

marcOgram

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



Volume 45, Number 3

November 1999

“DON DASHNEY, VE3RM ON CONTESTING AND LOGGING”

Wednesday 24 November 1999

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30

Club meeting: 20:00

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

Those active in contesting have always had an incentive to push the limits and advance the state of the art of amateur radio. The drive for contest points continues to push the envelope of what is possible with amateur radio. Getting involved is not only great fun but improves both the station and the skills of the operator. Being an active contester, Don Dashney, VE3RM will present an introduction to the excitement of contesting along with an introduction to computer logging. There will be a demonstration and hands-on training session of "CT" , K1EA's contest logging program. Come on out and be part of this informative meeting.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello,

Well November is here and already we've had snow! Its definitely time to ensure that your

Membership Renewal Reminder

Just a reminder that now is the time to return your membership form and dues for this year if you haven't already done so. If you have a M after your name and call sign on your mailing label the club has received your dues (updated as of Friday 12 Nov 1999). Thank-you.

antennas are ready for the winter. In general things seem to be going well and I'm happy to welcome our new Board of Directors whom you will see listed on page two. We have a good group this year and I'm sure that some good ideas will be forthcoming.

The date, hour and price for the fleamarket are now confirmed. It will be held at the LaSalle Legion where we were last year and it will be on April 15, 2000. Admission for vendors will be at 0730 and the public at 0800. General admission is \$4 while tables will be \$8 each or two for \$15.

This month Don will be talking about contest logging which will be an interesting topic.

Directors

President: James R. Hay, VE2VE.....514-697-7205
jrhay@HayA.qc.ca
Vice President: Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS.....514-684-7944
Secretary: Sheldon Werner, VA2SW
Treasurer: Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS.....514-684-7944
ve2mbs@rac.ca

Directors: Don Dashney, VE3RM/VE2SH.....613-675-4715
dash@hawk.igs.net
Paul MacDougall, VA2YQ
Earl Paris, VE2ESP.....514-524-4633
Andre Sipos, VA2ASS.....514-482-5903
Sheldon Werner, VA2SW
Edward Wielgus, VE3VMF
Steven Faguy VA2SMF (pending)

Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

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

Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)

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

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located near Decarie and Cote St. Luc Road.

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.

Articles published in the MarcOgram may be reproduced providing credit is given to the original author and the Montreal Amateur Radio Club as the source.

The opinions expressed herein are, unless otherwise stated, solely those of the authors concerned, and not those of the Club, the Directors or members and do not represent the policy of the Club.

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

REPAIRS: TV's, VCR's, microwave ovens and most radio and electrical equipment

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

Contesting, contrary to what some might think, is a valuable part of amateur radio and not a blight on the spectrum. As Don will mention it does help with some useful skills and whether during a contest or not the ability to log accurately is important. This will be an interesting topic and I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

- . . . -

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As end of 1999 approaches and this is the last issue of the MarcOgram before the holiday season I want to take this opportunity to send everybody best wishes for the holidays and healthy and prosperous new year.

As the end of the year approaches take some time and reflect on the year that was. Many events, including the hamfest and the moving the VE2BG repeater made it a very successful year for the club. Thanks to all who contributed to making things happen this year. It takes a lot of work and effort to make these "things" happen.

Lets continue to build on this success for the years to come. Everybody can contribute something. Joining the club and the national association are important steps in this process. From there you can attend and contribute your comments at the meetings, perhaps make a presentation at a meeting, volunteer and help out at various events throughout the year, and continue to support and promote our hobby, for example by referring people to our radio courses. 1999 was a good year and lets all make a resolution to contribute and to continue carrying forward this success into the year 2000 and beyond.

As always I am looking for articles for MarcOgram, so if you have an idea or some knowledge to share which relates to amateur radio how about putting it on paper and submitting for the MarcOgram.

73 de Craig, VE2YGK

- . . . -

CONTEST CALENDAR

Please note that the RAC CANADA WINTER

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

CONTEST is on December 19 this year. 10 M has been great shape this fall! Try the 10 Meter contest December 11/12 SSB or CW or both - a great opportunity to work those needed countries or states. If you have youngsters why not try the KID'S DAY Contest on January 1. The kids operate the station under your control Who knows - it might generate an interest and a new licensee!

