



# marcOgram

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

A MARC Monthly Newsletter

Volume 54, Number 6 March 2009

## *Next meeting - Wednesday 25, March 2009*

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

**Jim Nagle, KF4OD & Loftur Jonasson, TF3LJ**

**will be giving a presentation on software defined radio**

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

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

Please enter by the back door)

## **Montreal Fleamarket - Saturday, April 11, 2009**

**Royal Canadian Legion Hall Branch #212 (LaSalle)**

(see page 7 for details)

### CONTENTS

New Assistant Editor.....	page 2
RAC elects a new president.....	page 3
World Amateur radio daye .....	page 3
The Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) .....	page 4
Origin of ham stuff, Part III.....	page 5
APCO Canada.....	page 6
Electronic Warnings.....	page 6

## A Word from The President

Hello,

If the number of people still in the hall when I had to lock up the church is any indication of the quality of last month's meeting it was a roaring success. Don Courcy have a presentation which had those present paying close attention and which spurred considerable conversation over coffee after the meeting.

With the weather warming up a sure sign of spring is the annual St. Patrick's parade. This year's is the 185th consecutive parade. Our participation this year, as it was last year, is reduced but nonetheless provides needed information to the organizers and city officials.

This month's meeting promises to be another interesting one with the subject of software defined radio. This is a field which perhaps can bring an element of the experimentation of many years ago back to amateur radio.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting

73 de Jim.

### DIRECTORS

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**Club Call Sign:** VE2ARC

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

**Club Email:** [ve2arc@rac.ca](mailto:ve2arc@rac.ca)

### Repeaters

**VE2BG** 147.06 MHz (+)

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

**VE2RED** 147.27 MHz (+)

*Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur radio Club.*

### Meetings of the Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to any member to attend. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (Sept. to June) at 7:30 PM at the Montreal Association for the Blind, 7000 Sherbrooke St. West.

Should you wish to attend one of the meetings you are welcome. Just speak to one of the directors before-hand to make certain that the meeting has neither been cancelled, nor the location changed.

The MarcOgram is published nine times per year on the second to last Wednesday of September through June, excepting December, by the Montreal Amateur radio Club. Advertising and copy deadline is one week prior to publication.

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**Annual Fees are:**

GeneralMembers... \$25.00

Associate Members \$25.00

White cane members \$15.00

Family members (per family) \$30.00

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Membership received on or after June 1 commences immediately and extends through the subsequent membership year - covering a period of up to fifteen months.

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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.

### Club Activities - Monthly Meetings

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

### From the Editor's Desk

Well, here we are, almost springtime so hopefully the weather will begin to improve so that us fair-weather types can start to get outside and do our ham things.

I personally plan to re-setup my APRS rig and hope I can successfully use my newly acquired ASUS Eee Book.

One final point. You will see on page-2 under Editor, that we now have an Assistant Editor in the name of Sheldon Werner, VA2SH. Thank you Sheldon, I really appreciate you coming on-board the marcOgram to help

**MARC Fundraiser WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

In order for MARC to reach some of its goals, the BOD have decided to increase the advertising in the marcOgram newsletter. The rates are as follows:

Business card	\$ 5.00 per issue	Quarter page	\$ 7.00 per issue
Half page	\$12.00 per issue	Full page	\$20.00 per issue

The "Marcogram" from September to May, which is eight issues. This year we added June, which becomes a free month. So we actually publish nine issues. We have a list distribution of about 200 persons. A business card placed for 8 issues would only be \$ 40.00. We are asking for all members to try and contribute either via a donation, or asking a friend or family who has a business to place an ad.

me out. I would like to be able to provide more local HAM coverage but articles and information seemed to have dried up. Perhaps with your assistance we can make some improvements.

