

marc0gram



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

A MARC Monthly Newsletter

Volume 55, Number 02 October 2009

Next meeting - Wednesday 28, October 2009

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30, Club meeting: 20:00

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

4455 West Broadway (corner of Terrebonne) in N.D.G. - Montreal

Please enter by the back door)



A Word from The President

Hello,

Fall is definitely here and winter won't be too long in coming I'm afraid. The Christmas dinner is planned for Dec. 5 at Antico Martini and we will have the details for you at the meeting. This will be our AGM so I hope that you'll be there to offer direction to the board for the coming year.

While on the subject of the AGM I would like to thank Steve Fell, VE2SWC who is retiring from the board this year. His participation and contribution have been appreciated and we will miss him. The remaining directors have expressed their willingness to stand for re-election and their continued efforts are also greatly appreciated.

I hope to see you all at the meeting.

73 de Jim.

DIRECTORS

President: James R. Hay, VE2VE
514-697-7205

jrhay@HayA.qc.ca

Vice President: V Sheldon Werner, VA2SH

sheldonm.werner@mac.com

Secretary: George C Hedrei, VE2NGH

ve2ngh@marc.ca

Treasurer: Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS
514-684-7944

ve2mbs@rac.ca

Directors:

Craig Brander, VE2YGK
craigyul@total.net

Earl Paris, VE2ESP 514-524-4633
ve2esp@marc.ca

Steven Fell, VE2SWC
ve2swc@marc.ca

Ron Campbell, VA2RJC

va2rjc@videotron.ca

Paul MacDougall, VA2YQ

mapletree@vsn.ca

Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

Club Website: <http://www.marc.qc.ca>

Club Email: ve2arc@rac.ca

Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located on the Point Claire water tower.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur radio Club.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to any member to attend. Board meetings are held on 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.

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

Ron Campbell, VA2RJC
va2rjc@videotron.ca

Tel: 514-767-2804

Assistant Editor

Sheldon Werner, VA2SH
sheldonm.werner@mac.com

Annual Fees are:

General Members...	\$25.00
Associate Members	\$25.00
White cane members	\$15.00
Family members (per family)	\$30.00

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31.
Membership received on or after June

1 commences immediately and extends through the subsequent membership year - covering a period of up to fifteen months.

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Club Activities - Monthly Meetings

Club meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month. The meetings will be held in the Lounge which is the rearmost door on the South side of the building unless we have reason to hold it in the Parish Hall which is the first door on the South side of the building. An informal flea-market and ragchew session starts at 19:30 with the formal meeting starting at 20:00. STM buses 51, 162, and 105 stop-

From the Editor's Desk

Well that time of the year is here where we go rushing down to the basement or wherever and bring up some of our winter garments and if your like me, I tend to pick all the wrong items - so much for decision making.

The one ARRL item that really caught my attention was the piece about the ARES members of the Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club, Inc (CVARC) providing health and welfare communications for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Bike Tour. The item comments that the event organizers tried to use their ten Motorola Satellite phones (SAT's), local ambulance service radio systems, and cell phones of every variety and provider available. Apparently none were of any use for the majority of the route! The only consistently reliable communications for the entire route was provided by Amateur Radio. There was not one quarter mile that the Medical Supervisor was not able to

communicate with the various rest stops and overall tour supervisor.

Well, I must say all this sounds very familiar, Any of you who provided assistance to any of the Jay Vermont-Marathons will understand. What this type of exercise really proves is that disasters are not planned, they can happen anywhere and commercial communications, may just not perform as expected. Our congratulations to those Vermont radio amateurs who supported this event.

A further item of interest in this issue is the "Emergency Measures and Operating Changes - Quebec," on page 6.

That's it -
Your editor..
Rjcam the Video-n-Podcast Ham,
VA2RJC

ARRL NEWS

Vermont ARES Supports JDRF Bike Tour

On August 29, ARES members of the Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club, Inc (CVARC) provided health and welfare communications for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Bike Tour. The tour covered one hundred miles over difficult terrain on a cold rainy day. It was hard on the riders and VHF communications were difficult. Many of the riders either have diabetes, or have family members that suffer from it. However, the majority of the riders persevered, riding the entire 100 miles. The youngest operator (16) Chris Craig, K1MHZ, ran a professional net as alternate NCS.

The route took riders up the Rt. 100 valley from Killington to Waitsfield, and back, with the event organizers trying to use their ten Motorola Satellite phones (SAT's), local ambulance service radio systems, and cell phones of every variety and provider available. None were of any use for the majority of the route! The only consis-

tently reliable communications for the entire route was provided by Amateur Radio. There was not one quarter mile that the Medical Supervisor was not able to communicate with the various rest stops and overall tour supervisor.

Over \$1.3 M was raised by the tour for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (over \$4,000 each participant, on average), the most raised for any of their numerous events throughout the country. There were no serious medical incidents. All of the most necessary information for the event was passed via Amateur Radio. Many thanks to all who helped make communications for the event a success. -- Tom Long, KB1NGQ, Waterbury Center, Vermont

GAREC 2009 Summary

Officials from the [IARU](#) and all three IARU regions, national IARU Member-Societies and specialized Amateur Radio emergency communications groups from around the globe gathered in Tokyo on August 24-25 for the Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference ([GAREC 2009](#)). Hosted by the Japan Amateur Radio League ([JARL](#)), GAREC was held in conjunction with [Ham Fair](#). More than 30 participants considered the statements from past GAREC conferences -- GAREC 05 (Tampere, Finland), GAREC 06 (Tampere, Finland), GAREC 07 (Huntsville, Alabama, USA) and GAREC 08 (Friedrichshafen, Germany) -- discussing the progress made on the implementation of the recommendations, and looking at recent experiences from exercises and actual emergency operations.

While GAREC is not a decision-making body, delegates made note of the relationships between the Amateur Service and organizations that are engaged in public protection and disaster relief, in particular the formal agreements and understandings that exist between the IARU and the United Nations, the International Telecommunication Union ([ITU](#)), and the Interna-

tional Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies ([IFRC](#)). They also looked at reports on recent emergency communications operations, specifically the earthquake disaster relief operations in Japan in 1995, China in 2008 and Italy in 2009, as well as the 2009 Australian bushfires. Delegates also took into account the reports on Global SETs, Center of Activity Frequencies, Automatic Link Establishment ([ALE](#)) and emergency communications across international borders.

GAREC delegates requested that the ITU "continue to support the activities of IARU in facilitating the role of the Amateur Radio Service in emergency communications by fully implementing the provisions of Radio Regulations (RR) [Article 25](#) . . ." The part of Article 25 concerning Emergency Communications states: "Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction" (RR 25.3), and "Administrations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief" (RR 25.9A).

GAREC also wants the ITU to "continue to study the possibilities for the introduction of an International Amateur Radio License facilitating the work of Amateur Radio Service in international assistance and related training activities."

GAREC appealed to all of the IARU Member-Societies, as well as specialized emergency communications groups, to do the following:

--To establish close working relationships between the National IARU Member-Society and independent specialized Amateur Radio emergency communications groups in the respective countries, as well as to cooperate internationally.

--To request their national regulatory authorities implement the modifications to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations, particularly the regulations governing third-party traffic during emergencies and during training for emergency operations.

--To provide training in emergency communications to as many amateurs as possible in their respective countries, with particular emphasis on personal and logistical preparedness, psychological aspects of entering a disaster area, familiarity with the civil protection system in their country, communications techniques of particular value in emergencies and remembering that the skills developed in the amateur service can be of great benefit to disaster relief organizations in maintaining and operating their own telecommunications networks.

--Whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, Web sites, social networking and DX clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to ongoing emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic.

--To use their contacts with national regulatory authorities to encourage the accession to and implementation of the [Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations](#). To date, [37 countries](#) have adopted Tampere.

--To support the work of the IARU on an international Emergency Communications Handbook and to provide copies of existing agreements with institutional partners in emergency response, as well as copies of emergency communication guidelines, manuals and checklists developed for national or local use as inputs to this work.

--To work toward the implementation of Memoranda of Understanding es-

tablished between the IARU and ITU, IFRC, and the United Nations by seeking cooperation with the respective national institutions and organizations in their country.

--To continuously improve their awareness of the mission, vision and values of served agencies.

--To represent themselves as a human and technical resource able and willing to investigate the communication requirements of served agencies, offer recommendations when asked, and facilitate emergency communications when required.

GAREC called on the IARU to encourage its national IARU Member-Societies to "actively support the mission of Amateur Radio as an emergency communications resource." In the official GAREC Statement, delegates also stated that they would like to see the IARU support the following: The implementation of Article 25, the ongoing work toward an International Amateur Radio License, and the work and publication of the IARU Emergency Communications Handbook.

With respect to governments and telecommunication administrations, the conference would like these bodies to encourage joint training activities and exercises of Amateur Radio emergency communications groups and institutional providers of emergency response. Delegates recommend that GAREC conferences should continue to be held in locations throughout the world, maintaining the character of GAREC as an informal meeting among representatives of IARU Member-Societies and of Amateur Radio emergency communications groups, "serving as a forum for the exchange of experience and as an advisory body for the work on emergency communications of the IARU."

International: IARU Administrative Council Adopts Preliminary WRC-12 Positions

The Administrative Council (AC) of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its annual meeting on October 17-18, 2009 in Christchurch, New Zealand and took 16 actions. Attending the Christchurch

meeting were IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD; regional representatives Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T; Dennis Green, ZS4BS; Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK; Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA; Michael Owen, VK3KI; Shizuo Endo, JE1MUI; Peter Lake, ZL2AZ, and recording secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. The next scheduled in-person meeting of the AC will be held in the vicinity of San Salvador, El Salvador in conjunction with the Region 2 Conference in October 2010. The officers will investigate holding a Web-based "virtual meeting" early in 2010. Click [here](#) for more information.

Tad "Dance, and Provencal song, and sunburnt mirth" Cook, K7RA, this week reports:

Sunspot group 1028 emerged for only a few hours on Tuesday. This is another one of those phantom spots that briefly appears, only to vanish, teasing us with hints of an increase in activity that never seems to come.

Along with the quiet Sun, we are still seeing extremely quiet geomagnetic indices, a nice upside to the lack of solar activity. Solar flux until the end



of this month is expected to be around 72. The average solar flux for this week was 70.6, up 0.7 points from 69.9 the week before. For more information concerning radio propagation,



visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#). This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' [Ode to a Nightingale](#)

Did You Know? WWV and WWVH

Today, most amateurs know that radio stations WWV and WWVH broadcast time and frequency information 24 hours a day, seven days a week to millions of listeners worldwide. Administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), WWV is located in Fort Collins, Colorado, about 60 miles north of Denver; WWVH is located on the Island of Kauai, Hawaii on a 30 acre site near Kekaha at Kokole Point. Both stations broadcast information that includes time announcements, standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a BCD time code, geophysical alerts, marine storm warnings and Global Positioning System (GPS) status reports. Most hams today think of WWV and WWVH as "time stations." According to QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, that's only half-true: they are really time and frequency stations. "The time signals that you hear are regulated by an atomic clock that uses the oscillations of Cesium atoms as its standard -- 9,192,631,770 oscillations equal 1 second," wrote Ford in the June 1994

issue of QST. Click [here](#) to discover this part of Amateur Radio history.

Amateur Radio in Space: SumbandilaSat Now OSCAR 67

The South African Amateur Radio satellite [SumbandilaSat](#) has been officially designated SumbandilaSat-OSCAR 67, or simply OSCAR 67. Last weekend, the satellite was successfully activated and tested with a number of contacts made through its transponder, but it is not yet open for routine use. The satellite was launched from the [Baikonur Cosmodrome](#) in Kazakhstan on September 17. The main payload is a multi-spectral imager, but the satellite also carries an Amateur Radio component consisting of a 2 meter/70 cm FM repeater. After SumbandilaSat is fully commissioned, the repeater will be activated with an uplink at 145.880 MHz and a downlink at 435.350 MHz; there will also be a voice beacon at 435.300 MHz. The transponder mode will be controlled by a CTCSS tone on the uplink frequency. SumbandilaSat was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and was built at [SunSpace](#) in cooperation with the [Stellenbosch University](#). In addition to the SA-AMSAT amateur module, the satellite carries Stellenbosch University's radiation experiment and software defined radio (SDR) project, an experiment from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a VLF radio module from the University of KwaZulu-Natal

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RAC Bulletin 2009-032E - Military radiolocation system to operate on 70 cm.

2009-10-07

As described in Schedule I of RBR-4, amateur usage of the 430-450 MHz (70 cm) band is on a no-protection, non-interference basis. Amateurs may not cause interference to nor be protected from interference from stations licensed in other services operating in that band. The same is true in the United States, and amateur operations on this band in a number of areas of the United States have power limits imposed on them in order to avoid interference to radiolocation services operated by the US military.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that it has authorized the Department of National Defense to use a digital system called Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS) on these frequencies. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms. This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, which means that no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result.

Industry Canada has informed RAC that there is a slight potential for interference to amateur radio systems, typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it to RAC at <regulatory @ rac.ca>. The information reported should include the geographical location, date, time, frequency and mode being used by the amateur station, and a description of the interference.

Questions or concerns regarding the planned implementation of EPLRS may be sent to <regulatory @ rac.ca>. Richard Ferch, VE3KI, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs - Radio Amateurs of Canada

Emergency Measures and Operating Changes - Quebec

Since the fall of 2007 the Ministry of Public Safety (MSP) has been re-organizing the whole realm of volunteering in public safety. The ministry is creating multidisciplinary units to better respond to different needs during catastrophic events and natural disasters. Radio Amateurs have been asked to work in collaboration with search and rescue volunteers, the Red Cross, the Coast Guard Auxilliary and many other groups who give their time during emergency situations.

The MSP has defined certain equipment which volunteers are to use during interventions such as safety hats and vests adapted for the needs of various groups. RAQI will soon receive the vests which radio amateurs will use when tasked by the MSP.

In September 2007 the MSP held the first colloquium for volunteers in public safety and as you read these lines the second colloquium will have just ended. The MSP has also resolved the question of coverage of volunteers by the CSST for personal injury which might occur during exercises, training or during interventions.

During the long process of laying groundwork RAQI has been present in collaboration with the other interveners and the MSP in the realization of the modernization of our involvement in public safety.

What Is To Come

At the second colloquium the final phase of this advance will be put in place. In order to better know the MSP and its role in emergency measures all public safety volunteers will have to take an online training course. Once this course has been successfully completed the volunteer will obtain an identification number which will be used for various purposes whenever intervening officially.

WANTED

SUPPORT FOR THE MARCOGRAM

The editorial staff of this illustrious monthly newsletter request the support of our hams. It's getting increasingly difficult to obtain material that's of interest to our membership and therefore provide something that you all look forward to read. We need activity news of our local radio amateurs, I'm sure we'd all like to know what your doing.

Please contact one of the following with your news items and don't forget to include pictures.

President: James R. Hay, VE2VE
514-697-7205
jrhay@HayA.qc.ca

Vice President: V Sheldon Werner, VA2SH
sheldonm.werner@mac.com

Treasurer: Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS
514-684-7944
ve2mbs@rac.ca

Editor, Ron Campbell, va2rjc@rac.ca
Tel: 514-767-2804
(submitted by the editorial board)

In follow-up the volunteer will provide the identification number to their provincial association along with a photo. The association has the responsibility to ensure that volunteers within its group (radio amateurs for example) are competent to act effectively should they be part of an intervention.

RAQI has therefore put in place an online course which radio amateurs who have obtained their identification number must complete in order for RAQI to authorize the MSP to issue the official volunteer identification card.

This card identifies the volunteer and his competencies in emergency communications and the organizations to which he belongs, such as RAQI and the MSP.

Check the RAQI website to get the link for the public safety course of the MSP and RAQI's emergency communications course. We will be able to provide these at the end of the public safety colloquium. As you can see RAQI has put much energy into cementing our participation in emergency measures.

We will be contacting the clubs in order to provide them with the various procedures which apply now and we will keep you informed of future developments in this chapter.

*Mario Bilodeau, VE2EKL
RAQI President*

MARC'ers attend the South Shore Hamfest



RADIO H.F.



**PO Box 67063-Lemoyne
St-Lambert, Quebec
J4R 2T8**
tel/fax :450-671-3773
sans frais - toll free in Canada
1-800-463-3773
email : info@radiohf.ca
Web: <http://www.radiohf.ca>

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