

marcOgram

Official Publication of The Montreal Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Box 53047 - RPO Dorval, Dorval Quebec H9S 5W4



Volume 45, Number 4

January 2000

“ANDRÉ SIPOS, VA2ASS, RADIO IN THE INTERNATIONAL ZONE OF TANGIERS”

Wednesday 26 January 2000
Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30
Club meeting: 20:00

St. Thomas Anglican Church, Corner Somerled and Rosedale
(Please use side entrance off Rosedale)

André Sipos, VA2ASS, spent several years in the International Zone of Tangiers as a broadcast engineer. It is from this perspective that André will give us a taste of what radio was like in that part of the world during the 1950s and 1960s from both the broadcasting and amateur radio point of view. This should prove to be a very informative evening.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello,

First off I am saddened to have to report the passing of Fred Yutaka Okimura, VE2GKJ, on December 15, 1999. Many of you will remember Fred as having been a long time member of the club and while he wasn't a

regular attendee at our meetings he will nonetheless be missed. Our sympathy goes to his family and friends.

The new controller for VE2BG has arrived and we also have a back-up controller as well. Thanks to Keith Daniel, VE2KXD, for his donation of the backup controller which is an original design based on the HC11 microprocessor. I hope that before too long we will be able to put the new controller into service.

Still on the repeater front, any of you who periodically peruse the RAC call sign lookup or the downloadable database may have noticed a change in ownership of the VE2RJS repeater. This was necessitated in order to ensure that the repeater would be insured against liability. We have concluded an agreement with the Cote St-Luc Amateur Radio Association whereby they will continue to maintain and operate the repeater while the MARC is now the owner. While this will

Membership Renewal Reminder

Just a reminder that now is the time to return your membership form and dues for this year if you haven't already done so. If you have a M after your name and call sign on your mailing label the club has received your dues (updated as of Friday 14 Jan 2000). Thank-you.

The MarcOgram is published nine times per year on the second to last Wednesday of September through June, excepting December by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Advertising and copy deadline is one week prior to publication.

Editor:
 Craig Brander, VE2YGK craigyul@total.net 514-488-5109

Annual fees are:
 General Members \$23.00
 Associate Members \$23.00
 White Cane Members... .. \$10.00
 Family Members (per family) \$28.00

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Memberships received on or after June 1 commence immediately and extend through the subsequent membership year - covering a period of up to fifteen months.

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The opinions expressed herein are, unless otherwise stated, solely those of the authors concerned, and not those of the Club, the Directors or members and do not represent the policy of the Club.

Directors

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 Edward Wielgus, VE3VMF
 Steven Faguy VA2SMF (pending)

Club Call Sign: VE2ARC
 Club Website: <http://www.marc.qc.ca>
 Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)
 Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located on the Pointe Claire water tower.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)
 Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located near Decarie and Cote St. Luc Road.

The repeaters are open to all amateurs and VE2RED also offers a phone patch available to all amateurs during the day and evening.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to any member to attend. Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (Sept. to June) at 7:30 PM at the Montreal Association for the Blind, 7000 Sherbrooke St West. Should you wish to attend one of the meetings you are welcome. Just speak to one of the directors before-hand to make certain that the meeting has neither been cancelled, nor the location changed.

Club Activities Tentative Meeting Schedule

January 26, 2000: Andre Sipos, VA2ASS - Radio in Tangiers, Morocco in the 1950's and 1960's

February 23 - Earl Paris, VE2ESP will give a historical look and present day operations of the Montreal Association for the Blind Club Station.

March 29 - Ralph Cameron, VE2BBM will give a talk on Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) and Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) issues from the point of the Amateur Radio operator.

April 26 - Frederick Hart will give a talk on the hobby of Radio Scanning and a discussion on the various Emergency Services in the Montreal Area.

NOTE: This meeting may be rescheduled to another location as the Church Hall may be unavailable that evening.

May 31 - Show and Tell

As usual, the meetings start with a casual Ragchew at 19:30 and the gavel at 20:00.

Hamfest

Saturday morning, 15 April, MARC Amateur Radio Fleamarket at The Legion, 7771 Bouvier, Lasalle. More details on page7 and in next month's issue.