That's it -

*Your editor..*

*Rjcam the Video-n-Podcast Ham,  
VA2RJC*

## **RAC Elects New President**

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) President Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ/VO1AU, announced he was resigning his post, effective immediately, at the RAC Board of Directors teleconference meeting on February 24. At the same teleconference meeting, the RAC Board elected Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, as RAC President. Cooke will serve until December 31, 2009, the end of the current term. According to RAC Vice President for International Affairs Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, Goodwin indicated that his decision was motivated by his inability to devote enough time to RAC affairs, due to a recent increase in personal and professional responsibilities. Goodwin became RAC President on January 1, 2008 at the end of President Earle Smith's, VE6NM, tenure. Cooke has a long history of working with RAC. His involvement started in the early 1990s as an Assistant Director; he served as RAC Ontario South Director from November 2001-January 2005. He was then elected by the RAC Board as Vice President for Field Services, serving from January

2006-February 2009 when he resigned to accept the appointment as President.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA,  
Vice President for International Affairs  
Radio Amateurs of Canada

## **From the ARRL**

### **WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY TO RECOGNIZE AMATEUR RADIO'S ROLE IN DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS**

Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded <http://www.iaru.org/>. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication.

"It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC)

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/26/10186/?nc=1> chose this subject at this time," said IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communication Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. "While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance just in the recent past."

Citing the fact that natural, as well as manmade disasters are on the rise, Zimmermann pointed out that today's modern communication technologies are "increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable. The Amateur Radio Service puts two equally valuable assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster

prevention, preparedness and response: A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and a large num-

**dvcam-ham productions**

**Ronald J Campbell, VA2RJC**

Editor - marcOgram

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## Submissions for entry into marcOgram

For submissions of text only it is preferable that you send as a ".txt" file, however, MS Word is acceptable.

For pictures please use "jpg" format with maximum size 400 x 240. Where possible use at least 240 dpi.

For clip art if possible use "gif". Maximum size 480 x 340 pix. This will give a picture size of approximately 8 Kb.

Contact me at:

[va2rjc@videotron.ca](mailto:va2rjc@videotron.ca)

Home Tel: 514-767-2804

ber of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances."

Zimmermann said that the tools available to Amateur Radio operators "range from the most robust means such as battery-operated stations operating in Morse code, to links through Amateur Radio satellites and interconnectivity with the Internet, in voice, text, image and data modes. They range from local VHF networks of fixed, mobile and portable stations to shortwave networks that span the globe. All these networks are operated on a daily basis by men and women who are thoroughly familiar with their technology and their intricacies."

"Telecommunications have become a commodity that society takes for granted," Zimmermann stated, adding that "the sudden loss of that service is often felt in a similar way to the loss of shelter, food and medical support. When disasters occur in regions that do not have good coverage by public networks -- or when existing communications-infrastructure have just been disrupted or destroyed by such events

-- the Amateur Radio Service comes to the rescue. Amateur Radio operators provide communications for the rescuers and relief workers and their organizations and they help to provide communications for those affected by a disaster."

Zimmermann continued: "In fact, contributions to emergency and disaster relief are a major argument for the preservation and the extension of the privileges the Amateur Radio Service enjoys in international and national regulations. This is one of the reasons why more and more Amateur Radio operators -- through their clubs and their national societies -- prepare very seriously for their role in emergencies; however, their skills can be put to use only if they are known by other first responders. Effective response to emergencies can only occur with the work of volunteers in all the various fields, from search and rescue to medical assistance and those who can provide food and shelter. Communication skills are a new, but equally vital commodity."

## The Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC)

Conference will be held on 24 - 25 August 2009, in connection with the JARL Ham Fair at Tokyo Big Sight, Ariake, Tokyo Japan. The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) hosts the Conference.

The Theme of the GAREC-2009 will be "Emergency Communications across Borders". The program will include presentations about operations during disasters that occurred since last year's conference and discussions about new developments in technology and their application in emergency communications. The detailed program will be published in late April.

All Amateur Radio Operators interested in Emergency Communications are invited to participate. The fifth GAREC continues the work of its four forerunners: After the first and the second GAREC in Tampere, Finland,

the third GAREC in Huntsville, Alabama, USA, and the fourth GAREC in 2008 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, this year's event will be the first GAREC conference in IARU Region 3. The proceedings and the statements of the 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 conferences can be found at the GAREC web site indicated below. Emergency Telecommunications are, by the way, also the theme of this year's World Amateur Radio Day (WARD-09) on 18 April, see <http://www.iaru.org/worldAmRadioDay.html>.

The Organizing Committee for GAREC-2009 consists of Seppo Sisatto OH1VR, and Jay Oka JA1TRC. Members of the Program Committee are Keigo Komuro JA1KAB, Jim Linton VK3PC, and Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. Registration will start early May.

For details please visit the GAREC web-site at URL <http://www.rientola.fi/oh3ag/garec/index.html>.

Contact: Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR, [Seppo.Sisatto@uta.fi](mailto:Seppo.Sisatto@uta.fi).

## ORIGIN OF HAM STUFF

### Part III

### \*\*\*FACT, LEGENDS AND MYTHS!\*\*\*

(Via Louise Ramsey Moreau, W3WRE, & Charles A. Wimer, KC8EHA)

## TELEGRAPHIC CODES OF MORSE AND MEN

by Kenneth Brown G0PSW

The first line telegraph message is thought to have been sent from Washington to Baltimore in May 1844 by Samuel Finley Breeze Morse (1791-1872). He is said to have tapped out the message, "What hath God wrought?" using a code of interrupted signals which he and his associate Alfred Louis Vail (1807-1859), had developed some years earlier. After this momentous achievement and following the founding of Western Union in



1856, coast to coast telegraph lines were quickly installed and it then became commercially possible to send and receive telegraphic traffic by line.

Since then and with an eye on faster speeds of transmissions and higher accuracy, newspapers, railways and post offices made great use of the telegraph to provide their customers with speedy, economic, personal and commercial communication. This also paved the way for transmitting traffic by radio from the late 1890s following successful experiments by Marconi.

One way of speeding the flow of traffic was to operate an agreed set of short codes to replace well-known sentences or phrases but at that time there was no common national or international standard. The first of many conferences to discuss and try to resolve this issue was held in the US in April 1857, culminating with the release of the National Telegraphic Review and Operators' Guide. This Guide makes the first authentic reference to the well-known greeting 73 (at that time meaning love and kisses). Later editions kept this definition, but as time went by, the meaning of 73 changed from a Valentine type of greeting to a vague sign of operators' fraternalism.

Western Union set up the Standard 92 Code in 1859. Replacing common sentences and phrases with selected numbers between 1 and 92, the message was telegraphed to a distant station. At the distant end the numbers were decoded and a plain language version delivered to the recipient. The definition of 73 changed yet again to a very flowery "accept my compliments". From 1859 to 1900 the many telegraphic manuals show variations of this meaning. Each major telegraph and railway company had its own distinctive telegraphic codes. Since there was no agreed standard, all were different, and as a consequence, there was much confusion in communicating with different networks. During this time there were even two alphabetical Morse codes; the

American and the Continental (European) versions. Although there were basic similarities, there were also some major differences. This, combined with the multiplicity of telegraphic codes, caused confusion and made communication with and between U.S. establishments particularly difficult.

The U.S. 1908 Dodge's Manual gives today's definition of 73 as "best regards". Other Dodge numbers were 88 (love and kisses), 55 (lots of success), and 99 (get lost, which was probably unofficial).


Also, in 1908, the British Post Office, despairing of action to agree an international code of abbreviations, issued its own list of two letter abbreviations intended for use between British coast stations and ships. The list, published in the PMG's Instructions to Wireless Telegraphists, included abbreviations RA to RZ and SA to SF. The next International Radiotelegraphic Convention, held in London in July 1912, adopted and extended the GPO abbreviations. "Q" was added as the first letter and so the "Q" code was born. The new code now ran from QRA to QRZ and QSA to QSX. On July 1st, 1913, the Q code finally became an official international information code, updated as changing circumstances demanded to include new codes relating to such matters as aviation and maritime.

Some time later came the Z code, running in parallel with the Q code. This originated as a company code of cable and wireless with application limited, in the main, to high speeds machine Morse operating at speeds of typically 120 wpm. Widely used by many countries, including Germany, the Q code and Z code continued in use throughout the war. After the war, high-speed Morse became less widely used and was replaced by other forms of traffic communication such as RTTY and facsimile. The Z code, therefore, gradually went out of fashion and slowly disappeared. Examples of the Z code include ZAA (you are not observing circuit discipline), ZAN (we can receive

absolutely nothing), ZST (send slips twice), ZAP (acknowledge please), and several others.

Operating during the 1930s and early 1940s, at the same time as the Z and Q codes, was the X code, then in use by European military services as a wireless telegraphy code. This consisted of the letter X followed by a number. For example; X34 meant "your Morse is bad", X50 meant "your Morse is good", X100 meant "affirmative", X112 meant "interrogative", X279 meant "what is the strength of my signal?" and X496/257 meant "I am winding in my aerial prior to landing/I have nothing further for you".

The X code continued in use with the forces until 1942 when, at the insistence of the U.S. military, it was replaced by the Q code. So the Q code became the standard international military and civil telegraphic letter code used in CW communication (sometimes, incorrectly, even in R/T). Published as an operators' manual, there are separate sections available to deal with various areas of communication. Some less well known examples of the Q



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**STEPHEN PICKFORD --TRAVEL EXPERT**

Host of The Travel Hour with Stephen Pickford and Friends (formerly CIQC's Travel World Radio Show)

code used by base stations of the British army included QAU followed by QHU, meaning "I am waterlogged" and "I am about to jettison fuel" (AS5 generally followed). Even less well known is QGG, meaning "send the pony by the next train".

Widely used by radio amateurs operating CW, today's Q code has slightly different meanings but is still very similar to the 1912 version.

One of the great benefits of using the Q code is the pleasure in being able to communicate with overseas operators who may not be fluent in the English language.

In conclusion, it is a sad fact there will be no successor to the Q code as Morse code is no longer taught to budding telegraphists (except to the favoured few specialist Aldis lamp operators in the Royal Navy). Data stream transmissions have displaced Morse and taken over everyday communication. Such is the march of time.

### **APRS Mobile - Montreal**

This from a recent issue of the aprssig Digest.

Ah, another Tracker-City...  
This report sent from Canada...

I am vacationing [near Montreal] with my D710 on my AVMAP-G5 map I am amazed at the number of APRS mobiles in Montreal, an average of 15 on any one day; In Philadelphia I never see this many mobiles.

I have been here for 10 days and have tried numerous APRS stations to engage in a text message conversation to no avail. I get good acks for messages sent. It is like they setup the APRS station then walk away... [not even any Voice Alert setups]

The following comment from Bob Bruninga, Wb4APR

*Shows how far APRS Tracker mentality has gotten APRS away from the tactical real-time communications be-*

## **Marche aux Puce de Montréal - Samedi le 11 Avril, 2009**

### **Montreal Fleamarket - Saturday, April 11, 2009**

**Royal Canadian Legion Hall Branch #212 (LaSalle)**

7771 Bouvier (Coin de Shevchenko/Corner of Shevchenko),  
Ville LaSalle, Quebec

Autobus STCUM # 109 Arrêt au coin/stops at corner.  
Planibus/Bus Schedule - 109  
<http://www.stm.info/English/bus/planibus/109.pdf>

#### **Ouverture/Opening:**

Vendeurs/Vendors 08h00 - 08:15 AM  
Public/Public 09h00 - 12h00/09:00 AM - noon  
Prix de Presence - Door Prizes  
Radio-Guidage/Talk-in To Be Announced  
Frais D'Admission/General Admission 5.00\$  
Tables/Tables 10,00\$ chacun/each 18,00\$  
pour deux/for two

#### **Renseignements - Reservations - Information**

James R. Hay Telephone (514)-697-7205  
(evenings) (514)-990-1965 (days)  
courriel/email:[ve2arc@rac.ca](mailto:ve2arc@rac.ca)  
<http://www.marc.qc.ca/fest/fest.html>

7771 Bouvier (Coin de Shevchenko/Corner of Shevchenko)  
Ville LaSalle, Quebec  
Autobus STCUM # 109 Arrêt au coin/stops at corner.  
Planibus/Bus Schedule - 109  
<http://www.stm.info/English/bus/planibus/109.pdf>

