

marc gram

Volume 59, Number 05 - February 2014



VE3RM, SK

Next meeting - February 26th, 2014

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

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

In tribute of Donald R. Dashney, VE2SH/VE3RM SK

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.

Editors :

Sheldon M Werner, VA2SH
Marc-André Gingras, VE2EVN
editor@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 editor@marc.ca

Club Activities - Monthly Meetings

Club meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at St-Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church, 4455 West Broadway, N.D.G. - Montreal. 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

President:

Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH

Vice President:

Sheldon Werner, VA2SH

Treasurer - Secretary:

Jim Hay, VE2VE

Membership:

Vernon Ikeda, VE2QQ

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Craig Brander, VE2YGK

Eamon Egan, VE2EGN

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

Notice:

The president's letter was not available this month. Please bug your president to submit his letter on time for the next issue!

Thank you,

Marc-Andre, VE2EVN
MarcOgram Co-editor

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.

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.



McGill amateur radio station, 1951. © McCord Museum

Don Dashney VE3RM SK

I first met Don VE3RM VE2SH, back in 1984 at the Montreal Association for the Blind. I was in the old Radio Room VE2MAB, with Earl VE2ESP, and Dave VE2MPD, rag chewing. Earl had a directors meeting upstairs with the Montreal Amateur Radio Club and the phone rang in the Radio Room. It was Earl asking me, Sheldon VA2SH, to come upstairs to the meeting. As a newly blind person who just lost my vision several months earlier, I was somewhat hesitant to fumble around in a sighted world, but I went anyways.

Upstairs I was introduced to the Board of directors and Don, who went out of his way to help me find a seat and then went onto to tell me why I was called to the meeting. The Board needed an extra director and Don made the nomination for me to join the board. It was the start of a friendship that made me feel like I was once again needed in a sighted world.

Don was a gentleman's gentleman, who not only was an Elmer, but an avid radio operator who loved contesting, teaching, talking and sharing his knowledge in Radio. He was the person who you would call for help in any aspect of radio and he would go out of his way to help you out. No question was stupid to him and he never shunned anyone who asked a question. Infact, he was open to questions and explained radio in all aspects from the layman's terms to the expert terms and always had an open mind for suggestions and other points of view.

Don was the backbone of the MAB's Radio Room, and whenever we needed repairs to our equipment, he was the first one to volunteer and get the job done. He would go out of his

way to drive Earl and myself to our houses or to the metro, even though he lived in Ontario. The old joke was that Don VE2SH, was driving Sheldon VA2SH, home once again. The conversations on the trip home were the most interesting, because several times we forgot about driving and almost ended up at his qth rather than mine.



When Earl decided to give up radio at his house, it was Don who helped take down Earl's tower. (I got to move Don's car that day. Not bad since I still had a valid license!)

Don's eyesight began going on him several years ago and compared to others in that type of situation did not affect him, as I would have thought. He adapted to his condition and continued to Elmer, teach, contest, repair equipment, etc. like nothing ever happened. However, with age and his sight, Don could not travel as much as he used to and I only got to see him on special occasions.

R.I.P Don, I hope that I can dx with you once again on the other side!

73' Don VE3RM SK!

Sheldon, VA2SH

Winter Field Day 2014

On January 25th, 2014, the morning was somewhat miserable with snow coming down and I Sheldon VA2SH, just finished my 2nd cup of coffee when Malcolm VE2DDZ, came to pick me up and go to Winter Field Day at Harrison's VE2HKW qth to set up and participate in the SPAR Winter Field Day contest. Among those meeting us at Harrison's was Dan VA2KEY and Eamon VE2EGN.



Upon arrival at Harrison's parent's property in Hemmingford QC, we began unloading the equipment before going into the Kyle's house to warm up and have a quick bite and a warm drink. Soon after that, Harrison and his brother Sullivan began helping us load the equipment onto his tractor and we began to make our way some 600m to the site in back of the Kyle's property and begin to set up our station before the contest began at 12:00 EST.

Setting up for a winter contest is somewhat different than setting up for a summer contest. We needed a platform for the bottom of the tents and a good source of heat to keep warm. While we were beginning the initial setup of the site, Sullivan went with Dan and Eamon to get some platforms for the floors of our tent and some others for firewood. Once the tents were set up and the equipment, antennas, and power-supply (batteries) was placed we decided to grab a quick lunch before beginning the contest.

In tent 1, a 6 man Ice Fishing Tent, the computers, radios, etc., was set into action and with a Gas Heater, it was toasty. In-fact, too hot! In tent 2, the 2 men Ice Fishing tent, used for sleeping, Dan set up his equipment for VHF/UHF and the contest began. Malcolm tried to work several satellites but to no avail. We could hear them, but they could not hear us. I made the first 2

contacts on HF and then Harrison and Eamon gave it a shot. Meanwhile Dan was working VHF/UHF in his tent.

