



October 2008

# Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

## NOTICE OF MEETING:

**DATE / TIME:** October 15, 2008 @7:30PM

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

**PROGRAM:** Our guest speaker this month is Eric VA3EP who will give a presentation on mobile HF installations.

**Club Repeaters: VE3QAR: 146.985 Mhz / 444.475 Mhz. (118.8 Hz PL)**  
**2 meter net: Tuesday 7:30 PM on VE3TJU 146.730**

**QARC HomePage <http://www.qarc.on.ca/> webspace provided by:**  
**Kingston Online Services, 153 Front St,**  
**Belleville K8N 2Y6 (613) 968-7137**

**Monthly Meetings:** 3rd Wednesday 7:30 PM Loyalist College  
(Pioneer Bldg.) Room P-2

**Hams 'n Eggs: SATURDAYS 8:00 AM** Quinte Restaurant 135 Cannifton Road

### RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA ADDRESS:

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## QARC EXECUTIVE

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Tim Pekkonen VE3UO	613-969-8012	tim.ve3uo@gmail.com
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT:</b>	Brian Williams VA3BRW	613-962-9690	va3brw@rac.ca
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Bob Moore VE3QWB	613-968-5128	ve3qwb@rac.ca
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Miles LeClair VE3XDX	613-969-2290	ve3xdx@kos.net
<b>PAST PRESIDENT:</b>	Mike Papper VE3OX	613-969-1744	ve3ox@rac.ca
<b>NEWSLETTER:</b>	Dave Ackerman VE3UGT	613-962-3991	ackerman@xplornet.com

## **This Month's Meeting Speaker**

**Eric Pierce, VA3EP** will talk about how to install and operate an HF/VHF/UHF mobile station, using his Yaesu FT-857 with ATAS-120 in his Honda CRV as an example. The presentation will cover how to safely and effectively install and operate a HF/VHF/UHF mobile station, and will cover: why operate mobile, types of rigs, installation, DC power, Antenna System and final safety checklist. Eric holds a Basic, Advanced and Morse ticket. He has a degree in electrical engineering from Ryerson University, and over 30 years experience in the electronics and computer industry.

## **Minutes of September QARC Meeting – Sept 17, 2008**

President Tim- VE3UO opened the first meeting of the New Year 2008-2009 at 7:34 PM and welcomed members and guests. There was no motion to adopt the minutes of the June 2008 meeting because we did not have a quorum of executives. .

The new executive for this year are:

Tim – VE3UO – President  
Brian – VA3BRW – V. president (absent)  
Bob – VE3QWB – secretary (absent)  
Mles – VE3XDX – Treasurer (absent)  
Mike VE3OX – Past President

Tim – VE3UO introduced our visitors:

Wes Quinn – VE4RAM and  
Jason Schwarz – SWL – who is working on getting his ticket.

An up-to-date Financial report was not available; but, our balance is approximately that of our last report, in June, with a bank balance of ~ \$5000.00.

Tim VE3UO summarized our summer events as follows:

### **Field Day:**

- It was successful with a good turn out from our neighboring Clubs and members. . Our ace CW operator Eric – VE3GSI was sick and we also had antenna problems on Saturday - so our score was not as high as in previous years.

### **Fox Hunts:**

- One was held in July and another in August

### **Summer Dinners:**

- Our traditional summer dinners replaced our regular meetings in the month of July and August.
- Our July dinner was at the Boathouse with an attendance of 17.
- Our August dinner was at the Village Pub (the Rossmore Radio Club Room) with an attendance of 18.

## Upcoming Events:

- Police checks for Halloween Safe Streets to take place on Sept 19 from 2-4 PM.
- Heart and Stroke Walk-a-thon at Zwicks is on Sunday Sept 21<sup>st</sup> - call Ron VE3IVC to volunteer. It starts at 1:30 PM and last for about one hour.
- Tour-of-the-County Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> – Contact Dave – VE3BIP for info or go to [www.qarc.on.ca](http://www.qarc.on.ca).
- November Fox Hunt will be Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 and meet at corner of Sidney and Bridge – Ben Bleeker parking lot.
- Let Dave – VE3BIP know if u would like to be a FOX.
- Kevin – VA3THB mentioned that the Car Rally – Tour of the Tall Pines will be held November 19 and 20. Google Rally of the Tall Pines to register.

