

marcOgram

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



Volume 60, Number 9

Summer 2015

"TOPIC TO BE DETERMINED"

Wednesday September 30 2015

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

Meeting topic to be confirmed.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello all,

We are into the summer season big time and I hope you all have been profiting from it because in just a few more weeks it's time to start getting out the winter gear. Have we finished our summer projects? I know the board has not. We are still discussing Solderspot projects and I am happy to announce that the power pole DC distribution box project is still alive and well. Stay tuned for these pages for upcoming announcements regarding this fun and useful project. Please speak to Eamon VE2EGN, George VE2NGH or myself Paul VE2OFH it register your support and interest. Eamon and George have some interesting ideas to add to my original project.

On behalf of the MARC I would like to extend warm thanks to Eamon VE2EGN, George VE2NGH, Dan VA2KEY and Marc-André VE2EVN who along with a cast of thousands (ok a slight exaggeration here),

helped WIARC and MARC put together another successful field day. I do not know how many times we as a club have fielded a 2A station but my feeling is not that many. I'll be happy to hear any stories regarding this from the club old timers. How about it is this a first? If not, when was the last time? I am very proud of all our volunteers, this event would not be possible without the faithful help of our members. Please join me in thanking everyone involved.

I am deeply saddened to learn of the loss this weekend of Jim's father. The MARC board of directors and indeed the entire club sends out its heartfelt wishes to Jim and his loved ones for their enormous loss. Jim's father was well known and liked by many of MARC members and he will be sorely missed. Jim on behalf of the MARC and its directors, please accept our deepest sympathies. Your club cries with you for your loss.

Summer break is almost over and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the September general meeting. In preparation for the October BoD elections folks will be kicking off their campaigns and making

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Associate Members	\$25.00
White Cane Members...	\$15.00
Family Members (per family)	\$30.00
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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

President: Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH.....ve2ofh@marc.ca
 Vice President: Sheldon Werner, VA2SH.....va2sh@marc.ca
 Secretary-Treasurer: James R. Hay, VE2VE.....ve2ve@marc.ca
 Directors: Craig Brander, VE2YGK.....ve2ygk@marc.ca
 George Hedrei, VE2NGH
 Eamon Egan, VE2EGN.....ve2evn@marc.ca
 Marc-André Gingras, VE2EVN...ve2evn@marc.ca
 Mario Piacitelli, VA2TMP.....va2tmp@marc.ca

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 on Covey Hill in Franklin, QC.

The repeaters are open to all amateurs.

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 in the Wardens' Room, St. Ignatius of Loyla Parish, 4455 West Broadway. 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

30 September 2015—TBA
 28 October 2015—Annual General Meeting
 25 November 2015—TBA

Radio Classes

A basic level course is held starting in January of each year. If you know of anyone interested in taking the course they should send a message to classes@marc.ca.

MARC Hamfest

As mentioned in the President's message we are planning to hold the fleamarket in 2016. Please watch this space for more news as the planning develops.

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

election promises. I have a feeling it's going to be a tight race this year (-;

73 de Paul VE2OFH

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FROM THE (TEMPORARY) EDITOR'S DESK

First, thanks to Paul for his kind words about my father's passing.

This issue should my last as your editor pro-tem as Warren Vipond, VE2CWV, expects to take over the reigns in September.

While summer is still in full swing fall isn't far away and the club will resume meeting in September and I look forward to seeing you all there.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

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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>

September 2015

Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 2
QRP Fox Hunt 0100Z-0230Z, Sep 4
ARRL EME Contest

0000Z, Sep 5 to 2359Z, Sep 6
WAB 144 MHz QRO Phone

1000Z-1400Z, Sep 6
Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 9
ARRL September VHF Contest

1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z, Sep 14
North American Sprint, CW

0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13
Phone Fray 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 16
ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest

0600 local, Sep 19 to 2400 local, Sep 20
North American Sprint, RTTY

0000Z-0400Z, Sep 20
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY
0000Z, Sep 26 to 2400Z, Sep 27

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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 2listings, go to the American Radio Relay League Hamfest website at:

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

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SPECIAL EVENT CALLSIGNS

VC2CLM 2015-09-26 - 2015-10-25
30th Anniversary of Club Radio Amateur Rive
Sud de Montréal

VC7X 2015-09-26 - 2015-09-27
CQ-WW-RTTY Contest

VC3B 2015-09-01 - 2015-10-30
71 years operation Market Garden

VE3WDBC 2015-08-01 - 2015-08-31
World Dragon Boat Championship in Welland
Ontario

CZ2F 2015-08-01 - 2015-08-31
50th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag

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INCOMING QSL CARD SERVICE

As has been mentioned in previous MarcOgrams we are resuming the club's service of having incoming QSL cards sent to the club for members to pick up at meetings. This is a service which we are offering to our members which both saves the individual members money as well as makes more efficient use of our collective resources.