Supper was made outside by Dan, and pasta is one of the best meals that you can eat in the cold, because the starch turns into sugars that you need to keep warm. Well, since it was now getting dark, Eamon's LED strip lighting in the big tent proved to be a viable source of light and I think that we should use it for Summer FD too! Contacts were sparse on HF and Satellite was worse but we had fun. Meanwhile, the temperature was dropping rapidly and we decided to get some sleep.

Sleeping in a tent in the winter is not as bad as you think provided that you have the right equipment. A mummy sleeping bag with a temperature specification of -30deg C, along with a mat under it for comfort made sleeping like a baby!



In the morning it was decided to have breakfast in Harrison's house and it served 2 purposes. Warmth and nutrition. After breakfast, we went back to the tents to do a little more contesting only to find that some of the equipment did not want to co-operate with the frigid temperatures. Once they warmed up a little it was back to contesting. Teardown was a breeze and Lunch was again held in Harrison's house where we warmed up and had a great conversation with the family before heading home.

A special thanks goes out to the Kyle Family for their use of the site and their Hospitality!

73' de Sheldon VA2SH

DX and CONTEST NEWS

Hello again and I hope you had the chance to work some DXpeditions during the last month.

By the time you read this FT5ZM has gone QRT with over 170,000 QSO's in the log! The pile-ups were huge and this time North America was at the distant end of Amsterdam Island and we had to put up with a continuous wall of Europeans with some not respecting the DX Code of Conduct. For us in Eastern Canada the early morning hours presented openings on 10 and 12 meter short-path as well as 20 meter long path. Late afternoon at our sunset opened up 40 and 80 meters which peaked at their sunrise two hours later. I was very fortunate to work them on 80 meters at their sunrise peak which was my highlight for FT5ZM. A few "big guns" on the East Coast also worked them on 160 meters which definitely was a challenge.

Remember that to work the DX you really have to study the propagation paths that will present an opening to you on a particular band at a certain time of day. DX-Atlas and Hamcap are some tools you can use as well as VOACAP which is a free on-line prediction tool, <http://www.voacap.com/prediction.html> Also please always remember to follow the DX Code of Conduct, <http://www.dx-code.org/>

There are still quite a number of DX operations scheduled for March, 2014 but as I had mentioned before I will list only the DXpeditions to rare and semi-rare entities.

A complete list of DX operations can be found here: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Another nice website for DX operations is the DX Bulletin on DX World, <http://dx-world.net/>

DX OPERATIONS

The V73MW expedition to the Marshall Islands has been re-scheduled to Feb. 25 - Mar. 4 so do not be disappointed if you didn't work them last month. Unexpected postponements and cancellations do happen so it is wise to always check out the expedition website or the DX bulletins. There is also a major DX operation scheduled for Chatham Island and Mellish Reef for late March – early April as you will see below.

V73MW, A US team of Hams led by N6MW will be QRV from Majuro (OC-029) from Feb 25 to Mar 4. Focus on 160 80 30m CW, 20m RTTY; perhaps 17m SSB; QSL also OK via M0URX, OQRS preferred.

3C0BYP – will be QRV from Annobon Island from Feb 26 to Mar 8. Check out their QRZ page at: <http://www.qrz.com/db/3C0BYP>

VK9X, Christmas Island will be activated by two US Hams from Mar 1 to Mar 11. Their website can be found at: <http://www.nielsen.net/vk9x/>

4S7, Sri Lanka will be QRV by a German team from Mar 10 to Mar 23. They will have 4 stations operating all modes from 160m to 6m. Check out their website at: <http://www.dl7df.com/4s7/index.php>

ZL7 – Chatham Islands will be QRV by an Austrian team from Mar 13 to Mar 25 on 80m to 10m with a focus on RTTY and CW. Their website can be found at: <http://www.oe2snl.at/franz/>

ZL7AAA - Another operation from Chatham Island is scheduled from Mar 20 to Apr 1. QSL via VE7NY.

5H3MB, Tanzania will be QRV again by an Italian team from Mar 4 to Apr 11. OSL information can be found at: <http://www.buffoli-pm.it/5h/qs1%20request.htm>

TO7BC - Mayotte will be activated by DL7BC from Mar 24 to Apr 4; 20-10m, perhaps 40m; QSL OK via DARC Buro or direct; they will also be QRV for CW WPX SSB Contest.

VU4K, Andaman Islands will be activated by W4VKU from Port Blair on HF from Mar 23 to Mar 30. QSL via W4VKU and OQRS.

VK9MT – Mellish Reef will be activated by a large team of operators from Mar 28 to Apr 9. They will have 6 stations operating on all bands (160m – 10m) and modes (CW, SSB, RTTY). VK9MT is number 23 on the most wanted DXCC list so this is not to be missed! They have a website at: <http://vk9mt.com/>

CONTESTS

By the time you read this the month of March is the beginning of the spring contesting season. As we approach the Spring Equinox, HF conditions start to really improve for all parts around the world. So like during the autumn, this is also the time when most major HF contests are scheduled. As I had mentioned before you can participate in a contest practically every weekend but I will list only the major contests scheduled for the month of March. You can check out the list of all the popular contests on the "Contest Corral" available on the ARRL website or in QST magazine.

