



April 2003

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: April 16, 2003 @ 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Loyalist College (Pioneer Building) **Room P-17A**
PROGRAM: Open House and Auction

Club Repeater: VE3QAR 146.985 MHz.

2 meter net: Tuesday 7:30 PM on VE3TJU 146.730

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 Quinte Restaurant 135 Cannifton Road

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: phodgson@kos.ca)

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SECRETARY: Mike Papper VE3VMP 969-1744 (E-mail: ve3vmp@rac.ca)

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

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Minutes

For March 19th, 2003

Mike, VE3VMP Secretary, QARC

The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm by our President, **Peter VA3PKH**. Our guest speaker for this evening is **Eric Reid VE3GSI** and his topic is RFI/EMI. Prior to Eric presentation there was a brief Business meeting that consisted of the following:

Coming Events:

- **April** Meeting will be our annual auction. It was suggested to start this meeting earlier, like last year, to avoid being too late.
- **May** meeting is our popular and very appreciated elections – please volunteer to be part of next year's executive. After all it seems to be the same volunteers year-after-year. It's your Club too!!
- Also in May **Dave VE3BIP** will tell you all you need to know about **Spread Spectrum**.
- **June** meeting will be a field trip to the RCAF museum in Trenton
- **CNIB Amateur Radio Club** is looking for donations – if you have gear to give away to this cause please contact one of the executives
- Saturday March 22 HAM-EX in Brampton Fair Grounds – over
- Smith Falls Flee Market is **May 10th**
- Tour of the County Annual **FOX HUNT** is May 17th – the event starts at noon, goes for 3 hours. There will be 3 FOXs. Rag Chew and excuses to follow at Bird House City in Picton – Home of the **PECRC**
- **Mike VE3VMP** organizing trip to Rochester Ham Fest (same day) – if interested contact Mike @ 969-1744
- **Easter Weekend April 19/20** - Ontario QSO party starts 2 pm end 2 pm on Sunday. Tim VE3UO asked if there wud be interest in participating as a CLUB.
- **Field day is 4th week-end** in June; hopefully same location, Huffs Island Road in the County, as last year and joining forces with PECRC

Ron VE3IVC thanked to **Peter VA3PKH**, **Dave VE3UGT**, **Glen VE3CJG**, **Tim VE3UO**, & **Jeff VE3JTR** for participating in 5K & 10K Walk-a-Thon for the Community Policing Service

Ron VE3IVC is looking for volunteers for the upcoming MS Walk-a-Thon.

Dave VE3BIP announced that the DX Cluster is up and running. Go to 145.070/VA3PEC-5.

No new business

No further info on repeater relocation.

The presentation this evening was given by our own Eric Reid VE3GSI on EMI/RFI

He used slides to complement his talk and provided a lot of personal experience and advise in overcoming Radio Frequency Interference and having a Ham Shack free of RF (a little as possible, anyway). He mentioned that almost every electronic device will generate some amount of RFI/EMI, devices that you don't always consider such as: PCs, Telephone sets, HTs, scanners, motors, electric lighting, etc. The trick is to track down

the devices that are causing the problem or problems. One good test is if the Transmitter works "ok" on a Dummy Load then the problem is elsewhere in the Shack. Other wise it cud be the Transmitter or the Feed Line. The proper installation of the Antenna is a major factor in generating RFI, if NOT installed properly. Eric uses an 80/40 Meter Inverted V, a sloper on 40 Meters, a 3-element beam that he has had for 20 years. All of Eric's antennas are resonant on his operating frequencies, mainly at the lower ends of the bands (CW/RTTY), so a Tuner is not required on any band.

Eric emphasized that it is usually not just one device, but several devices, that cud be causing RFI/EMI. So it will take several solutions to completely eliminate the problem.

Eric passed around a picture of his nice Shack with the centre piece being the ICOM 756 PRO. Also included is a Yaesu FT707, a 2100B AMP, a 232 DSP Multimode Controller, a Timewave DSP Filter 599Z, APRS, Computer, Powers Supplies etc, etc., etc.

Eric's main focus in operating is "Contesting" in the CW and RTTY modes. He is #221 on the list at the moment but going up strong. Also showed us a slide of his contesting Software.

One of his slides showed YT6A's 80 Meter Beam – what a monster – the boom is 66 feet long!!!

Another problem causing EMI/RFI is our local Hydro lines as well. This aspect may have to be invested if all else fails. Eric mentioned his experience with Florescent fixtures. He actually had to replace it (a good working fixture with solid state balast) to solve the problem completely. Don't assume that the first fixture you install is "ok".

