



*September 2004*

## Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

**PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3**

### **NOTICE OF MEETING:**

**DATE / TIME:** Sept 15, 2004 @7:30PM

**LOCATION:** Loyalist College (Pioneer Building) Room P-2

**PROGRAM:** A tour of CJLX, the Radio Station at Loyalist College. We will start the meeting in the normal way in the classroom.

**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

**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 EXECUTIVE**

**PRESIDENT:** Mike Papper VE3VMP 969-1744 (ve3vmp@sympatico.ca.)

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Greg Schatzmann VE3CH

**SECRETARY:** Tim Pekkonen VE3UO 969 8012 (ve3uo@rac.ca)

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

And Bill Milligan VA3WOW (E-mail va3wow@rac.ca)

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Peter Hodgson VE3UR 962-1386 (E-mail: phodgson@kos.ca)

## **Prince Edward County Marathon**

Amateur Radio Operators will be providing communications for the new Prince Edward County Marathon on Sunday October 3, 2004. QARC is putting the call for assistance from all amateurs in our area, and from neighbouring radio clubs - Kingston, Prince Edward, Trenton and Tri-County.

Please contact Mike Papper VE3VMP at 613-969-1744 if you can help out, or would like more information

## **PERC Meeting Place**

The Prince Edward Radio Club now meets at the Bloomfield Town Hall. The day and time remains the same. (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM) There is plenty of parking both on the street in front of the hall and a parking lot behind the hall. There is also a wheelchair ramp into the side door and washrooms located on the main floor.

## **Radio Course**

The QARC executives are looking for someone to coordinate a Basic Radio Course. They need someone to put it together. This involves contacting potential students as well as those who will teach the classes. This is not a huge task as there are a plenty of club members who are willing and quite capable of teaching a few chapters of the course. There have been a few inquires about a basic course over the past few years.

We would possibly be doing it in conjunction with the Trenton ARC and using their club facilities at CFB Trenton as a classroom.

## **Morse code proficiency requirements**

At the World Radio communication Conference in 2003 (WRC-2003), the member administrations of the ITU made the decision to remove from the *International Radio Regulations* the mandatory requirement for proficiency in Morse code as a qualification for the Amateur Service, but left the continuation of Morse code proficiency requirements to the discretion of individual administrations. Since WRC-2003, led by Switzerland on July 5, 2003, more than twenty administrations have removed the Morse code qualification requirement for access to the HF amateur bands below 30 MHz. Over the years, officials of the Department have worked with amateur radio operators and their organizations to foster the development of the service. As part of this effort, the Department consults with the amateur community through regular meetings with Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. (RAC), the national association representing Canadian amateurs.

In July and August 2003, to form a basis for a recommendation to Industry Canada, RAC conducted a survey via the Internet of Canadian radio amateurs to ascertain their wishes concerning the deletion or retention of the Morse code qualification. More than 1400 valid responses, a statistically significant sample of the approximately 51,500 Canadian amateur community, were received. Of the respondents, 66 percent recommended deletion of the mandatory Morse code requirement. At the same time, RAC Directors conducted surveys of their constituents, and these results also were taken into account in preparing their proposal. In addition to recommending the deletion of the Morse code

requirement, the proponents also recommended other changes, such as increasing the pass mark for the Basic qualification. Many of the recommendations are included as related matters in the proposal.

In October 2003, RAC presented the proposal, as a draft, to the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) meeting, and in July of 2004, this proposal was formally presented to Industry Canada.

Interested parties should submit their comments on the issues raised in the RAC proposal no later than 60 days from the date of this Gazette notice. Shortly after the close of the comment period, all comments received will be posted on Industry Canada's Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Web site at: <http://strategis.gc.ca/spectrum>.

### **Submitting Comments**

Respondents are requested to provide their comments in electronic format (WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF or ASCII TXT). All comments should make reference to "Comments -- Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04" and be sent to the following e-mail address: [dospaa@ic.gc.ca](mailto:dospaa@ic.gc.ca) along with a note specifying the software, version number and operating system used.

