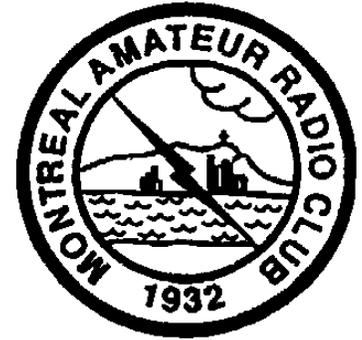


marcOgram

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



Volume 44, Number 5

February 1999

“RADIO WAVE PROPAGATION”

Wednesday 24 February 1999

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30

Club meeting: 20:00

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

The challenge and appeal of amateur radio, comes in part, from the fact that communications are not always predictable. Natural phenomena have different effects on different bands and different bands have distinct propagation characteristics. Don Dashney, VE3RM will give a talk on propagation, this fascinating and critical factor in radio communication. This is sure to be an interesting evening with lots of helpful information and insights .

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello,

Well January has thawed and frozen so many times I'm amazed we didn't all either drown or break our necks on the ice. February is upon us and before we know it spring will be here. This months topic should be of interest to all. Propagation is a black art to many and a discussion of the various propagation methods will be most interesting.

At our last meeting Al Daemen, VE2IJ, announced the passing of Jean Varsenault, VE2OC, last December. Jean was well known in the Montreal amateur community and he will certainly be missed.

While Jean had not been a member of the club for a few years he was well known to us all and our sympathies go out to his family and friends.

Radio Amateurs of Canada recently changed their method of electing Section Managers. No longer are they elected but rather appointed by the Field Services Manager. Recently, Pierre Mainville, VA3PM, announced the appointment of Richard Desaulniers, VE2DX, as the new section manager for

Notice - change of address

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
Secretary: Craig Brander.....514-488-5109
Treasurer: Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS.....514-684-7944
vern@hamgate.concordia.ca

Directors: Don Dashney, VE3RM/VE2SH.....613-675-4715
dash@hawk.igs.net
Earl Paris, VE2ESP.....524-4633
Andre Sipos, VA2ASS..... 482-5903
Sheldon Werner, VA2SW
Edward Wielgus, VE3VMF

Club Callsign: 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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AAA Electronics and Communications

10386A Gouin Blvd. West, Roxboro

683-3955 or 592-2454 after 11:30 AM

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

11:15 - 20:30

11:15 - 16:30

Closed

Tues. and Wed.

Thurs. and Fri.

Sat.

Sun. and Mon.

We try for the best prices

George, VE2GW

Quebec to replace Joe Unsworth, VE2ALE, who resigned nearly a year ago prior to his death last summer. Richard showed his abilities as deputy co-ordinator for Region 6 in the Reseau d'Urgences and this experience will serve him well in his new position.

My thanks to Sheldon Werner, VA2SH, and Jeff Reid who answered Vern's call for persons to help with the refreshments at the meetings. These are your meetings and we need your help to make them work.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Following last year's ice storm many of us we were caught off guard and decided to be better prepared for the next emergency situation. Are you working towards being better prepared, or better yet, completed your preparations? The year 2000 computer problem (Y2K) may create such a crisis in the near future. So take stock of your situation right now, and consider the ice storm a dress rehearsal for what might come. Are you prepared for some disruptions and ready to improvise to cope with some unexpected surprises? You may have figured out what you needed last year. I know I still have some planning and preparation to do.

Should something happen radio amateurs will again be asked to provide communications. Should "ice storm" type problems arise again would you be ready? Could you provide communications to your neighbourhood, participate in emergency nets, or perhaps be able to go to an area that has problems and needs communication links established? We all have something we can contribute.

So after looking at your personal needs and preparation take a look at your equipment. Is your equipment ready? Have you improvised a way to operate without hydro power? Perhaps you would like to set up a simplex net with some nearby hams to communicate without the aid of a repeater. Perhaps you have a project that might complement your emergency preparations. Your preparations might be the reason to follow up on some special projects or interests that you always wanted to do and would prove to be useful in a crisis situation. Packet radio, QRP projects, solar energy, and even Morse code are just a few ideas that come to mind. Dust off your notes and review your operating procedures and participate in some nets. Perhaps you can attract some non-hams with your activities and get them interested in amateur radio.

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

Of course, the better we all prepare, the lesser the chance of something major happening. A benefit of getting ready means we will have all been more involved with radio projects and operating. With our equipment in tip top shape the hobby and communicating will be more enjoyable.

73 de Craig, VE2YGK

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CONTEST CALENDAR

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

The ARRL DX Contests coming up are a good opportunity to pick up new entities ('entities' is now used instead of countries) that may be on your "most wanted" list.

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

February 1999

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z Feb 20 - 2400Z Feb 21
YL-OM Contest, CW	1400Z Feb 20 - 0200Z Feb 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, Phone	2200Z Feb 26 - 1600Z Feb 28
REF Contest, Phone	0600Z Feb 27 - 1800Z Feb 28
RSGB 7 MHz DX Contest, CW	1500Z Feb 27 - 0900Z Feb 28

March 1999

ARRL Int. DX Contest, Phone	0000Z Mar 6 - 2400Z Mar 7
RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW	1200Z Mar 13 - 1200Z Mar 14
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z Mar 14 - 0100Z Mar 15

Alaska QSO Party 21	0000Z Mar 20 - 2400Z Mar	south 5.0 miles. The High School is on Route 7, 1/4 mile North of the Grand Union, across from Duke's Sport Shop.
Bermuda Contest Mar 21	0001Z Mar 20 - 2400Z	Talk-in: 145.15 (-) Bulletins: 146.67 Phone: 802-879-6589
BARTG WW RTTY Contest 22	0200Z Mar 20 - 0200Z Mar	Packet: w1sj@kd2aj.#neny.
Russian DX Contest 21	1200Z Mar 20 - 1200Z Mar	E-mail: w1sj@vbimail.champlain.edu
CQWW WPX Contest, Phone 28	0000Z Mar 27 - 2400Z Mar	Web Site: http://www.ranv.together.com

April, 1999

Japan Int. DX Contest, 20-10m 11	2300Z Apr 9 - 2300Z Apr	HAMFEST 99 Saturday, March 13 at Club Sportif 416 Route 148 in St Philippe, QC. Vendors 7:am Public 9:am Auction 11am Info: James VA3JRP, 613 675-1868 Cell: 613 678-0705 or Serge VE2LAC, 450-562-4391 or on VE2RWC 146.805(-)
MARAC County Hunters, SSB 11	0000Z Apr 10 - 2400Z Apr	
His Maj. King of Spain Contest 11	1800Z Apr 10 - 1800Z Apr	
UBA Spring Contest, CW 11	0700Z - 1100Z Apr	
EU Spring Sprint, SSB	1500Z - 1859Z Apr 17	MARCH 27 LAVAL The Laval Laurentides Hamfest, Saturday, March 27th, at the Polyvalente Ste-Therese high school, 401, Du Domaine Blvd, Ste-Therese, QC, the same location as past years. The doors open to public at 9 am. Admission is \$5, and tables \$7 each (admission not included) Talk-in VE2REL, 147.315[+]. For information or reservations (tables, exams, etc.), contact us at Tel: (450) 625-8656 (voice mail) Packet: VE2ION @ VE2CRL.#MTL.PQ.CAN.NA Internet: hamfest99@hotmail.com WWW: http://pages.infinit.net/ve2crl/hamfest.htm The Web site includes a detailed map which you can print out.
Holyland DX Contest	1800Z Apr 17 - 1800Z Apr 18	
SP DX RTTY Contest	1200Z Apr 24 - 1200Z Apr 25	
Helvetia Contest	1300Z Apr 24 - 1300Z Apr 25	
Ontario QSO Party	1800Z Apr 24 - 1800Z Apr 25	
Florida QSO Party	1800Z Apr 24 - 0359Z Apr 25 and 1400Z - 2359Z Apr	

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 28

MILTON VT

The 16th Annual Northern Vermont Winter Hamfest will be held Saturday, February 28th, 8am until 2pm at Milton High School, Route 7, Milton, Vermont. Over 100 tables chock full of radio and computer goodies. Both new and used equipment will be available, including the complete line of Ten-Tec kits.

We have a great Forum program planned this year.

- 9:30 VHF Roving with N1MJD & N1JEZ
- 10:00 Portable and Mobile with W1KR
- 10:30 Contest -DX Forum
- 11:00 Antenna Forum with W1RFI
- 11:30 ARRL Forum with K1KI, K1TWF, WE1U
- 12:00 RFI Forum with W1RFI

The North Country's only Electronic Auction will be at 1pm. Admission is \$3, under 18 free, tables free, while they last! Canadians note!: CDN \$ accepted at PAR, exact change only.

Travel Directions: From the north I-89 to exit 18, Route 7

APRIL 17 MONTREAL

Montreal Amateur Radio Club Flea Market - Saturday April 17 at Bingo Cote des Neiges, 6615 Cote des Neiges Road Montreal. Dealers 8:00 AM, Public 9:00 AM. Talk-in 147.270 + VE2RED General Admission \$3, - Tables \$10 (includes one admission)
 ----- Good Prizes ---- Free Parking ---- Snack Bar -----
 Information or Reservations: Jim Hay, VE2VE, 514-697-7205 e-mail: jrhay@haya.qc.ca Marc Website: <http://www.marc.qc.ca>

APRIL 17 DURHAM REGION

Durham Region Hamfest April 17, 0900 -1400 at Metro East Trade Centre, just north of Hwy 401 on Brock Road.