Re Birdies: not just from inside your transmitter!! They can be generated by those electronic equipment mentioned earlier, including switching type power supplies. Square waves generated in the power supply causes **hash** at high frequencies, a source of RFI. He suggests that it is almost impossible to filter Switching Power Supplies; the best thing to do is to replace it to try to solve the problem. Eric suggests that the Astron brand is your better choice if you are in the market for a power supply.

Every wire in the Shack is an antenna and a source of interference., such as AC Cords, DC Cords, Antennae Feed Lines too long, Telephone line cords (something that you do not often think about). Eric suggestion is to keep every wire as short as possible and use ferrites to cut down on RFI. Keep your feed Line away from your Equipment as much as possible. He showed a simple power surge connector that helps reduce or eliminate interference to/from your electrical system. A device called a Surge Cube that comes in different configurations made by Belken that includes filters. Use one for you Computer, Tranceiver etc. This device can be purchase at our local Home Depot. A single unit device sells for about \$10.00.

To make all of his connection as short as possible and at the same time make a very neat and professional installation (and reduce RFI/EMI) he show us the "RIG RUNNER" product he uses to do all this. There are 3 different configurations of this product ranging from 4 connection to 12 connections. It is designed to be used as an interface between a common power supply and any radio equipment that requires 12 volts. There is RF isolation between each connector. This is a very neat and tidy way of connecting several pieces of radio equipment using a common power supply. There is a special tool that is used to crimp the connections to the leads (Eric also suggests to sold er these connections as well), to make a professional finish. A pare of pliers will do if you have one and the

proper size. To find out more about this product go to www.westmountainradio.com or have a look in any Radio magazine.

Eric presentation took about one hour. Thanks Eric for a very informative and practical discussion on reducing RFI/EMI in the Ham Shack.

There were 17 in attendance.

Open House and Auction

This year's open house meeting will also be an auction and we invite members from the Trenton ARC, Prince Edward Radio Club and Tri-County ARC as well as all area amateurs to attend. The Auctioneer will be Peter Lower VE3KWM from PERC. If members wish to donate equipment for the auction, each club will have it's own table and proceeds of the auction will go back to seller's home club. Equipment that participants wish to auction but not donate to their home club will be subject to a 10% donation to the home club.

World Amateur Radio Day April 18

The theme of this year's IARU World Amateur Radio Day is to be 'Amateur Radio supporting technology education in the classroom'. World Amateur Radio Day is marked on the 18th of April each year to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union on that date in 1925. Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, and the Chairman of IARU Region 1 writes: "There is no doubt that the future of amateur radio belongs to those that are now in the classroom. In keeping with this theme, I would like to encourage every society in the Region to let our young people know that amateur radio is a unique hobby - simultaneously sport, scientific study, personal pleasure and collective activity. And that radio amateurs today are voluntary and selfless researchers in the technological field of amateur radio, an important resource to every country, and something to be proud of."

But the 18th of April is not only a day to think about our future, it is our day, a day for celebration. All of us, societies and individuals, can celebrate in our various ways - organizing presentations, club meetings, parties, honoring senior radio amateurs who go back to the early years of IARU, or just putting our equipment on the air and making just a single QSO on this day, so realizing how large our ham community is."

7th Annual Ontario QSO Party 2003

1800 UTC on Saturday, April 19th to 1800 UTC on Sunday, April 20th 2003 The Ontario QSO Party is open to all amateur radio operators regardless of license class and short-wave listeners world-wide. Objective: For Ontario stations to contacts as many amateur radio stations as possible on as many bands as possible worldwide. For stations outside Ontario to make as many contacts with Ontario amateur radio stations as possible. Frequencies: (Phone/CW) All HF Bands 160-10 meters with the exception of the WARC bands. All VHF/UHF Bands. Full Details: www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html

Code Practice

Morse Code Practise: If you are interested in getting your 5 wpm endorsement, or improving your current proficiency, Al Taylor VE3WV in Trenton is offering practice sessions over the air on two meters, depending on demand. Contact Al at 394-5159 to set up a schedule

Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of "Radio Amateurs of Canada"

Saturday, April 26, 2003

Robbie's Italian Restaurant

1531 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa (Corner of St. Laurent & Belfast Rd.)

