

marcOgram

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



Volume 63, Number 2

Oct 2016

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 26 October 2016

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30

Club meeting: 20:00

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

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

**** Annual General Meeting ****

Presentation of reports, election of officers.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Lots of news and reports this time, and some great photographs of the joint MARC-WIARC Field Day operation in Centennial Park, Beaconsfield, on 25-26 June.

Several people succeeded in obtaining their licenses, and I would like to extend all our congratulations on the newly minted hams. Enjoy!

Thanks again to Marc-André, VE2EVN, and Jim, editor and interim editor respectively, for their assistance in producing MARCOgram. Keep the articles coming, folks: more is better than less. As every editor has pointed out, MARCOgram is only as good as its contributors, so start writing.

73 de Nora, VA2NH

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BULLETIN!

DAYTON HAMVENTION

The Dayton Hamvention, a Mecca-like destination for all hamfest enthusiasts, is moving. After 52 years at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio, the 2017 Hamvention will be held in a new location at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Event Center in Zenia, OH. Zenia is 16 miles east of central Dayton. The Hamvention brings in more than 25,000 international visitors and close to \$17 million in tourist revenue.

The reason for the move is that the Hara Arena, due to financial difficulties, will be closing, and might be demolished if a new owner cannot be found.

The Zenia Fairgrounds is a 38-acre complex on Fairgrounds Road. Being in the surroundings of Dayton, there are many options for accommodations in the hotels and motels in the area. As the Fairgrounds was completely destroyed by a tornado several years ago, the present buildings are newer than the 1950s Hara Arena.

(Sources: ARRL newsletter; myDayton Daily News)

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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.

Annual fees are:			
General Members	...	...	\$25.00
Associate Members	...	...	\$25.00
White Cane Members...	...	...	\$15.00
Family Members (per family)	...	...	\$30.00
Postal delivery of MarcOgram	...	...	\$ 5.00

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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Directors

President:	Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH.....	ve2ofh@marc.ca
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	Eamon Egan, VE2EGN.....	ve2egn@marc.ca
	Mario Piacitelli, VA2TMP.....	va2tmp@marc.ca

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 on Covey Hill in Franklin, QC.

The repeaters are open to all amateurs.

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 19:30 in the Wardens' Room, St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, 4455 West Broadway. 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

Monthly Meetings

26 October 2016 — Marc-André VE2EVN on VB2W.

Radio Classes

A basic level course is held starting in January of each year. If you know of anyone interested in taking the course they should send a message to classes@marc.ca.

MARC Hamfest

We are planning to hold the flea market in April 2017 at the LaSalle Legion. Please watch this space or go to <https://www.facebook.com/ve2arc> for more information.

Incoming QSL card service

As has been mentioned in previous MarcOgrams, we are resuming the club's service of having incoming QSL cards sent to the club for members to pick up at meetings. This is a service which we are offering to our members which both saves the individual members money as well as makes more efficient use of our collective resources.

If you would like to avail yourself of this service please send an e-mail to gsl@marc.ca and we will add you to the list of cards that the incoming bureau sends to the club and bring them to the monthly meetings.

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

DXPEDITION TO ZONE 2 FOR CQWW SSB CONTEST

By Marc-André VE2EVN

A small team of radio amateurs will be traveling to Waskaganish, Québec, to operate in CQ Zone 2 for the CQ Worldwide SSB Contest. Martin Houle VA2AMH, Marc-André Boucher VE2MBT, Pascal Carrier VE2WHZ and MARC director Marc-André Gingras VE2EVN, will be on the air using callsign VB2W starting a few hours before the contest on Friday October 28 until approximately 12:00PM Sunday, October 30, 2016. The plan is to operate on 15m to 80m, and 160m if conditions permit. If 10 or 12m open up, we will be active on these bands as well. Efforts are being made to run two radios at the same time on different bands. QSL via LotW or eQSL ONLY. Updates along with photos will be posted on the VB2W Facebook Group here: <https://goo.gl/Qs97oM> This DxPediton is sponsored by the NorDX Club (<http://www.nordx.net/>) with support from the Cree Nation of Waskaganish (<http://www.waskaganish.ca/>). Email queries to vb2w.2016@gmail.com