If you would like to avail yourself of this service please send an e-mail to qsl@marc.ca and we will add you to the list of cards that the incoming bureau sends to the club and bring them to the monthly meetings.

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FIELD DAY

Each year, the name of the game at Field Day has been to build on past successes while trying something new. At this year's fifth joint MARC / WIARC Field Day, many successful elements were recycled from previous years. For the third year in a row we were fortunate to enjoy a great location on the lakeshore, at Beaconsfield's Centennial Park. This year our principal innovation was to attempt a 2A configuration.

One week before the event, we held a training session in HF operations in George VE2NGH's backyard. A few old timers showed up to watch a couple of newbies, including MARC course graduate Erin VE2SXN, get some pointers on HF Field Day operations. We presented a PowerPoint to go over some basics, then logged a couple of West Virginia QSO party contacts to demonstrate contest logging. After those dried up, a ragchew or two ensued.

Our Field Day site plan was similar to last year's, and we occupied an area just west of the parking lot not far from the playground and beach. The previous night we relied on the expert bow and arrow technique of Gilles VE2TZT to pre-place our antenna ropes in the trees. Thanks to having this out of the way before the start of setup on Saturday morning, we were able to get on the air earlier, logging our first contact only 11 minutes after the starting gun. Next year we will aim for the first minute!

We housed both HF operating positions in a single tent lent by Yves VE2YMV. Satellite and 6m operations were hosted in another tent nearby.

HF transceivers (FT-1000MP and TS-450SAT) and tuners were provided by Gilles VE2TZT and Charles VE2RFI. The same antennas used last year were assigned to the first HF station: a ladder-line fed 20m horizontal dipole, set quite high above the tent, plus 40m and 80m slopers pointing southwards towards the lake. The second HF station used a newly built ladder-line fed 40m dipole located a bit nearer to the lake. Antenna locations were carefully chosen to separate them adequately, and to orient the horizontal dipoles end to end to minimize inter-station interference. With the resulting configuration, interference stayed within acceptable limits and front-end desense did not significantly affect operations. A wireless router was all it took to seamlessly network the two laptops running the newly released N1MM+ contest logger, and we were glad to see that its emissions did not contribute noticeably to the RF noise level.

In HF operations we maintained our goal of welcoming brand new hams as well as operators newly involved in club activities. We ended up with 14 licensed amateurs in the HF log this year, and running two stations helped to ensure everyone had ample time to operate. It was encouraging to see so many participants take up the challenge and keep the stations busy, at least during most of the normal waking hours.

Early on Saturday, a couple of veteran operators including Gilles and George were on hand for coaching. Erin VE2SXN as well as Noel VE2AWC and Rudy VA2AJR tried their hand at phone operations, while Vlad VA2TTA proved to be an unstoppable machine on CW, staying

on the air for six or seven hours at a stretch, and amassing over 300 contacts. By the time Eamon VE2EGN tried his hand at search-and-pounce on a higher band on Sunday morning, many of the exchanges were pre-filled from Vlad's nocturnal 80m activity, making the job a whole lot easier!

The HF stations were powered again this year by a set of high capacity lead-acid batteries kindly provided by Batteries Expert on Île Perot, allowing quiet operation to minimize acoustic nuisance to regular park users. To improve power efficiency we ran both HF rigs from 12V supplies, used 12V LED lighting strips instead of an incandescent bulb at night, and suggested that George could survive without his 120VAC fan, eliminating all inverter power loads except logging computers. Such diminished auxiliary power consumption allowed us to run both HF stations over a 24h period from the same battery configuration that powered last year's 1A setup.

The 6m station consisted of Charles's FT-857D, with the beam antenna set up the same as last year, about 20' up in the air on stacked 10' masts. We resorted to "armstrong" rotation after a valiant attempt by Harrison VE2HKW to get his rotator working. The band, although it had been hopping a few days earlier, barely cooperated during Field Day hours, opening up to allow only a handful of longer-range contacts into the midwest alongside the usual Quebec and northern Vermont QSOs. In satellite operations Malcolm, VE2DDZ had excellent success, bagging six contacts, including a run of four on a single FO-29 satellite pass.

The weather cooperated to some extent, blessing us with pleasantly cool temperatures throughout operations and holding off on the rain until early Sunday morning. However the rain was in full force by the early afternoon, motivating those present to start tear-down a bit early and work quickly to finish by around 4pm. All the tents had to be dried out in the following week.

