

marcOgram

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



Volume 44, Number 7

April 1999

“GETTING INTO 900 MEGAHERTZ”

Wednesday 28 April 1999
Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30
Club meeting: 20:00

**Montreal Association for the Blind - 7010 Sherbrooke St W
(Please note the different address this month only)**

Bernard Leblanc, VE2LC, will talk on "an inexpensive way to get on 900 MHz " (the 902 - 928 MHz band). He will have operating equipment, transmitter, receiver antenna etc. to demonstrate and he suggests that anyone having a hand-held with extended receiving capability bring it to the meeting. Please note the

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello,

As I write this the hamfest is now over and by most accounts it was a success. I saw a number of people leaving the hall with smiles on their faces and goodies tucked under their arms. The vendors too seemed to be quite happy with the day.

No event like this can succeed without the work of a number of people. This event was no exception. We suffered the complication of losing our original hall and ended up with an even better location. The LaSalle Legion were most co-operative and I think we are likely to return there next year.

There can be no doubt that a good measure of credit must be given to Fred Hart, VE2LSQ, for the success of the day. Not only did Fred provide his

encyclopedic knowledge of the local streets to ensure that no one was lost on their way to the Legion Hall but he helped with the publicity on the local English and French repeaters. Perhaps most important of all, at least to me, were that it was Fred who found out that the hall was available and he offered much needed moral support when things were looking uncertain.

Thank you VERY much Fred.

Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS, was also instrumental in keeping the finances for the event in

**Get Ready
Show and Tell
Next Month**

Reminder - The club's mailing address is now:
Montreal Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 53047 - RPO Dorval
Dorval, Quebec
H9S 5W4

Directors

President: James R. Hay, VE2VE.....514-697-7205
jrhay@HayA.qc.ca
Vice President: Vacant
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dash@hawk.igs.net
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Andre Sipos, VA2ASS..... 482-5903
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Edward Wielgus, VE3VMF

Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

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

Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)

Owned by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club and operated on the Club's behalf by the Amateur Radio Club of McGill University. Located on the McGill University Campus.

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.

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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AMATEUR EQUIPMENT all makes and models and satellite and shortwave receivers available including towers etc

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Store Hours: 11:15 - 17:30

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We try for the best prices

George, VE2GW

order and also in handling the ticket sales at the door with the able help of his father. Vern also made sure that the packet world was kept informed of our event and also the relevant web pages.

Someone has to make some phone calls to solicit vendors for the event and Fred, Vernon and Andre Sipos, VA2ASS helped out in this regard. The fact that we had twenty three vendors present is largely to their credit.

The set-up and tear down crew - the muscle-men are also important. Raymond and Steven Faguy, VE2SJA and VA2SMF, Andre Sipos, Vernon Ikeda, Craig Brander, VE2YGK, Jeff Reid and others whom I may not even have been aware of made sure that the tables got placed in the morning and the hall restored to its original set-up when we left.

To all of you THANK YOU for your part in ensuring the success of the day.

Finally the over 200 people who came through the door are what ultimately make the event a success for the club for it is they who pay the admission cost which will help finance club activities. I hope that next year we will see them all back.

This month's meeting topic promises to be an interesting one - an inexpensive way to get onto 900 MHz. I for one am looking forward to this presentation. Don't forget either that next month is the show-and-tell which is always interesting.

Again thanks to everyone for their contributions to this year's success at the hamfest and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to everybody; vendors, visitors, organizers and the LaSalle Legion for making last weekend's hamfest a great success. At the hamfest we had 4 candidates who passed the basic exam: Jeff Reed, Frank Nagy, Pierre Journal, and Mario Ciaramicoli. We all look forward to hearing some new call signs on the air in the near future. Angus MacLeay passed the Advanced exam. He had passed the Basic last year. We had a number of door prizes from RAQI, RAC, and Radio H.F. The major door prize, a BayGen radio from Radio H.F. was won by Richard Nagy.

Looking forward to this month's meeting we have an interesting presentation on using 900 MHz. If you have

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

a receiver, transceiver or scanner capable of receiving the 900MHz band bring it along so we can monitor some of the tests.

And remember May will be the "Show and Tell" meeting. So now it the time to dust off that collector's item or oddity, or finish your pet project. Do you have a specialized area of interest in amateur radio that you have something you would like to present such APRS, QRP, or antenna design. Another interesting presentation idea might be your plans and equipment for a backup or alternate power system. Because of last year's ice storm and this year's and this year's Y2K concern many people are looking for to power a radio and a light or two. A presentation like this would bring about some interesting discussions. I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting. Please remember we have a different hall for this month's meeting, the Montreal Association for the Blind, 7010 Sherbrooke St. W.