Marc-Andre, VE2EVN,
MARC Membership Director



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FIELD DAY 2016

By Eamon VE2EGN
ve2egn@marc.ca



The 2016 edition of the WIARC / MARC Field Day operation maintained our pattern of incremental changes building on past successes. For the fourth consecutive year, Field Day was held at the same site, Centennial Park in Beaconsfield. For the second year in a row, we reproduced a 2A station class setup, close to that of 2015 but with a few new twists.

The first thing we did differently this year was planning. Interested members from both clubs attended a series of monthly Saturday morning meetings starting early in January. Although this process took up a lot of time, planning team members who attended most of these meetings got to know each other well and became familiar with the issues we were facing. Lots of details were well thought out, which paid off in flexibility and initiative later on in the planning process, and during setup when we needed to make some last minute changes.

Bob VE2PDT, submitted our event request to Beaconsfield in late February and we heard back quickly that the site could be ours again this year, but due to a by-law change no BBQ would be permitted. After considerable brainstorming (producing unique solution ideas such as the "marine BBQ"), soul-searching and progressing through the "five stages of grief" over the loss of what some saw as a Field Day institution, we finally accepted the idea that camp stoves, mercifully still permitted by Beaconsfield city officials, should work well if we were willing to adapt our traditional Field Day fare to changing times. At the end of the day, Charles VE2RFI's famous Field Day chili remained on the Saturday night menu with boiled knackwurst sausages and homemade sauerkraut on

big hotdog buns substituting for the chicken legs we knew and loved.

Gilles VE2TZT offered the use of his Spider Beam, a 20-15-10m wire beam antenna on a lightweight guyed fiberglass mast. Gilles also offered his triplexer to let both radios in a 2A station share the antenna, each on a different band. Additionally, the MARC board approved purchase of three W3NQN bandpass filters for each of the Spider Beam bands, to be used in our Field Day setup to reduce band-to-band interference and receiver desensing to an acceptable level.

Our HF operation also used the same 40m and 80m sloping verticals as in previous years. The night before Field Day, Gilles built and brought in a patch panel that allowed the two HF radios to connect easily to one of five well-labeled antenna ports: three for the Spider Beam bands, and one for each of the verticals.



The VHF station used the same two stacked 10' antenna masts as last year, this time with a functional rotator placed on a wooden base crafted ahead of time by Harrison VE2HKW. We also added a 2m beam to the setup. Unfortunately once again this year there was a dearth of VHF band openings, and contacts were very spotty with

only 10 QSOs made, all of them on 6m. Better luck next year for 2m!

This year we really took our satellite operations to a new level and set a number of records. Again this year Malcolm VE2DDZ held a satellite ops training session prior to Field Day, and we had four different operators running the satellite station on different passes. Using Malcolm's complete satellite setup, we logged a total of 14 QSOs, five of which were bagged by Harrison on a single pass of the XW-2C satellite.



The next logical stage after last year's stepup to 2A status was to mount a GOTA ("Get On The Air") operation; an extra HF radio specially designated to accommodate and encourage new hams, generally inactive hams, or unlicensed visitors operating under supervision, to get on the air and try their hand at making contacts. The GOTA station's QSOs are counted alongside those made on the regular HF radios, and since it uses a different callsign, there is no concern about duplicating the main operation's contacts, and the same contacts can be worked again by the GOTA station. Newbies can operate at a more leisurely pace, where they can learn basic operating skills under the guidance of an experienced GOTA coach, instead of feeling like they are under the gun while using one of the main HF radios.

