

marcOgram

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



Volume 63, Number 9

Summer 2017

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 27 September 2017

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

**** Harrison, VE2HKW, on APRS ****

APRS — Automatic Packet Reporting System. All the details.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Please note! Meetings are back at St. Ignatius de Loyola lounge in the basement.

This is the mid-summer MARCogram and everyone's out communicating, travelling and generally running around not writing articles, so there isn't much to report upon.

Keep any articles coming, folks: more is better than less. As every editor has pointed out, MARCogram is only as good as its contributors, so start writing.

73 de Nora, VA2NH

- . . . -

SILENT KEY

For your information, our uncle, Charles Éric Neal, VE2DKN, member #148, Montreal Amateur Radio Club, died on the 16 April last. He lived in Dollard des Ormeaux.

He was born 5 Sep 1922 in Paris, France, and was active on shortwave, mostly between 1960 and 1980. He was an electronics specialist for Canadian Marconi.

A ceremony was held 17 Jun 2017 to remember his life, and a recording of the silent key message in code was played.

Information from Hubert Desgagnés, Canadian Coast Guard (retired)

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Annual fees are:

General Members	\$25.00
Associate Members	\$25.00
White Cane Members...	\$15.00
Family Members (per family)	\$30.00
Postal delivery of MarcOgram	\$ 5.00

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

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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 (+) 103.5

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located on Ridgewood Apartments in Montreal, 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 19:30 in the Wardens' Room, St. Ignatius of Loyola 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

27 Sep 2017 — Harrison, VE2HKW, on APRS.

25 Oct 2017 — Annual General Meeting.

29 Nov 2017 — René Brousseau, VA2QR, pres. of RAQI.

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

We are in the process of planning the 2018 flea market, hopefully to be held at the LaSalle Legion. Please watch this space or go to

<https://www.facebook.com/ve2arc>

for more information.

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.

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

REPEATER NEWS

Through the generosity of Claude, VE2YI, and Groupe VE2RMP, our old analog repeater VE2RED is back on the air. It's installed at Ridgewood Apartments, sharing the space with the VE2RMP VHF Fusion repeater on 146.760. Since our equipment was really ancient, Claude generously donated a Motorola repeater, and loaned us filtration for the time being. He connected VE2RMP's Arcom RC-210 controller to the Motorola repeater, with programming assistance from Cliff VE2YU. Claude also provided two Sinclair C2027 multicouplers (pass-notch filters), tuned them up and connected them to the on-site Sinclair 210C4 antenna system.

Now that VE2RED is up and running on 147.270 out, 147.870 in, tone 103.5, VE2RMP will be switched to digital mode only. We hope this will increase usage of the analog FM repeater and eliminate the digital noise for users without FUSION. It's all there for all amateurs to use, amongst the existing DSTAR, DMR, and FUSION repeaters.

Recently, Jean VE2JM reported that UMS's 147.015 repeater VE2RUK was being interfered with, and was repeating VE2RED traffic. Claude and Jean ran further on-air tests; Murphy's Law of course made sure there was no interference. Claude installed a circulator (isolator) in-line with VE2RED's transmitter to help prevent mixing in P/A amplifier stages. Further testing with Dave VE2MPD indicated that all was fine, no interference with VE2RUK.

As for coverage it's pretty good! VE2RED has been tested and coverage extends as far as Cornwall ON, and from the Ottawa ON region. Several weeks ago, Mike W1RC (ex-VE2) came in from Boston, and was able to copy into the USA to the 2nd exit for Albany NY.

We want to extend a big thank you to Claude VE2YI again for his generosity to our ham community here in Montreal. It seems to me that MARC owes Claude VE2YI, Cliff VE2YU, and the Groupe VE2RMP an enormous thank you (and possibly a couple of cold beers!), for their generosity and expertise in putting "the big RED" back on the air!

Information collated from Cliff VE2YU and George VE2NGH.



UPCOMING FLEAS

What: Parry Sound Hamfest
Who: Parry Sound ARC
When: Saturday, 12 Aug, 2017
Where: Parry Sound / Nobel, ON

What: SPARC-fest 5
Who: Sun Parlour Amateur Radio Club
When: Sunday, 13 Aug, 2017
Where: Leamington, ON

What: 9th Annual Junk in the Trunk Hamfest
Who: Ontario Swap Shop (see KWARC for details)
When: Saturday, 26 Aug, 2017
Where: Newmarket, ON

What: Carp 21st Annual Hamfest
Who: Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
When: Saturday, 9 Sep, 2017
Where: Carp, Ottawa, ON

What: VHARA Swap Meet
Who: Victoria Haliburton AR Association
When: Saturday, 16 Sep, 2017
Where: Bobcaygeon, ON

What: London ARC Hamfest 40th Annual Edition
Who: London Amateur Radio Club Inc.
When: Sunday, 17 Sep, 2017
Where: Dorchester, ON

CHECK LAST PAGE FOR NEWS!

ARRL FIELD DAY 2017

REPORT

On 24-25 June, two clubs, WIARC and MARC, collaborated on a field day excursion in Ovide Park, Pointe Claire.

Harrison VE2HKW, Field Day co-ordinator, and the team set up tents, banners, antennae, radios, and a food supply, and although rain threatened the operation, a successful demonstration of operations in the field was conducted.

Battery power was generously provided by Batterie Expert on Ile-Perrot. The power statistics were: maximum current reached 78 amps peak, 2262 watt-hours of consumption. 200 amp/hour used = 20% of battery capacity used. (Figures provided by George VE2NGH and Gilles VA2EW)

The event attracted a visit from the local Member of Parliament Francis Scarpaleggia, and the following article in the Montreal Gazette Local News.

Fun and games – but braced for catastrophe – with HAM radio operators in Pointe-Claire

Montreal Gazette, June 24, 2017, 16:38.

Montreal Amateur Radio Clubs (MARC) staged a day of HAM radio competition in Ovide Park in Pointe-Claire on Saturday that was more than fun and games.

Radio operators from clubs including the Montreal and West Island Amateur Radio Clubs were competing to see how many “contacts” they could make with other enthusiasts across North America practising their skills.

This annual field day, held as usual on the fourth weekend in June, is a contest, with bragging rights, but it’s also an attempt to raise awareness of the value of HAM radio operators in case of disaster that takes out not only electricity but also cell signals. Feeling panicky yet?

“This exercise shows how amateur radio can provide emergency communications by relaying messages in the event of human or natural disasters when no other means of communication are available,” organizers wrote in a press release.

It’s free to watch and HAMs will be on site to explain the hobby to visitors. The radio operation is expected to continue until 2 p.m. Sunday. “Help for tear-down on Sunday is always appreciated,” the group wrote on its Facebook event page.

The park is between Highway 20 and Lakeshore Rd., across from the Pointe-Claire train station.

It’s still unknown why Ham was capitalized

throughout, but the publicity is much appreciated. Thanks, Gazette!

Some photographs taken of the event can be found at this link, thanks to Harrison, VE2HKW.

<https://goo.gl/photos/z8LQYp4AQKMt4fMK8>

FIELD DAY RESULTS

By George VE2NGH/VA2EN

CallSign Used: VE2CWI; MULTI-OP; NON-ASSISTED; ALL BANDS; LOW POWER; MIXED MODE; EXCHANGE “2A QC”; SOFTWARE USED N1MM Logger+ 1.0.6465.0.

Band	Mode	QSOs	Pts	Pts/QSO
3.5	CW	144	288	2.0
3.5	LSB	18	18	1.0
7	CW	444	888	2.0
7	LSB	64	64	1.0
14	CW	548	1096	2.0
14	USB	184	184	1.0
21	CW	288	576	2.0
21	USB	52	52	1.0
28	CW	42	84	2.0
28	USB	72	72	1.0
50	USB	160	160	1.0
SAT	FM	1	1	1.0
SAT	USB	10	10	1.0
Totals		2027	3493	

Score: 6986; Bonus Points: 1250; TOTAL SCORE: **8236**

We might be #1 for 2A class in Canada with this score; the highest we have ever obtained in FD even given the diminished propagation conditions!



Marc-André VE2EVN and laid-back contesting.

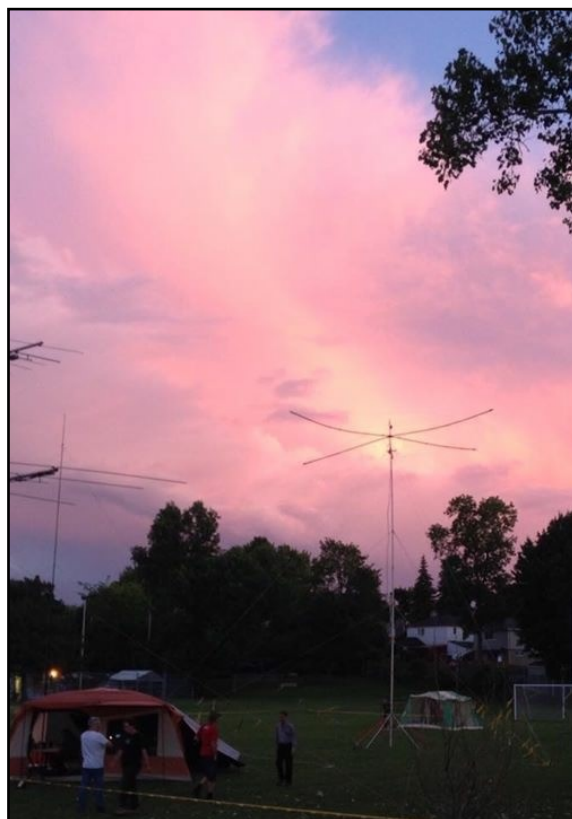


The GOTA set-up..

FIELD DAY PHOTOGRAPHS



Field Day 2017, Ovide Park, general view.



Sunset on the Spider Beam.



Malcolm VE2DDZ working XW-2A amateur radio satellite.



Batteries provided by Batterie Expert, Ile-Perrot.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM FIELD DAY?

By Jim, VE2VE

First let me say that this article reflects my personal thinking and not necessarily that of MARC or WIARC who have been jointly participating in Field Day for several years - a practice which I hope will continue.