If you need further information, rules etc. for any of these contests' contact me at:

613-675-4715 or e-mail: ve3rm@rac.ca

November, 1999

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB 100Z Nov 20-0300Z Nov 22
 RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW 2100Z Nov 20 -0100Z Nov 21
 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW 0000Z Nov 27 - 2400Z Nov 28

December, 1999

ARRL 160-Meter Contest 2200Z Dec 3 - 1600Z Dec 5
 ARRL 10-Meter Contest 0000Z Dec 11 - 2400Z Dec 12
 RAC Canada Winter Contest 0000Z - 2359Z Dec 19
 Stew Perry Topband Challenge 1500Z Dec 18-1500Z Dec 19
 Internet CW Sprint 2300Z Dec 31 - 0100Z Jan 1

January, 2000

Millenium PSK31 Contest 1200Z Jan 1 - 1200Z Jan 2
 Kid's Day Contest 1800Z - 2400Z Jan 1
 Japan Int. DX Contest, 160-40m 2200Z Jan 7 - 2200Z Jan 9
 ARRL RTTY Roundup 1800Z Jan 8 - 2400Z Jan 9
 North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z Jan 8- 0600Z Jan 9
 Hunting Lions in the Air Contest 0000Z Jan 15 - 2400Z Jan 16
 LZ Open Contest, CW 1200Z Jan 15 - 2000Z Jan 15
 North American QSO Party, SSB 1800Z Jan 15-0600Z Jan 16
 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes 1900Z Jan 22-0400Z Jan 24
 CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2200Z Jan 28 - 1600Z Jan 30
 REF Contest, CW 0600Z Jan 29 - 1800Z Jan 30
 UBA Contest, Phone 1300Z Jan 29 - 1300Z Jan 30

73 de Don, VE3RM

- . . . -

MARC COMPUTER NET REMINDER



The net meets every Thursday evening at 8pm on VE2RED to discuss computer news, computer problems, computer humour, computer web sites and computer addiction. In other words, everything about computers is fair game here.

If you have anything related to computers (it doesn't necessarily have to be amateur radio related), favorite web sites, questions, comments, or just want to argue Linux vs Windows with everyone, then stop by and check in.

73 de Steven, VA2SMF

- . . . -

SILENT KEYS

COLIN DUMBRILLE, VE2BK - SK

Longtime MARC member (1933-1997) and former Canadian Amateur Radio League Vice Director Colin Dumbille, VE7NN/VP9C (ex-VE2BK/VP9BK), of Maple Ridge, British Columbia, died July 29. He was 80. Colin was first licensed at age 14 as VE2BK and at that time was Canada's youngest Amateur. In the mid-1960s, he opened a business in Bermuda and took up residence in Smith's Parish. He retired in 1988 and returned to Canada in 1997.

73 de Don, VE3RM

- . . . -

FREDERICK OLIVER HAMMOND, VE3HC - SK

Fred Hammond, VE3HC--considered by many to be the Grand Old Man of Canadian Amateur Radio--died November 7 in Guelph, Ontario. He was 86 and had been

in failing health since suffering a stroke last year.

"Amateur Radio has lost one of its distinguished members and champions who will be sadly missed by his many friends everywhere," said IARU Region II President Tom Atkins, VE3CDM.

An amateur for more than 70 years, Hammond was elevated to the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 1996. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, recalled Hammond as an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the ARRL. "Fred was one of our most loyal benefactors," he said. "Hammond Manufacturing Company cabinets grace W1AW and the ARRL Lab through his beneficence." The September 1995 issue of QST includes "Thrills, Butter Churns and Honeycombs: A Visit to The Hammond Museum of Radio," which depicts Hammond's collection of vintage amateur equipment, a favorite personal project. It reorganized and reopened October 2 under the direction of Hammond's son Bill (see "The New Hammond Museum" in AWA's The Old Timers Bulletin, November 1999, page 37--Ed). The Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Club has posted additional information about Hammond at <http://www.kwarc.org/fred/>.

Services were November 11 in Guelph. Memorial donations to the St Joseph's Health Care Foundation, 50 Westmount St, Guelph, Ontario, the Foundation of Guelph General Hospital, or the charity of your choice are welcome. The families of Fred Hammond's sons William and Rob can be reached c/o Hammond Mfg Co Ltd, Edinburgh Rd, Guelph, ON, Canada.