6 PM - Cash Bar

7:15 PM - Dinner

8:15 PM - Formal Greetings

Canada's Premier Comedy Hypnotist Dave Hallett

\$40.00 Tickets are limited, and available on a first-come basis through RAC

Headquarters (1-877-273-8304, local 244-4367), or

online www.rac.ca/store/galatickets.htm

The evening will feature numerous draws for door prizes for hams and non-hams alike, and a 50/50 draw with the proceeds being donated to DARF. Join in the fun, celebration, and an unforgettable evening of laughter and entertainment.

Featured Menu Tossed Salad...Rolls & Butter...Chicken Princess...Vegetable and Potato...Coffee or Tea Chocolate ...Mousse

The Amateur: But Are You a Real Ham?

By Gary Hoffman, KB0H, and Nancy Hoffman, N0NJ

Ham radio isn't what it used to be. It has had to evolve over the years to stay alive. One change, I believe, is that it is now easier to get an Amateur Radio license. Mind you, I'm not complaining; it was a necessary change. But some veteran hams are unhappy.

I don't particularly like being called a "no-code Extra" or a "ham lite," but I do empathize with those folks who worked harder to get their licenses than I did (back in the "old days," we had to draw circuit diagrams for the General exam. Can you say?

"Colpitts oscillator," boys and girls? --Ed).

You are a *real* ham if:

Personal

- for any reason, you ever appeared in *QST/RAC*
- you are more than 70 years old and actually don't mind being called "Old Man."
- you have more than three baseball caps bearing your call sign--each of them different.
- you cried during the movies *Contact* and *Frequency*.
- much of your vocabulary consists of three letter "words" that begin with "Q."

Family

- you met your spouse at Hamvention.
- you named your first boy Gordon or Riley.

- your preschooler doesn't know her ABCs but does know her *dit-dahs*.
- your dog recognizes you by call sign rather than as "Mommy" or "Daddy."

Driving

You are a *real* ham if:

- the car wash turns away your vehicle because it takes too long to remove all of the antennas.
- you identify types of mobile antennas before identifying the model of the car sporting them.
- instead of leaning on your horn to show displeasure, you honk out a disparaging remark in Morse code.

Vacationing

- when vacationing, you insist on staying on the top floor of the hotel (because of the antenna opportunities or a better shot at the local repeaters from your hand-held).
- your luggage always creates panic among airport security as it passes through the X-ray machine.
- the first thing you do when you arrive in a new city is look up the nearest Radio Shack or ham radio emporium.
- you feel your hotel should include a complimentary *Repeater Directory*.
- no matter where you are, you can go outside and immediately spot at least 30 antennas.

Home and Neighbors

- lightning strikes your house more often than any other local structure.
- a typical mail delivery consists of one bill, ten electronics catalogs, and, occasionally, a hefty brown envelope from the QSL bureau.
- your house shows up as a magnetic anomaly on satellite imaging.
- you've had at least one argument with local authorities (or a neighbor) regarding what you have on your roof.
- your street has a name like "Hightower Trail."
- at least three neighbors per week complain that you are interfering with their TV sets, telephones, or kitchen appliances.
- at least one neighbor fears that you are using your moonbounce array to contact the mother ship.

Operating

- you really *have* contacted aliens.
- as the "Doomsday Asteroid" approaches Earth, you try to make a few last contacts via meteor scatter.

Attitude

- you think that wallpaper cannot be bought in a store.
- looking at huge construction cranes immediately gives rise to thoughts of erecting a gigantic 160-meter array.
- the hole in the ozone layer doesn't disturb you half as much as the possibility that the Air Force HAARP project might punch a hole in the F Layer.
- you understood and at least chuckled at any five items in these lists.

Treasurers Report

MONTH TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$75.00	Rac Membership	
Coffee	\$6.25	Office Supplies	\$20.54
50/50 Draw	\$0.00	Incorporation	
Donations to QARC		News letter printing	\$10.63
Interest	\$0.00	Insurance	
		Social Events	
		Donations	
Total revenue	\$81.25	Total Expenses	\$31.17
		Month to Date Income	\$50.08

YEAR TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	\$1,125.00	Social Events	\$21.76
Donations to QARC	\$105.00	Post box rental	\$77.04
50/50 Draw	\$72.50	Office supplies	\$184.85
Coffee	\$43.40	News letter printing	\$74.22
Repeater Move	\$0.00	Door Prizes	
Interest	\$1.37	Insurance	\$622.08
		Donations	\$226.00
		RAC Membership	
		Hall Rental	\$30.00
		Incorporation	
		Name Tags	\$8.05
Total revenue	\$1,347.27	Total Expenses	\$1,244.00
		Year to Date Income	\$103.27
		Cash on Hand	\$4,556.88