MARC COMPUTER NET

The net meets every Thursday evening at 8pm on VE2RED, 147.270+

to discuss computer news, computer problems, computer humour, computer web sites and computer addiction. In other words, everything about computers

is fair game here. If you have anything related to computers (it doesn't necessarily have to be amateur radio related), favorite web sites, questions, comments, or just want to argue Linux vs Windows with everyone, then stop by and check in.

73 de Steven, VA2SMF, Net Controller

not affect the operation of the repeater it does mean that it will remain on the air from its present site.

My thanks to those operators who were standing by in case our services were needed at the turn of the new year. Y2K came in like a lamb and to date things have gone remarkably smoothly. While we were not able to complete the re-installation of the station at the Red Cross due to last minute modifications of the plans required by the City of Verdun and the building maintenance firm we will be re-establishing that station by April and regularly testing it to ensure that it is fully operational.

This month's talk promises to be an interesting one. André Sipos, VA2ASS, spent several years in the International Zone of Tangiers as a broadcast engineer and as a result can give us a taste of what radio was like in that part of the world during the 1950s and 1960s from both the broadcasting and amateur radio point of view.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

My apologies to Fred Hart, VE2LSQ for chopping up his article again. Even him putting in a good word for me couldn't keep the gremlins away. I think I have found what is the glitch causing the problem and with more time to review it I hope to have everything in order to start the year off on the right foot.

The hamfest season is rapidly approaching and that includes our own amateur radio flea market. So make a date for Saturday April 15 for the MARC flea market. So start spreading the word. How about contributing some time in organizing the flea market to help continue on last year's success. Contact Jim, VE2VE for more information.

73 de Craig, VE2YGK

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CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are some of the contests coming up. You can have fun and perhaps add to your country or state total by trying some of these. It is not necessary to send in a log unless you want to. Full rules can be found in various

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Montreal 911 Centre | ... | ... | 280-2121 |
| Laval 911 Centre | ... | ... | 662-4240 |
| Longueuil 911 Centre | ... | ... | 646-8570 |
| Surete du Quebec | ... | ... | 598-4242 |
| Kahnawake Peace Keepers | | | 632-6505 |

These numbers are for emergencies ONLY

magazines and/or on the internet. If you need further information, rules etc. for any of these contests' you may contact me at:

613-675-4715 or e-mail: ve3rm@rac.ca

January, 2000

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes | 1900Z Jan 22-0400Z Jan 24 |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW | 2200Z Jan 28 - 1600Z Jan 30 |
| REF Contest, CW | 0600Z Jan 29 - 1800Z Jan 30 |
| UBA Contest, Phone | 1300Z Jan 29 - 1300Z Jan 30 |

February, 2000

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Minnesota QSO Party | 1400Z - 2400Z Feb 5 |
| YL-OM Contest, CW | 1400Z Feb 5 -0200Z Feb 7 |
| North American Sprint, Phone | 0000Z -0400Z, Feb 6 |
| CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest | 0000Z Feb 12-2400Z Feb 13 |
| Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW | 1100Z-1300Z Feb 12 |
| Dutch PACC Contest | 1200Z Feb 12-1200Z Feb 13 |
| YL-OM Contest, SSB | 1400Z Feb 12-0200Z Feb 14 |
| North American Sprint, CW | 0000Z-0400Z Feb 13 |
| ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW | 0000Z Feb 19-2400Z Feb 20 |
| CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB | 2200Z Feb 25-1600Z Feb 27 |
| REF Contest, SSB | 0600Z Feb 26-1800Z Feb 27 |
| UBA Contest, CW | 1300Z Feb 26-1300Z Feb 27 |

March, 2000

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, Phone 0000Z Mar 4-2400Z Mar
5
Southern African HF Field Day 1000Z Mar 11-1000Z Mar
12
RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW 1200Z Mar 11
-
1200Z Mar
12
UBA Spring Contest, CW 0700Z-1100Z Mar
12
Bermuda Contest 0001Z Mar 18-2400Z Mar
19

73 de Don, VE3RM

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COMING EVENTS

**Feb 05
ON**

St Catherines

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club Big Event 22
Location: Canadian Auto Workers Hall, 124 Bunting
Road, St. Catharines, Ontario. Vendors 7:00 am Public
9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Admission \$6.00 Tables \$20.00
Talk-in VE3NRS 147.240 (+) Information: Joe, VE3NDX,
(905)-937-6208 or e-mail:Niagara Peninsula ARC