(Above courtesy of American Radio Relay League, ARRL Letter Nov 12, 1999)

- . . . -

NEWS FROM THE RAC

ARES and Affiliated club documents moved to open web site (99-10-29)

In response to many requests, several downloadable documents and files that have been in the password-access portion of this web site have been moved to the open-access area. These include:

- 1) the RAC ARES Emergency Coordinator's Manual - the ARES EC's bible.

2) the RAC Section Manager's Survival Guide - also useful for other Field Organization leadership appointments

3) the RAC Affiliated Club President's Workbook and associated documents for RAC-affiliated clubs.

It is hoped that the wider availability of these documents will encourage greater participation in ARES and other RAC Field Organization programs, as well as the RAC Affiliated Club Program.

73 de Doug Leach , VE3XK
Radio Amateurs of Canada.

(Taken from the RAC web site.)

- . . . -

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go out to Frank Torontour, VE2TOR, for his election to the position of Vice-President of the Brownsburg Amateur Radio Club at their meeting, November 14, 1999. Good luck in your new position.

- . . . -

SUMMER REPORT BY ANDY SIPOS

Andy Sipos, VA2ASS sends in a report of some of his summer radio activities. He location was Thuro, Mass. on Cape Cod situated about 45 feet above sea level. The was a good location for 2 metre "DX".

Operating an HTX202 powered by a Mastercraft 12 volt gel battery output was between 3.5 to 4.0 watts. With a home made ground plane antenna placed on the roof top Andy was able to make some interesting contacts. Simplex QSOs included on June 27 at 10:00am a contact with K1MWU, Dan, on Nantucket Island, about 100 miles away on 146.520 on simplex, and on August 16 around 11:10am Andy was able to reach Henicker NH (near Concord) contacting AF1T, Dale, once again on 146.520 simplex. (Dale has just finished a QSO with Nova Scotia.)

Andy noted that there are many areas in the U.S. that have antenna restrictions. These include more and more condos and private residential area with security guards which impose a complete outdoor antenna ban. TV comes through cable. Hams may have the option

of stringing there antennas in the attic or concealing them in furniture.

Of course there are some "benefits", indoor antennas stay operational longer during emergencies such as approaching hurricanes and storms. To complement the antennas many hams operate with charged car batteries in parallel providing up to 50 watts output. Gel batteries are also very popular providing 5 to 10 watts output.

73 de Andy, VE2ASS

- . . . -

SCANNERS HEAR IT FIRST

BY FREDERICK HART VE2LSQ



November already?... Where did the year go? The leaves are still falling, It's colder I hate to say it but the white stuff is on the way (sorry Ray). Some of us are another year older this month (some are cuter than most). Since we don't publish in December, this will be the last column of the millennium (Is everyone Y2K ready yet?).

The activities have been moderate in the past month or so. Depending on your listening preferences, there has been earfuls on all the local (Montreal Urban Community (MUC) territory) emergency services to please the ears of most. On the Police front, the MUC have been keeping its extra channels alive such as, F-9 (412.6875), F-10 (411.3125) and F-14 (413.6625) are used during special incidents and make for some interesting scanning. Many operations were heard recently that fields the theory that the blue and white car society population has been rather sparse at the local donut shops (just kidding). Amongst the things to monitor are surveillance teams (day and night) on 411.3125. Using first names only, no car numbers and the compass/clock movement method to follow suspects(12-North, 3-East, 6-South and 9 West). After listening in for a

while, you can follow alone. With-in a short distance (very short) 413.6625 has come alive with tactical team operations. Thanks to a mobile friend for this discovery during an armed stand-off recently. An earful with a view and some juicy listening especially when we came across a cell site and tuned into a conversation with the armed suspect.

Over on the Fire Services side of things, there has been lots of chatter. Not too much in the way of multi-alarm blazes but various smaller interventions and rescue type calls have kept the frequencies hopping. The Dorval Fire Department (411.4875) is an active group with calls to the airport, the autoroutes and the large industrial area, they put on a lot of mileage on their vehicles every day in what seems to be what some other departments do in a week. Recent earfuls here were a couple of bomb alerts on aircraft and a radioactive hazmat incident just to name a few.

