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June 2003

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: **June 18, 2003 @7:30PM**

LOCATION: **RCAF Museum at CFB Trenton.**

PROGRAM: Our June meeting will be a tour of the RCAF Museum and Halifax restoration at CFB Trenton.

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: 2nd,4th & 5th Wednesdays at 7PM. Check in on VE3QAR for details.

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA ADDRESS:
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Phone: (613) 244-4367 **Fax:** (613) 244-4369.
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QARC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Peter Hodgson VA3PKH 962-1386 (E-mail: phodgson@kos.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 21st, 2003

Mike, VE3VMP Secretary, QARC

The meeting was opened at 7:30 by president Peter Hodgson VA3PKH. Peter introduced Graham VE1FC/3 as our guest. Graham comes from the East Coast and now makes his home in the Quinte area and has decided to retain his original call in Ontario. . So if you hear a VE1FC call on the repeater it is not DX or some kind of a phase inversion!! The large attendance of 21 was surprising in that tonight is election night; but one of the members suggested that the large attendance was here because of our guest speaker, Dave Ward VE3BIP who will talk about Spread Spectrum. Before we go to our guest speaker there are some coming events of interest:

MS-Walk-a-thon – will be held on May 25th, (already past). We had a fine turn out of volunteers again this year thanks to: Glen VE3CJG, Sandra VE3HON, Ron VE3IVC (organizer), Tim VE3UO, Dave VE3UGT, Scott VE3HZZ, Mike VE3VMP, and George VE3YD.

Mother and Daughters Walk will be held on Sept 21st at Zwicks island. Please get in touch with Ron VE3IVC if you would like to volunteer.

2003 International Plowing Match September 17th-23rd,2003 in Lanark County. VE3REX is the official station for this event and Gerry VE3APF says it will be operating on all bands and all modes including HF, APRE, PSK31, Slow Scan TV, VHF, IRLP, and SSTV.

Syd VE3EGO mentioned that Digital Slow Scan is popular theses days and is easy to get into. You need a computer and Software. It either sends perfect pictures or nothing at all. Syd has volunteered to talk about this at our first meeting in September, Thanks Syd. If you would like more information give Syd a call.

Next month will be our field trip to the Air Force Museum in Trenton. We will meet there at 7:30 pm on Wednesday June 18th.

The PERC is organizing a tour to the Signals Museum in Kingston on May 31st if there is enough interest. Looks like this event will be tried at another time in the future.

Our past president Dave VE3UGT conducted the election. There were no volunteers to any of the executive positions, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, prior to the meeting and no one at the meeting wished to volunteer for any position. If there is no executive there is no CLUB, so in the best interest of all, the current executive decided to carry on for another year. Therefore, a motion by Dave VE3UGT to retain the present executive and seconded by Tim VE3UO was carried unanimously. This will probably not happen again next year and if no one volunteers for any of the executive positions the QARC will temporarily cease until an executive can be formed.

Following our abbreviated elections our guest speaker was introduced, our very own Dave VE3BIP. His topic was Spread Spectrum. Amateur Radio does not use this mode of transmission. It was developed for the Military and Government industry. The signals are so low that they are below the noise level of all AR receivers and cannot be heard or understood. There are recent consumer applications that this technology is used, such as in 2.4 GHz cordless phones. There are two techniques used to spread the frequency: (1) Frequency hopping used in sending analog information and (2) Direct Sequence used for digital transmissions.

Dave used a slide format to compliment his presentation and his slides are enclosed just in case you missed the meeting.

Following Dave's 40-minute presentation, the meeting adjourned for the usual coffee and donuts and a fine rag chew.

RCAF Museum Tour 7:30 pm

Wednesday June 18:

Our June meeting will be a tour of the RCAF Museum and Halifax restoration at CFB Trenton. The museum is located on the east side of RCAF Road north of Dundas St (Old Highway 2). Lieutenant Colonel (ret), Chris Colton, Executive Director of the RCAF Memorial Museum will be our tour guide.