**Feb 26
ON**

Burlington

Burlington(Ontario) ARC 3rd Annual Spring Fleamarket.
Burlington, Ontario - Burlington ARC Inc. Location: -
Royal Canadian Legion, Legion Road. Vendors: 07:00
am General Admission: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Vendors:
\$10.00 per table + \$5.00 general admission per person;
General Admission: \$5.00 per person Talk-in VE3RSB -
147.210 / 444.825 (PL 131.8)

WWW page: <http://www.barc.burlington.on.ca/>

Information: Hugh McCully - VE3AYR (905) 333-0826
or E-mail: janus@bigwave.ca

**Feb 26
VT**

Milton

Vermont State Convention, Milton, Vermont Radio
Amateurs of Northern Vermont. Location: Milton High
School, Route 7, Milton, Vermont. Talk-in 145.150 (-).
On the day of the fleamarket, a beacon on 146.670 will
be on the air.

<http://www.ranv.together.com>

Information: Mitch Stern, W1SJ, 14 Kimberly Drive Essex

Junction, VT 05452 or (802)-879-6589

Email: w1sj@arrl.net

**Mar 25
ON**

Brampton

Hamex 2000 - Brampton, Ontario, Peel Region ARC
Location: The Brampton Fall Fairgrounds, Heart Lake Rd.
north of Mayfield Road. Vendors 7:00 am, Public 9am to
1:00 pm Admission: \$5.00 Talk-in 146.880(-) Tone 103.5
VE3PRC

Information: Jack Summers VA3JAK at (905)458-0002
or email va3jak@rac.ca or Bryan Weaver VE3TRJ at
(905)-452-9056

<http://www.peelarc.org/fleas.html>

**Apr 01
QC**

St Therese

Club Radio Amateur Laval-Laurentides, - VE2CRL -
More information to come. Contact ve2crl@videotron.ca
or:

<http://pages.infinit.net/ve2crl/> for more information.

April 15

Lasalle QC

Montreal Amateur Radio Club FleaMarket - LaSalle, QC.
Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 212 (LaSalle),
7771 Bouvier, corner of Shevchenko, LaSalle QC
Information: James R. Hay (514)-697-7205

or e-mail ve2arc@rac.ca Talk-in VE2RED 147.270 (+)

<http://www.marc.qc.ca/fest.html>

73 de Vern, VE2MBS

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SILENT KEYS

Fred Okimura, VE2GKJ - SK

I have learned about the recent passing of local
Amateur radio operator, Fred Yutaka Okimura. He passed
away on December 15, 1999 after suffering a stroke while
visiting his daughter in Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to being an amateur radio operator and
a member of the Montreal Amateur Radio Club, he was
also the past President of the Montreal Buddhist Church
and a volunteer and teacher at the Japanese Cultural Centre
of Montreal.

Fred was more than willing to help others in the
Japanese-Canadian community and will be missed by those
in the amateur radio as well as his church and the Japanese-

Canadian community.

Condolences go out to his Family on behalf of the Club.

73 de Vern, VE2MBS
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NEWS FROM RAC
Silent Key Register

A list of all known Canadian Radio Amateurs who are now deceased has been prepared for RAC by Carl Everson VE3BYX and his XYL Barbara. As the Silent Key list now contains over 3000 names, it is too big for the Silent Key web page. However the list is can be downloaded from the following web page:

<http://www.rac.ca/skindex.htm>

A sample list covering the period from 1927 to 1940 is shown on this page. The data comes from past issues of QST (back to 1927), QST Canada, TCA and other publications to prepare the SK information.

The lists are known to be incomplete - especially for Radio Amateurs who died during World War II. Please download and check for any errors or omissions. Please send additions or corrections to rachq@rac.ca

The information received will be added to the database at regular intervals.

This information comes from the RAC web page at: <http://www.rac.ca/skindex.htm>

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**US AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE RE-
ORGANIZATION**

Amateur Radio in the US will get a new look in this year. At the end of December the FCC issued its Report and Order in the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97, more commonly known as "license restructuring." The end result is that starting April 15, 2000, there will be three license classes--Technician, General, and Amateur Extra, and a single Morse code requirement, 5 WPM.

For those who are interested in more information a copy of the entire Report and Order (FCC 99-412) is available on the ARRL Web site in Adobe PDF format at: <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143ro.pdf>

or from the FCC Web site in plain text at http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/1999/db991230/fcc99412.txt.