Within the EMS/ambulance domain, both CETAM and Urgences Sante systems keep on going like the Energizer Bunny (with a well placed horseshoe some place). Too bad the fleet couldn't multiply like bunnies as the call demand is far greater than the supply of service. This is evident when listening to any of the fire department First Response units when they are told by their dispatcher that "The ETA of the ambulance will be long" or "As soon as one is available, they will send it". Having worked for many years in that system, I can tell you that if it wasn't for the first responders in many municipalities, Jane and John Q Public would be S.O.L! (need I say more).

The Year 2000 will bring out more changes and new mutual aid configurations but that just makes our hobby more interesting and challenging. The way that the Ericsson EDACS system is making inroads into local two-way communications, I would venture a guess that many of you will be purchasing scanners with the latest enhancements. Units that are on the market that can track the Ericsson EDACS system are:

Bearcat/Uniden BC-245XLT (portable)
Radio Shack PRO-92 and PRO-94 (portables)
Radio Shack PRO-2052 (tabletop)
Optoelectronics Optocom (tabletop/mobile)

Jim VE2VE is enjoying the trials and tribulations of the BC-245XLT (when he isn't pulling his hair out). With the computer controlled option included, this is scanning at its best. Seeing all the frequency information, user, user talkgroup, number of times hit, etc and only touching the radio to adjust the volume/squelch sounds

neat (I'm still envious, Jim). The January, 2000 MarcOgram should have an EDACS profile and the latest services that make the jump. West Island Fire services are due to start in mid-December, 1999. We will let you know which ones ASAP (By then Jim should be bald but a seasoned pro on EDACS none the less).

- . . . -

It has been fun putting together this column with the information discovered for you to use so as to understand more about what we monitor. I wish to go out of this year and into the new millennium by thanking Craig Brander, the editor for his great work (and for putting up with me), to Vernon Ikeda who transcribes my scribbles to the computer, James Hay for doing the same and for his many hours searching the Industry Canada databases and other Internet sites to get facts and information we replay to you. Also to Raymond Faguy, my rolling Toyota source on the road who frequently tips me off to quite a few earfuls of on the scene action. Also to my contacts in the various Emergency Services and to former co-workers who exchange information and confirm what we discover. Much appreciation to James, Vernon and Raymond for all of the emotional support to help me keep up my morale and sanity and aid in getting this column out on time. Finally to you the readers for your input and comments that help in putting together an informative medium that goes along in our crazy hobby.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season and the very best for the new millennium. I'll be out of print until January. Next month I'll be busy putting on my big red suit and hooking Kiddo and Elmo up to the sleigh (OOPS, almost divulged my alter identity). See you in 2000 and get an earful! (I know I'll be there, I'm Y2K compatible)...

73 de Fred, VE2LS and a Q

- . . . -

CLASSIFIED

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

1) For Sale **LARGE COLLECTION** of misc. items, **including NEW TRANSMITTING TUBES**, hundreds of parts, hardware and items for experimental and homebrew projects. If you need something, send me your

list. Call or e-mail to: "Mac" VA2YQ, 514 482 3642 - <pbm@attcanada.net>.

2) For Sale -SSB Electronics SP2000 2 metre Pre-Amplifier. Contact Larry VE2ME at 514-342-3170 or by e-mail at ve2me@sympatico.ca

- . . . -

RADIO COURSES

The MARC is planning to have a basic radio course early in the new year. The course details have yet to be finalized, but is likely to take place at the downtown campus of Concordia University on Saturday mornings. If you are interested or know of anybody who is please contact Jim Hay at 697-7205, or Vern Ikeda at 684-7944.

- . . . -

MARC HAMFEST

Mark Saturday April 15, 2000 on your calendar. The date, hour and price for the MARC fleamarket are now confirmed. Continuing on last year's success it will be held once again the at the LaSalle Legion, 7771 Bouvier (corner Shevchenko) in Lasalle

Admission for vendors will be at 0730 and the public at 0800. General admission is \$4 while tables will be \$8 each or two for \$15. Volunteers will be needed to help with planning and running the hamfest. Contact Jim Hay at 697-7205 (e-mail: jrhay@haya.qc.ca), or Vern Ikeda at 684-7944 for further information or reservations.

- . . . -

Y2K PLANNING

The club is looking for operators who would be available for contingency plans and/or possible emergency nets which might be required at the new year period related to Y2K problems which might occur. The club would need operators for the Red Cross station at Nun's Island as well for possible call up for an emergency VHF net. Contact Jim Hay 514-697-7205 or Vernon Ikeda 514-684-7944.

.



Happy Holidays

