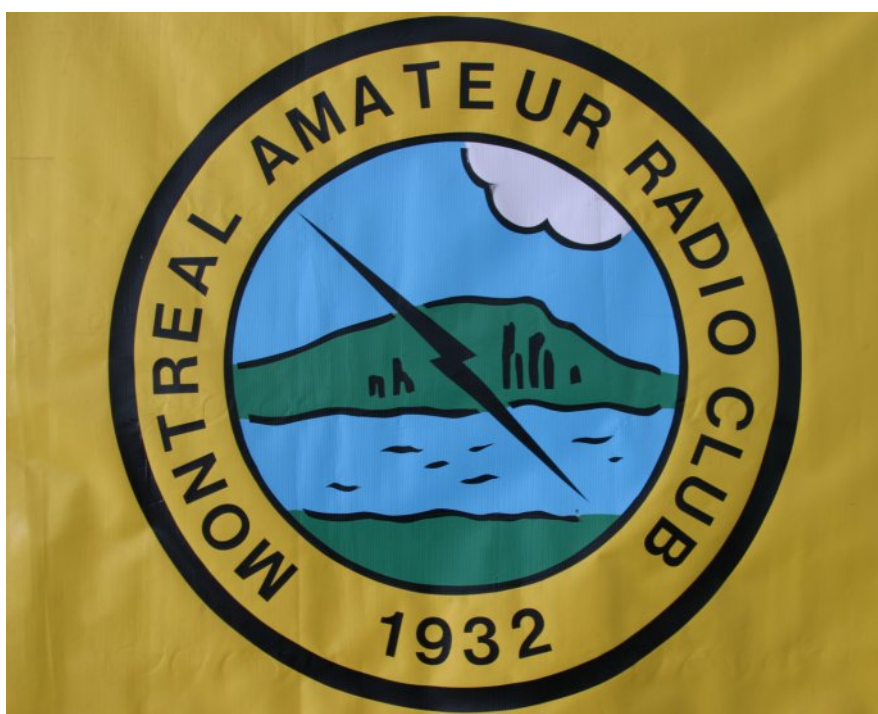


marc gram

Volume 59, Number 06 - March 2014



Next meeting - March 26th, 2014

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

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

Presentation by Richard Larivière, VE2RLW on
a Transatlantic crossing and the role Amateur Radio played

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.

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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

Directors at Large:

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

Holy cow folks spring is in the air and it's time to prepare for hamfests and antenna projects that we put off until too late last fall. Speaking of hamfests, our own MARC hamfest is fast upon us. As always on its usual date, but the big news this year is the location. Due to a planned Legion activity, the Legion hall that we normally use was not available for our usage this year. As a result, the MARC hamfest this year will be held at the same location as the general meetings in N.D.G., at the St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church on 4455 West Broadway. Doors will be opening for vendors at 8h15 and for the public at 9h00. There will be a snack counter and coffee on the premises but unfortunately this time, no beer. I'll be looking forward to seeing you all there. Now's the time to do that little clean up in your basement you've been meaning to get around to and reserve a table from Jim, VE2VE at only 8\$ per table or 15\$ for two, it's a bargain you won't want to miss out on. You can call him at 514-990-1965 or alternatively, you can send an email to ve2ve@marc.ca

I have been so busy of late (leading up to my Mea Culpa here) that I haven't even noticed the time fly by. Last month for the

first time in a long while I'm sure, the MarcOgram went out without the president's letter. I know I have a tendency already to stress out our editors and leave everything until the last minute (my motto is don't put off until tomorrow, what you can put off today) but this time, Marc-André just couldn't wait on me any longer. Please forgive me my shortcoming, it was not intentional. I felt real guilty about it for a day or so as well, but then the reality of my everyday life came crashing down around me and I kind of let it slip my mind until today. Marc-André already kind of warned me once about what happened last month and I certainly didn't want a repeat, nor did I want Marc-André to have to send the man with the crooked nose after me, so while I'm waiting for the pizza dough to rise, here I sit at my messy kitchen table writing this letter.

At our last meeting of the MARC Board of Directors, discussion was underway on plans for some of our many summer time activities. Notably, field day. The location has been confirmed (same place as last year) and Eamon, VE2EGN seems to have this year's preparations well under way. I think we can look forward to seeing some interesting changes in the field day setup for this year. Eamon is full of ideas and has been discussing, testing and generally taken to leading the field day organizational activities with gusto. Radio Talk preparatory discussions have also begun to take place and I hope to have a quick report for you all at this month's general meeting.

Here's a question for you hams out there. If you can only have one mode, on one band, what would they be and why? Please send your responses to editor@marc.ca as we would love to be able to publish your responses. I bet we get a different opinion from every ham who responds.