For contesting the use of logging software greatly simplifies logging call-signs and exchanges. Many logging programs also connect to your radio via CAT control and also to telnet clusters for assistance in finding new multiplier stations. Practically all testers use N1MM logging software which is free and continuously updated with the rules for every major contest pre-programmed. You can find their website at: <http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php>

Whatever logging software you use it is very important to update the country and super partial check call-sign databases. Country files can be found at: <http://www.country-files.com/cty/> with formats for many (Continued on Page 7)

logging programs. The super-partial files are found at:
<http://www.supercheckpartial.com/>

I strongly suggest using some type of logging software!

The big contest which will be on by the time you read this will be ARRL International DX SSB contest on March 1-2. This is a full 48 hour contest where the DX calls YOU! You don't get any points for W/VE contacts but the points are in working the DX. The DX stations get multipliers by working US states and Canadian provinces so they will be hunting for you. This is a great way to increase your DXCC totals and the exchange is very simple (RST + province). The DX gives you RST plus their power. Check out the complete rules on the ARRL website: <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

There is also the CQ WPX SSB contest scheduled for the end of March. Here you work as many call-sign prefixes as you can. Depending on your operating category, this is a 36 to 48 hour contest. You can find the rules on the CQ contest website at: <http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm>

Remember to check out the contest rules, dates and times on the ARRL or CQ websites. Rules for the smaller contests can be found on the various sponsors' websites. Another very useful resource is to subscribe to the ARRL Contest Update which you can receive via e-mail every two weeks and is available to ARRL members. You can also find third-party contest listings for free on the internet.

ARRL International DX SSB Contest – SSB,

Mar 1, 0000z to Mar 2, 2359z

RSGB Commonwealth Contest -- CW,

from Mar 8, 1000z to Mar 9, 1000z

North American RTTY sprint -- RTTY, Mar 9, 0000z to 0359z

Russian DX Contest -- CW, SSB,

from Mar 15, 1200z to Mar 16, 1159z

North American Sprint -- SSB, Mar 16, 0000z to 0359z

QCWA Spring QSO Party -- Phone, CW, Digital,

from Mar 22, 1800z to Mar 23, 1800z

CQ WPX SSB Contest – SSB,

from Mar 29, 0000z to Mar 30, 2359z

Those are the lists so far so it looks to be also a very busy month for Ham radio in March! Please remember to follow the "DX Code of Conduct" when working any DX operation and

remember to listen, listen, and listen FIRST before you transmit. Also remember to read the complete contest rules and make sure that you and your station are all set up and well prepared BEFORE the contest starts. Now go work that "new one" and have fun on the air and I hope to work you in the next contest!

73, & good DX de George, VE2NGH/VA2EN



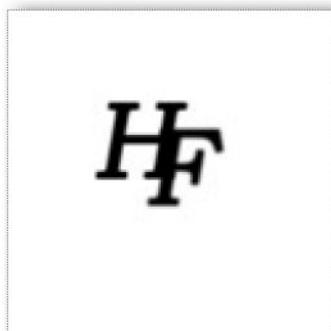
ARRL Centennial: W1AW Centennial Operations Now in California, Wisconsin

The ARRL Centennial "W1AW WAS" operations taking place throughout 2014 from each of the 50 states are in California (W1AW/6) and Wisconsin (W1AW/9). At 0000 UTC on February 19 (the evening of February 18 in US time zones), operations will relocate to Michigan (W1AW/8) and Florida (W1AW/4). During 2014 W1AW will be on the air from every state (at least twice) and from most US territories, and it will be easy to work all states solely by contacting W1AW portable operations.

In conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the ARRL, the ARRL Centennial QSO Party kicked off January 1 for a year-long operating event in which participants can accumulate points and win awards. The event is open to all, although only ARRL members and appointees, elected officials, HQ staff and W1AW are worth ARRL Centennial QSO Party points. Working W1AW/x from each state is worth 5 points per contact.

To earn the "Worked all States with W1AW Award," work W1AW operating portable from all 50 states. (Working W1AW or W100AW in Connecticut does not count for Connecticut, however. For award credit, participants must work W1AW/1 in Connecticut.) A W1AW WAS certificate and plaque will be available.

The ARRL Letter, February 13, 2014

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

CITIZENS BAND (CB) / BANDE PUBLIQUE (CB)

ASTATIC, COBRA, GALAXY, K40, MACO, PARADYNAMICS, RANGER, ROAD NOISE, SHAKE-SPEARE, SOLARCON/ANTRON, UNIDEN, VALOR/PRO-AM, WILSON, WORKMAN

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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

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