

marcOgram

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



Volume 47, Number 1

September 2001

“NEAR VERTICAL INCIDENCE PROPAGATION”

Wednesday September 26 2001, Ragchew 19:30, Meeting 20:00

St. Thomas Anglican Church, Corner of Summerled & Rosedale, Montreal
Please use side entrance

John Grow, VE2EQL, will be giving a talk on near vertical incidence propagation. John intends to discuss both the propagation phenomenon as well as its applications particularly for emergency communications.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello,

Summer is drawing to a close and its time for the Club to start its next season of activities. This year will be a special year for MARC as 2002 will be the 70th anniversary of the founding of the club. At the September meeting I would like to discuss what special activities the membership would like to see take place to mark the occasion.

Some of you may have noticed, during the summer, that the sensitivity of the VE2BG repeater is not quite what it should be. We are aware of the problem but its repair will require taking the repeater off the air for a few days to retune the duplexer. If we can we will try to find a way to keep the repeater on the air even if it is with reduced coverage.

Two projects which the club has been working on

this summer are the stations at the MAB and the Red Cross. We have just been advised that the base for the tower at the MAB is now curing. We have every expectation that the tower and antennas should be back in service in good time for the Sweepstakes in November.

At the Red Cross the hf dipoles have been installed and we are awaiting the arrival of additional coaxial cable for the VHF/UHF antenna. Once the additional cable arrives we will finish the installation and get the station set up for proper operation. This project has taken over two years to complete and during that time the station location has also moved which is why we need the extra cable.

We are now starting a new membership year and we would appreciate it if you would all renew your membership early.

This month promises to be an interesting talk and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

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.

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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.

VE2RJS 449.975 MHz(-)
 Owned by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club and operated by the Cote St. Luc Amateur Radio Association. 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.

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Montreal Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held at St. Thomas Anglican Church, corner of Somerled and Rosedale, in the City of Montreal on Wednesday, October 31st. at eight o'clock in the evening.

The meeting is called to:

- Receive and if thought fit, approve the reports of the officers,
- Receive, and if thought fit, approve the report of the auditor,
- Elect a President and elect the other executive positions for the ensuing year,
- Elect the remaining Board of Directors for the ensuing year,
- Transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Given at Montreal this 16th day of September, 2001.

(sgd) Sheldon Werner
 Sheldon Werner, VA2SH
 Secretary.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Craig's work schedule did not permit him to work on this issue of the MarcOgram but he'll be back in the editor's chair next month.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

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CONTEST CALENDAR

Lots of contests coming up and lots of DX to be worked. Try some of the below. You will be able to work those rare ones and/or determine how efficient and reliable your station is.

In CQ World-Wide SSB, VE3RM will be a Multi Operator entry. If you are interested in coming out to operate or just to observe Oct 27/28, please let me know. Talk to me at the meeting, call me at 613-675-4715 or e-mail to ve3rm@rac.ca

More on contests including full rules can be found on the internet. Check: <http://home.sol.no/~janalme/hammain.html> or <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> This one has concise rules etc., for the current week's contests.

September, 2001

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---|--------------|
| Scandinavian Contest, SSB | 1200Z Sep 22 | - | 1200Z Sep 23 |
| Texas QSO Party | 1400Z Sep 29 | - | 0200Z Sep 30 |
| | and 1400Z | - | 2000Z Sep 30 |
| Alabama QSO Party | 1800Z | - | 2400Z Sep 29 |

October, 2001

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------|
| Oceania DX Contest, Phone | 0800Z Oct 6 | - | 0800Z Oct 7 |
| California QSO Party | 1600Z Oct 6 | - | 2200Z Oct 7 |
| QCWA QSO Party | 1900Z Oct 6 | - | 1900Z Oct 7 |
| RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB | 0700Z | - | 1900Z Oct 7 |
| Oceania DX Contest, CW | 0800Z Oct 13 | - | 0800Z Oct 14 |
| Pennsylvania QSO Party | 1600Z Oct 13 | - | 0500Z Oct 14 |
| | and 1300Z | - | 2200Z Oct 14 |
| Worked All Germany Contest | 1500Z Oct 20 | - | 1459Z Oct 21 |
| RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW | 0700Z | - | 1900Z Oct 21 |
| CQ WorldWide DX Contest,SSB | 0000Z Oct 27-2400Z | - | Oct 28 |