Info: Ian Smith, VE3ITG: ve3itg@rac.ca Web: www.globalserve.com/~ismith

**MAY
WIARC**

The spring flea market and auction will take place Saturday May 8. Location: Ste-Suzanne Church, 9501 Gouin Blvd West, Pierrefonds. Information, contact Sam VE2LJV or Jeff, VE2TBH.

73 de Don, VE3RM

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JANUARY MEETING RECAP

The meeting on Wednesday January 27 was called to order at 20:06 by the President, James R. Hay, VE2VE. The first order of business was the roll call of those present.

After the roll call, the President welcomed members and non-members alike to the meeting. The first order of official club business to be announced was the official announcement of the ARC Spring Fleamarket on Saturday, April 17th at the Bingo Cote des Neiges (more information this issue of the MarcOgram). James asked the members present if they could help in the preparations of the fleamarket and on the day of the fest.

The next item on the agenda was whether or not we should go back to 1A in the upcoming ARRL Field Day exercise rather than do poorly in the 2A category. The discussion amongst those in attendance agreed with James that we should return to the 1A category this year.

James informed those in attendance that due to a scheduling conflict at the church on April 28th, the hall will be unavailable that evening. Jim mentioned the possibility of rescheduling the meeting to Tuesday, April 27th or the Wednesday before (April 21) but it was brought up by David Ross, VE2SC that the Montreal ARC has always met on the last Wednesday of month and should not be changed. He suggested that an alternate meeting place be found or failing that, an organized tour to a radio related site be found to replace that meeting.

Al Daemen, VE2IJ spoke briefly on the recent passing of Jean Varsaneaux, VE2OC.

At 20:32, with no more club business to be transacted, James turned the floor over to Fred Archibald, VE2SEI and Helen Archibald, VE2YAK to talk about organizing the West Island ARC DX-peditions. They gave a talk on preparing and planning the annual West Island

ARC summer dx-peditions. There was also a slide show showing pictures that WIARC crew has taken on previous trip to places such as St. Paul Island (North and South), Pictou Island and Seal Island as well other locations that they visited over the last few years. There was a lively question and answer period after their presentation.

Coffee was served after the presentation and many thanks to Sheldon Werner, VA2SH for helping me make the coffee and Jeff Reed for helping set up the coffee table and helping clean up after. The door prize of a \$20.00 gift Certificate donated by Radio HF was won by Al Daemen, VE2IJ.

73 deVernon Erle Ikeda, VE2MBS Treasurer

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SCANNERS HEAR IT FIRST

BY FREDERICK HART, VE2LSQ

Even if I don't hear it, I often find out about it.

Here we are, another month and another column. Hope you are well and your scanners have kept you amused. Several incidents in the recent past have given me good monitoring. I don't have to be scanning to get information about events. Several friends in the same interest fields as myself usually give me breaking news on the airwaves. I might be locked on one frequency for a whole day and be clueless to what is happening outside the mutual aid group but an phone call from these people and I'm tuned in to the action. As a matter of fact I have to thank Ray Faguy, VE2SJA for a few good tips he has thrown my way on the air including such incidents as the Olympic Stadium roof collapse and a major fire in Verdun. I had the scanner off at both times (I know, I should be slapped!!) and was only listening to my two-metre rig when Ray called me and asked if I was tuned into the incident. "What event" I say!!, push a few buttons and viola!!, "Oh, that event..." With the fire in Verdun, Ray heard the police urgently request the fire department, so when he informed me, I turned on the scanner and the fire department was just leaving the station. For the Big O incident, it was similar but as I monitored the Montreal FD, Ray gave me a play by play of the emergency vehicle arrivals as he was parked by the stadium watching. Just lucky I guess.

This month a few frequency notes, and brief profile of the new on-board computer system the Urgence Sante is using. Hope this information is of help to you, if you have any good tips about the emergency services, give me a shout on the radio or phone. I don't have my e-mail address as of yet but Jim, VE2VE has been fielding messages some of time

for me but I will try and be on-line before the end of the year 2000. I can just see it now, fred@litterbox.kittycat.ca!!!!!!
73 de Fred.