73 de Craig, VE2YGK

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CONTEST CALENDAR

Here are reminders of some contests coming up. Rules for these can be found in The Canadian Amateur, QST or CQ magazines or on the internet. If you need rules or more info please get in touch with me by telephone or e-mail.

It is not necessary to be "in the contest" to work a contest station and not necessary to submit a log unless you want to see your results in QST, CQ or The Canadian Amateur etc.

N.B. Make a note of the dates of this years ARRL Field

Day!

27

73 de Don, VE3RM

April, 1999

Helvetia Contest 1300Z Apr 24 - 1300Z Apr
25
Nebraska QSO Party 1700Z Apr 24 - 1700Z Apr
25
Ontario QSO Party 1800Z Apr 24 - 1800Z Apr
25
Florida QSO Party 1800Z Apr 24 - 0359Z Apr
25
and 1400Z - 2359Z Apr

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COMING EVENTS

**APRIL 24
FALLS**

SMITHS

Saturday April 24 at 150 Emsley St. North Smiths Falls. Vendors at 7 AM, Public 9 AM to 1 PM. Tables \$10, Admission \$3. Talk-in VE3RLR 147.21(+). Info: Baxter Smith, tel 683-253-2852 or e-mail Baxter at: baxsmith@falls.igs.net

May 1999

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW 0001Z May 1 - 2400Z May
2
Massachusetts QSO Party 1800Z May 1 - 0400Z May
2
and 1100Z - 2100Z May
2
ARI International DX Contest 2000Z May 1 - 2000Z May
2
Oregon State QSO Party 1400Z May 8 - 0400Z May
9
FISTS CW Club Spring Sprint 1700Z - 2100Z May
8
CQ-M International DX Contest 2100Z May 8 - 2100Z May
9
50 MHz Spring Sprint 2300Z May 15 - 0300Z May
16
CQWW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z May 29 - 2400Z May
30

MAY 1

OTTAWA

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Fleamarket and Vintage Radio Auction Sat May 1 at Stittsville Arena, Stittsville ON. Vendors 7 AM, Public 9 AM to 12. Vintage Radio Auction at 10:30 AM. Tables \$10, Adm \$3. Talk-in 147.30(+) or 444.200 Info: John Barnhart VE3ZOV Tel: 613-525-8910, Fax: 613-523-7889 e-mail: ve3zov@rac.ca

MAY 8

WIARC

The Spring Fleamarket and Auction will be on Saturday May 8. Location: Ste-Suzanne Church, 9501 Gouin Blvd West, Pierrefonds. Vendors at 7:30, general admission 8:30 and Auction at 9:30 AM. Raffle and door prizes. Talk-in: VE2RWI 146.91(-) and 443.050(+) Admission \$5, free under 12 yrs. Tables \$15 (includes 1 adm) for reservations Sam VE2LJV Tel; 514-684-5810. Info: Jeff VE2TBH, Tel: 514-424-6316 o the club website at: <http://www.pubnix.net/wiarc>. E-mail ve2cwi@rac.ca

June, 1999

IARU Reg 1 Field Day, CW 1500Z Jun 5 - 1500Z Jun
6
ANARTS WW RTTY Contest 0000Z Jun 12 - 2400Z Jun
13
TOEC WW Grid Contest, SSB 1200Z Jun 12 - 1200Z Jun
13
Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB 1230Z - 1430Z Jun
12
ARRL June VHF QSO Party 1800Z Jun 12 - 0300Z Jun
14
All Asian DX Contest, CW 0000Z Jun 19 - 2400Z Jun
20
Kid's Day Contest 1800Z - 2400Z Jun
19
Marconi Memorial HF Contest 1400Z Jun 26 - 1400Z Jun
27
ARRL Field Day 1800Z Jun 26 - 2100Z Jun

MAY 14-16

DAYTON

Dayton Hamvention at the Hara Exhibition Center, 1001 Shilo Springs Road, Dayton, Ohio. Talk-In: 146.94(-), 223.94(-), and 442.1(+) Info: e-mail: info@hamvention.org or see <http://www.hamvention.org/>
Shilo Springs Road, Dayton, Ohio. Talk-In: 146.94(-), 223.94(-), and 442.1(+) Info: e-mail: info@hamvention.org or see <http://www.hamvention.org/>