November, 2001

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------|
| ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW | 2100Z Nov 3-0300Z | - | Nov 5 |
| Japan Int. DX Contest, Phone | 2300Z Nov 9-2300Z | - | Nov 11 |
| ARRL Sweepstakes,SSB | 2100Z Nov 17-0300Z | - | Nov 19 |
| CQ Worldwide DX, CW | 0000Z Nov 24-2400Z | - | Nov 25 |

December, 2001

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------|
| ARRL 160-Meter Contest | 2200Z Dec 7 | - | 1600Z Dec 9 |
| ARRL 10-Meter Contest | 0000Z Dec 15 | - | 2400Z Dec 16 |
| RAC Winter Contest | 0000Z | - | 2400Z Dec 29 |
| Stew Perry Topband Challenge | 1500Z Dec 29-1500Z | - | Dec 30 |

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COMING EVENTS

For up to date Canadian Fleamarket listings, please

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Montreal 911 Centre | ... | .. 514-280-2121 |
| Laval 911 Centre | ... | ...450-662-4240 |
| Longueuil 911 Centre | ... | ...450-646-8570 |
| Sûreté du Québec | ... | ... 310-4141 |
| Kahnawake Peace Keepers | | 450-632-6505 |

These numbers are for emergencies ONLY

check the Radio Amateurs of Canada site at:

<http://rac.eton.ca/>

or for up to date American listings, go to the American Radio Relay League Hamfest website at:

<http://www.arrrl.org/hamfest.html>

Saturday, Sept. 29

**Hamfest Centre du Queacute;bec
Drummondville, Québec - Club radioamateurs de
Drummondville Inc.**

**Location: College St. Bernard - 25 Rue des
Freres**

**Vendors - 07h00 Public 09h00 - 14h00 Admission
5.00\$ Tables 10.00\$**

**Talk-in 146.625 (-) VE2CRD / Information and
Reservations: Jacques Généreux VE2WJG at
(819) 478-2847.**

E-Mail: jacques@9bit.qc.ca

Web Page: <http://www.9bit.qc.ca/~ve2crd>

Saturday, October 13

**NNYARA Hamfest and Computer Show - Lake
Placid, New York**

**Northern New York Amateur Radio Association
Location: Horse Show Grounds Route 73, Lake
Placid, NY**

**Vendors: Friday Oct 12 17:00 to Saturday Oct
13 08:00**

Public: Sat. Oct 13, 08:00 to 16:00

Admission: Early Bird \$3.00, Gate \$4.00

Talk-in: N2JKG 145.110 -

**Information - Tom Dick, KF2GC 4 Jenkins
Avenue, Saranac Lake, NY, 12983 518-891-0508**

**E-mail kf2gc@arrrl.org or [http://
www.geocities.com/nyyara](http://www.geocities.com/nyyara)**

Saturday, October 13

**Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Annual
Fleamarket - Ancaster, Ontario**

Location: Marritt Hall - Ancaster Fair Grounds - Rymal Road, (Highway 53,) Ancaster, between Southcote Road and Kittymurry Lane.
Vendors 07:00 Public 09:00 to 14:00 Admission \$5 Tables \$10
Talk-in VE3NCF 146.760 (-) Information Mardy Eedson VE3QEE 905-648-0187
or 657 Tomahawk Crescent, Ancaster, Ont. L9G 3N2 E-mail ve3qee@rac.ca or the WWW at http://www.hwc.org/link/radio

Saturday, October 27, 2001
South Shore ARC Hamfest - Longueuil, Québec
Location: Place Desaulniers, Corner of Taschereau and Desaulniers, Longueuil, Qc Time: Vendors 06:00 Public 09:00 - Admission: 5.00\$ Tables: 10.00\$
Talk-in: VE2RSM 145.390 (-) - Tables or Information: Francois Drein, VE2FDA at (450)-672-9994
e-mail: ve2clm@amsat.org
Web Page: http://www.cam.org/~ve2clm/hamfesta.htm

