

marc gram

Volume 59, Number 02 - October 2013



Next meeting - October 30, 2013

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

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

MARC Annual General Meeting

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

Hello all,

Well there you have it folks, another year put to bed and general elections for the MARC are once again the topic of this months meeting. It's been an exciting one at that. Weather it be the challenge of maintaining a repeater on a shoe string budget, or organizing a big event like Radio Talk, there's never been a dull moment for any of us sitting on the MARC board of directors.

As a club we are so lucky to have such a dynamic, "roll up your sleeves and get the job done" group of hams donating their time to the business of the club. By business I mean not only the boring administrative stuff we all have to deal with from time to time, but also amateur radio advocacy which I consider to be one of our club's most important missions. Every member of the board has had something to contribute. Each one of us have our own special talents and all of us are needed for a well run club.

During this past year, your board has discussed a number of topics and projects. Ideas and possibilities arrive faster than we

can execute. Off the top of my head, I can think of at least two interesting projects that were discussed this year and never able to get off the ground simply because we found ourselves short on time and resources. All this to say, that your club needs you to participate, to help make next year as much as a success as this past year was. Your Board of Directors is always recruiting new members who would like to take a more active roll in ongoing club affairs. You would be welcome and we'd be very happy to have you with us in the coming year. For this year's annual meeting, please consider volunteering some of your time to help out with the affairs of your club. Receive accolades from your fellow club members for your enthusiasm and love of the hobby. Above all, you will gain a deep sense of satisfaction knowing that you have contributed to the advancement of your hobby not being content to stand on the sidelines and that your contribution is appreciated and remembered.



See you all on the 30th for a spooky AGM. Last year, I think only Ken VE2KLF dressed up for the meeting. They say to dress for the job you want, maybe this year I'll come disguised as the President of the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. (-;

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.



INTRUDER WATCH: RUSSIAN MILITARY BACK ON 21 MHZ

The IARU Monitoring Service newsletter reports on a possible Russian military station that has been using the amateur radio 21 MHz band. It says that encrypted voice traffic has been operating on 21000.0 kHz on USB. Also that the in-band synchronizing signal was always audible and quite strong. The transmitter sending out these transmissions is believed to be located in or near Nizhny Tagil in Russia but its purpose is unknown. The newsletter also reports that the Russian military have also been using other frequencies in our 7, 14 and 21 MHz bands and have been operating an Over The Horizon radar between 3500 and 3800 kHz. (IARUMS, IARU-R-1)

Via Amateur Radio Newsline

RADIO BUSINESS: SMALL WONDER LABS TO GO QRT

QRP kit supplier Small Wonder Labs is closing its doors permanently. According to owner Dave Benson, K1SWL, he is going into retirement and has discontinued sales of the popular RockMite. Benson says that he will ship out the last several dozen orders shortly and that he will continue to support requests for missing or replacement RockMite parts from existing customers, but only over the short term. He also hopes to keep the Small Wonder Labs website active for a year, and it will maintain documentation for his earlier products.

However QRP enthusiasts should not despair. According to the rumor mill at least one other QRP kit supplier is interested in taking over supplying the RockMite and there could be an announcement at any time now. For more on Dave Benson's future plans please visit smallwonderlabs.com on the world-wide-web. (smallwonderlabs.com, others)

Via Amateur Radio Newsline

Notice Of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Montreal Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, October 30th 2013 at eight o'clock in the evening at the St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church, 4455 West Broadway (corner Terrebonne) in N.D.G., Montreal. The meeting is called to Receive and if thought fit, approve the reports of officers, Receive and if thought fit, approve the reports of the auditor, elect a board of directors for the ensuing year and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Given in Montreal this 16th day of September. 2013

Secretary. Jim Hay, VE2VE.

Morse Code Help for Physical Disabilities

Several years ago, one of my friends knew someone who suffered a severe stroke and could not communicate with conventional methods used at the time including modern day computers. He decided to teach his friend Morse Code to communicate with him in-order to help his rehabilitation.

Personally I have never heard of CW being used as an assistive tool for communication since there are so many other tools out there for persons with communication problems. In-fact after speaking to a family member who is an Occupational Therapist specializing in communication therapy, did not have any knowledge of Morse Code being used as a method for rehabilitation. After considerable reading and searching I was educated as to its many uses beside Amateur Radio.

Here are 2 separate stories from the internet in which I got permission to re-post.