Short notes:

You might want to tune into the old MUC Police frequencies, from the past, the SQ has to taken residence there. 154.800, 154.100, 154.010, 153.650, 154.220

159.030 Dollard des Ormeaux Fire Department - Uses this frequency often especially if Pierrefonds FD has an incident going on at the same time. It was noted during ice storm 98 that they did use 159.030 and at a recent Pierrefonds fire where they gave the status update of DDO's work detail to the station.

Listening to 412.5125 LaSalle/Verdun/St. Pierre you will notice that the officers we are so used hearing in Verdun are now riding the apparatus in LaSalle Station 1 and the LaSalle officers are riding the apparatus of Verdun Station 3. Just once, I'd love to hear one of the good ol' Irish captains give a scene size up in English (that would probably knock the LaSalle dispatcher off her chair!!).

CAD system now on-line at Urgence Sante

When an ambulance in Montreal comes on-line, at the beginning of the shift, the technicians turn on a newly installed Repartition Assiste par Ordinateur (RAO - French for Computer Assisted Dispatch). The screen activates and shows who the technicians are (or should be), their shift number, designated times of their meal breaks and end of shift. the technicians check the information for accuracy and push the sign-on key to start their shift. The network makes the unit available and the ambulance is sent a standby point. Contact with the dispatch is always available via/portable radio all calls are sent the UMC-3000 computer terminal. A Global Positioning System (GPS) is an integral part of RAO and continuously updates the dispatch system as to the location (to within 10 metres)of the ambulance thus enabling the central computer to dispatch the vehicle closest to the call. All transmissions through their computer terminal must be immediately replied to, and in return the dispatcher is assured the message has been received.

Background - On October 7, 1998, the third and final implementation of Urgence Sante's new CAD system was achieved. RAO was brought completely on-line to dispatch Montreal and Laval area US operation After 6 years of planning, the overall system, is consider an indispensable asset to EMS operation in that region. In 1992 US started developing a system to manage mobile resources and

response times for emergency calls. Tele-communications experts were consulted and in all 8 contractors put the RAO system together. Most notably, CGI and Bell Mobility. CGI developed the primary software for the Mobicad system and the dispatcher Visicad system as well as overall network integration and Bell Mobility provided the hardware (UMC-3000 terminals) and modems used for data transmissions. An initial budget was set in the telecommunications department at us to keep the entire project within budget constraints (\$6.7 million Cdn). The on-board terminal has large LCD screen and 82-key back-lit keyboard. Functions available to ambulance crews include instant messaging (from other vehicles and dispatchers) global statistics (an update of how many vehicles available, not available, on break and on call). review of messages from the beginning of a shift and a panic button for immediate police assistance. When a call is sent to the terminal, it shows medical code, name and address, history of calls to the same address and suggested route to the call. The RAO is already proving to be an essential tool to both technicians and dispatchers in Montreal and Laval.

Thank you to Danny Raie, Journal of Emergency Medical Services.

73 de Fred, VE2LSQ

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COMMUNITY SERVICE

1999 EVENTS

23 May 1999 (Sunday) Canadian Classic Carriage Driving Windedge Farm, Ste.Justine de Newton, QC
16-18 km cross country event

Note: minimum of 22 amateur radio operators required

30 May 1999 (Sunday) St. Lazare Cyclo-Tour St. Lazare, QC

Note: from 1,000 to 1,500 or more cyclists (30-km course)

There are at least 3 more equestrian event dates to be confirmed: the Harmony Horse trails (mid-June), plus the two carriage driving events.

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. You don't have to know anything about horses - we are there solely for communication purposes. We work with both mobile and

Montréal Amateur

Amateur

Radio Flea Market

Saturday April 17, 1999

Bingo Cote des Neiges

6615 Cote des Neiges Rd
Montreal

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 \$10.00
Table rental includes one admission

Marché aux Pûces

Radio Amateur

Le samedi 17 avril 1999

Bingo Côte-des-Neiges

6615 ch Côte-des-Neiges
Montréal

OUVERTURE: 8h00 VENDEURS, 9h00 PUBLIC
Prix de Présence Stationnement Gratuit Casse Croûte
GUIDAGE: 147.270+ (VE2RED)
FRAIS D'ADMISSION 3,00\$

LOCATION DES TABLES 10,00\$
Une entrée avec location d'une table

Information - Reservations

Jim HAY 514-697-7205

E-mail: jrhay@haya.qc.ca

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

portable units. Come have fun meet other hams from the various clubs, and practice your hobby. This is what amateur radio is all about - communications!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SHOW and TELL - A reminder that the planned topic for the May meeting will be a Show and Tell evening. So get out the project book and get going. You still have time to finish that project you've been wanting to do for the last. Or how about bring in the special piece of equipment, cutting edge of the future or prized relic of the past.

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

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