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June 2002

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: **June 19 @ 7:30PM**

LOCATION: Loyalist College (Pioneer Building) **Room P-17**

PROGRAM: Eldon Switzer VE3HGO from Kingston. Eldon will tell us about his experiences operating QRP from remote locations with his back-pack HF rig.

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.

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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 May 15th, 2002

The meeting was opened by our President, **Peter, VA3PKH** at 7:30 pm. The low attendance of 18 was probably due to the fact that we did not have a guest speaker tonite because our May meeting is always dedicated to our elections for the coming year. .

We were very pleased to learn that **Pat, VA3YTT and Al, VA3ALS**, were married on May 4th. Congratulations; and may all your problems be little ones!

Just before the elections **Peter, VA3PKH**, made the following announcements:

Field day: Field day will be held on June 22, 23. The scout camp at Thomasburg has been tentatively booked, but is not suitable for the QARC. However, another site that would be suitable to both the QARC and the PERC is the schoolhouse on Huff's Island. **Dave, VE3UGT**, informed us that it is available to us. Both **Al, VE3LAW**, and **Peter, VE3KWM,** of the PERC consider it suitable and is very close to both clubs. The majority of the attendees agreed on this location and also to participate in Field Day this year. To get there, go south on highway #62 over the Skyway Bridge to Huff's Is. Road and turn left. This will lead you to the schoolhouse. Huff's Is. Road is the next road on the left after Fenwood Gardens.

Tower Relocation Update: The club was informed that the tower located in Reed would cost us $2400.00 per year for the annual license fee. This, of course, is not acceptable to the QARC. Tim, VE3UO, is looking into another site more suitable to us, in the OAK Hills area.

Antenna at Loyalist College: Peter, VA3PKH, has requested Loyalist College if the Club can install another 2M antennae for a digipeater for VE3MHZ.

MS Walk-a-thon: Peter reminded us that the MS Walk-a-thon take's place on Sunday May 26th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you are interested in assisting in the communications please contact **Ron, VE3IVC.**

June Guest Speaker: Our June meeting special guest speaker will be **Eldon Switzer, VE3HGO**, For those of you that are members of RAC, he is on the front cover of the May/June issue of the Canadian Amateur and his article appears on page 20 of this issue.

July/ August Dinner Social: Traditionally we substitute the summer months meetings with an informal dinner meeting at local eating establishments. In the past we have met at Pizza Hut. Last year the dinner was held at Crabby Joe's, which provides a little more variety! This year the **July social** will be again at **Crabby Joe's** and the **August social** will be at **Montana's**. The meeting time at both socials will be 6:30 pm.

Tour-of-the-County FOX HUNT: Dave, VE3BIP, reported that the 1st Annual Tour-of-the-County FOX HUNT, held this past weekend, was a great success. The event started at Roblin Lake in Ameliasberg at noon and ended at 3 pm. Twelve teams participated, 5 teams from Peterborough, 1 team from Kingston, 1 team from Toronto, 1 team from the RERC and 4 from the QARC. There were 3 FOXES; one located in Wellington at the local beach/park, another just southeast of Bloomfield at a conservation area and the third at the Lake-on-the Mountain Park. Some teams found 1 fox, some teams found 2 foxes, some teams found all 3 foxes, and some teams did not find any foxes! It was an enjoyable afternoon by all. Refreshments and discussions followed at the meeting room of the RERC located at Bird House City.

The fastest time was about 2 hours to find all three foxes. For more information go to www.qarc.on.ca/countyfox.html.

The feedback was so positive that most in attendance would like to see another FOX HUNT soon; so the organizers have agreed to plan another FOX HUNT in the September/October timeframe.

Congratulations to Dave, VE3BIP, Tim, VE3UO, and Peter, VA3PKH for organizing this event.

QARC Weekly FOX HUNT: For your information the QARC regularly schedules FOX HUNTS on Thursday evenings staring at 7:00 pm at the Ben Bleeker grounds located at Sidney and Bridge. Monitor VE3QAR on 146.985 between 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm to hear if there is a quorum for the hunt. A quorum consists of 1 fox and 2 hunters. Join in the fun.