Perhaps it is a good thing if we take a little time periodically to consider what are the expectations for Field Day. Is it a contest, an emergency exercise, a public relations event, a social event, an educational event, some combination of all of these things? What is the importance of each of these elements?

What we expect from Field Day depends on the participants and conversely the participants will act in accordance with their expectations. This is as one would expect with any activity.

We saw this, to some extent, this year when no one stepped forward to act as the person responsible for food. As a result that social component of Field Day became less important. On the other hand there was considerable discussion among those organizing aspects of Field Day about technical aspects of the setup in order to obtain the best performance.

When the ARRL started Field Day back in the 1930s it was in order to show how amateur radio could be of use during emergencies. Keeping a station going under field conditions during the depression was a challenge. We have only to look at the participation in the annual Simulated Emergency Test to see that there isn't necessarily a lot of interest among operators in emergency exercises. That is likely why the ARRL added the contest element to spark more interest among amateur operators and clubs. Over the years Field Day has become an important activity for many clubs and quite likely is the most resource intensive for many.

What do we want out of our Field Day? Is it a contest to be won? Certainly MARC/WIARC are putting in some impressive results. Do we want to encourage the members to turn out as a social aspect of Field Day? Do we want to show it off our capabilities during an emergency? Is it important that the best contest operators be operating during the most active periods and new operators get the quiet times or use the GOTA ("get on the air") station?

What do we expect from Field Day? Does the location matter? Does it have to be accessible by public transit? Do we care if the public sees what we are doing? Should it be a site which might actually be used during an emergency? Should we be trying to adjust our overall expectations to try to increase participation in Field Day by

our members?

For me, the two best Field Days I heard about, but was unable to attend either, were a VHF only Field Day held at Blue Mountain in Oka and the 2001 Field Day in Pointe-Claire.

The Oka event was held by a group of friends including Frank Torontour, VE2TOR, Raymond Faguy, VA2RY and others. They kept their operation going for the 24 hours in spite of having generator problems requiring considerable attention from Frank, who is a licensed mechanic. Poor tent placement resulting in a washout when it rained, nearly drowning a laptop. In spite of it all they kept things going.

The September 2001 MarcOgram (on the MARC website) shows the Pointe-Claire Field Day the year before the municipal mergers. It was held in the green space south of the Pointe-Claire fire station and the fire department used their Bronto Sky-Lift to help put up the antenna and tower. They loaned a ladder for use as a support for wire antennas and we had exposure to all of the traffic on St. John's Blvd. with many cars slowing down to take a look.

These may not be what we want now but considering that the site for this year wasn't ideal and did generate some comment, perhaps it is time to consider what we expect from Field Day and use that to help form future site selection criteria as well as our overall priorities in how we organize Field Day.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

DO YOU HAVE QSL CARDS WAITING?

The following MARC members have QSL cards waiting in the incoming QSL bureau. The number in brackets indicates the number of cards:

VA2HY (2), VA2TML (4), VA2WV (26), VE2ARW (1), VE2DDZ (1), VE2EQL (1), VE2HRP (5), VE2JT (4), VE2MHO (1), VE2MM (1), VE2MXU (1), VE2RFI (1), VE2SI (2), VE2SXN (3), VE2WTQ (1)

If you would like to receive your cards at a club meeting send an e-mail to qsl@marc.ca or let me know and I'll advise the incoming QSL bureau to send them to the club. Otherwise you should send funds to the incoming QSL bureau to receive your cards.

The club's service is available to any member and is a way to get your membership working for you and give you a reason to attend the meetings.

73 de Jim VE2VE.

NEAR-Fest News!

From MrMike, W1RC/VE2VW

NEAR-Fest Benevolent Dictator.....

In recognition and in celebration of Canada's 150 anniversary of Confederation we would like to invite all radio amateurs who are Canadian citizens to attend NEAR-Fest XXII this coming October 13th and 14th 2017 at Deerfield NH as our special guests.

If you wish to attend all you need to do is present your valid Canadian passport or other proof of Canadian citizenship to the folks at the gate. We also ask that you display a red maple leaf Canadian flag on your vehicle or at your table should you wish to set up in the flea market.

This invitation is for free admission to the grounds. It does not include parking inside the Fairgrounds (ample free parking just outside the gates) nor does it provide for overnight camping or a chance to win a door or grand prize.

Inside parking is available for \$10 which includes a flea market selling space. Regular admission tickets are also available at the gate for \$10 which include chances to win one of our spectacular door and grand prizes. Camping spaces are \$30 a night or \$15 for tent sites. Both include electrical hookups.

For more information and directions please visit our web site at

www.near-fest.com

Hope to see you there with your red maple leaf flags.....

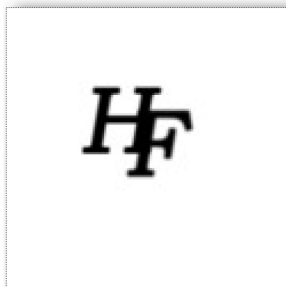
Happy 150th, Canada!

73,

MrMike, W1RC/VE2VW



RADIO H.F.



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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

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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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