Q R M

September 2005

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: **September 21, 2005 @7:30PM**

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

PROGRAM: We will have two of the Race Organizers from the PEC Marathon to give us a summary of last years Race and what they would like from us this year.

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 108
Belleville K8N 5H5 (613) 962-9299
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:
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)

QARC Minutes June 2005

Meeting opened at 7:35 PM by President Mike at 7:35 PM.

News and Announcements:

Ron VE3IVC: Ham Radio services for the Belleville Police Torch Run were not required.

MS Walk was a success - see write-up in last month's 'QRM' Newsletter.

The Beast Kids Triathlon also went well. The organizers had the kids well ahead of schedule, which had some gaps in activity.

Our next communications activity will be the Cheerios Heart and Stroke Walk at Zwick's Park.

Trent District ARES Report: Bill VA3WOW reported that Northumberland ARES does not have an Emergency Coordinator at this time, and that there are only three people signed up, so there is not a formal group in Northumberland at this time.

While visiting Ottawa, Bill also checked out the bicycle race from Ottawa to Kingston, and took some notes and photos of some of the activity. He noted that as the race progressed they changed net controllers via a linked repeater system, so one could monitor the entire race from start to finish!

There will be a bicycle race coming up on Sept 24 from Bancroft to the Barry's Bay area, and amateur assistance may be required.

Bill noted that Hastings ARES telephone tree and callout procedure is currently being revised, as the old telephone tree that is in circulation is out of date.

Commitees:

Field Day: Jun 25 & 26 : Preparations under way - once again we are teaming up with PERC at the Huff's Island Schoolhouse.

Basic Course: Coming up this fall - looking for a wheelchair accessible venue, otherwise we will probably be using the Trenton ARC Clubhouse. Also looking for an instructor to 'kick it off' as Don VE3UHO will be unavailable this fall. Contact Mike VE3VMP for more info.

Mike did some 'catch-up' handing out some QARC mugs with name and callsign for this past year's guest speakers - Sept 04: Greg VE3CH (CJLX tour); Oct 04: Dave VE3BIP (foxhunting); Nov 04: Peter VE3UR and Bill VA3WOW (ARES); Jan 05: Eric VE3GSI (RTTY); Feb 05?? ; Mar 05: Denise Reynolds (TAS); April 05: Dave VA3OPC (Satellite TV); May 05: Len VE3LRM (equipment set up).

Mike also presented mugs in appreciation to Dave VE3UGT for the newsletter, Don VE3DQN for his many years of service as Treasurer, Ron VE3IVC for his service to ARES and organising various communications activities, and to Tim VE3UO for the QARC webpage.

A reminder that QARC Mugs with logo and callsign are also available for $10. QARC Tee shirts are also available for $10. Contact Mike VE3VMP if you are interested in ordering. Some of the folks in the first tee shirt order were overcharged and they will be refunded the difference.

Summer Meetings: Wed July 20 at Kelsey’s in Belleville, and Aug 17 at Crabby Joes in Belleville at 6:30 PM. RSVP for both events to Mike VE3VMP.

OPP Com Center Tour? Mike mentioned Len's VE3LRM inquiry regarding a tour this summer of the Com Center in Smith's Falls. It was also suggested to combine it with a tour of the Hershey's Factory for the XYL's. There was some interest shown from those

present - contact Len VE3LRM for more info. (Also see Len's article in the May 'QRM' Newsletter.)

Swap Time:

The following items are for sale - contact the vendors for full details:

Bob VE3TQE: Alpha Delta Dipole antenna, Force-12 C3S Beam, Yaesu rotor, Delhi 48' self-supporting tower.

Jim VE3JJL 613-966-9241 - Tower (self supporter?) and beam.

It was also mentioned that the Whitby Hamfest (in Oshawa) is upcoming this Saturday (June 18).

50/50 Draw winner was Len VE3ASR who pocketed $14.50

Guest Speaker: Mike introduced Ben Price VE3CDA, RAC Director for Ontario North. Ben gave a good presentation about RAC, and the new RAC insurance plan (QARC is the FIRST club in Canada to take advantage of it!). In addition to an excellent talk, Ben came armed with lots of RAC goodies to hand out - ball cap (VE3QWB), License plate frame (VE3KWM), RAC mug VE3HBR, pens (VE3IVC, VA3WOW VE3APF and VE3UO), RAC operating manual (VE3VMP).

In appreciation of Ben's FB talk, Mike presented Ben with a QARC mug as a token of thanks!

Meeting adjourned - attendance was 22.

Al Smardon VE3OX

Allan Smardon died August 4th. He is survived by sons Donald and Scott, Grand-daughter Katie and Great Grandchildren Noura and Amir.

He grew up in NDG in Montreal and following his service overseas in WWII, resided in Hudson Quebec. He was an avid ham radio operator (first licensed in August 1934) known to his many friends as VE2JO and later as VE3OX. Following a long business career, he retired to Carrying Place, Ontario. Al joined the Quinte Amateur Radio Club soon after his arrival and was an active member of the club, his main interests being packet radio, maintaining the club's two-meter repeater, and operating on six meters. Al was nominated as a life member of the club in April of this year.

Dad was 86 years old. He was ready to go and he did not suffer. He was a Father who was always there for us. He was a family man and community volunteer. We remember him fondly. His ashes will be laid to rest at Carrying Place near those of his loving wife Kay. May they rest in peace.

Donald & Scott
Don Smardon
378 Decourcy Dr
Gabriola, BC, V0R1X1
250-247-8962

New Ham

Kevin Reid VA3GSI wrote and passed his Basic (Honours "Full HF privileges") on Sept 8. Kevin is the brother of Eric Reid VE3GSI. Congratulations Kevin!

Prince Edward County Marathon

We will have two of the Race Organizers there and they will give us a grief presentation or summary of last years Race. Also, at this meeting they will hand out PECM Ball Caps to all the volunteers present. As well, we will go over our plans for this event. Everyone will receive a Map and Information about the Route and where you will be assigned. This year the Organizers are relying solely on the Amateurs for Communications. To ensure that all the Organizers can communicate with each other as well as to all the support Groups such as the OPP, Buses, Ambulance, etc an Amateur will be assigned to each Organizer and Support group. Therefore, we will need more Amateurs than last year. So if you know of anyone else that would like to participate please let Mike Papper VE3VMP 969-1744 (ve3vmp@sympatico.ca.) know ASAP.

Detailed information is already on our WEB site: www.qarc.on.ca/marathon.htm.

KARC Fleamarket

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2005 Time: 9:00AM - 12:00PM EDT (GMT-04:00)

NOTE: QARC will have a table at this fleamarket. If you have an item for sale to leave at the club table, please label it with your name, callsign, and asking price.

We are also looking for persons to man the table for short periods of time, so no one is there for the entire period of the hamfest. Please contact Tim VE3UO.

DETAILS of the HAMFEST:

Location: Drill Hall Alpha, Vimy Barracks, CFB Kingston. Hall Alpha is located at the back of the Forde Building.

Doors will open to vendors at 0730 and the public at 0900. Vendors are asked not to make deals with other vendors until the public has been admitted to the event. Otherwise why have the event?

Admission is $ 3.00. Tables are $ 10.00 including one admission. Commercial tables are $20.00 but will be given free with a door prize. Talk in will be on the VE3KAR repeater, 146.940 (-600) Canteen will be available. We expect several commercial vendors and many tables of equipment.

The Canadian Forces Communications and Electronics Museum will be open for all to visit as well. Free admission and less than 5 minutes from the fleamarket, (see maps on website)

We will have a 50/50 draw to support the museum, many door prizes and possibly a major prize raffle. Door prizes include magazine subscriptions, dinner vouchers, sightseeing air flights, movie tickets, computer material, emergency radio etc.

Tables or other information is available by ending an email to the Fleamarket Committee at: hamfest at symbol ve3kbr.com (change the 'at symbol' with @ and remove any spaces) or contact VE3GO, Ron at (613 634-4085)

More Info: http://www.ve3kbr.com/karc/fleamarket2005.htm

Ottawa to Picton via VHF

Dave Green, VE3TLY & Dave Ward, VE3BIP

The idea of trying a VHF contact between Ottawa and Picton came up during an HF QSO last winter. Dave, VE3TLY in Ottawa and Dave, VE3BIP in Belleville decided to give it a go.

Plans slowly evolved over the winter and spring via QSOs and emails. The idea was simple. In Belleville, Dave would collect a few interested hams and the necessary gear and arrange to set up on a high point, in the end we chose Lake on the Mountain about 60 meters above Lake Ontario, just east of Picton. In Ottawa, the other Dave, VE3TLY did the same and would try his luck from the obvious advantage of the Eardley Escarpment, which rises abruptly about 280 metres above the Ottawa River on the Quebec side. Plans were firmed up, dates were set, and gear was organized.

On Saturday morning June 11, Dave, VE3BIP and Peter, VE3UR set off from Belleville bound for Lake on the Mountain. In Ottawa Dave, VE3TLY and Mike, VE3FFK loaded up for the 40 minute drive into the Gatineau Park, just north of the city in VE2 land. Early coordination was arranged by email that morning and confirmed over IRLP during the drive in.

In the Gatineau Park, with temperature and humidity approaching tropical conditions, it was a real pleasure to arrive at the Etienne Brulé Lookout to find a shady spot with a light breeze. A 10 element 2m beam and a 5 element 6m beam were quickly erected on separate 10' masts. A 2 x 3 cross piece was firmly clamped to the roof rack with C clamps (see photos). The cross piece had notches cut near each end to accept a 1.5" mast which was secured with a U bolt. The foot of each mast was anchored with a cinder block. This hardware was easy to install and held securely. Finally the antenna system was checked out with the IC-706MkIIG. Stand-alone lead acid batteries were used at each station for power. In Picton, a 5 element 2m beam was prepared on a 12' mast (see photo). A vertical 6m antenna was also erected. An IC-910 2m 100W rig was used. Grid squares had been determined in advance and a utility (squares32) was downloaded and used to compute station to station bearings. A compass was used to orientate the antennas.

We had agreed to meet on 144.250 USB. At about 1510Z, Belleville Dave's voice came booming through in the Gatineau Park with a 59 signal report. Our report with a 50W transmitter was about 56 in Picton. We were euphoric! A few minutes later we were joined by Mike, VE3VMP who was using a 10 element beam from his home in Belleville. His report near Ottawa was initially 53 but came up to 59 when the 'Armstrong Rotator' was used to point our beam his way.

Moving to 6m, with 100W at each end we were able to copy Peter, VE3UR with a 43 signal report. To assess the effect of cross polarized antennas, Mike, VE3FFK unfastened our horizontal beam and tilted it 45 degrees to be better aligned with the vertical in Picton. Peter's signal came up to 59: the effect of polarization can not be underestimated. A few minutes later we had a call from Bob, VE3KZ in Milton Ont (FN03) who gave us a 59 report. Bob's report was a 57. He also had a QSO with the station in Picton.

Next the Ottawa crew replaced its 6m beam with a mobile vertical. Peter's report was a 44. We then moved to 70 cm. While the Belleville group's dual band antenna included a 5 element 70 cm Yagi, the Gatineau group only had a mobile vertical which we mag-mounted horizontally to the side of the car. We were unable to establish contact. Later

when Dave and Peter were taking down their station, they noticed a bad feedline connection at the antenna. Not to worry, 70 cm will be our next objective.

Moving back to 2m, we got a call from Doug VE3XK from Carp who was in the firing line between the 2 stations. He copied both stations without any trouble. Mike, VE3VMP was also able to copy Doug quite well, i.e. height didn't seem to be a factor. Not sure if there was some kind of special propogation happening or that is the type of performance we should normally expect.

Our final experiment was an FM simplex QSO on 2m. Doug joined us for that QSO as well. Signal reports at each end were 59. You can't ask for much better than that. With the completing of this QSO, we decided to say 73 and declared the exercise an overwhelming success. At the start, we had no idea if contact would even be possible. We all went away completely satisfied with the results.

Of course, the end of the experiment just happened to coincide with the start of the ARRL VHF QSO party. From the Gatineau Park location, it seemed too good an opportunity to let pass. The Ottawa crew hung on for another hour or so and made a number of contacts on 2m (FN01, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25) and 6m (FN03, 12, 15, 23, 25, 32). That 280m tower sure did the trick!

In Ottawa, thanks go out to Al, VE3ZTU who helped out during a trial run a week earlier and to Peter, VE3EPB who dropped by during the experiment to offer support. We also wanted to thank the Black flies for leaving us alone for much of the exercise and for the makers of mosquito netting who allowed us to keep the car windows open!

With this success under our belts, we should have little trouble encouraging more people from the Quinte ARC to join their friends from the Ottawa ARC in a VHF link across eastern Ontario.

Morse code requirement for H.F is gone

The morse code requirement for H.F is gone ! (sort of.) SEE:
http://www.rac.ca/news/canada.htm#Industry%20Canada%20Introduces Industry Canada Introduces Alternatives to Morse Requirement for HF

Per Canada Gazette notice DGRB-003-05 22 July 2005, Industry Canada has adopted elements of the RAC "Proposal on Morse Code and Related Matters" and has removed the mandatory requirement for the Morse Qualification for access to the HF bands below 30 MHz.

Effective immediately, amateurs certified with BASIC Qualification prior to 2 April 2002, and amateurs certified with both BASIC and ADVANCED
Qualifications, may operate on HF. Amateurs with BASIC only Qualification certified after 1 April 2002, and who achieved a pass mark of 80% or greater, will also be allowed to operate on HF. Amateurs certified BASIC only Qualification after 1 April 2002 having achieved less than 80% pass mark, will either have to qualify in Morse, write the Advanced or re-write the Basic examination to obtain HF privileges. This latter requirement is related to a decision to increase the BASIC examination pass mark to ensure that candidates have been tested in all areas of the syllabus.

For details, see the Canada Gazette notice at http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08435e.html and the "Latest News" page on the RAC web site at http://www.rac.ca .

Kiwanis Colour Cribbage Ride 1 October:

Call for volunteers

Please let Doug Monk dmonk@kos.net know if you can participate. Please pass this along to anyone you think may be interested.

This bicycle ride is a new challenge for us again.

Last year's compound fracture, admirably handled by Peter Hodgson, taught us that serious accidents can happen and ambulance response can be very late even if we call immediately. This year a St John Ambulance vehicle with two attendants has been requested and we are looking for an Amateur Radio operator to ride with them with a mobile radio on board.

Last year's system of linking sweep riders to mobile Amateur Radio operators by FRS radio was not satisfactory, in that the sweep riders found the cars following them to be irritating, and the sweep riders were not close enough to all the bicyclists to make a timely call for EMS in the event of an emergency.

I tested Bell Mobility cell phone coverage of the routes and found that cell phone coverage was not reliable on the 100 km route between County Road 8 at Rock Crossroad and County Road 13 at Murphy Road, but was functional elsewhere on the routes. The Kiwanis committee also had misgivings about County Road 17 between County Roads 8 and 10. This year we propose Amateur Radio operators will be stationed along the sections of poor coverage. Sweep bicycle riders will carry Bell Mobility cell phones. Two cell phones will be located at net control and all cyclists and marshals will be given the numbers. Cyclists and marshals will be advised to call these numbers for the first aid vehicle, which we will dispatch.

Cyclists will be told that if a cell connection cannot be made they should look for an Amateur Radio operator. We hope to have operators at almost every intersection in the poor coverage area, and two more along County Road 17. In these areas our operators will relay both ambulance and first aid requests through net control.

The pre-rides, in which an amateur operator drives each route with a Kiwanis marshal, calling back to the organizers if there is a problem with marshals or signs on the route, will be the same as last year except there will only be two. Again, Kiwanis will pay 15 cents per km to these riders to cover gasoline costs.

We need:

Assistant net control (Keith Harvey is net control this year, from his RV) 0845 – 1500

A rider with 50-watt radio to go in the first aid vehicle 0845-1500

Two pre-riders with vehicles equipped with 50-watt radios, 0845-1130 and 1015- 1300

Twelve mobile operators to be stationed at intersections. This duty will go from 0915 to approximately 1230 because the poor coverage areas are in the early part of the rides.

Again, radio operators will be provided with a lunch at the curling club.

The 25 km ride has been eliminated. The 100 km ride leaves the Crystal Palace at 9:00 and the 50 km ride at 10:30. There are some changes in the route around Cherry Valley.

Halloween Safe Streets 2005

One again QARC will be teaming up with Belleville Community Policing to help keep Belleville's streets safe for Trick-or-Treaters on Monday Oct 31. As those who have participated in previous years know, a mandatory Police Check is required for all volunteers. Tim VE3UO has been discussing with the Community Policing Officer a more permanent solution in the form of an issued picture ID card similar to what Doug Monk VE3ZDG has done with Prince Edward County ARES. So if you have volunteered in previous years, please contact Tim VE3UO for more details. And of course, new volunteers are welcome to volunteer as well. In addition to Safe Streets, we have also assisted Belleville Community Policing with the Pitter-Patter run held at Loyalist College.