## ARES Report:

- Peter VE3UR – reported on the Hilly 100 that went very well from a communications point-of-view. Some of the volunteers were: Keith VA3KRV; Joe VA3JAD; Bill VA3WOW; Peter VE3UR; and the Tri-County Radio Club.

## Repeater Report:

- Tim – VE3UO mentioned that a 2M-receiver change is in the works.
- Also, our UHF repeater is operational on 444.475 with 118.8 CTCSS. It is located at Dave – VE3UGT's QTH.

## Other News:

- VE3UO passed along an e-mail from Dave Green – VE3TLY President of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club re the Joe Norton Award. This award is for new worthy hams. Go to the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club for more details.
- Bill – VA3WOW received an e-mail from South Africa re a special event station ZS0ATV that will be celebrating their Heritage Day – a history of South Africa. Operations will be on 80/40/20 M in CW and SSB.
- Greg – VE3CH mentioned that the amateur radio station VE3ALC located at the College will be moved to a new location that will be closer to his FM Radio Station.
- Also, Keith – VA3KRV donated his HF vertical that will be installed in the later part of October.
- Approximately 275 feet of lead-in is required to connect the Kenwood 430 transceiver to the vertical. Anyone please???
- It is possible that one of our future meetings will be held near the new location to give an opportunity for members to visit the station.
- Tim – VE3UO has crated a new positioning the Club called Club Historian. Mike – VE3OX has volunteered for that position. If you have any historical information articles, pictures, etc., please contact Mike – VE3OX.

## Old Business: None.

**New Business:** Eric VE3GSI has a list of amateur radio gear that was donated to our Club by Ted Vasey – VE3LGC, for disposal. He is retiring from amateur radio. A list of equipment is attached.

- Since the meeting an on line auction has taken place and most of the equipment has been spoken for. Please contact Eric – VE3GSI to find out what equipment is still available.

## Break:

- A break for coffee, cookies and a rag-chew took place with our Guest Speaker Eric Meth – VE3EI to follow. Thanks to Dave – VE3UGT for the goodies.

Tim – VE3UO introduce our guest speaker Eric Meth – VE3EI.

Eric's presentation is about ICOM's new "D" Star Digital Repeater System.

Eric is a field agent for ICOM and has lived in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Fredericton and places in between. He now resides in Niagara-on-the-Lake. His main interest is in APRS, PACKET and DIGITAL modes of ham radio.

He worked for Motorola for 25 years, 25 years ago. He also worked for Kenwood for 10 years. He operates a Marine Electronic Store in St. Catherine, ON.

His presentation consisted of a Power-Point Slide Show and a promotional movie about ICOM.

His complete presentation can be found at [www.dstarusers.org](http://www.dstarusers.org).

Eric – VE3EI mentioned some interesting info as follows:

- "D" Star is an open-source protocol software developed by JARL – the Japan Amateur Radio League.
- Designed for amateur radio use only.
- Kenwood and Yaesu also have digital systems for commercial use only; for applications such as: cell phones, Police and Fire.
- The major benefit and advantage that of "D" Star provides is SPECTRUM EFFICIENCY.
- "D" Star use only one-third of the bandwidth of analogue systems, or it will accommodate three (3) times the number of frequencies in the same spectrum space.
- London Ontario just went to "D" Star a week ago.
- "D" Star is almost world wide and growing.
- Google the map of the world and it will show every installation located in NA/Europe/SA and Australia.
- Interesting enough Japan has a different system!!
  
- In Canada the nearest repeater to Belleville is VE3RTR, in Cobourg.
- There is also one in Uxbridge VE3RPT.
- Another one is just outside of Lockport, NY.
- There are lots in Quebec and USA.

Eric demonstrated the crystal-clear clarity of Digital sound with "D" Star compared to the noisy "hiss" produced by FM analogue systems.

- The number of systems is growing daily:

In 2007 there were 700 systems worldwide – In 2008 there are over 5000 systems.

Eric mentioned some interesting facts about ICOM:

- They employ about 1000 employees and 800 of them are Hams.
- ICOM's Land Mobile systems consist of 60% of their total business
- Amateur Radio represents only 10% of their business.
- All radios are built in Japan.

It was a very interesting presentation.

There were 31 in attendance.

There was no 50-50 draw.