This information comes from the ARRL web page: <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/>

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EMERGEX VI REPORT

Morning dawned cold and grey on Saturday the 13th of November as a prelude to a interesting day! Twenty members of CHARC, six visiting operators and nine representatives of the Municipalities of Hemmingford and Ormstown gathered at the Hemmingford Fire Hall to be briefed on the simulated disasters to be encountered on the exercise and the roles to be played by the participants during the day.

Previously in Ormstown, Madame Mayor Madeline Greig-Himbeault, who also acts as the Emergency Co-ordinator for the town, and Councillor Ken Dolphin had developed the scenario of a fire at the Franklin Tire Dump resulting in problems at the town well. The Village of Ormstown and some of the surrounding area would have to be evacuated due to the spread of toxic fumes from the fire. Appropriate messages were written to be given to the radio operators by representatives of the municipality during the course of the exercise.

At Hemmingford, a simulated situation was developed beforehand by Councillor Karl Kramell, Emergency Co-ordinator of Hemmingford, involving an accident between a tour bus and a tanker truck carrying unknown chemicals which had spilled. Casualties have to be rescued and evacuated along with residents of the township downwind of the spill. The Fire Department must deal with the spill and potential fire. Again, appropriate messages were prepared for the exercise by Karl with assistance from the Club.

Three networks were established for this exercise. Two meter VHF FM simplex nets served each municipality with 5 out-stations in each net. The stations were tactically located to co-ordinate Fire and Medical Services in the affected areas along with evacuation and vehicular traffic control on the roads. Ormstown also established a station at the well site on Rang de Dumas and Hemmingford set up a station at the Municipal Offices for co-ordinating the local evacuee shelter. The remaining two-point net was established on 70 cm FM simplex to link the two municipalities for mutual support.

This was the first time the Club exercised with representatives of these Municipalities. The radio operators were selected and assigned carefully for their experience on previous exercises and previously demonstrated capabilities to work in this environment. At the out-stations, experienced operators were paired with operators who had little or no previous experience with EMERGEX. The greener people learned the procedure and message handling process by following the example of the lead operator and by on-air practice.

The operators at the Ormstown control station were Gordon VE2FGL, Steven VA2SMF, and Alex VE2VEH all of whom distinguished themselves in this role. Jacques VE2CT acted as the radio supervisor for the Ormstown net and overcame the technical and training problems, that arose, in his usual diplomatic and unflappable manner. At the Hemmingford Control Station, Jim VE2DKK and Tom VE2TTT worked very hard and provided solid advice to the out-station operators when this was required. They were assisted from time to time by Mark VE2JT who was acting as net radio supervisor for Hemmingford.

The initial start-up for the exercise which involves netting up before moving to the assigned station locations suffered the usual delays and confusion until the radio operators remembered their previous training. This says something for more frequent practices, and not less training in net operations, as we would not want the emergency to be over before we were able to work effectively. During the debriefing, Ray VE2SJA suggested an informal net on a repeater from time to time to prevent rust from setting in between field exercises.

Once the out-stations arrived at their appointed locations, communications were quickly re-established in accordance with standard procedure. The messages started to flow from station to station as the municipal people issued them to the operators according to the timings suggested. Each of the planned messages had a pre-written reply which was issued once the original was received. Some extra messages, invented on the spot by the municipal reps, were also introduced and handled very well along with suitable replies.

By the way, it should be noted that out-stations were equipped only with hand-held radios. Antennas other than rubber duckies were encouraged but were not always available. Not all had access to 12 volt power supplies and had to operate off their NiCd or NiMH battery packs. This radio equipment was selected for this exercise, as it is recognized that nearly all operators own such radios and that this would be the most likely equipment to be available

at the time of call-up in a real situation. To the credit of the operators, very few problems occurred and those that did were solved quickly at the out-stations. There were two operators at each out-station and both had brought their HT.

Repeaters are not always available, as we have found out in the past. EMERGEX exercises are designed to test worst cases and train the participants in a realistic manner to meet this challenge. This "worst case" concept is accepted by the two municipalities with whom we have agreements. Hydro Power and the telecommunications infra-structure may not be available in an emergency.

At the end of the exercise, Councillor Ken Dolphin from Ormstown, who was posted to evacuation control at Landreville with Fred VE2CHZ and Andrew VE2DNN, felt that the municipal people had learned much better how to work with the radio operators in support of disaster relief and recovery. Councilor Karl Kramell observed that some of the priority messages took too long a time to clear the system. This problem will be addressed by the Club Emergency Committee headed by Garry VA2GLB.