Amateur Radio Direction Finding in North America

The week of August 1-6, 2005, competitors from around the United States and the rest of the world traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the third IARU Region II Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Championships.[1]

Organized by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)[2], Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is a map and compass sport where the locations of transmitters are not marked on the map. Competitors must use detailed topographic maps and handheld radio receivers to find the radio transmitters. The Region II Championships this year were organized and hosted by the Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club.

Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is often referred to in Amateur Radio society as "on-foot foxhunting." While that is accurate, there's more to it than that. ARDF is a sport with formalized, international rules that borrow a lot from orienteering.[3] In fact, ARDF is often called "radio orienteering" in orienteering society. Like orienteering, ARDF includes navigation across diverse, wooded terrain, always with the use of a detailed topographic map, sometimes with the aid of a compass, and including navigation off-trail. The transmitters in the woods are marked with standard orange-and-white orienteering controls (which look a little like box kites) and have some sort of punching system where the runner can record their visit to the control. The event is a timed race, where competitors leave a start area in five-minute intervals, must find a certain set of the transmitters out in the woods, and then run to the finish area marked on their map.

Twenty-nine radio orienteers, 23 men and 6 women, participated in the championships in New Mexico. California, Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Montana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, and Texas were all represented. Four of the competitors traveled to the meet from outside Region II, traveling from Australia, the Czech Republic, and Kazakhstan to North America to experience ARDF on new terrain. Even though not eligible for Region II competitive rankings, they were warmly welcomed to enter the event and share the experience. Many of the competitors have been entering the IARU Region II or USA ARDF Championships for several years, and the quality of competition improves every year. 12 of the 14 members of the 2004 Team USA[4] came to New Mexico for this competition, making it the place to be to see the very best North American athletes in the sport.



The competitors pose for a group photo near the start of the eighty-meter (HF) competition.

The results from these championships and the 2006 USA ARDF Championships (to be held in the Raleigh, NC area sometime in spring or early summer) will help determine who will represent the USA at the 2006 World ARDF Championships, which will be held at a Black Sea beach resort near Bourgas, Bulgaria the week of 12-27 September 2006. Each country is allowed to bring up to three competitors in each of the nine entry classes to the World Championships. It would be fantastic if Canadians once again tried their hand at this sport. Canada has never sent a team to the ARDF

World Championships, and no Canadians have attended an IARU Region II ARDF Championship since the first one held in 1999 in Portland, Oregon. Any Canadians looking to learn more about ARDF are encouraged to get in touch with Joe Young VE7BFK[5], the ARDF Coordinator for the Radio Amateurs of Canada. All Canadians are of course welcome and encouraged to participate in ARDF meets south of the border, including the USA ARDF Championships.

ARDF is still a growing sport in North America. The level of competition improves every year, and there's still plenty of opportunity for newcomers to get involved. The third IARU Region II ARDF Championships [6] was an exceptional event, put on by a very dedicated group of individuals. The next IARU Region II ARDF Championship will be in 2007, at a location yet to be determined.

Links:

[1] Third IARU Region II ARDF Championships
http://mywebpages.comcast.net/ardf-usa/

[2] ARDF in IARU Region II http://www.ardf-r2.org/
[3] Orienteering in Canada http://www.orienteering.ca/
[4] ARDF in the USA http://members.aol.com/homingin/farsnews.html
[5] ARDF in Canada http://www.rac.ca/opsinfo/ardf.htm
[6] More photos from the championships
http://www.wm5r.org/photos/2005_iaru_r2_ardf/



A licensed Amateur Radio Operator since 1993, and an active orienteer since 2000, Ken Harker is a computer scientist for a company that specializes in e-business performance management, monitoring, and analysis. Ken is a member of the Central Texas DX & Contest Club (CTDXCC) and the Houston Orienteering Club (HOC.) You can contact the author by surface mail at 7009 Fireoak Dr, Austin, TX 78759, on the Web (http://www.kenharker.com/), or via e-mail at kenharker@kenharker.com.