MAY 30

SOREL

Le Hamfest du Quebec Sunday May 30 at Club de Curling de Tracy. Opens 6 AM for sellers, 9 AM for public. Adm. \$5, tables \$15, info on tables: e-mail: alaing@autrey.net
Info: Packet VE2DWE@VE2CBS.#MTL.PQ.CAN.NOAM, tel 450-836-3072, fax 450-836-6252 Talk-in: VE2RBS 145.370(-) or VE2FCT 146.610(-), CTCSS: 103.5

73 de Craig,, VE2YGK

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SCANNERS HEAR IT FIRST

by Frederick "VE2LS and Q" Hart

JUNE 4-6

ROCHESTER NY

ARRL Atlantic Division/New York State Convention. Monroe County Fairgrounds, Route 15A, Rochester, NY
Information: web page: www.rochesterhamfest.org
e-mail: info@rochesterhamfest.org

73 de Don, VE3RM

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MARC COMPUTER NET UPDATE

For those of you who still don't know, the Montreal Amateur Radio Club has a new net. The net now starts an hour later, 8pm on Thursday evenings on VE2RED (147.270+.) So for those of you who have computer problems of any type, favorite websites you'd like everyone to know about, a hot internet topic that you're just dying to discuss, or you're a computer expert and want to help others, come by the net and check in. The net usually lasts an hour but I certainly won't silence anyone who still wants to discuss something. Anyone with traffic for the net can send it via email to va2smf@rac.ca

73 de Steven, VA2SMF

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SEEKING NET INFO

I need some help from you. I am making a list of nets in the Montreal area as well as those that Montrealers listen to. I am curious to what nets you listen to and or in which you actively participate. If you have any nets you would like to offer, whether they be H.F., VHF or UHF please pass them along. I am looking for the frequency, net name and topic, and any other info you might find useful. Get in touch with however you can, phone, VE2RED, email at craigyl@total.net or see me at the next meeting. Thank-you.

Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the birdies iz (Hiding from my cats, I guess...). By the sounds of it on the scanner, the grassfire season has started, so it is indeed spring! The Seaway is now open and 156.700 from St. Lambert to Beauharnois is now becoming more active. Soon 156.950 will speak of pleasure craft rescues and searches up and down our rivers. As summer approaches, frequencies become busier and keep us and our ears more occupied. This month I have a new trunking system in the Montreal area ("The Big Six"). Many thanks to Jim Hay, VE2VE, Vic Fleischer and Joe Glover who participated in the great search for the system. There is a lot to listen to on this group of frequencies but you should be able to make heads or tails of what is heard. Lots of button pushing that is for sure. The future holds more of these types of systems and new technologies will aid us to do so. For now enjoy while voice is still audible and go get an ear full.

Before I finish for this month, my congratulations go out to Ken Rhodes for 32 years of service as a volunteer firefighter with the Roxboro Fire Brigade. He was feted at a ceremony at a recent Roxboro Town Council meeting. I often hear Ken on the Dollard des Ormeaux Fire Department frequency (159.300) as he is a full time paid firefighter in that municipality.

This Month's Ear Full Heard:

412.5125 (Regie LaSalle-Verdun) and 159.450 (West Island Mutual Aid) Major fire in a 45 unit apartment block at 9325 LaSalle Blvd. Good fireground action between Municipalities (10 in all) with a rare appearance from the Montreal Fire Dept (2 Pumps and 1 Chief).

412.8125 (Upper Richelieu Valley Mutual Aid) Major barn fire in Napierville on Rang St. Andre. Multiple town response and good action /tactics (5 in all) Premier incident of the new Bromont Communications Centre.

412.5125 (Regie LaSalle-Verdun) and 159.450 (West Island Mutual Aid) Residential/Commercial fire that brought 9 cities to 6th Avenue and St. Jacques in the early morning hours - Again good fireground tactics/communications.