Saturday, October 27
York Region Hamfest 2001 - Markham, Ontario
Location: Markham Fairgrounds - McCowan Road at Elgin Mills Road East, Markham
Vendors 06h30 Public 09h00 to 14h00. Admission \$5.00
Talk-in VE3YRA 145.350 (-) - Information: York Region Amateur Radio Club, c/o Hamfest Co-ordinator Jan Gibson, Box 28590, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6S6
E-mail: YRARC_HAMFEST@hotmail.com
Web page: http://www.yrarc.on.ca/fallfest.htm

A reminder - if you have web access you can also check the list of hamfests on the club's web page at:
<http://www.marc.qc.ca/festcal.html>

73 de Vernon Erle Ikeda, VE2MBS
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GO-FOR-GUIDE-DOGS WALK-A-THON

The Annual Go-For-Guide-Dogs Walkathon at the Morgan Arboretum was held on September 16, 2001. The following amateurs participated in the event.

Raymond Faguy, VE2SJA
Steven Faguy, VA2SMF
James Hay, VE2VE
Margaret Dawson, VE2DXA
Ken Magee, VE2EXC
Gillian Magee, VE2EXX
Dave Melanson, VE2MPD
Andy Beard, VE2DWT
Steven Donovan, VE2OCT
Francois Dagineault, VE2AAY
Dan Cullen, VE2JMF
Sheldon Werner, VA2SH
Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS
Howard Ikeda
Earl Paris, VE2ESP

Also present with the group were Arnold Aranoff, Sue Beard and Lucie Faguy. Thank you all for your help.

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FIELD DAY 2001



Last year's MARC Field Day location had many advantages. Quiet (both AF and RF), easily accessible with vehicles, and it provided just about a perfect landscape for Field Day operations. But it had one small caveat: it wasn't in a very public place, and not many people wanted to visit.

This year I mandated myself with finding a better, more public place to hold Field Day. After looking at a number of options, the club decided on the field outside the Pointe-Claire fire station on St. John's Blvd. which although it wasn't quite what we had in mind, turned out to be quite useful for us.

But what I didn't expect quite as much this year was the support we had received from hams and organizations which really made it a success. The City of Pointe-Claire was extremely

co-operative with giving us the needed space for the weekend, compared with the City of Montreal who required unbelievable amounts of paperwork. Meanwhile, I received a call from John Grow, VE2EQL, saying that we could borrow an army tent from the 712 Communications Squadron for the weekend. Needless to say I was surprised by this, as all we had last year were some tarps and screen houses.

But the organization that put up the most impressive show for us was the Pointe-Claire Fire Department, who not only agreed to let us use their facilities, tables and chairs, but even offered to install our tower for us, using their aerial truck!

Setup was quite simple this year, thanks to the Fire Department and the record number of setup volunteer hams who came to help us. Operation went fairly well, although we had some technical glitches. Fortunately the three stations were running smoothly, thanks in no small part to Don Dashney, VE3RM, who brought most of them from home. The only big technical problem as we found out later on Saturday was a bad connection on the PL-259 shield of the club's G5RV antenna. A few gobs of solder fixed that up, at least temporarily. Let this be a lesson to those wanting to attach a round connector to stiff ladderline!

This year we ran as 2A with one station running a TS-950SD with 150W on 10/15/20 on the club's Cushcraft A4 tri-band beam, a second station running a TS-870s with 100W on 40/80 on the club's G5RV, which thanks to the fire department was affixed to a guyed ladder. (All this strange-looking setup made for an interesting view from St. John's Blvd.) Finally, our six-metre (100W IC-575H) and two-metre (FM mobile) VHF station ran off two 3-element beams courtesy of Ray Faguy, VE2SJA, and John Grow, VE2EQL, respectively.

In the end, we made 1119 QSOs for a total of 3158 points. Thanks to all the hams who came by to help: VA2SH,



Now this is how you put up an antenna!

VA2SMF, VE2BAB, VE2DWT, VE2EQL, VE2KRZ, VE2MBS, VE2PPF, VE2SJA, VE2TOR, VE2VEH, VE2XB, VE2YGK, VE3RM, and VE3WIB.

