

Volume 58, Number 04 - January 2013

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Ragchew and Fleamarket : 19h30, Club meeting : 20h00

St-Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church
4455 West Broadway, N.D.G. - Montreal

Presentation by Cliff, VA2UTC on History of the Q codes.

MarcOgram

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.

Content Editor :

Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC
va2utc@marc.ca

Contributing Editor :

Sheldon M Werner, VA2SH
va2sh@marc.ca

Page Layout Editor :

Marc-André Gingras, VE2EVN
ve2evn@marc.ca

Proof Editor :

Nora Hague, VA2NH

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The marcOgram team needs you!

We're always on the lookout for interesting articles to include into your monthly newsletter. Do you have a ham radio news item you would like to contribute or just pass along to the marcOgram editors? Just send your document or links to Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC
va2utc@marc.ca

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 stops at or near the door!

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 same venue as the monthly meetings (see above).

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

Club Directors

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Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH

Vice President:

Sheldon Werner, VA2SH

Treasurer:

Jim Hay, VE2VE

Membership:

Vernon Ikeda, VE2QQ

Secretary:

Eamon Egan, VE2EGN

Directors at Large:

Craig Brander, VE2YGK

Marc-Andre Gingras, VE2EVN

George Hedrei, VE2NGH

Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC

MARC Fundraiser WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

In order for MARC to reach some of its goals, we have decided to re-introduce 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" publishes from September to June, which is nine issues. We also publish a summer edition during the months of August/September, which becomes a free month. So we actually publish ten issues. We have a list distribution of about 200 persons. A business card placed for 9 issues would only be \$ 40.00. We are asking for all members with family or friends who have a business to place an ad. You could also advertise a special function.



A Word from the President

Hello all,

So here we are well into the new year and finally the winter cold has set in. If you have a linear or an old tube radio, now is the time to fire it up and keep nice and toasty warm. As a bonus, you may even make a few QSOs... That should warm up any ham's heart now don't you think?

The MARC once again is offering their well received basic course and as I write this, two sessions have already gone by. Unlike past years however, MARC is also offering the advanced ticket course simultaneously. This is indeed a challenge for our intrepid instructors and special thanks are in order for Jim, VE2VE, Vernon, VE2MBS and George VE2NGH for their hard work in bringing this year's course to fruition. I of course jumped on the opportunity to take the advanced course as it isn't offered every year. I know I could have studied for it on my own, but I find the hands on and eyeball to eyeball aspect of the MARC course a winning formula and much prefer it to self study. Certainly it isn't enough to just show up at class and pay attention, so I'll be cracking the books at home in order to (hopefully) get a good mark. Stay tuned to these pages for updates as the story unfolds.

Annual Fees are:

General Members	\$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.

There is a new CW practice group amongst MARC and WIARC members, so those of you that want to learn, or who maybe just a little rusty and would like to brush up on your operating skills, there couldn't be a better time than now. You can only get so far singing CW to yourself and at some point, you have to bite the bullet and just start sending and receiving. I know that may seem intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. The new group is practices via several different mediums. There will be eyeball to eyeball sessions at both MARC and WIARC meetings. To participate, all you'd have to do is show up during the rag chew portions (typically a half hour before the start of the meeting proper) of the club meeting. Practice sessions are also held over skype as well as on the VE2BG repeater Sunday nights (if enough people show up after the Sunday night information net). If you are interested in participating, fire off an email to Malcolm, VE2DDZ at ve2ddz@rac.ca. Malcolm will be happy to provide you with the information you may need to profit from these sessions.

This month's meeting promises to be an interesting one and I highly recommend it, as our very own Cliff, VA2UTC will be providing us with a presentation on the history of the Q codes. I for one am looking forward to hearing what Cliff has to say, and I know you will not want to miss this one either. I'll see you all there this January, 30th and in the mean time, stay warm and good DX.

73 de Paul, VE2OFH



Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

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

Club Email: ve2arc@rac.ca

Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)
Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club.
Located on the Pointe Claire water tower.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)
Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club.

From the Desk of VA2UTC

OK who is the wise guy that ordered the 45 cm snowfall? That was not what I wanted for Christmas, no no. A nice new TS590 yes snow no. I trust all who read this had a great holiday. I know I enjoyed time with friends and family, and even got in a contest. Yep RAC Winter. George VE2NGH, Malcolm, VE2DDZ and Paul VE2OFH and myself racked up an impressive score in the contest. It was cool watching Paul and Malcolm do runs. Guys you did great, George also has picked up his run groove and did a nice run or two. I did get a very nice late Christmas gift of sorts. A certificate from ARRL for the 10 Meter Contest in 2011. A pleasant surprise to find I won Low Power SSB QC. section.

I do not do New Years resolutions, I am bad at keeping them so I just do not do them. I do know this much I will be trying to do at least 2 contests each month. I recently audited myself and found that I run close to 30 tests a year! I knew that I had a high number of tests that I worked in, but was surprised by the number of them I do. Only in June do I stop and do none for myself. That of course is because I only work Field Day.

Regarding that and other club stuff. An effort is going to be

made to try and do a 2A setup this year. That will make things very interesting. I understand that work is being done on the repeaters to get them healthy again. Paul VE2OFH probably has some other projects he wants to work on. No doubt Radio Talk will be one of them along with the perennial ham fest held in Lasalle at the legion each year.

Getting back to stuff I am planning. This year, I hope to buy new gear and install a second End Fed Zepp. The gear includes another TS130 and a new TS590 as well as an auto tuner and keyer for my paddles or a straight key.

2013, oh ya the Mayan doomsday scenario did not pan out hmm. So I guess that means we can look forward to a year of activities on and off the air. Whatever your plans are, I hope they truly do work out. Happy New Year and happy hamming.



Cliff T VA2UTC
Marcogram Content Editor.



BC QSO PARTY

The Orca Dx and Contest Club of BC is proud to announce the BC QSO Party. The BCQP is to be held on February 2 from 1600z and goes to 0400z on the 3rd. Like most QSO parties the object is for everyone to work a state or province, in this case the province is BC, BC stations will work everyone else plus each other. The exchange for stations outside BC, report plus state/province/DX. BC stations will send report and the district abbreviation. For a complete list of the rules you can visit http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html.

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47TH CANADIAN SKI MARATHON

Once again the Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM) is spooling up. This year is the 47th anniversary for the CSM. This will be the

40th year for Amateur Radio supporting the event. The CSM depends on ham radio volunteers to provide important and timely safety and logistical communication for the benefit of the skiers. The amateur radio CSM web page (<http://www.radio-1.ca>) is up and running with 2013 information. The event runs between Lachute and Buckingham in western Quebec - snow or shine. If you would like to volunteer this year, please email Harold VA3UNK (radio1@admin2.ca, va3unk@rac.ca, va3unk@gmail.com).



Although I can't promise anything, assignment requests are generally first-come, first-served. Please join me the second weekend in February (09th-10th) and help make 47th our best year yet! Bye for now, Harold Hamilton, VA3UNK.

CODE -.-. --- -..

Code has not gone the way of the Dodo just yet. In fact many hams still use the mode and many who have not are getting

interested in it. Here our neck of the woods a group of hams has been practicing on the BG repeater and also 30 minutes before each WIARC and MARC meeting. Along with the use of code programs and Internet chat programs like Skype they have been slowly, and patiently building they're CW skills. It is rumored that the group is planning on going to the HF bands to practice. Hmm maybe I need to get my key hooked up! VE2BG 147.060 offset +600 no tone.

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HAPPY 100 RSGB

RSGB celebrates it's 100th birthday this year and they have quite a lot going on. Throughout the year events will be staged to celebrate the 100th year of the RSGB. To give you an idea they are going to have a BBQ on the air linked by radio, kite events, yes you read correctly kite. Also planned is a convention in October, and a celebration on anniversary day July 5th. On the air is a special event station GX100RSGB. The special call will be used in different parts of the UK throughout the year, plus the RSGB has a paddle key you can buy. But, you need to order one right away, they are only selling 250 of them and yes the key has a plaque on it with the number on it as seen in the photo. For details on all the happenings regarding the RSGB birthday check this link <http://www.rsgb.org/aboutrsgb/rsgbcentenary2013/?id=rsgb-centenary-home>

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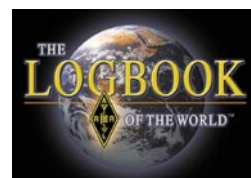
CQ REPORTS US POSTAL SERVICE TO PHASE OUT IRC SALES

Back in November, how could I miss this notation. Anyway that is when CQ noted on it's blog that the U.S. Postal Service is apparently going to phase out the sale of IRC coupons. According to the report the end will come this month and the



reason for the decision is based on---money. Apparently the IRC's do not make a profit for the postal service and therefore are being axed. The good news, if there is good news here is that The Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulations require that post offices honor and redeem IRCs that have been purchased in other countries. So if you send a QSL with an IRC in the envelope you should be able to get your reply back. IRC short for International Reply Coupons are used as a way to buy postage amongst member countries of the UPU. To see the actual report on the CQ site visit <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.ca/2012/11/post-office-wants-to-phase-out-ircs.html>

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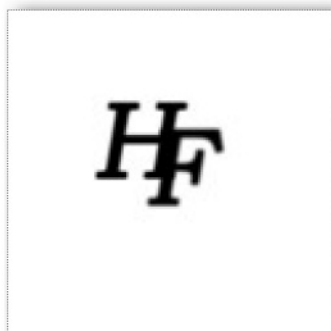


LOTW WENT BUGGY

CQ magazine reports that LOTW had a bug that affected data in November. The bug appeared during the CQ WW DX contest on the weekend of November 25. Hundreds of contacts were affected by the bug which has been fixed. Log processing for LOTW may still be slow due to the fact that this bug affected 26,000 logs. Just a note regarding this error, contacts may have been overwritten and it is advised that LOTW check data submitted around the 25th of November. There is a bit of a silver lining in this situation in that LOTW is now updating hourly and daily. Users can now track how many logs are awaiting processing up to the current time and date.

<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.ca/2012/12/arrrl-offers-dailyhourly-lotw-updates.html>

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RADIO H.F.**PO Box 67063-Lemoyne****St-Lambert, Quebec****J4R 2T8****tel/fax :450-671-3773****sans frais - toll free in Canada****1-800-463-3773****email : info@radiohf.ca**

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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