Door Prize: **Pat, VA3YTT, now the XYL of AL, VA3ALS,** appropriately, won the door prize, the latest version of the RAC Operating Manual. This manual is a must in every Ham Shack.

50/50: **Ken, VE3KWT**, won the 50/50 draw.

Eric, VE3GSI, has donated a Procomm Plus Communications software package, in its original shrinkwrapping, for anyone willing to make a small donation the QARC.

ELECTIONS: The election organizer was Dave, VE3UGT. He let the cat out of the bag by saying that the existing executives are willing to carry on next year. So needless to say there were no further nomination from the floor. To formalize, Dave, VE3BIP, made a motion that the existing executives remain in office for the year 2002-2003. It was seconded by Eric, VE3GSI, and the motion was carried. So much for elections!! Was it a coincident that only 18 members were in attendance? Hi, Hi.

The formal meeting ended about 8:05 pm followed by our traditional rag chew and refreshments that lasted until 9:00 pm.

Field Day 2002

This year QARC has teamed up with Prince Edward Radio Club. The location will be the Huffs Island Community Centre (Old School House). Setup will begin about 10AM Saturday morning. For directions see the minutes above or the QARC website. We will also be monitoring both ve3qar (146.985-) and ve3tju (146.730-). When you get in the area call on either repeater for directions.

Hunting the Hunters

by Dave Ward, VE3BIP

For some time the QARC foxhunters have been talking about adding APRS tracking to the hunts. Finally, we tried it during our hunt on May 23. For this hunt Tim, VE3UO, was the fox and Dave, VE3BIP, was one of the hunters equipped with APRS tracking gear. Tim hid in a small park right next to the Trent River just off Glen Miller Road north of Trenton and the 401. In addition to his regular fox transmitter he was also equipped with his TH-D7 and a laptop computer. The TH-D7 has a built in TNC and computer interface. Unfortunately, the spot he had selected was not within range of any digipeaters, at least none that were operating during the hunt. Dave, VE3BIP, was equipped with fox hunting gear as well as his Kenwood TM-D700 and a GPS. The TM-D700 has a built in TNC and a GPS interface. About 15 minutes before the hunt started Dave turned on the tracking system and broadcast a position beacon once every 2 minutes.

Initially, Tim was not able to track because he was out of range of any digipeaters but as I approached the Trenton Air Base he was able to track me with the direct signal from that point onward. Dave, VE3UGT, also reported that he was able to track me from home on his computer beginning at the start location until I was slightly west of the air base and out of range of the digipeaters.

Unfortunately for me, this was not one of my better hunting efforts and I never did find Tim within the allotted 1 hour time limit although at one point I drove within 100 feet or so of his car as I proceed north on Glen Miller Road. As Tim watched me approach he thought the hunt would be over within a few minutes. During the next several fox transmissions he had to suppress his chuckles as I proceeded on my merry way half way to Frankford on the wrong side of the Trent River. Tim had also logged all of my beacons and following the hunt was able to replay my meandering up and down both sides of the Trent River.

Based on this trial I think we will add APRS tracking as a regular feature of our weekly hunts. During the first trial, Tim, the fox, did not broadcast his position. However next time I think we will have the fox broadcast his position, assuming they are suitably equipped. This will make it interesting for others to observe the hunt using an APRS system or on the web. The hunters will be on their honour not to use the fox's beacon. If anyone knows a mechanism by which the fox can suppress the beacon going to the hunters we would love to hear about it.

If you are interested in fox hunting you can now watch on APRS or on the web and listen along on the fox frequency, 146.565 MHz. On the web you can try http://www.canaprs.net. Our regular hunts are on Thursday evenings, except the first Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 PM. See the QARC web page at http://www.qarc.on.ca/foxhunt.htm for details. I also hunt regularly in the Peterborough hunts and plan to turn on my APRS beacon while I participate in those hunts. Details about the Peterborough hunts are also available on the QARC webpage.

Now that the hockey playoffs are over, at least for Leaf fans, perhaps QARC Fox Hunting will become the spectator sport of the summer.