Frequency Profile

"Big Six' Fire Mutual Aid Trunking system
(A new step in Emergency Service Communications)

Not so long ago in a previous column, I portrayed this particular mutual aid group with an in-depth look at frequencies and codes. Major changes have taken place in the recent weeks in the radio/frequency area. The old system was as follows:

1 Ville St. Laurent 413.4125	412.8625	4	Mount	Royal
2 Outremont 413.2125	413.3375	5		Hampstead
3 Westmount 412.1125	413.4825	6	Cote St.	Luc
Mutual Aid 413.5125	412.4375		Officers/Fireground	

The cities retain the same vehicle numberings and the 10 codes are the same except for two new ones:

10-43	Open Station doors	10-49	Radio Check
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The frequencies have multiplied like bunnies. A new Ericsson Trunking system is now in place and includes not only the above Fire departments but also the Cote St. Luc EMS, Public Security for the above cities and some of Public Works Departments. The old frequencies are being phased out and the main operations occur on the following frequencies:

859.3375	859.5875	859.8375	861.0125
866.0875	866.3375	866.4625	866.5875
866.8375	866.9625	867.0875	867.3375
	867.5875	867.8375	

(Scan from lowest frequency to highest frequency)

Call signs (CW ID's heard): VDJ521 VDJ522 VDJ523

Notes:

-- There are three control (data) channels that are rotated amongst the 14 channels above. Depending on where you live, you may hear all three or just one or two. Just lock them out and remember to take the delay off the others for best results.

-- For easier monitoring, put them in their own scanning bank and the scan speed should be set to highest scanning

rate if possible.

-- Very high percentage of English spoken on this system.

73 de Fred, VE2LS and a Q

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VERN ' S MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS

Since I haven't really written a whole lot of stuff for the MarcOgram lately (other than transcribing Fred's column every month), I was looking through the ARRL Handbook and came upon the Emergency Operation chapter. Given we survived the Ice Storm of 98 and with the possibility of problems associated with the Y2K bug, it wouldn't hurt to be prepared just in case you are called to assist in traffic handling.

The ARRL Handbook suggests that for an short-term (less than 24 hours) emergency or public service event of a short duration, you have certain items pre-packed. I have modified the list somewhat and you can modify it to suit your own needs. Please note also that this list isn't what is needed all the time, some events require fewer items on this list.

Basic operating items: Photocopy of your station license and operators certificate, Radio (2-metre mobile or portable), spare microphone, headphones, power supply/extra batteries, small external speaker for radio, spare mag mount or other external antenna with mount, spare fuses and power cords, extra audio patch cords and adapters, swr meter, extra coax with various rf adapters, first aid kit, clothes and outdoor gear (jacket, raincoat or vest) suitable for the season. reading material (pocket book or other easy to carry book), regional, county or local map and a copy of the local ARES operators manual.

Writing Gear: pen/pencil/marker/eraser, clipboard, message forms, logbook and notepaper.

Personal Gear: snacks, liquid refreshment, candy, throat lozenges, personal medicine, aspirin, a small portable broadcast band radio or scanner and a spare set of prescription glasses.

Tools: screwdrivers and other small tools for quick repairs, electrical and duct tape.

73 de Vern, VE2MBS

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CLASSIFIED

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

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MARCH DOOR PRIZE

The winner of the February meeting's door prize was Steven Faguy, VA2SMF. The prize was a \$20 gift certificate from Radio H.F.

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QST CAPITAL "A" AMATEURS

The EMERGEX series of field exercises continues on to the fifth edition on May Day 1999. These exercises are designed to promote operating excellence amongst the Radio Amateur community. So far during the last 2 years, over 70 Hams have participated in these exercises with about 20 of those appearing in all of the versions offered to date. No one has ever complained that they didn't learn something and didn't have a good time.

The Covey Hill Amateur Radio Club has produced all of the five exercises to date which have been run every six months with over 30 Hams and associates participating each time. Some of these have come from MARC and WIARC with observers from RAQI from time to time. We would like to see a stronger contingent from the other clubs for EMERGEX V and future editions planned for this Fall and next Spring.

The emphasis in these exercises is on good radio operations, which is sorely needed whenever disaster strikes. With passage of time, many new Hams do not. It would be ideal if others know about the consistent efficient voice procedures that were used in the past.

Although it is possible to muddle through in an emergency, good net operations need good dedicated operators who will not stumble over one another and hold up emergency traffic. This is what EMERGEX is all about. If you know everything there is to know about voice procedure or never intend to serve in public service, emergency operations, or in organized nets, this is not for

you.

Clubs could take on writing one of these exercises. About 6 people have to spend about 4 months, part-time, working out the details of the objectives, scope, scenarios, messages scripts, schedules, and technical issues on Net Control Stations and path tests. This actually at lot of fun. In CHARC we have had a different group do this each time an exercise was prepared, so a lot of experience is spread around the club. MARC can do this too. CHARC will be happy to participate in your exercise. We hope you can pick up this challenge!