This month's meeting is a must go to as we have the pleasure of hosting Richard Larivière, VE2RLW for a talk on a dangerous transatlantic crossing and the significant role that amateur radio played at certain crucial moments. Be there or be square.

73 de Paul, VE2OFH

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

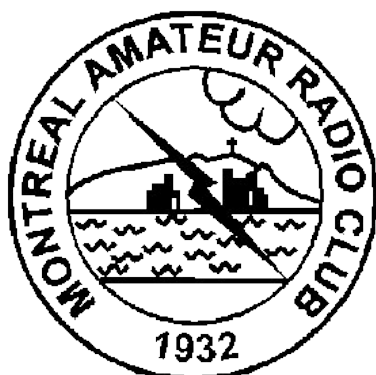
Club Website: <http://www.marc.qc.ca>

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.



Hamfest

Montreal Amateur Radio Club

**Amateur
Radio Flea Market**

**Marché aux Pûces
Radio Amateur**

NEW LOCATION

NOUVEAU LOCAL

Saturday April 12, 2014

Le samedi 12 avril 2014

**St. Ignatius of Loyola
Parish Church
4455 West Broadway
Montreal**

(STM bus 51)

**Église de la paroisse St.
Ignatius of Loyola
4455 West Broadway
Montreal**

(autobus STM 51)

TIME: DEALERS - 8:15 AM PUBLIC - 9:00 AM

DOOR PRIZES - SNACK BAR

TALK-IN: 147.060+ (VE2BG)

GENERAL ADMISSION \$5.00

TABLE RENTAL \$10.00 (2 for \$18)

Table rental includes one admission

OUVERTURE: 8h15 VENDEURS, 9h00 PUBLIC

Prix de Présence-Casse Croûte

AUTOGUIDAGE: 147.060+ (VE2BG)

FRAIS D'ADMISSION 5,00\$

TABLES 10,00\$ (2 pour 18.00\$)

Un billet inclus avec table

<http://www.marc.ca/fest/fest.html>

Information - Reservations

Renseignements

Réservations

Jim HAY 514-990-1965

E-mail: ve2ve@marc.ca

Jim HAY 514-990-1965

E-mail - ve2ve@marc.ca

Industry Canada Rolls Out New Exam Generator and Question Bank

IC has rolled out a new Amateur Radio Exam Generator and question bank. With input from RAC the question bank and generator are now ready for use. This project has been in the works for the last 2 years. Back in 2012 IC requested input and then entered into a contact with RAC to develop both the generator and the questions. In turn RAQI was engaged to help with the development of the French exam.

The update involved a review of 300 questions and some 12000 answers for the Basic and Advanced exams. Changes have been made to the exam that include correcting factual errors, replacing obsolete language and examples, making questions and answers clearer and ensuring that questions addressed current amateur radio practices and regulations. Editing of existing questions and removing obsolete questions and replacing them with new questions.

It needs to be noted that the course itself has not been changed. What has been done is a revamping of the questions ensuring clarity in relation to modern Amateur practices.

<https://www.rac.ca/en/news/bulletins/2014/8/> is the source for this information.

Malay Amateurs Assist In Airliner Search

Malaysian Radio operators provided assistance to authorities in the initial stages of the search for MH-370. The flight had 239 passengers on it and went very far off course. The aircraft a Boeing 777-200ER was tracked by military radar for an hour as it veered off course by several hundred km.

As the incident unfolded Malaysian Airline System officials via their Emergency Management Centre provided support to families of the passengers who were gathered at the Everly Hotel in Putrajaya Malaysia. They did so with the assistance from members of Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters' Society and NESRAC (Negeri Sembilan Radio Amateur Club). UHF, VHF and HF links were established to help deal with the traffic between the hotel and the airport. A team of 34 operators helped provide service during the call-out.

For more on the story you can visit this link.

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2014/march/missing_flight_search_involves_amateur_radio_emcomm.htm#.UyCTVj9dWf4

The story was posted by: Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee

Submitted by Cliff, VA2UTC for the Marcogram.



To all plane nuts people

When the nice weather arrives you may be interested in the following. Since most hams are also interested in airplanes (fascination with radios and airplanes always seem to go together), here is the ideal place for you to go in case you didn't know about it.

There is a new park in Dorval (Trudeau Airport) dedicated to "plane nuts people" entitled Jacques de Lesseps Park. Located on the Airport land but accessible to anyone it has benches and bleachers giving an excellent view of runways 24L and 06R. It is located at the intersection of Halpern and Jenkins streets. From Cote de Liesse drive North on 55th Ave and turn left at Jenkins and you can't miss it.