Special thanks to Wade Bates VE3WIB, John Grow, VE2EQL, Don Dashney, VE3RM, Ray Faguy, VE2SJA, Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS, Jim Hay, VE2VE, Andy Beard, VE2DWT, and all the other hams who came and operated during Field Day.

73 de VA2SMF



Our helpers from the Pointe-Claire Fire Department

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CANADA DAY 2001

This year the club again assisted with the Canada Day celebrations in Dorval. Postponement of the festivities to July 2 because of the weather caused a few complications but the event went well. Due to the change of date the planned use of VC2A was not possible however we did receive permission to use VA2RAC. HF band conditions were not the best so not many contacts were made but passers by did show interest in our activities. As usual we



also provided communications around the park including providing safety communications for the canoe race.

Thanks to Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS, and Steven Faguy, VA2SMF who oversaw the event while I had to meet other commitments and also to Raymond Faguy, VE2SJA, Ken Fraser, VE2KLF and Normand Pitre, VE2NHH who all helped with the set-up and teardown. Thanks also to the others who assisted in operating the station I apologise that I cannot find the list to name you..

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MARC FOX HUNT 2001

The second annual MARC foxhunt took place on August 11th this year. With warm weather and clear skies, the four teams gathered around the homing beacon testing their direction-finding equipment: Jacques Brodeur VE2EMM (with wife Yolande), who was gracious enough to allow us use of the foxes, came with the standard tape-measure special. This antenna features three elements made from metal tape measure, mounted on a PVC tube boom. One of the best antennas for direction finding, it has a low weight, is not easily damaged (the tape merely bounces back into position) and most of all is quite cheap to create and repair.

Réal Martel, VE2DSK, who was part of the first place team at last year's foxhunt, also went with the tape measure route. Meanwhile, Dave Ward, VE3BIP, from Belleville, Ontario, used the foxhunt as an excuse to take a short trip to Montreal. He brought along a stranger-looking beast with two elements close together. Dave's foxhunter was a two-element tape measure beam, which made it more portable although slightly less effective.

Finally, with the stranger antenna of the bunch, Andy Foot, VE2DNN, who paired up with Francois Daigneault, VE2AAY, before the hunt, brought along a two-element quad antenna for the journey. Unlike his three competitors who were using active (frequency-shift) attenuators, Andy and Francois only had a passive attenuator to help them. This kind of device causes problems in close-range direction-finding because the signal from the transmitter can get directly into the radio. But what they lost in flashy equipment they made up for in sheer determination to find those five transmitters.

The hunt itself was rather fun and mostly without problems. The four teams had as their mission to find five phone-book-sized foxhunt transmitters within the limits of Pointe Claire's Terra Cotta Park. Each transmitter would transmit for one minute on 2m FM, identifying their foxhunt number using morse code. With five transmitters, each would operate on a synchronized cycle of five minutes. Or at least that was the plan. Due to a technical problem which we later attributed to an accidental timing reset, transmitters 3 and 4 would transmit simultaneously during the cycle. Needless to say this made the hunt much more difficult. But not too difficult for our teams, all

four of which found both transmitters eventually.

In fact, only one team didn't locate all five transmitters, and it was a matter of being physically tired more than not being able to find it. The other three teams found all the transmitters and returned well before the three-hour time limit.

Results:

- 1. Dave Ward, VE3BIP 5 / 1h 32min
- 2. Real Martel, VE2DSK 5 / 2h 10min
- 3. Andy Foot, VE2DNN & Francois Daigneault, VE2AAY 5 / 2h 18min
- 4. Jacques Brodeur, VE2EMM, & Yolande 4 / 1h 29min

Most Original ARDF Technique: Jacques Brodeur, VE2EMM.

Special thanks to Jacques Brodeur for the use of the transmitters for the hunt (needless to say we couldn't have done it without him), the City of Pointe-Claire for allowing us the use of Terra Cotta park for the day, and finally to all the participants who came down to practice their direction-finding skills.