A Brave Young Man

In 1979, eleven year old Steve Harper, unable to speak due to the physical disability, cerebral palsy, had never heard of Morse code and was struggling to communicate with a head stick, symbol board and typewriter. Using these methods made communication arduous since someone had to be right there with Steve when he tried to get his messages understood. He slowly signaled by pointing to various symbols and letters. First he had to gain the undivided attention of an adult and then feebly attempt to have them understand his erratic gestures. Even using the typewriter was awkward and painful. People often ignored what he wrote making him constantly discouraged. His frustration with being unable to enjoy normal activities for children of his age was (Continued on Page 5)

aggravated by his inability to interact with others effectively. He felt very little independence as speech eluded him, so that he had trouble getting anyone's attention. That same year the University of Washington received a grant to research the use of Morse code as an assistive technology for the disabled. Steve's speech therapist enabled him to be a subject of the research grant at the University of Washington where he was taught the Morse code. Steve was chosen as one of four children to participate in this research. Although Steven and his parents neither liked learning code and initially resisted it, within only two weeks he had mastered the forty-four Morse code characters. He says his life became much easier after he began using the Morse code communicator because he got his messages out twice as fast as before and he gained independence so he could function all by himself.

Ever since then he has used Morse code as his assistive technology. He has a lot more independence due to Morse code being adaptable to the computer. Anyone using the technology can write and then 'speak' by using a speech synthesizer. Morse code has made Steve's life and the lives of other disabled people easier. More recently, Steve Harper serves as a volunteer mentor for the disabled at the University of Washington. Telling his story he says that he could neither walk nor talk due to an oxygen deficiency that occurred at birth. He says, I use a Morse code communicator, which is mounted on the front of my wheelchair. I have two switches on each side of my head where I tap out the Morse code. The right side switch is dots, left side is dashes, and I drive my wheelchair using my head, too. I have this thing called "KE:NX," a special adapter that allows me to use my Morse code with a MAC computer so I can really communicate with you.

A brave young man who has overcome major physical obstacles, he is now a computer technology guru and believes that much of his accomplishment is a result of his experience with the Morse code.

Morse Code Assists in Medical Conditions

A 79 year old English woman was injured in a fall and suffered severe brain damage. She was unable to move or speak but she could still understand her surroundings. Her knowledge of Morse code helped her to communicate with those around her. Her son Alan sat at her bedside for 16 weeks while she recovered and thought about ways to communicate with her. He remembered that she had learned Morse code as a child from her father. Alan says, Of course she hadn't used it

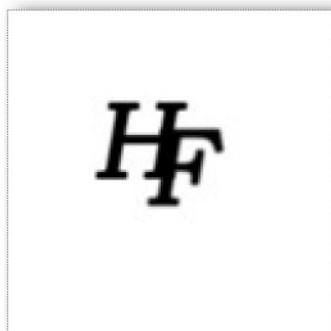
for 60 years so obviously she was rusty, but remembered it and it all grew from there. Alan Jones made a communication device out of a margarine tub and shower curtain ring. Mrs. Jones can understand what people are saying but must use the Morse code to respond. The first thing she said using the code was 'How is Fred?' in reference to her pet tortoise. Her son Alan is now working on a way to have her Morse code tapping appear on a computer screen for faster communication. It was good that Mrs. Jones's father taught her Morse code. You never know when it will be needed.

A friend of the author suffered from ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, so named for a famous New York Yankees first baseman. 2,130 consecutive games played from 1925 through 1938 earned him the nickname of the 'Iron Horse'. During his career Lou set over 20 records including four home runs in one game! With a lifetime batting average of .340, when he was stopped by a mysterious illness, a disease of the motor neurons, muscle-controlling nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement. His body literally wasted away. Following Lou's death, ALS was given the name of "Lou Gehrig's Disease." The author's friend suffered a similar fate, and after diagnosis was informed that he might survive, with proper care, up to five years. His condition rapidly deteriorated and he soon began to lose his ability to speak. Bedridden, he scratched notes and family members learned to read his grunts, but his mind continued to function normally, making him increasingly frustrated. After we shared the Morse code program with him known as 'Code Quick,' he learned it rapidly and began to communicate by blinking Morse code with his eyes. No longer unable to communicate, he appeared to be much more contented during his final days of life.

It has been reported that people who are both blind and deaf have been taught to communicate with Morse code through the use of a skin buzzer. Imagine how this simple technology might have helped Helen Keller as she struggled to understand and communicate without hearing or sight during her early years.

Morse code has had numerous uses over time, but the most compassionate is its application with the sick and disabled. With limited sensory ability, the patient's capacity to maintain communication with loved ones and family continues to offer hope and encouragement during degenerative illnesses.

Marcogram Interim Editor
Sheldon, VA2SH

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