This year's inaugural GOTA operation got off to a good start. Several club members including Gilles VE2TZT and Larry VE2DO served as GOTA coaches. The station was modestly equipped with an HF transceiver and a single 40m horizontal doublet, and to keep things simple all of this year's GOTA contacts were worked on 40m. To further reduce the pressure some of the time, two GOTA visitors worked together on operating and logging. A few of the GOTA participants were newly li-

censed university students from the Space Concordia group, who were also very interested to observe the satellite station in operation. While only 13 GOTA QSOs were logged, the experience helped us to understand what a GOTA operation entails. Next year it would be great to repeat this initiative, with an effort to increase the visitor and QSO volume through better publicity and more organization around the coaching activities.

Our HF operators this year enjoyed the use of a large second-hand camping tent, spotted on Kijiji at a great price several months earlier by Keith VE2MTL, and immediately snatched up by Malcolm on behalf of WIARC. Near the HF tent, another kitchen tent graciously lent for a second year in a row by Yves VE2YMV, accommodated our VHF and GOTA operations. Another smaller tent a little distance away housed the satellite station.

[Batteries Expert](#) sponsored our event for the third straight year by lending us a set of charged-up batteries to power our main HF operation. If you ever find yourself on Île Perrot, please drop by their store and let them know you appreciate their support. The other operations (VHF, GOTA and satellite) all ran off of smaller battery sets. After running on battery power three years in a row, we are so used to the peace and quiet of battery operation that it will be a rude shock if we ever need to run a generator again in the future!



This year we were blessed with excellent weather, dry the whole time but not too hot. In spite of careful planning there were some last-minute challenges. To minimize interference with other park users' enjoyment of the premises, we had planned this year to set up our operation further north in the park in the same open area we had occupied three years ago, during the first year we used this park. However at the last minute, we realized that some

temporary fences put up to direct extra parking for Canada Day and Fête Nationale would make it impossible for us to use that space, so we adapted our plan to use the space closer to the lake. In retrospect, returning to the same site as in previous years turned out to be a good thing. We already knew which trees to use for the wire antennas, and the site had enough space for both the Spider Beam and the VHF setup.

Another challenge involved getting ropes up in the trees. Until this year we had done it the Friday night before, but this year's Field Day immediately followed June 24th Fête Nationale; the park was in use the night before, making this operation impossible. Instead the ropes-in-trees crew, relying on Marc-Andre VE2EVN for his bow, got there a bit earlier on Saturday morning. It was a bit hectic as regular park users were arriving, but we managed to put up the needed ropes for the verticals as well as for the GOTA horizontal doublet.



Harrison VE2HKW, working this year as site coordinator, carefully planned where everything should go and even installed a number of signs ahead of time to make it crystal clear. Our setup crews really knew what to do and could work independently on various setup tasks, so the process went smoothly. Radio gear and logging computers were set up by George VE2NGH, Charles VE2RFI and Eamon VE2EGN. Our first HF station setup made it on air on time, right from the beginning, with the second one close behind, joining in about 15 minutes later after we resolved a last-minute computer interface glitch by swapping radios with the GOTA station.

This year we made more of an effort to establish an operating roster ahead of time, to make sure any club members wanting to try their hand at operating had ample chance to do so. Although a few "contesting machines", notably Gilles VE2TZT, George VE2NGH, and the two

Vlads, VA2AN and VA2TTA, once again dominated the QSO count and point scoring, the 2A setup allowed for enough operating time and a large enough group of operators to satisfy everyone.

Next year will bring some changes. Eamon VE2EGN has officially asked to be relieved of the Field Day coordinator job, and a new coordinator will be chosen in time to start the planning early again in 2017. We hope to continue our regular monthly planning process next year since it worked so well this past year.