73 de va2smf

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SCANNERS HEAR IT FIRST

BY FREDERICK HART, VE2LS AND A Q

Hey, guess what?, It's September and we're back! I'm hoping the summer was safe and it was an enjoyable one for you and your's. It was tad too hot for my liking.... Scanning has been very active in the last few month's and and just this month alone the radio chatter has been at a high. No matter what happened here, it can't hold a match to the frequencies of the Fire Department of New York (FDNY). With the twin tower disaster on the 11th day of the 9th month (reverse the order of the day and month and you get 9-11). Ironic, isn't it.... I was able to hear the radio traffic via internet and on the news reports as emergency crews were being filmed. Radio traffic was unbelievable and incessant. I hope never to see the day of a repeat incident there or here in Montreal. I've attended scenes of major incidents here as an Ambulance Technician in this area but what happened in manhattan really boggles the mind. Mass Chaos and too lose a few hundred of your fellow first-in crews is heart wrenching. The Critical Incident Stress Syndrome is going to hit hard in the next few days big time for the many of thousands of those on-scene.

I tuned into the FDNY on-scene frequency on the phone for about twnty minutes and could not beleive the mayhem on the radio. It would be megatime for those emergency crews to settle their minds and focus on other events. My hat goes off to allof them for the task they endure and condolences to the crew's families that were lost in the battle. They don't call them New York's Bravest for nothing. Here in town on Labour Day weekend, brought us a Mass Casualty Incident at the Berri-

UQAM metro station. 412.7625 - Montreal Fire Department (SPIM) and Urgences Sante (US) talkgroup 02-087 were both a flurry of activity to tirage, treat and transport 250 casualties on scene. It was the largest Mass Casualty Incident since the formation of the US System. There was good listening as first-infire crews requested up to three alarms worth of backups and hazmat decontamination units and US brought in most of its on duty fleet plus support vehicles and command post units to coordinate. All went well and it made for some interesting monitoring (Again I don't wish these incidents on anyone but to listen in when they do occur is intriguing). Also the Montreal Fire Department is having problems with their new Motorola Trunking system in digital mode and I have learned through credible sources inside the department that they will be going analog in the near future. 412.7625 is still audible as it is simulcasting traffic from the 800 MHz trunking system.

Listening tips

While monitoring simulcast of the the new trunking system on 412.7625, you will here each incident being assigned it's own talkgroup being given out as C-1 to C-15. The two simplex groups are B1 and B-2 Main dispatch is referred to "A-14". As crews are given their call while en-route, they will be assigned a talkgroup in the C-1 to C-15 talkgroup to operate fireground. The last unit to leave the scene will request the the dispatch to liberate the talkgroup when they leave the scene.

Earfuls heard

412.5125 Regie Lasalle-Verdun In our ears again with a major structure fire in a three storey row housing in the 3500 block of Evelyn in Verdun. Bring in all nine WI Mutual Aid cities and the appearance of five pumps, one ladder and three chiefs from SPIM. Heavy fire from the start had 412.5125 and 159.450 hopping.

412.8375 Chateauguay Fire Department played host to multiple towns at major incidents recently. The first was a residential/commercial building and the second was a lumberyard complex. 412.9625 was also busy (Kahnawake Fire Birgade) as they also attended both fires with their crews.

I've been advised by Sheldon Harvey of Radio HF that the new Haruteq Scanner Book by Bart Veerman is out. Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes are combined in one book. Give him a call to get yours soon (see ad at the back of the MarcOgram).

That's all for this month, get an earful when you can. Have fun programming those new trunktrackers.

73 de Fred et les Chats.

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CLASSIFIED

DEADLINE for classified ads is the second Wednesday before the monthly meeting.

For Sale

1. **Kenwood TS940SAT HF Transceiver** with auto antenna tuner and voice frequency readout. Updated firmware allows the 40 memories to be automatically usable as 40 VFO's. i.e. when you go to a memory you can then use the dial just like a regular vfo.

\$1450 (Close offer will be considered)

2. **Daiwa Model 620**, cross-needle HF Power/SWR meter \$ 65.00

Call VE2QL, Bill Letovsky at 514-488-2622 or e-mail to: bletovsky@yahoo.com

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Steven Donovan, VE2OCT, at Field Day



Steven Faguy, VA2SMF, at Field Day

RADIO HF