We logged 926 QSOs, for a total score of 4050 after bonus points were added in. Though perhaps not super competitive in the very popular 2A category, this tally handily surpasses last year's 1A score, and counts as respectable considering this year's goals of welcoming new operators and breaking new ground with a 2A setup. As we build up our Field Day operator base, we hope to welcome back our older operators with improved skills each year, and to continue attracting new participants. This way, even without putting much stress on competition, we expect our score to improve "organically" in the years to come.

The clubs' executives would like to thank everyone who came out to help, and particularly those who had a big hand in organizing the event ahead of time. Bob VE2PDT smoothly handled our special event application and our relations with the City of Beaconsfield, for whose welcome and cooperation we remain grateful. Dan VA2KEY took charge of securing our energy needs from Batteries Expert, whom we thank once again for their generous sponsorship. George, VE2NGH, as usual participated in antenna layout planning, worked with VE2EGN on overhauling Field Day antennas and other gear, lent his practiced hand

to the setup of HF stations and antennas, and afterwards took care of assembling and submitting our Field Day results. Matt, VE2MTA set up and manned the PR tent, explaining our goings-on to passers-by, along with Rene VE2RI and one or two others, while Harrison VE2HKW and Bram VE2XCS took care of site security.

Field Day acknowledgements would not be complete without thanking Charles, VE2RFI, who once again took charge of preparing great food to keep us going during the event, and miraculously maintained his composure even when pulled two ways at once between lunchtime sandwich preparation and helping to set up his rigs for HF and VHF operations. On Sunday morning, those present were very grateful to Harrison who took the initiative to cook a fabulous breakfast for everyone.

To prepare for next year's Field Day, this fall we will once again poll club members to get an idea how the last two Field Day operations (conducted since the last poll was held in 2013) have been perceived by members, and to help us make plans and set goals for the future.

de VE2EGN



Malcolm Harper, VE2DDZ making a satellite contact. Photo courtesy Eamon Egan, VE2EGN.



Matt Salenius, VE2MTA with the Field Day banner. Photo courtesy Erin Sexton, VE2SXN.



Teardown on Sunday afternoon. Photo courtesy Gilles Renucci, VE2TZT.



Harrison dismantling his "mobile home". Photo courtesy Gilles Renucci, VE2TZT.



George Hedrei, VE2NGH and Gilles Renucci, VE2TZZT preparing to use an arrow to get a line into a tree. Photo courtesy Eamon Egan, VE2EGN

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

The following equipment is among items to be sold from the estate of VE2NAO. If you are interested in any of this

equipment or would like a list of other items including power supplies and test equipment contact Jim Hay, VE2VE.

Yaesu FT-900 H.F. Transceiver, Kenwood TH-79A 2m/70cm Xcver, w/charging base (2), Kenwood TS940S H.F. Transceiver, Kenwood SP-940 Speaker, Icom IC-28HA W/charger, Eddystone EC-958 Receiver, 10kHz - 30MHz, Yaesu MW-1 Remote control microphone, Yaesu SK-900 Separation kit, Yaesu NC-28B Battery charger, Collins 51J-4 Radio, Racal RA17C-13 Receiver, Collins R-390/URR Receiver, ser. No. 2565



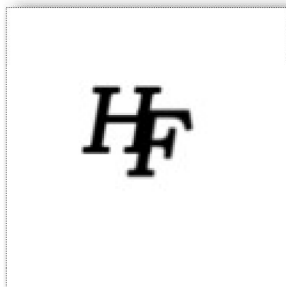
George Hedrei, VE2NGH doing some nighttime operation at Field Day. Photo courtesy Yves McDonald, VE2YMV.



Charles Robitaille, VE2RFI operating on six metres. Photo courtesy Yves McDonald, VE2YMV.

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RADIO H.F.



**PO Box 67063-Lemoyne
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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

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS / PRODUITS SPECIALISES

AMERITRON, ASTRON, BENCHER, CONNECT QUICK, DAIWA, D.C.I., GARMIN, GEOCRON, HEIL, KANTRONICS, KIWA ELECTRONICS, L.D.G., MAGELLAN, MAHA, MFJ, MIRAGE, NYE VIKING, OPTOELECTRONICS, OREGON SCIENTIFIC, PALOMAR, PALSTAR, PRYME, RF CONCEPTS, R.F. SYSTEMS, RIGBLASTER, S.G.C., TIMEWAVE, UNADILLA, VECTRONICS, VIBROPLEX, WEST MOUNTAIN RADIO

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

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