Written submissions should be addressed to the Director General, Radio communications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch, Industry Canada, 300 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C8.

All submissions should cite the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, publication date, the title, and the notice reference number (DGRB-003-04).

### **Obtaining Copies**

Copies of this notice and documents referred to are available electronically on the Spectrum Management and Telecommunications Web site at:

<http://strategis.gc.ca/spectrum>. The RAC proposal can also be found at:

<http://www.rac.ca/>. Official printed copies of gazette notices can be obtained from the Canada Gazette Web site at: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/subscription-e.html> or by calling the sales counter of Canadian Government Publishing at (819) 941-5995 or 1 800 635-7943.

## **ARES**

Put your Amateur Radio gear and skills to use through the Public Service aspect of our specialized hobby

The ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) in the Ontario Section is seeking radio operators who are interested in "giving back" something to their local community / district.

There is a need for folks that can tie in their "real world skills" in support of expanding, organizing, administrating, public relations, etc., not to exclude the technical aspects such as digital communications and systems linking.

You can register your station and talents with your local EC (Emergency Coordinator) or District Coordinator (DEC). There is a convenient directory of all Emergency Coordinators in Ontario listed on the ARES Ontario website at [www dot.aresontario.ca](http://www.dot.aresontario.ca) When you visit the site click on the Ontario Districts Map and choose the district you live in to obtain the name and contact info for your local EC. He / She will provide the registration form and get you involved in your local group."

## Section Emergency Coordinator needed

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Organization, Ontario Section is seeking a federally licensed Radio Amateur to fill the position of Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARES in the Province of Ontario. This is the senior volunteer position in the province for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, and as such oversees both policy and operational matters. Full details about this position can be found online by visiting the ARES Ontario site at [www.aresontario.ca](http://www.aresontario.ca)

## Coming Events

Kingston ARC Fleamarket on September 11 at CFB Kingston. Call on VE3KBR (146.940-) for directions.

Prince Edward County Marathon on Sunday October 3, 2004.

Cheerios mother Daughter walk on Sunday Sept 26 at Zwicks Island Park

York Region- Markham Sat Oct 30. Visit <http://www.yrarc.on.ca/hamfest/> for more details.

Halloween Safe Streets on Oct 31.

## For Sale

Eric VE3GSI has a Kenwood TM-D700A, including a voice chip for sale. This rig is the dual band APRS radio, and can also 'cross band'.

## Proposal for Changes to the Call Sign Policy and Administration of Amateur Call Signs

In response to requests from the international Amateur Service, World Radio Conference 2003 revised Article 19 (Call Sign Formulation) of the ITU Radio Regulations as it pertains to the formulation of call signs for the Amateur Service. The changes provide administrations with an option to permit call signs with suffixes having up to four characters. The two principal revisions were to Article 19.68 and were:

***Art 19.68 – two characters and a single digit followed by a group of not more than four characters the last of which shall be a letter; and***

***Art 19.68A – On special occasions, for temporary use, administrations may authorize use of call signs with more than the four characters referred to in No. 19.68.***

Application of the changes in Canada will affect the call sign policy and procedures defined in Industry Canada's Radio Information Circular 9 (RIC-9), Call Sign Policy and Special Event Prefixes. Radio Amateurs of Canada, Inc (RAC) therefore has studied how the Article 19 revisions might affect the administration of amateur radio call signs in Canada. At the request of Jim Dean, VE3IQ, RAC VP-Regulatory Affairs, in September 2003, a working group under the leadership of the then Atlantic Region Director, David Nimmo, VE1NN, was struck to study the WRC-2003 changes and to present recommendations concerning the formulation and management of four-character call sign suffixes. The working group included radio amateurs highly experienced in DXing,

DXpeditions, contesting, club operations, field days, and emergency measures, as well as amateur radio course instructors and Industry Canada Accredited Examiners.