Super Cities Walk for MS

On May 26, 2002 the following members of the Quinte Amateur Radio Club supplied communications for the annual walk for MS. We met at the Moira Secondary School and set up a base station by the main front door. A "J pole" was mounted on a 15 ft pipe held in a tripod just outside the door. Sandra VE3HON and Pat VA3YTT were Controllers.
The following members were located at designated locations along the route to send info back to the Control station, Dave VE3BIP.Tim VE3UO, Dave VE3UGT, Peter VA3PKH, Herman VE3VHH, Mike VE3VMP. Glen VE3CJG, Ron VE3IVC, Al VA3ALS
There were over 400 walkers on either the 5 K walk or the 10 K walk. They left the Moira Scholl at about 10 am and most were back by 12.30. They raised over $50,000.00
It was an excellent day for walking and there were no major problems.
A Photo of the group was taken while the chair of the walk, Don Strickland, presented a plaque to Peter VA3PKH president of the club.
Everyone did an excellent job of reporting the required info back to the controllers and the executive of the walkathon were pleased with assistance we were able to provide. They are all ready looking forward to next year and will be looking for our participation.

Food and refreshments were available at the school for all the participants.

Bay Bridge Net

As you are aware, the weekly 'Bay Bridge Net' is a joint venture between QARC and the Prince Edward Radio Club in that net control duties are rotated weekly between the two clubs. We are looking for controllers for our share of the net. There is a schedule of net control at http://www.qarc.on.ca/radionet.htm . QARC Net nights are: June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30, Aug 13, Aug 27, Sept 10, Sept 24. If you can help out by taking one or more of these nights, contact Peter VA3PKH va3pkh@rac.ca or at 962-1386. He will then relay the list to Tim VE3UO who will post the schedule on the website at the above URL. The net is held on VE3TJU 146.73 Tuesdays at 7:30 PM.

AIR FORCE MAINTENANCE ISSUES

(From Joe Delahaye - Trenton ARC)

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by US Air Force pilots and the replies from the maintenance crews.

"Squawks" are problem listings that pilots generally leave for maintenance crews to fix before next flight.

(P)=PROBLEM (S)=SOLUTION

(P) Left inside main tire almost needs replacement (S) Almost replaced left inside main tire

(P) Test flight OK, except autoland very rough (S) Autoland not installed on this aircraft

(P) #2 Propeller seeping prop fluid, (S) #2 Propeller seepage normal - #1 #3 and #4 propellers lack normal seepage

(P) Something loose in cockpit (S) Something tightened in cockpit

(P) Evidence of leak on right main landing gear (S) Evidence removed

(P) DME volume unbelievably loud (S) Volume set to more believable level

(P) Dead bugs on windshield (S) Live bugs on order

(P) Autopilot in altitude hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent (S) Cannot reproduce problem on ground

(P) IFF inoperative (S) IFF always inoperative in OFF mode

(P) Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick (S) That's what they're there for

(P) Number three engine missing (S) Engine found on right wing after brief search

(P) Aircraft handles funny (S) Aircraft warned to straighten up, "fly right", and be serious

(P) Target Radar hums (S) Reprogrammed Target Radar with the words

Treasurers Report

MONTH TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	$50.00	Rac Membership	
Coffee	$11.50	Office Supplies	$20.54
50/50 Draw	$8.00	Incorporation	$30.00
Donations to QARC		News letter printing	$19.81
Interest	$0.18	Insurance	
		Social Events	
		Name Tags	
Total revenue	$69.68	Total Expenses	$70.35
		Month to Date Income	-$0.67

YEAR TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	$1,275.00	Social Events	$58.95
Donations to QARC	$424.45	Post box rental	$77.04
50/50 Draw	$57.50	Office supplies	$219.16
Coffee	$67.67	News letter printing	$168.21
Repeater Move	$0.00	Door Prizes	$5.00
Interest	$2.25	Insurance	$544.32
		Donations	$42.75
		RAC Membership	$39.95
		Hall Rental	$115.00
		Incorporation	$30.00
		Name Tags	$44.28
Total revenue	$1,826.87	Total Expenses	$1,344.66
		Year to Date Income	$482.21
		Cash on Hand	$4,423.89