If anyone needs a ride contact Peter va3pkh@rac.ca or 962-1386.

2003 Field Day, June 28th and 29th.

PERC and QARC will again join forces to mount a Field Day operation at the Huff's Island Community Center. Stations and antennas will be set up on Friday afternoon and early Saturday. This year we'll run two HF stations, a 2 Meter/Sat station and possibly a 6 Meter Station. Al, VE3LAW, has loaded logging software onto two laptops so the logging process will be streamlined and made easy for operators and loggers alike. The antennas will consist of a tri-band beam for 10/1. Everyone is welcome to participate. Drop-in's welcome. Contact Dave, VE3UGT or Peter, VE3KWM for further info.

Basic Radio Course

We have had several enquiries about a radio course from people interested in Ham Radio. We discussed the possibility at the last executive meeting. We decided the biggest obstacle is classroom space. If anyone knows of a room we could use two nights a week this fall (mid September to early December) please let any of the executive know.

Kid's Day II

June 21 2003

The second Kid's Day of 2003 will be June 21, from 1800-2400 UTC. There's no limit on operating time. The twice-annual event, held in January and June, offers a chance for amateurs to invest in the future of Amateur Radio by participating in a simple, but rewarding, on-the-air event. Kid's Day is intended as an opportunity to share Amateur Radio with young people--licensed or not--in the hope that they'll enjoy the experience and possibly pursue their own license in the future.

For more info visit: Kids Day II Rules: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html

Ex Mercury Trek and APRS

CJ "Chip" Chapman, VA3KGB
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Ex Mercury Trek is a cross Canada Bicycle trek by serving, retired and reservist communicators celebrating 100 years of Military Communications in Canada. Their official website is at http://www.commelec2003.ca/mercurytrek.html Doug, VE3FFR, one of our Club members after some discussion has reprogrammed an APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) rig consisting of a radio, GPS and Tiny Trak Interface and it has since been delivered to the Mercury Trek Support crew. Although the system uses Amateur Radio frequencies, many APRS digipeaters are tied into Internet Gateways, which allow you to see the position of an APRS station. The callsign being used is VE3RCS (call of the Sigs Museum) I have set up a web page with the links to the two internet APRS servers and to the Mercury Trek Team page. The web page url is http://www.king.igs.net/~karc/ve3rcs_mercurytrek.htm and the individual links to see where the team is presently (downtown Toronto) are at CANAPRS Server: http://www.canaprs.net/cgi-bin/locate?stn=ve3rcs findu.com server: http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=VE3RCS. I hope to see them come through Kingston and I will be in St John's Newfoundland on 1 July. Hoping to make a contact with Les, VE3KFS who will be out in BC on 1 July and do a live APRS message confirming that Mercury Trek have completed their journey. Possibly if I can arrange it, I'll see if Col Laconik would like to transmit the message himself using my APRS system, which will have the full APRS system running

The Psychic Dog

It's common practice in England to ring a telephone by sending extra voltage across one side of the two-wire circuit and ground (earth in England). When the subscriber answers the phone, it switches to the two-wire circuit for the conversation. This method allows two parties on the same line to be signaled without disturbing each other. An elderly lady with several pets called to say that her telephone failed to ring when her friends called; and that on the few occasions when it did ring her dog always barked first. The telephone repairman proceeded to the scene, curious to see this psychic dog. He climbed a nearby telephone pole, hooked in his test set, and dialed the subscriber's house. The phone didn't ring. He tried again. The dog barked loudly, followed by a ringing telephone.

Climbing down from the pole, the telephone repairman found:

1. The dog was tied to the telephone system's ground post via an iron chain and collar.
2. The dog was receiving 90 volts of signaling current.
3. After several such jolts, the dog would start barking and urinating on the ground.
4. The wet ground now completed the circuit and the phone would ring.

Which shows you that some problems can be fixed by just peeing on them, but only temporarily.