We haven't yet started planning just which new challenges to take up in 2017. However we do know that we have to say goodbye, at least temporarily, to Beaconsfield's Centennial Park, the beautiful site we've enjoyed for the last few years. In 2017 the event falls directly on June 24th Fête Nationale, and the park won't be available. The name of the game for Field Day is flexibility, and this requirement to find another site will drive us to consider some interesting alternatives. If you want to help define the shape of our Field Day 2017 operation, join the Field Day planning group in the new year!

73, Eamon VE2EGN

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NEW HAMS—WELCOME TO THE SHACK!

Contributed by Eamon VE2EGN

Eamon VE2EGN as volunteer amateur radio accredited examiner has graduated twelve new hams, and upgraded one. Most took and passed the Basic exam with a mark of more than 80%. Nine students came from three clubs:

Space Concordia ground station group, Mariya VE2IMK, Tyson VE2ORB, Aaxis VA2AXS, Russell VE2DRD, and Zouhair VE2ZBH;

Concordia High Altitude Ballooning Project, Nicholas VA2NCA;

Oronos rocket engineering group at École Polytechnique, Raphael VE2XRG, Vincent Thérroux and Adrien VA2SRB.

Four were unattached, Gerald VA2GLU, Egor VE2WIT,

John VE2JHS, and Taowa VA2XOR.

The youngest was Taowa VA2XOR at 14, from the FACE school. He and Eamon are working on encouraging more of the FACE students to get their ticket.

Gerald VA2GLU passed both the Basic and the Morse Code exam at the same sitting, Raphael VE2XRG passed both the Basic and the Advanced, and Tyson VE2ORB upgraded to Advanced. Vincent passed his exam but has not chosen a callsign yet.

OK folks! Go out and exercise that license! The sky's the limit (almost literally). What's it going to be, eh? Moon bounce, microwaves, digital modes, DX and collecting countries, contesting, QRP, emergency preparedness and ARES—go for it! If any of you join the astronaut program, you could operate from the ISS, the highest point so far used as a QTH, until some ham finally reaches Mars.

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MARC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MARC membership runs from 1 Sept to 31 Aug of the following year. The membership renewal is therefore due this month.

The Marcogram newsletter is sent to members via email. If you wish to receive your Marcogram by post instead of e-mail, please note there is an added \$5 to defray the increased postal costs.

You can renew your membership in person at the next meeting by handing me your completed renewal form, or by mail using the same renewal form.

For your convenience, you can also use the online form to renew your membership using PayPal at this address: <http://www.hay-net.net/~ve2arc/memform/>

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, and don't forget your completed form if you wish to renew in person.

Marc-Andre, VE2EVN, MARC Membership Director

MORE FIELD DAY PIX



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JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

I am happy to report that the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) event went relatively well. Following a successful presentation to the Scouts and Ventures the previous Tuesday night, Bob VE2PDT & I, Marc-André VE2EVN

hosted a JOTA event on Sunday 16th October, for the Rosemere 1st Scout Troop along with the Rosemere Venturers at the Centre Socio-Culturel-Chavigny in Boisbriand.

We set up a radio station with an end-fed for 15m to 80m for HF along with an Arrow J-Pole antenna for VHF. I also setup a CW practice station where Scouts were able to try their hand at using a straight key, and seeing the characters come up on an LCD screen as they keyed along. It was no surprise how popular that was with the Scouts, and I must admit they were much better at using a straight key than I am.

On-air operations were a little more challenging. HF conditions were not favourable, and after calling "CQ Jamboree VE2ARC" without luck for what seemed like much too long, we decided to fall back to 2m FM simplex to make contacts. Everyone got to make a contact. I do need to say thank you to local hams, namely to George VE2NGH, John VE2JHS and Yves VE2YMV for making contacts with the Scouts and Venturers. Thank you for your patience and words of encouragement. The group had a great time, and many were heard saying they wanted to repeat the event next year.

Thanks also go to Bob, VE2PDT and his wife Cathy, Scout leader for the Rosemere 1st Scout Troop for making this possible.

A word about JOTA. Jamboree on the Air, or JOTA, is an annual Scouting event that uses amateur radio to link Scouts around the world, around Canada, and in your own community. Held on the third full weekend of October each year, this worldwide jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby amateur radio shack, Scout meeting place, camp or community center.

JOTA started in 1958, with the World JOTA Bureau located in Ottawa, Canada, making this year's event the 59th annual JOTA. In 1997, communicating through the internet was added, and this was called Jamboree on the Internet, or JOTI. Both annual events are sanctioned and sponsored by the World Organization of the Scouting Movement. In short, it's the best way to talk to half a million Scouts and Guides without having to leave your own community! More information at <http://www.jota-joti.ca/>

Marc-Andre, VE2EVN
MARC Membership Director

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MARC CHRISTMAS DINNER

Winter is coming, and with it the MARC Christmas dinner. It's a great time to get together for good food with good company.

Date:
Saturday, 26 November, 2016 @ 19:30.

Place:
Elio's Ristorante
351, rue Bellechasse (west of St-Denis)
Montreal, QC, H2S 1X1

Googlemaps : <http://goo.gl/maps/No6di7ckApC2>

Please only arrive around 19:30 and not much before, as we cannot be seated before 19:30-20:00.

There is plenty of parking available in their parking area, and it's also within walking distance from the Rosemont metro station.

Menu is open (a la carte) so price varies according to what you order but is in the range of \$15-20 for a full meal. You can find the restaurant's online menu here: eliorrestaurant.ca/menu.html and they have a full beer/wine license.

The MARC will graciously supply door prizes and take care of the service fees for all attendees. We're hoping to see many of you there for this event, but please note that space is limited.

Please confirm your presence by Friday 18 November, 2016, to Jim VE2VE by email to ve2ve@marc.ca or by phone at 514-990-1965.



Image courtesy ARRL Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS

26 October 2016:

The Annual General Meeting. Election of officers and presentation of reports. We look forward to welcoming our new board of directors.

30 November 2016:

Mark-André Gingras VE2EVN will present information on VB2W, contest DXpedition to Zone 2, Waskaganish, QC.

26 November 2016:

MARC Christmas Party at Elio's Ristorante.

28 December 2016: No meeting due to holidays.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

25 January 2017:

Norm Pearl VE2BQS will elaborate on the Automatic Identification System, AIS, marine vessel tracking.

22 February 2017:

Got something to say or to show? Say it here.

8 April 2017:

MARC hamfest! Bring out your fleas! Stuff sale!!

UPCOMING FLEAS

What: 40th York Regional Hamfest

Who: York Region ARC

When: Saturday, 5 Nov, 2016

Where: Markham Fairgrounds, ON

What: Maple Ridge Swap Meet

Who: Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Club

When: Sunday, 6 Nov, 2016

Where: Old REC Building
Pitt Meadows, BC

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the Montreal Amateur Radio Club Inc., will be held on Wednesday, 25 October 2016, at 20:00 at the St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church, 4455 West Broadway, Montreal, QC.

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;
- ◇ To consider a proposal to be made by the Board of Directors to change the annual dues;
- ◇ Elect directors and officers to hold office for the coming year;
- ◇ To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Given at Montreal this 16th. day of September 2016.

(Sgd.) James R. Hay

James R. Hay
Secretary-Treasurer
Montreal Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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SCANNERS / BALAYEURS D'ONDES
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AMATEUR RADIO / RADIO-AMATEUR
ALINCO, ICOM, KENWOOD, RANGER, S.G.C., YAESU

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ASTATIC, COBRA, GALAXY, K40, MACO, PARADYNAMICS, RANGER, ROAD NOISE, SHAKE-SPEARE, SOLARCON/ANTRON, UNIDEN, VALOR/PRO-AM, WILSON, WORKMAN

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NATURE BOOKS / LIVRES DE LA NATURE
SIBLEY GUIDES, PETERSON FIELD GUIDES, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY