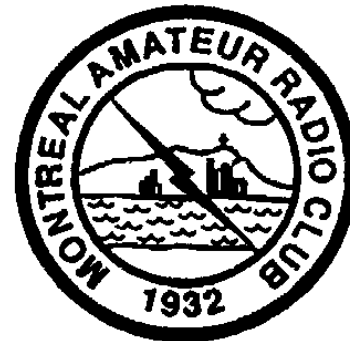


# marcOgram

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



Volume 48, Number 5

February 2003

## **“MONITORING HOTSPOTS ON SHORTWAVE PRESENTED BY SHELDON HARVEY, VE2SHW”**

Wednesday 26 February 2003

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30

Club meeting: 20:00

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

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

Sheldon Harvey, VE2SHW, will present a talk on “monitoring hotspots on shortwave”. HF communications continue to play an important role around the world even with the development of modern technologies. Sheldon is a dynamic speaker and this meeting should prove to be both entertaining and informative, not to mention very timely with many major events continuing to unfold around the world. So come on out and enjoy this talk. More information on this talk is inside this month’s Marcogram.

### **A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello,

Who left the freezer door open? As I write this we're coming out of our second deep freeze this winter. At least I hope we are and I have no doubt that it will cool off again before winter's end. Hopefully the winter has been kind to your antenna system and you don't have any urgent repairs pending.

This month we decided to have a slight

change in focus at the meeting and Sheldon Harvey, VE2SHW will give a talk on shortwave monitoring as it relates to some of the "hot spots" around the world. This should provide some interesting information to apply to all those HF rigs with general coverage receive capabilities and should be an interesting talk.

Our courses are coming along well and the students are certainly interested. We should have a number of new hams just in time for the hamfest.

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) ... .. \$30.00

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

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### Directors

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 Earl Paris, VE2ESP.....514-524-4633  
 Dave Melanson, VE2MPD

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.

VE2RJS 449.975 MHz (-)  
 Owned by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club and operated by the Cote St Luc Amateur Radio Association. 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.

## Club Activities Monthly Meetings

26 February 2003 - Monitoring World Hot Spots by Sheldon Harvey, VE2SHW  
 26 March 2003 - TBA  
 30 April 2003 - TBA  
 28 May 2003 - TBA

### Radio Classes

A basic level course started in January in association with the Concordia University ARC. Five students are participating and progress reports are available from Jim Hay or Vern Ikeda.

### MARC Hamfest

The club will be holding its annual hamfest Saturday morning, 12 April 2003 at the Lasalle Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch. Please contact Jim Hay for more information or to participate in the organization and running of this event. Further details are on page 6.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Montreal 911 Centre ..... 514-280-2121  
 Laval 911 Centre .....450-662-4240  
 Longueuil 911 Centre .....450-646-8570  
 Sûreté du Québec ..... 310-4141  
 Kahnawake Peace Keepers 450-632-6505

These numbers are for emergencies ONLY

Speaking of the hamfest, gather your surplus gear together and let me know how many tables you want. If you don't have anything to sell then plan on coming out to see what's for sale and see your friends. We'll need a few volunteers to help with the set up once we get into the building so if you'd like to help out please let me know.

That's about all I have for the moment. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

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### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

With spring hopefully fast approaching its time to think about our club's hamfest. So please remember to spread the word and help promote this year's event. We need everybody's help to make sure we enjoy another successful year. Whether you need a table or two, help with the organization, or come by for visit, all contributions will help. So mark the date in your calendar and make it a date.

For those who aren't aware Sheldon Harvey, VE2SHW has resigned as controller of the Sunday night West Island Amateur Radio Club Swap Net and the Montreal DX Listeners Net. I want to thank Sheldon for his efforts and contributions to amateur radio. Your commitment to share your talent with us Sunday nights for 10 years is a notable achievement. I hope you will be able to make a similar contribution and get enjoyment from your other pursuits wherever they may take you. Thanks again for a job well done.

73 de Craig, VE2YGK

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### CONTEST CALENDAR

More on contests including full rules can be found on the Internet. Check:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

This site has concise rules etc., for the current week's contests.

#### February 2003

CQ 160-Meter Contest SSB	0000Z Feb 22 - 2359Z Feb 23
North American QSO Party RTTY	1800Z Feb 22 - 0600Z Feb 23
Russian PSK WW Contest	0000Z - 2400Z Feb 23
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z - 1100Z Feb 23

North Carolina QSO Party

and 1500Z - 1700Z Feb 23  
1700Z Feb 23 - 0300Z Feb 24

#### March 2003

ARRL Inter. DX Contest Phone	0000Z Mar 1 - 2400Z Mar 2
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z Mar 8 - 1000Z Mar 9
RSGB Commonwealth Contest CW	1000Z Mar 8 - 1000Z Mar 9
North American Sprint RTTY	0000Z - 0400Z Mar 9
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z Mar 9 - 0100Z Mar 10
10-10 Mobile Contest	0000Z - 2359Z Mar 15
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest	0200Z Mar 15 - 0200Z Mar 17
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1000Z Mar 15 - 1000Z Mar 16
Russian DX Contest	1200Z Mar 15 - 1200Z Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party	1800Z Mar 15 - 0200Z Mar 17
Oklahoma QSO Party	2300Z Mar 21 - 2300Z Mar 23
CLARA and Family HF Contest	1700Z Mar 22 - 1700Z Mar 23
Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint	0000Z - 0400Z Mar 24
CQ WW WPX Contest SSB	0000Z Mar 29 - 2400Z Mar 30

#### April 2003

SARL 80-Meter QSO Party	1700Z - 2000Z Apr 3
SP DX Contest	1500Z Apr 5 - 1500Z Apr 6
Missouri QSO Party	1800Z Apr 5 - 0500Z Apr 6 and 1800Z - 2400Z Apr 6
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z Apr 12 - 1300Z Apr 13
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z Apr 12 - 2400Z Apr 13
EU Spring Sprint SSB	1500Z - 1859Z Apr 12
Georgia QSO Party	1800Z Apr 12 - 0359Z Apr 13 and 1400Z - 2359Z Apr
UBA Spring Contest SSB	0600Z - 1000Z Apr 13

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### COMING EVENTS

For up to date Canadian Fleamarket listings, please check the Radio Amateurs of Canada site at:

<http://rac.eton.ca/>

or for up to date American listings, go to the American Radio Relay League Hamfest website at:

<http://www.arrrl.org/hamfest.html>

#### 2003 Hamfests

##### March 01

##### Burlington ON

Saturday, March 1, Burlington Spring Fleamarket - Burlington, Ontario. Location: Royal Canadian Legion - 828 Legion Road, Burlington, Ontario  
Vendors 07h00, Public 09h00. Admission \$6.00 Tables \$10.00. Talk-in VE3RSB 147.210 (+)  
Information and Table reservations: Chuck Wilson, VE3IUO at 905-333-5785. Mail reservations and cheques to Chuck Wilson at 4113 Marcia Place, Burlington, Ontario L7L 5B6

E-Mail: va3iou@rac.ca

**Web page:** <http://barc.burlington.on.ca>

**March 01 Montréal QC**

On Saturday, March 1 the UMS Annual Fleamarket - Montréal, Quebec at Location: Centre Roussin, 12125 Notre Dame Est (East), Montréal, QC

Time: Vendors 07h00 am - Public 09h00

Admission: 5.00\$ Tables 10.00\$

Talk-in VE2RXW 146.700 (-)

Reservations/Information: 514-521-7765

E-mail: hamfest@ve2ums.ca

**Web page:** <http://www.ve2ums.ca>

**March 22 Brampton ON**

Saturday, March 22, HAMEX 2003 - Brampton, Ontario  
Location: Brampton Fall Fairgrounds, Heart Lake Road corner of Old School Road, Brampton, Ontario

Time: Vendors at - Public at 09h00 to 13h00

Talk-in VE3PRC 146.880 (-)

or VE3MIS 145.430 (-) 103.5 Hz PL Tone.

Information: ham-ex@sympatico.ca

**Web page:** <http://www.peelarc.org>

**March 29 Laval QC**

On Saturday March 29, the Hamfest Laval-Laurentides 2003, at (New Location) Polyvalente Georges Vanier, 2995 boul. Lévesque Est, Saint Vincent de Paul (Laval).

Vendors: T.B.A. Public 09h00 Admission: 5.00\$ per person. Tables: 10.00\$

Talk-in: VE2REL 147.315 Mhz (+)

Information and reservations: (514)-708-8033

e-mail: hamfest@ve2crl.qc.ca

**Web page:** <http://www.ve2crl.qc.ca>

**April 12 LaSalle (Montreal) QC**

Saturday, April 12 - Montreal Hamfest and Fleamarket LaSalle (Montreal), Québec

Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 212 (LaSalle), 7771 Bouvier - corner of Shevchenko. STM Bus 109 at the door.

Vendors 07h30 Public 08h30 to 12h00. Admission - 4.00\$

Talk-in: VE2RED 147.270 (+)

Information: James R. Hay, VE2VE - (514)-697-7205

E-mail: ve2arc@rac.ca

**Web page:** <http://www.marc.qc.ca/fest.html>

**April 12 Oshawa ON**

Saturday, April 12 - Whitby Hamfest - Oshawa, Ontario

Location: Jubilee Pavilion, 55 Lake View Park, Oshawa, ON  
Vendors 07h00 Public 09h00 to 13h00. Admission - \$5.00  
Tables \$10.00. Talk-in - VE3WOM 147.150 (+) or  
VE3RPT 147.060 (+). Information: Betty Huider, 87  
Thickson Road, North Whitby, ON L1N 3P7 or Phone 905-  
579-1800 E-mail: ve3blh@rac.ca

**April 19 Iroquois ON**

Saturday, April 19 - Iroquois A.R.C. 8th Annual Flea Market - Iroquois, Ontario. Location: Iroquois Civic Centre  
Vendors: 08h00 Public: 09h00 - 12h00 Admission - Free  
Tables 10.00\$

Talk-in VE3IRO 145.290 (-) Table reservations/  
Information: Gord, VE3UGW (613)-657-3640 or

E-mail ve3ugw@recorder.ca

**Web Site:** <http://cc.recorder.ca/~ve3ugw>

**April 26 Whitby ON**

Saturday, April 26 - Durham Region Hamfest - Whitby, Ontario. Location: Iroquois Park Recreation Centre - Victoria Street corner of Henry Street

Vendors 07h30 - Public 09h00 to 13h00 Admission 6.00\$

Tables 25.00\$ - includes 1 admission. Talk-in: 147.375 (+)

VE3SPA Information/Reservations: Peter Henry,

VA3PWH at 905-436-9236 or e-mail at:

va3pwh@idirect.com

Reservations by mail only. Postmark must be before April 5, 2003.

**Web Site:** <http://drhamfest.tripod.com>

A reminder - if you have web access you can also check the list of hamfests on the club's web page at:

**Web Site:** <http://www.marc.qc.ca/festcal.html>

73 de Vernon Erle Ikeda, VE2MBS

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## MONITORING HOTSPOTS ON SHORTWAVE THOUGHT ON HF

More and more, we hear of the drop off in interest and importance in radio broadcasting and communications, particularly with the introduction of competing forms of communications such as satellites, computers and the Internet.

As we sit perched on the verge of a major conflict in the Middle East, experienced radio hobbyists know that the stories of the demise of radio are way too premature.

Be it international shortwave broadcasters, or utility communications by land, sea or air, the HF spectrum lights up with activity during major world events. People throughout the world tune to radio for their news and information than all other forms of media combined.

Our discussion for the MARC Meeting will focus on the important role HF radio communications continue to play in the world. We'll discuss where and when to listen, what to listen for, and how to comprehend what we are listening to.

There is much more radio out there than just amateur radio in the HF spectrum. Monitoring during times of crisis can be both challenging and rewarding. My presentation will help to lead you to the unique sources of news and information to be found in the HF spectrum.

73 de Sheldon Harvey, VE2SHW  
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## **ARRL BULLETINS**

### **ARLB014 New Field Day entry class**

Field Day will gain another entry class for 2003. "Class F" stations will operate at emergency operations centres, or EOCs. The change renews the emphasis of Field Day's 1933 origins as an emergency preparedness exercise as opposed to a routine contest.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said that last year the League received a record number of Field Day entries from groups and individuals. Given the increased emphasis on emergency communications since September 11, 2001, the ARRL Board's Membership Services Committee asked that the Contest Branch come up with something to reflect that emphasis. The new Class F station is the result.

"This is a major change," Henderson said. "Class F has been established to encourage groups to test and further their working relationships with established emergency operations centres." The updated rules and a list of frequently asked questions in the new 2003 Field Day packet spell out the details.

A Class F entry station must set up at an "established EOC" centre activated by a club or non-club group. Class F EOC operation must take place in co-operation with the EOC staff. Class F stations are eligible for the same bonus points as Class A stations.

### **Space Bulletin 006 ARLS006 ISS crew grieves Columbia loss, moves forward**

The all-ham crew members of the International Space Station said February 11 that while they grieve the loss of the shuttle Columbia crew, human space exploration must continue and they're ready to spend up to a year in space if necessary. The ISS crew made its first public comments since the February 1 shuttle disaster in two news conferences this week.

The crew has not used the NA1SS onboard ham stations since the last Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school contact in January. The next scheduled ARISS contact is set for Friday, February 21, with students at Oregon State University.

Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, said that once it became unlikely that there were any survivors from the Columbia catastrophe, "we discussed all of the different options for how it would affect us. ... We've got a Soyuz vehicle parked right outside."

He said the crew did not feel isolated and had plenty of contact with family and friends and that, while not operating at peak efficiency, the ISS crew members would continue to move forward with the "serious tasks" ahead of them.

### **ARLS007 Columbia recovery effort over for Texas hams**

Ham radio support for the shuttle Columbia debris search and recovery effort in Nacogdoches and San Augustine counties in Texas wrapped up February 12. US Forest Service personnel were scheduled to assume the support role hams had filled in East Texas for nearly two weeks.

South Texas Section Emergency Co-ordinator Bob Ehrhardt, W5ZX, praised amateurs for their professionalism and dedication. Ehrhardt said the weather often was rainy and cold with some sleet--and the brambles and briars in the forest did not help. Ehrhardt said the agencies the hams worked with were pleasantly surprised, and pleased, too. As he put it: "I know that we changed several minds that we could get the job done."

Hams spent about 12 days in the Columbia search-and-recovery effort, using GPS and off-the-shelf computer mapping software to pin down and report the locations of debris items as they were sighted.

Preliminary numbers reported this week indicated that 198 amateurs logged in at one time or another in Nacogdoches County and 148 in San Augustine County. An estimated 80 percent of the participating amateurs were from outside the two counties.

From the ARRL web site.

<http://www.arrrl.org>

73 de Vernon, VE2MBS

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## **RADIO INVENTOR 'S DAUGHTER SPEAKS TO SPACE STATION**

A century after Guglielmo Marconi sent a historic radio transmission across the Atlantic, his daughter Elettra spoke to astronauts from the same site.

Associated Press - Eastham, Mass. - A century after Guglielmo Marconi ushered in the era of wireless communications, his daughter marked the centennial Saturday by greeting astronauts from close to the same spot where her father sent a historic radio transmission across the Atlantic.

"In this same spirit of his achievement, and also from Cape Cod, I send this wireless greeting to you in space. Cordial greetings, and good wishes," Princess Elettra Marconi told Kenneth Bowersox, commander of the international space station.

"It is amazing how far society and radio communications has come in the last 100 years. It is wonderful to hear your voice across the radio waves," Mr. Bowersox told the princess, who spoke from an auditorium filled with about 200 people.

The site is about five miles from the coastal bluff where Mr. Marconi sent the first wireless Trans-Atlantic message: a Morse code greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to King Edward VII of England on Jan. 18, 1903.

The radio transmission was sent from the eastern end of the cape to Nova Scotia to Cornwall, England. In his message, Mr. Roosevelt called the achievement a "wonderful triumph of scientific research and ingenuity."

Mr. Marconi, who won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1909, had previously delivered messages over shorter distances, and transmitted the letter 'S' in Morse code across the Atlantic, but the 1903 transmission solidified the legitimacy of radio.

The message from the princess, who is in her early 70s and gained her title by marrying an Italian nobleman, was part of a week of centennial events culminating Saturday night with the world-wide transmission of a message from President George W. Bush.

"By inventing the first practical system of wireless telegraphy Marconi pioneered international communications and opened the door for technological advances that have

improved the lives of countless Americans and people around the world," Mr. Bush said.

Members of the Marconi Radio Club staged a week-long radio marathon, communicating with other amateur radio enthusiasts around the world from an old Coast Guard post not far from the site of Mr. Marconi's original station. The radio hams expect to log more than 10,000 transmissions by week's end.

The site of the 1903 transmission is under water because of erosion. The National Park Service has placed a replica of Mr. Marconi's original radio transmitter on the bluff above.

Thanks to Mario , VE2TSM for this information. Other information is available from the ARISS link from the RAC web site:

<http://rac.ca/ariss>

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## **SCANNERS HEAR IT FIRST By FREDERICK HART, VE2LSQ**

Editor's Note: Fred's column is unavailable this month. Fred had an accident at home and is currently recovering in hospital. As Fred puts it, as the Marcogram goes to press he is on day 17 of Fred's medical adventure and is looking forward to coming home as a new man. Fred also wants to thank Jim and Vern who were able to bring some ears (the scanner) to the hospital. Fred is in good spirits and hopes to be able to provide his regular contribution next month.

Fred, just to let you know we are all thinking of you and sending you best wishes for a speedy and full recovery. Good luck Fred, and we look forward to your next column.

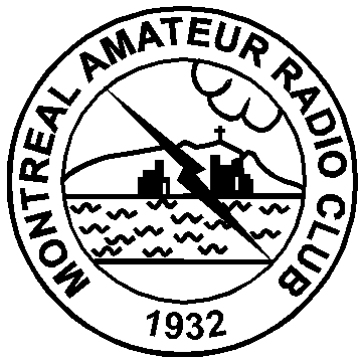
73 de Fred and the cats.

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## **CLASSIFIED**

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

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# Hamfest Montreal Amateur Radio Club

Amateur  
Radio Flea Market

Marché aux Pûces  
Radio Amateur

Saturday April 12,  
2003

Le Samedi 12 avril 2003

Royal Canadian Legion  
7771 Bouvier  
Lasalle  
(STM bus 109)

Royal Canadian Legion  
7771 Bouvier  
Lasalle  
(autobus STM 109)

TIME: DEALERS - 7:30 AM PUBLIC - 8:30 AM  
DOOR PRIZES - FREE PARKING - SNACK BAR  
TALK-IN: 147.270+ (VE2RED)  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$4.00  
TABLE RENTAL \$8.00 (2 for \$15)  
Table rental includes one admission

OUVERTURE: 7h30 VENDEURS, 8h30 PUBLIC  
Prix de Présence-Stationnement Gratuit-Casse Croûte  
GUIDAGE: 147.270+ (VE2RED)  
FRAIS D'ADMISSION 4,00\$  
LOCATION DES TABLES 8,00\$ (2 pour 15.00\$)  
Une entrée avec location d'une table

Information - Reservations  
Jim HAY 514-697-7205  
E-mail: [jrhay@haya.qc.ca](mailto:jrhay@haya.qc.ca)  
<http://www.marc.qc.ca>

Renseignements - Reservations  
Jim HAY 514-697-7205  
E-mail - [jrhay@haya.qc.ca](mailto:jrhay@haya.qc.ca)  
<http://www.marc.qc.ca>



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VE2SHW

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**SANS-FRAIS/TOLL FREE:**  
**1-800-463-3773**

**E-MAIL: [radiohf@total.net](mailto:radiohf@total.net)**

**WEB: [www.total.net/~radiohf](http://www.total.net/~radiohf)**

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**SHORTWAVE & AM/FM RADIOS / RADIOS ONDES COURTES & AM/FM**  
A.O.R., DRAKE, FAIRHAVEN, GENERAL ELECTRIC, GRUNDIG, ICOM, KENWOOD,  
LOWE, SANGEAN, SONY, YAESU

**SCANNERS / BALAYEURS D'ONDES**  
A.O.R., ALINCO, ICOM, UNIDEN/BEARCAT, WINRADIO, YUPITERU

**AMATEUR RADIO / RADIO-AMATEUR**  
A.D.I., ALINCO, ICOM, KENWOOD, RANGER, YAESU

**CITIZENS BAND (CB) / BANDE PUBLIQUE (CB)**  
ASTATIC, CHEROKEE, COBRA, K40, MACO, MAXON, MIDLAND, PARADYNAMICS, RANGER,  
ROAD NOISE, SHAKESPEARE, SOLARCON/ANTRON, UNIDEN, VALOR, WILSON, WORKMAN

**FAMILY RADIO SERVICE (FRS) / DISPOSITIFS RADIO DOMESTIQUES (DRD)**  
AUDIOVOX, COBRA, GARMIN, ICOM, KENWOOD, MAXON, MOTOROLA, STANDARD

**ANTENNAS / ANTENNES**  
ALPHA DELTA, ANTENNA SUPERMARKET, ARROW, BUTTERNUT, COMET, CUSHCRAFT,  
DIAMOND, FIRESTICK, FORCE 12, HUSTLER, HYGAIN, LARSEN, MFJ, MIRACLE WHIP,  
OUTBACKER, SCANMASTER, VALOR/PRO-AM, VAN GORDEN, WORKMAN

**SPECIALTY PRODUCTS / PRODUITS SPECIALISES**  
AMERITRON, ASTRON, BENCHER, DAIWA, D.C.I., GEOCRON, HEIL, KANTRONICS, KIWA  
ELECTRONICS, L.D.G., MAHA, MFJ, MIRAGE, NYE VIKING, OPTOELECTRONICS, PALOMAR  
ENGINEERS, PALSTAR, PREMIER, RF CONCEPTS, R.F. SYSTEMS, RIGBLASTER, S.G.C.,  
TIMEWAVE, UNADILLA, UNIVERSAL, VECTRONICS, VIBROPLEX

**PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS**  
AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL), ARROWHEAD, ARTSCI, BAYLIN PUBLICATIONS,  
BILLBOARD (WRTH), CQ, CRB, ANDRE GUEVIN, HARUTEQ, HIGHTEXT, IBS (PASSPORT),  
KLINGENFUSS, LOOMPANICS, NATIONAL RADIO CLUB, RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN,  
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