RAC considers that the recommendations described in this document, if implemented, would benefit the Canadian radio amateur service as a whole and also would be consistent with the policy and procedures outlined in RIC-9.

### **Discussion**

While the Article 19 revisions would expand the options available in call sign assignment, they in no way oblige, reduce or constrain the current Canadian policy contained in RIC-9. Thus, one of Canada's options to these revisions could be to maintain the current call sign policy in RIC-9 (Issue 1, March 2000) with no changes. However, this would be contrary to the interest and expectations already demonstrated by Canadian radio amateurs.

In considering the implications of the Article 19 changes, the complex, iterative process and the underlying principles used in developing RIC-9 were recalled. The development and introduction of the original RIC-9 in 2000 was challenging. Industry Canada Regional Offices, individual amateurs, and amateur organizations had all provided input, which produced long and delicate negotiations before resulting in the current RIC-9.

The history of Canadian amateur call signs was noted, observing that Canadian permanent call signs have remained relatively stable and as such easily identifiable in the international arena. This heritage of call sign simplicity and stability is an asset to both our national identity and to the administration of the call sign system by Industry Canada. It was acknowledged that there remain many divergent points of view about call signs, but it is concluded that there has been little change in the call sign philosophies presented in 1999 and those in existence now.

It was therefore decided to endeavour to effect the changes arising from Article 19 without re-opening the contentious issues that our predecessors struggled with when drafting the original RIC-9.

It was also considered that it would be prudent to introduce the changes in such a way as to minimize changes to the structure and philosophy of the present RIC-9 and, in such a way as to minimize administrative changes. To keep the Amateur Radio Service Centre (ARSC) workload at present levels would require maintenance of a simple call sign system with a simple unambiguous application and approval process. The current call sign policy is conservative and should remain so.

The study by the working group therefore was guided by the following rationale:

- The Canadian Amateur Service wishes to have access to call signs with four-character suffixes;
- Stability of call sign assignment reinforces our national identity;
- Administration of all call sign assignment should be simple, consistent and equal for all amateurs;
- The existing call sign policy and administrative procedures of RIC-9 are straightforward and effective;
- Canada's present system of VE and VA prefixes with two and three letter suffixes provides a large enough call sign database to satisfy current normal requirements;
- Incorporating provisions for four-character suffixes should require minimum changes to RIC-9;

- Privileges for special interest groups should be avoided;
- Many radio amateurs have a deep personal attachment to their call signs; and
- There may be collateral changes to other RICs as a result of the changes and these should be minimized.

### Conclusions

The study concluded:

That current administration of permanent call signs and one, two and three letter suffixes should be maintained;

That four character suffixes, with one exception, should be administered in accordance with procedures already established for single letter call signs, that is, special event call signs for limited periods as defined in Section 2; and

That exceptions to the last character being a letter are not supported due to resultant confusion with the current convention used by packet nodes, i.e., having the port number immediately following the call sign.

Given the above, for the ARSC, permanent issue call signs would remain unchanged and four or more character call signs would be introduced only within the Call Signs for Special Events section.

All of the foregoing can be achieved through five minor additions to the present RIC-9 and minimal changes to ARSC procedures.

### Recommendations

RAC recommends that Industry Canada authorize the use of call signs with four-character suffixes per the WRC-2003 revisions to Articles 19.68 and 19.68A and that their authorization and management be accomplished by changes to the policy and procedures of RIC-9 per items (1) to (3) above.

## Treasurers Report

### MONTH TO DATE

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Membership Dues	\$75.00	Rac Membership	
Coffee	\$6.25	Office Supplies	
50/50 Draw	\$30.00	Post Box Rental	\$80.25
Donations to QARC	\$26.00	News letter printing	]
Interest	\$0.00	Bereavement	\$50.00
		Social Events	
		Donations	\$75.00
 Total revenue	 \$95.93	 Total Expenses	 \$205.25
		Month to Date Income	-\$109.32