73 de Mark VE2JT

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

ST LAZARE - HUDSON AREA

UPCOMING 1999 EVENTS ORGANIZED BY VE2EXC

If anyone else would like to join the team, please contact Ken VE2EXC via: the Covey Hill swap net (VE2REX 146.685) on Friday evenings at 8:00, by phone (450) 458-7447, or by e-mail: kmagee@hudson.net. (Note: all but Cyclo-Tour are equestrian events)

The North American Selection Trials for the World Singles & Pairs Combined Carriage Driving

Date: 22 May 1999 Saturday - New Date

Location: Windedge Farm, Ste-Justine de Newton, QC

16 to 18 km cross country event - minimum of 22 amateur radio operators will be required.

St. Lazare Cyclo -Tour

Date: 30 May 1999 Location: St. Lazare, QC

From 1000 to 1500 or more cyclists (30 km course).

The Harmony Horse Trails

Date: 20 June 1999

Location: Windedge Farm, Ste-Justine de Newton, QC

Marathon Course Combined Driving Event

Date: 28 August 1999

Location: Sandridge Farm, St. Lazare, QC

Pleasure Driving Event

Date: 2 October 1999

Location: Windedge Farm, Ste-Justine de Newton, QC

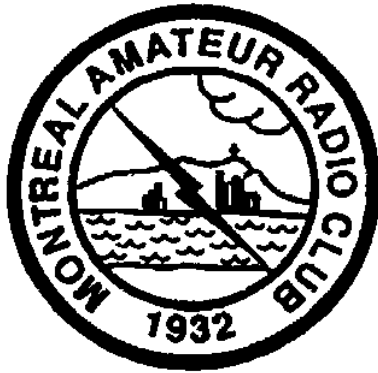
73 to all
Ken and Gillian Magee (VE2EXC and VE2EXX)

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EMERGEX V

The Covey Hill Amateur Radio Club is currently organizing EMERGEX V to be run Saturday 01 May 1999, rain or shine. This is the fifth in of a series of emergency radio procedure exercises. Emergex V will be based in Ormstown and have nets on both the 2 metres and 70cm bands. The exercise is open to all members of MARC who are interested in honing their operating skills. Contact Jacques VE2CT at 450-462-0523, or Mark at 450-247-3598 for more information or to confirm your participation.

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Hamfest

Montréal Amateur Radio Club

Amateur Radio Flea Market

Saturday April 17, 1999
Royal Canadian Legion
7771 Bouvier

(corner Shevchenko)

Lasalle

(STCUM bus 109)

(Angrignon is the closest Metro Station)

TIME: DEALERS - 8:00 AM PUBLIC - 9:00 AM

DOOR PRIZES FREE PARKING SNACK BAR

TALK-IN: 147.270+ (VE2RED)

GENERAL ADMISSION \$3.00

TABLE RENTAL \$8.00 (2 for \$15)

Table rental includes one admission

Information and Reservations

Jim HAY 514-697-7205
E-mail: jrhay@haya.qc.ca
<http://www.marc.qc.ca>

Marché aux Pûces Radio Amateur

Le samedi 17 avril 1999
Légion Royale Canadienne
7771 Bouvier

(coin Shevchenko)

Lasalle

(autobus STCUM 109)

(Métro Angrignon est la station la plus proche)

OUVERTURE: 8h00 VENDEURS, 9h00 PUBLIC

Prix de Présence Stationnement Gratuit Casse Croûte

GUIDAGE: 147.270+ (VE2RED)

FRAIS D'ADMISSION 3,00\$

LOCATION DES TABLES 8,00\$ (2 pour 15,00\$)

Une entrée avec location d'une table

Renseignements et Reservations

Jim HAY 514-697-7205
E-mail: jrhay@haya.qc.ca
<http://www.marc.qc.ca>



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VIBROPLEX, WATSON

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A.R.R.L., ARROWHEAD, ARTSCI, BAYLIN PUBLICATIONS, BILLBOARD
(WRTH), CQ, CRB, G.C. ARNOLD (RADIO BYGONES), HARU-TEQ, HIGHTEXT,
IBS (PASSPORT), KLINGENFUSS, LOOMPANICS, NATIONAL RADIO CLUB,
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