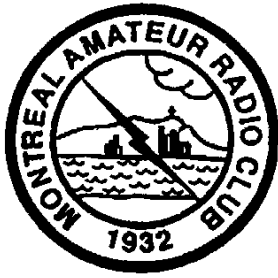
At this point, we must not fail to mention the other amateurs on EMERGEX VI who did a fine job. From CHARC we have; Kristan AAISK, who welcomed the chance to practice French at Dewittville, Eric N1SRC, Mercy N1YTY, Eric VA2GES, Mireille VA2MIM, Jeannie VA2SEY, Fred VE2CHZ, Maurice VE2DFF, Ken VE2KLF, and Mike VE2MGF. From other clubs we had: Jeff N1YTY, Andrew VE2DNN, Frank VE2LNZ, and Frank VE2TOR, who is a veteran of EMERGEX II.

In closing, EMERGEX VI met all of its objectives and was recognized as an excellent learning experience by all who participated, without exception. Both municipalities are game to try again, possibly in the Spring, while most of the amateur radio operators present indicated their interest in another go for EMERGEX VII! In order to retain the essentials and be prepared, we hope that all operators will try their utmost to use the procedure prowords, that are appropriate, in their everyday radio activities. These used to be the norm not too long ago so one should not be shy about setting a good example every day! Furthermore, these simple procedure items will not be forgotten when they are needed, if they are practiced frequently.

73 de Gordon VA2BGT and Mark VE2JT

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SCANNERS HEAR IT FIRST



Hamfest

Montréal Amateur Radio Club

Amateur Radio Flea Market

Saturday April 15, 2000

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 212

7771 Bouvier, Lasalle QC

Information and Reservations

Jim HAY 514-697-7205

E-mail: jrhay@haya.qc.ca <http://www.marc.qc.ca>

Volunteers are required to help with this year's event. Please contact Jim Hay for more details.

BY FREDERICK HART VE2LSQ

Hey, I made it!!!, I guess I was Y2K compliant after all.... and the good news is, so are you. Happy New Year to all, much hope and prosperity to you and your families. The cats give a two paws up to you also. The transition from 99 to 2 triple zero was an interesting one on the listening side of things.

The Montreal Urban Community (MUC) had been running a regular roll call of the Municipalities and other emergency related services in the MUC with the new EDACS system and they were also giving Y2K updates on the same system (temporary or permanent?). The Montreal Urban Community police (not slated to go there until 2003) were up on EDACS as well. Some of the cities in the MUC were also using EDACS radios as a backup to their existing radio systems for the Y2K transition period. We now are waiting to hear the crying when the the costs for radio, and double the personnel, etc. come in after January 1.

The Ham radio airwaves were active and on alert if required with several nets and a lot of people standing by. I was on standby for the Montreal Amateur Radio Club with Jim, VE2VE and Vernon, VE2MBS if the City of Pointe Claire or the Red Cross needed our help radio-wise (but at midnight my spirit was off hugging my punkin).

The midnight greetings on 412.7625 (Montreal Fire Dept Dispatch channel) was not as funny as in past years but a few caught my ears to bring a smile. So in all, things went down with out a hitch (so the end of civilization as we know it will happen much later I guess).

The start of the new year has been busy for Urgence Sante putting extra units into service but still having 35 minute run times on priority 1 calls. I have heard the Ericsson radios at Urgences Sante will soon be housed aboard new Wheeled Coach modular ambulance units (from Florida) with 25 to be delivered by March 2000 and all 100 by October 2000. Unfortunately they will still be Yellow so a new year with lots of new toys to play with around town and the airwaves are keeping the hobby alive. Pointe Claire Fire/EMS is still (as we go to press) on 412.1875. The Ericsson system is in place and Pointe Claire should be moving to it soon. A profile will follow in the coming months when we will demystify the goings on with EDACS. Lots of changes makes a good challenge (and Jim is now resolved to pulling his beard out).

Just prior to December 31st, a major train wreck near Mont Ste. Hilare had a lot of of us listening to the CN police on 160.575 with some very detailed reports as this incident evolved. There is something about a constable giving a on scene account over the air as multiple explosions occurred in the background. Luckily not an