Motion by Ron – VE3IVC to adjourn meeting, seconded by Bill – VA3WOW

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Mike – VE3OX for Bob – VE3QWB

## **'Tour of the County' Foxhunt - Saturday October 18 2008**

Everyone is welcome. If you have never hunted before come to the start location and ride along with one of the more experienced hunters. There is some spare equipment available so ask one of the regular hunters if you may borrow some equipment to try foxhunting.

Hunt starts at Pinecrest School in Bloomfield. First transmission will be at 12 noon, and the hunt will last up to 3 hours. Check in on PERC repeater 146.730 – before the hunt if you need directions.

The foxes can be anywhere in Prince Edward County. One fox must be heard from the start point. The other foxes must either be heard from the start or from the 1<sup>st</sup> fox location. Must be in a public location; i.e. no private property. Must be in a safe location; e.g. not in a high traffic area.

**\*\* Shortest driving distance wins. Time is not a factor in your score to prevent it from becoming a road race. \*\***

After the hunt we will meet at the Bloomfield town hall to do a post hunt analysis.

Dave Ward, VE3BIP [ve3bip@rac.ca](mailto:ve3bip@rac.ca)

<http://www.qarc.on.ca/countyfox.html>

## **November Foxhunt**

November 9 2008

This hunt will have one fox. The hunters will hunt as a team. One hunter will be coordinator and the others will report direction and signal strength. This is to simulate a team of hunters trying to locate an unidentified signal that is interfering with others. Contact Dave Ward VE3BIP for more info.

<http://www.qarc.on.ca/foxhunt.htm>

## **RAC e-mail address**

In February the alias system was moved from the server at the RAC office. Where the alias service is now hosted the server and routers are on a UPS as well as generator back-up. Additionally rather than using the office DSL connection there is a 100 megabit-per-second fibre optic connection to the internet.

The service is now much more reliable than it has been in the past and the addition of spam filtering has also considerably lessened the amount of spam being forwarded.

## **QARC Christmas Dinner – Wednesday December 10**

This year's Christmas gathering has been scheduled and reservations made.

Last year's event, held in a private facility, was generally deemed a success, with a couple of minor shortcomings - the stairs were an issue, and the lack of washroom space on the same floor as the event was a negative. Not having to compete with the public for wait-staff, being able to mingle with our colleagues, and have gift distributions were positive aspects of the venue.

This year's event will enable us to keep the best of last year and eliminate the problems. This year we will dine on **Wednesday 10 December at Capers Restaurant, 272 Front Street** in Belleville. We will be using a street-level room that provides us the intimacy of a private function with the benefits of easy accessibility. We'll have a fixed menu, yet to be determined. I expect a three-course dinner.

The price will be \$35 per person, tax and gratuities included, with a cash bar. I will be selling tickets. Final details are being worked, but I expect that Cocktail hour will commence at 6 pm, with dinner slated for 7. Parking should not be an issue. (Public transit is an option.)

All should note that there will be a limited number of seats, and that number is 40. If we expand beyond forty, we would have to move to another room, which incurs a room fee (don't ask me to explain the logic on that point). I think that 40 was the number who participated in last year's dinner. The point is that 40 is the maximum. Procrastinators run the risk of missing out, so buy early. Ticket reservations can be made by cash or Cheque until I have produced the tickets. Unpaid reservations will be noted, but not necessarily held if someone with cash wants a ticket. Avoid disappointment by committing soon. Contact **Brian Williams VA3BRW** 613-962-9690 or [va3brw@rac.ca](mailto:va3brw@rac.ca) for tickets and information.

## **Halloween Safe Streets**

Friday October 31. A number of QARC member have already had the required police background check for this event done, but we can always use more assistance. The background check is a must for this event. More details will be forthcoming at the Oct QARC meeting. Contact Tim VE3UO [tim.ve3uo@gmail.com](mailto:tim.ve3uo@gmail.com) for more information.

## **A little political humour**

A driver is stuck in a traffic jam on the motorway. Nothing is moving. Suddenly a man knocks on the window. The driver rolls down his window and asks, 'What's going on?' 'Terrorists down the road have kidnapped Stephen Harper, Stephane Dion, Jack Layton, Gilles Duceppe, and Elizabeth May.

They're asking for a \$10 million ransom otherwise they're going to douse them with gasoline and set them on fire.

We're going from car to car, taking up a collection.'

The driver asks, 'How much is everyone giving, on average?'

'Most people are giving about 4 liters.'