You will meet dozens of people many equipped with scanner radios and cameras. On a good weather weekend bring your own picnic chairs since the benches are usually fully occupied.

As for the many exact VHF-AM frequencies (starting with the control tower on 119.900 MHz and ground control on 121.900), ask any pilot or get a copy of the Nav Canada publication CFS (Canada Flight Supplement) which contains all the data along with the airport diagrams etc. Any pilot will gladly donate his expired copy which is adequate for monitoring purposes.

Check out also the many ground ops channels which are mostly in the UHF range to monitor interesting ground and ramp activities ranging from silly stuff like lost kids, bags and intoxicated late passengers to more serious topics like aircraft maintenance snags and fascinating security related coms.

Our thanks to the Montreal Airports Authority for this fantastic facility.

On behalf of the Montreal Airport Watch Association,

Happy monitoring, Matt VE2MTA

DX and CONTEST NEWS

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

Myself, I had a chance to work Annobon Island 3C0BYP on a few bands. Unfortunately Elmo the operator was only on SSB the entire time. There was another DXpedition to Zambia 9J2T by an Italian team which was not really announced until after the February edition of the Marcogram was published so it missed this list. I managed to work them from 40 to 10 meters CW, and SSB. They will be QRT by the time you read this.

This shows that you really have to check out the various DX bulletins for DX operations which are not well publicized or come up at the last minute. 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/>

By the time you read this we will be in the Vernal Equinox. The SFI or Solar Flux Index was quite high (>160) during the beginning of March and it still remains at a respectable level. When this happens during an equinox period, the high bands from 15 to 10 meters can open up for us to Asia and the Far East between 23:00 and 01:00 UTC. I myself had managed to work a JT (Mongolia) and a 9M2 (West Malaysia) station on 15 meters while listening at that time period. During ARRL DX contest we had pileups of Japanese stations on 10 meters after 23:00 UTC until the contest ended. 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 certain times of the day and also during certain periods of the year.

The major DX operation scheduled for the end of March and into April will be VK9MT Mellish Reef which is number 22 on the global DXCC list. This large DXpedition will have six stations running continuously with 11 operators on all bands (160 – 10 meters) and all modes (CW, SSB, RTTY). This is another one not to miss!

There are still a number of other DX operations scheduled for April, 2014 but as I had mentioned I will list only the DXpeditions to rare and semi-rare entities. It is worth remembering that most of the DX operations eventually upload their logs onto LOTW (Logbook of the World). They also print some very nice QSL cards and most participate in the Online QSL Request System (OQRS), so for a small donation to help them out financially you can have them mail their QSL cards directly to you. Also please always remember to follow the DX Code of Conduct: <http://www.dx-code.org/>

DX OPERATIONS

VK9MT, An international team of operators will activate Mellish Reef in the Coral Sea from Mar 28 to Apr 9. They will have six stations on all bands (160 – 10m) and all modes (CW, SSB, RTTY). QSL via M0URX, ORQS preferred. Their website is: <http://vk9mt.com/>

A35 – Tonga will be activated by GM3WOJ as A35V and GM4YXI as A35X from Apr 4 to Apr 18. They will operate from 160 to 10 meters on CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL via LOTW.

ZL7AAA - Chatham Island will be QRV 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 CQ 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.

CE0Y – Easter Island will be activated by CE1WFN as CE0Y/CE1WFN from Apr 5 to Apr 17. QSL via CE1WFN.

T88QX – Palau will be activated by DF8DX from Apr 8 to Apr 15. He will be operating on 40 to 10 meters mostly CW with some SSB. QSL via LOTW.

T88ST – Another operation from Palau will be by JR3STX from Apr 29 to May 7. He will be operating on 80 to 6 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY. QSL via JR3STX.

JD1BMH – Ogasawara from Chichijima Island (AS-031) will be QRV by JD1BMH from Apr 29 to May 11. He will be on 40 to 10 meters CW, SSB, and RTTY. Check out his website at: <http://sapphire.es.tohoku.ac.jp/jd1bmh/>

CONTESTS

By the time you read this we will have passed through the Vernal Equinox and the spring contest season will be well underway. I had participated in the ARRL DX SSB contest at the beginning of March and conditions on the higher bands were phenomenal since the SFI was at quite a high level (>165). We had fantastic openings in the mornings to Europe on 15 and 10 meters which produced some huge pile-ups. We were averaging around 142 QSO's per hour and made over 850 contacts on 10 meters alone. Unfortunately a recent CME just before the weekend had trashed the low bands so we saved our energy for the morning and afternoon runs and closed down for the nighttime.

Conditions are expected to remain very good for the end of March in time for the CQ WPX phone contest. (Continued on Page 7)

So if you just want to improve your DXCC and can stand up to the pileups, you should hunt down the “rare ones” during these major contests. The DX spotting clusters really help in these cases.

As I had mentioned before you can participate in a contest practically every weekend but I will list only the major and most popular contests scheduled for the month of April. You can check out the list of all the popular contests on the “Contest Corral” available on the ARRL website or in QST magazine.

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.

CQ WPX SSB Contest -- SSB.

Mar 29, 0000z to Mar 30, 2359z

Mississippi QSO Party - 2014 -- CW, SSB, RTTY

from Apr 4, 1400z to Apr 5, 0200z

QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party – CW.

Apr 5, 1200z to Apr 6, 2359z

SP (Poland) DX Contest – CW, SSB,

from Apr 5, 1500z to Apr 6, 1500z

Japan International DX Contest – CW,

from Apr 12, 0700z to Apr 13, 1300z

Yuri Gagarin DX Contest – CW.

Apr 12, 2100z to Apr 13, 2100z

Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO Party, CW, SSB, RTTY,

from Apr 17, 0001z to Apr 22, 2359z

Holyland DX Contest – CW, SSB, RTTY.

Apr 18, 2100z to Apr 19, 2100z

Ontario QSO Party – CW, SSB, Apr 19, 1800z (see website)

ARRL Rookie Roundup -- SSB,

Apr 20, 1800z to Apr 20, 2359z

Ten-Ten Spring Digital Contest – ALL digital modes,

Apr 26, 0001z to Apr 27, 2359z

SP (Poland) DX RTTY Contest – RTTY,

from Apr 26, 1200z to Apr 27, 1200z

Helvetia Contest – CW, SSB, RTTY,

Apr 26, 1300z to Apr 27, 1259z

Those are the lists so far and it looks to be a very busy month

for Ham Radio in April! Please remember to follow the “DX Code of Conduct” when working any DX operation and remember to always 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 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

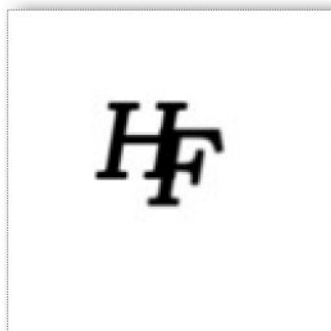
P5 North Korea Sill Tops DXCC Most Wanted Lists, Why?

DX Magazine has come out with its list of DXCC countries that hams want the most. Topping the list P5 North Korea. When I read this I began asking myself why is this country at the top of the list? My guess is that the tabulations are based on a tally based on responses that readers give to the magazine. My problem with this is simple. THERE ARE NO HAMS in North Korea. There has been no expedition to the country in decades. In short the entity only shows up because the ITU has given the country a prefix block which it probably only uses internally. Hams are ranking a country that has no operators and does not want them. So in short it is unlikely we will ever hear a signal from the country on the ham bands. So I wonder is it time to consider striking P5 from the DXCC?

The idea of the list is to promote operation from an entity and in most cases that is possible, challenging, but possible. In the case of North Korea try next to impossible. It should be noted that there was some operation from the country back in the late 90's to as early as 2002. Ed 4L4FN operated a station in the capital, but was asked to take the station down. Since this time there has been no new operation from North Korea. The report on the station and its end can be found by clicking over to amsatnet.com. Interestingly enough there is a group trying to put together an expedition to the DPRK. The P5 project announced its presence in April 2013. To date the news is that a study has been submitted to DPRK officials and they are continuing to push to be allowed to operate from the DPRK.

Here is a thought, take P5 off the list and let the DPRK know that they are no longer the most wanted country in the ham world. Maybe that may shake them up, though I doubt it. I just think it's time to stop trying to set up ham radio in this country until it decides it wants ham radio.

Cliff, VA2UTC

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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SCANNERS / BALAYEURS D'ONDES

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)

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

FRS & GMRS TWO WAY RADIOS / FRS ET GMRS PORTATIFS UHF

COBRA, GARMIN, ICOM, MOTOROLA

ANTENNAS / ANTENNES

ALPHA DELTA, ARROW, BUTTERNUT, COMET, COMPROD, CUBEX, CUSHCRAFT, DIAMOND, FIRESTICK, FORCE 12, HUSTLER, HYGAIN, ISOTRON, LARSEN, MALDOL, MFJ, MIRACLE ANTENNA, OUTBACKER, PRYME, RADIOWAVZ, TENNADYNE, VALOR/PRO-AM, 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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