NEW 60-METER BAND

From the ARRL Letter, June 6, 2003. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS APPLICABLE TO U.S. HAMS ONLY!!!!!!

The new five-channel 60-meter amateur allocation becomes available to US Amateur Radio operators at midnight (12:00 AM) local time on July 3. The local time designation means that amateurs in the US territory of Guam likely will be the first to get a crack at the new band. The new band will be a secondary allocation--federal government users are primary--and the first on which the only permitted mode will be upper-sideband (USB) phone (emission type 2K8J3E). The FCC last month announced it would grant hams access to five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels instead of the 150 kHz-wide bands ARRL had requested and the FCC initially proposed. The League remains optimistic, however, that Amateur Radio eventually may be able to enjoy a band segment with multiple mode privileges at 60 meters. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has said that in the meantime hams will have to be on their best behavior when taking advantage of the limited canalized allocation, open to General and higher class licensees.

The FCC has granted amateur's center-channel frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz--the last channel common to the amateur experimental operation under way in the United Kingdom <http://www.rsgb-hfc.org.uk/5mhz.htm>. To be "on channel," users of 60 meters should set their transmitted carrier frequency 1.5 kHz lower than the channel-center frequency. In terms of day-to-day operation, the new band is expected to resemble the sort of channel sharing typical on local repeaters.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, says hams need to be very careful if they're considering modifying their current transceiver or transmitter for 5 MHz. The ARRL advises that members check with the appropriate equipment manufacturers regarding specific modification information. Some modifications not only may void the warranty but also could affect or alter a transmitter's operation in unpredictable ways.

"Hams need to be sure that any modifications put them right on the desired channel, Hare said. Most hams are used to just having to think about band edges, so on other bands, if a mod were a bit 'off,' all operators would need to ensure is that they are not transmitting outside the band. Hare recommended that on 5 MHz amateurs remain within "a few tens of Hertz" of suppressed-carrier accuracy. He also pointed out that hams have a mandate not to have any of their signal occupy spectrum outside the assigned 2.8 kHz channels.Noting that high-frequency audio response can vary considerably from radio to radio, Hare has suggested restricting occupied channel audio bandwidth to 2600 Hz, rolling off below 200 Hz on the low end and above 2800 Hz on the high end.

Last-minute opposition to the granting of a band segment at 5 MHz came last year from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which cited the ongoing spectrum requirements of federal government licensees having homeland security responsibilities. The NTIA administers spectrum allocated to the federal government. A compromise between the FCC and the NTIA resulted in the limited, channelized allocation. The NTIA selected the channels the FCC authorized to minimize the possibility of interference to federal government users, and it dictated the use of USB so that federal government users--who also use only USB--could readily identify amateur stations if necessary. The FCC has set maximum power at 50 W ERP and said it would consider a typical half-wave dipole to exhibit no gain.

Treasurers Report

MONTH TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	$25.00	Rac Membership	$0.00
Coffee	$0.00	Office Supplies	$20.54
50/50 Draw	$0.00	Incorporation	$0.00
Donations to QARC	$261.75	Newsletter printing	$20.05
Interest	$0.20	Insurance	$0.00
		Social Events	$0.00
		Donations	$0.00
Total revenue	$286.95	Total Expenses	$40.59
		Month to Date Income	$246.36

YEAR TO DATE

Revenue		Expenses	
Membership Dues	$1,150.00	Social Events	$21.76
Donations to QARC	$366.75	Post box rental	$77.04
50/50 Draw	$72.50	Office supplies	$225.93
Coffee	$43.40	News letter printing	$109.59
Repeater Move	$0.00	Door Prizes	$0.00
Interest	$1.95	Insurance	$622.08
		Donations	$226.00
		RAC Membership	$0.00
		Hall Rental	$30.00
		Incorporation	$0.00
		Name Tags	$12.08
Total revenue	$1,634.60	Total Expenses	$1,324.48
		Year to Date Income	$310.12
		Cash on Hand	$4,763.73