail reflector. Another vote for Jason, great job on the net. Little dropout problem at times caused some confusion and that's to be expected. Great to see the youngsters in there and a lot of the old timers seemed to be having a ball in there too. We listened but didn't check in.

ALOHA 73 de Gary KH6GMP And Tony VK3JED from Melbourne Australia said.... At that age, all I had was a walkie-talkie (had to wait until I was 20 to get a ham ticket), but that was fun enough. :-) A friend of mine asked why the young hams here bothered to get a licence, since nearly everyone was so much older than them. Let's give them the perfect reason to get and use their ticket. :)

73 de Tony, VK3JED

VE3CFL Amateur of the Year 2001

From: RAC Headquarters Date: January 1, 2002

The RAC Board of Directors take great pleasure in announcing their election of Charles Leggatt, VE3CFL of Toronto, as the Canadian Radio Amateur of the Year for 2001.

Charles served in the Royal Corps of Signals, 1941-1945, and came to Canada in 1953. He worked as an assistant chief engineer with a US company, which worked on the Avro Arrow project. After that project was scrubbed in the 1960s Charles sold insurance and trained salespeople. He is also a sailor and writer.

Charles' contributions to amateur radio are many and earned this award for his tireless work in providing instruction and training so others may become radio amateurs. Because of his work over the past 12 years some 200 persons have become licensed radio amateurs. Charles has served as a relay station for the Mississauga Maritime net for the last 13 years. In April 2001 Charles received the prestigious "Yachtsman of the Year" sail trophy recognizing his safety at sea contributions through amateur radio.

An engraved silver tray, will be presented to Charles by Bob Cooke VE3BDB, RAC Ontario - South Regional Director.

Treasurers Report

MONTH TO DATE

| Revenue | | Expenses | |
|-----------------|----------|----------------------|---------|
| Membership Dues | \$125.00 | Rac Membership | |
| Coffee | | Office Supplies | \$47.67 |
| 50/50 Draw | | Incorporation | |
| Hamfest Income | | News letter printing | \$21.61 |
| Interest | \$0.17 | Insurance | |
| | | Social Events | |
| Total revenue | \$125.17 | Total Expenses | \$69.28 |
| | | Month to Date Income | \$55.89 |

YEAR TO DATE

| Revenue | | Expenses | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Membership Dues | \$650.00 | Social Events | \$3.95 |
| Hamfest Income | \$300.00 | Post box rental | \$77.04 |
| 50/50 Draw | \$23.50 | Office supplies | \$110.20 |
| Coffee | \$28.37 | News letter printing | \$64.25 |
| Repeater Move | \$0.00 | Door Prizes | \$5.00 |
| Interest | \$1.38 | Insurance | \$544.32 |
| | | Donations | \$42.75 |
| | | RAC Membership | \$39.95 |
| | | Hall Rental | \$115.00 |
| Total revenue | \$1,003.25 | Total Expenses | \$1,002.46 |
| | | Year to Date Income | \$0.79 |
| | | Cash on Hand | \$3,942.47 |