*tween humans. Everyone needs to get APRS back on track or it will die of boredom:*

- *Put your mobile on Voice Alert (VA) and monitor.*
- *Chat with other APRS users when heard direct on VA.*
- *Include your Voice Freq in your packets.*
- *Make sure all digis are putting out their Voice Freqs.*

*Lets communicate (2-way)... That is what Ham radio is all about and it is the only way to get more people involved in APRS. That is, have something to help them communicate, anywhere, anytime.  
See [www.oaprs.net](http://www.oaprs.net) .....Bob, Wb4APR .*

## Electronic Warnings

This gives us something to think about with all our new electronic technology..

### GPS

A couple of weeks ago a friend told me that someone she knew had their car broken into while they were at a football match. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen.

The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

### MOBILE PHONE

I never thought of this.....

This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet... Etc...was stolen.

20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says 'I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago.'

When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text 'hubby' in the contact list and got

hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

### Moral of the lesson:

Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc.... And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet 'family and friends' who text you.

## Serious Spring Flooding for various areas of Manitoba

**FROM: Don Gerrard VE4DWG - Section Emergency Coordinator - Manitoba**

Please be advised that the potential for Serious Spring Flooding for various areas of Manitoba is mounting, and based on the "Flood Forecast" released today by the Province's Water Stewardship Department: It looks like its going to be "damp".

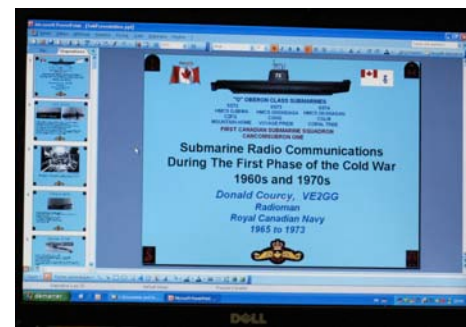
I have called a meeting with the Manitoba ARES Executive/key DEC's next week (March 26) at Manitoba Emergency Measures to begin the planning process - continuing on the success experience by ARES in supporting the Province in severe flooding that occurred in Manitoba in 1997.

It appears right now that Winnipeg its self should not be too seriously impacted - thanks in part to a massive project to expand the capacity of the "Floodway" system protecting the region around Winnipeg.

The focus of the upcoming meeting will be to:

A) ensure mutual aid contingency for impacted areas - South and North of Winnipeg - which in the past required ECOM operators to be stations with emergency officials in evacuated flood

bound communities,  
B) to ensure 24x7 operation of key Command and Control facilities if/as required i.e. City of Winnipeg Emergency Operations Centre (VROC) for Winnipeg's Flood Battle, and Manitoba Emergency Measures Emergency Operations Centre (EMO) to assist with the Provincial Response.  
C) Other facilities that may require assistance in communications support is the Amateur station at Public Safety Canada (VE4PSC) and Manitoba Emergency Health (VE4MBH).



Don Courcy, VE2GG and his excellent presentation regarding radio communications aboard a Canadian submarine



**RADIO H.F.**



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A.O.R., ALINCO, ICOM, UNIDEN/BEARCAT, WINRADIO

**AMATEUR RADIO / RADIO-AMATEUR**

ALINCO, ICOM, KENWOOD, RANGER, S.G.C., YAESU

**CITIZENS BAND (CB) / BANDE PUBLIQUE (CB)**

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**PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS**

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL), ARTSCI, BAYLIN PUBLICATIONS, BILLBOARD (WRTH), CQ, CRB, HIGHTEXT, IBS (PASSPORT), KLINGENFUSS, KRAUSE, LOOMPANICS, NATIONAL RADIO CLUB, RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK, RADIO AMATEURS DU QUEBEC, SCHIFFER BOOKS, SONORAN, TAB, TIARE

**NATURE BOOKS / LIVRES DE LA NATURE**

SIBLEY GUIDES, PETERSON FIELD GUIDES, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY