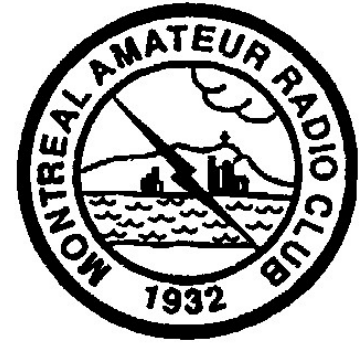


marcOgram

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



Volume 64, Number 5

February 2018

NEXT MEETING

⇒ **Tuesday 27 February 2018** ⇐

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

**** VE2EVN Marc-André ****

Arduino based Contest/computer keyer kit project.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Please note! We'll be meeting on Tuesdays, at St. Ignatius of Loyola lounge in the basement until next season.

Well, after all that ice melts, we're eagerly awaiting spring. The sun has some heat in it now and the days are definitely longer. In another news note, the General Meetings are reverting to Tuesdays, at least until May 2018, same time, same station.

Get your goodies ready for the MARC hamfest, up-coming on 7 April.

73 de Nora, VA2NH

- . . . -

MARC HAMFEST TIME!

Gather up your stuff and bring it on down to the Lasalle Legion; we're throwing the annual MARC hamfest on 7 April 2018!

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch #212 (LaSalle)
7771 Bouvier (corner of Shevchenko)
LaSalle, Quebec**

Openings: Vendors 08:15 Public 09:00 - 12:00
Door Prizes - Basic/Advanced Exam session
(Registration required)

General Admission \$6.00

Tables \$10.00 each, \$18.00 for two

Information - Reservations please contact:

James R. Hay VE2VE - Telephone 514-990-1965

email:ve2arc@marc.ca

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

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.

Annual fees are:
General Members ... \$30.00
Family Members (per family) ... \$35.00
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.

Articles published in the MarcOgram may be reproduced providing credit is given to the original author and the Montreal Amateur Radio Club as the source.

The opinions expressed herein are, unless otherwise stated, solely those of the authors concerned, and not those of the Club, the Directors or members and do not represent the policy of the Club.

Directors

President: Marc-André Gingras, VE2EVN... vc2evn@marc.ca
Vice President: Leo Nikkinen, VE2SI..... vc2si@marc.ca
Secretary-Treasurer: James R. Hay, VE2VE..... vc2ve@marc.ca
Directors: Sheldon Werner, VA2SH... va2sh@marc.ca
Nora Hague, VA2NH..... va2nh@marc.ca
George Hedrei, VE2NGH
Eamon Egan, VE2EGN..... vc2egn@marc.ca
Mario Piacitelli, VA2TMP..... va2tmp@marc.ca
Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH..... vc2ofh@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 (+) 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 on the first Tuesday of the month (Aug 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

(red indicates Tuesday)

27 Feb 2018 — Marc-André VE2EVN on Arduino based contest/computer keyer kit project

27 Mar 2018 — Leo VE2SI on Frequency standards and frequency measurements.

24 Apr 2018 — TBA.

29 May 2018 — Show & Tell.

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

The 2018 flea market will be held at the LaSalle Legion on 7 April. Check out the announcement on page 1, or go to

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

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.



UPCOMING FLEAS

2018

What: Ham-Con Vermont
Who: Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont
When: Saturday, 24 Feb, 2018
Where: South Burlington, VT

What: Ham-Ex hamfest
Who: Peel/Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs
When: 17 March, 2018
Where: Brampton Fall Fairgrounds, Brampton, ON

What: Laval-Laurentides hamfest
Who: VE2CRL Club Radio Amateur Laval-Laurentides
When: Samedi 24 mars 2018
Where: Polyvalente Georges-Vanier de Laval, Laval, QC

What: MARC hamfest
Who: VE2ARC Montreal Amateur Radio Club
When: Saturday, 7 Apr, 2018
Where: Lasalle Legion, Lasalle, QC

What: VE2MO Hamfest
Who: Radioamateurs Mauricie Centre-du-Québec
When: Samedi, le 21 avril, 2018
Where: 350 côte Richelieu, Trois-Rivières O. QC

What: 42nd Annual Durham Hamfest
Who: North Shore & South Pickering ARCs
When: Saturday, 28 Apr, 2018
Where: Pickering, ON

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello,

I hope you're all having a nice winter, and hopefully getting on the air. We've been having some varying conditions these past few months, sometimes better than expected and at times worst. The solar conditions may be low, but the sun is not dormant. There has been the occasional 10m opening here and there, for those who keep close watch and dare to venture that high on the bands, but for the most part, 20m and 40m have been the reliable bands, and many DX stations were up for the taking.

This brings me to my next topic. In order to encourage more on air activity from our members, I have been working on an awards program. In this program, you will be able to earn merits based on contacts made during the year, and following specific criteria. For example, a merit for having chased 10 SOTA activations, or Parks on the Air activation, and others for having participated in the RAC Canada Day contest, or the Jamboree on the Air. Other awards would be kept year to year, like having made contacts with 10, 15, 20, etc CQ zones, or IOTAs. You get the idea.

I will have more details at the meeting, and when it's ready, it will be available on the MARC website. Merits will also be posted on the website for all to see, and hopefully encourage other members to participate.

We've been busy working on the next Field Day planning, and we're looking at a new site, along with a different setup, with two separate stations instead of running 2A. More on this when we have more details to share.

Jim VE2VE and I are happy to announce that the basic course is running smoothly, with 11 students eager to get their basic level certification. By the March meeting, we should have a few more licensed members.

Leo VE2SI has been busy working on the revival of *The Solder Spot*, with a new variable power supply project, which is planned for this fall. If you would be interested in such a project, please let him know.

This month, I will be giving a presentation on my own Arduino-based computer Morse code keyer, which I have developed into a kit. I will be going over my first keyer attempts as well as the current kit form that hopefully will be available very shortly. I hope to see you all at the meeting.

Don't forget, the meetings this spring are on **TUESDAYS**. At the meeting I will be asking for a show of hands to see if we should make this a permanent change come this fall, in order to avoid this back and forth which seems to be causing some confusion among members.

Until then, do get in the air. It's the reason why we got licensed, isn't it?

73 de Marc-Andre, VE2EVN

MARC President

- -

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

The 195th. St. Patrick's Day Parade will be taking place on **March 18, 2018** and I am looking for amateurs to assist with certain communications. I will be needing three persons to walk with the parade to provide position information. I will be contacting people shortly to assist me at parade headquarters.

Please contact me if you are interested but remember that the parade will be held regardless of the weather so you'll have to dress appropriately.

Please contact me if you would like to help.
73 de Jim, VE2VE



Donation to MARC

The Club would like to thank Terri, XYL of SK David Renwick, VE2KZB, for the donation of the station's equipment to the Montreal Amateur Radio Club.

The equipment is available for sale; here's a list of the items. Please contact Jim VE2VE or Marc-André VE2EVN to arrange the details.

The suggested value of each item in Canadian funds has been estimated by Leo, VE2SI, based on his years of experience at cruising any hamfest within range.

Atlas 215X transceiver	\$325.00
ICOM IC-2AT transceiver	\$100.00
Heathkit HW-2036A transceiver	\$70.00
Heathkit HWA-2036-3 AC power supply	\$350.00
Denton GLA-1000 amplifier	\$350.00
Atlas model 206 oscillator	\$100.00
Realistic pro-2003 direct entry programmable scanner	\$30.00
Yaesu YD 148 dynamic microphone	\$30.00
Earphones (1 of 2)	\$20.00
Earphones (2 of 2)	\$20.00

Remember! The NEARfest is upcoming at Deerfield, NH, on 4-5 May 2018, for more of the same type of bargains.



DAVE RENWICK VE2KZB SK

By Terri, Dave's room-mate and best friend for almost years.

Dave John Renwick, VE2KZB, died 8 November 2017, from complications from a stroke on 5 November.

Dave was born in Brantford, ON, 19 July 1958, afflicted with Type 1 aniridia, meaning he was legally blind with only 10% vision, yet he was able to accomplish an amazing number of goals.

He was a Cub Scout, and attended courses at several educational institutions:

- Mohawk College, Hamilton, ON: a cooking course with practicum in their cafeteria (he always made the best gravy!);
- University of Ottawa, ON: computer programming and was a DJ at its CHUO-FM station;
- St. Lawrence College, Brockville, ON: diploma in Developmental Services, then worked in group homes for the developmentally-delayed, and a diploma in Framing Carpentry.

He was a licensed hairdresser; in Ontario, it requires 2500 hours of school and passing written and practical exams to get a license, and he had his own business until the recession in the 1980s.

He began as First-Aider with St. John Ambulance at public events, then became Instructor. Although he was not pagan, he volunteered as first-aid for public gatherings of Montreal Pagan Community.

He ran (unsuccessfully) for City Council in Kingston, ON, in the mid-1990s, with a special interest in transit improvements, and became a Pro Bono Advocate for the handicapped in Ontario. He also assisted RAPLIQ (Regroupement des activistes pour l'inclusion au Québec) with various projects to end accessibility discrimination.

He was a member of various clubs:

- Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association (in order of occurrence) member, officer, camp chief, then Montreal District Chief.
- Lions International. He started in West Island Lions Club, then relocated to Montreal Central. He was involved in all possible projects and received various

merit awards.

In 2005, he survived a heart attack, developed diabetes and osteoporosis, had glaucoma surgery in both eyes, a cornea transplant and cataract removal in one eye, all of which improve his vision somewhat.

His big highlight as an amateur radio operator was speaking with the late King Hussein of Jordan JY1!

(See page 4 for some of Dave's station equipment that Terri has generously given to MARC).

-...-

The Solder Spot

By Leo Nikkinen, VE2SI

SolderSpot is a group build program that's intended to get amateurs and electronic hobbyists into building electronic projects. Although SolderSpot is a MARC activity, the projects are open to anyone that's interested, not just MARC members. The club obtains the materials, rents space for the build and club members provide instruction and help where needed. The cost to participants is intended to cover the price of the materials and room rental, and depends on the project and its time requirements.

Whether you're new to electronics or an experienced builder, all projects with active circuitry require a power source. Batteries can be used to power some circuits, however, a power supply with an adjustable output voltage is a useful piece of equipment and invaluable when developing new circuitry. The coming MARC SolderSpot project will be the construction of a power supply (PS) with an adjustable output voltage and digital output meters. The exact design is being finalized, but the PS will likely have dual outputs, 0 to +20 volts and 0 to -20 volts, with a maximum output current of 500 mA. A PS of this type is suitable for powering single-supply circuitry (eg. transistor circuits) or equipment that requires "plus" and "minus" supplies (eg. op-amp circuits). The PS will be constructed in a plastic case with most, or all, of the mechanical components in a ready-to-assemble form.

This type of PS is often referred to as a bench power supply.

Builders will receive a kit with parts and an instruction manual, that covers both the construction of the PS and an explanation of the way that a PS works. Build sessions will start with a brief outline of the day's work and a few words of explanation for that part of the circuit. The project cost will be finalized once the prototype unit is completed, but it is expected to be around \$100, will take 4-6 sessions to complete, and will start in Autumn 2018.

The project has several goals: 1) to encourage an interest in building electronic equipment; 2) to develop soldering and assembly skills, and show how an electronic project is built; 3) to increase understanding of the way that electronic circuitry works; and 4) give the builder a power supply that will be useful for future projects.

Interested parties may contact me directly or through the Club.

Leo Nikkinen, VE2SI
leo49@Videotron.ca

- . . . -

BOUVET ISLAND 3YØZ LOG

Close, but no cigar.

These are extracts from the on-line log maintained by the members of the DXpedition: Erling LA6VM, Bob K4UEE, Ralph KØIR, Hal W8HC. A valiant effort was made, and mega\$\$ spent, but Mother Nature won. Courtesy of the Bouvet Island web page at:

<https://www.bouvetdx.org/news-and-updates/>

The operating team included:

EY8MM – Nodir,	HA5AO – Pista,
JR4OZR – Hal,	KØIR – Ralph,
K4UEE – Bob,	K9CT – Craig,
LA6VM – Erling,	LA9DL – Just,
N4GRN – George,	N6HC – Arnie,
N9TK – Jim,	NM1Y – Jeff,
PA5M – Michael,	SM5AQD – Hawk,
VE7KW – Keith,	WØGJ – Glenn,
W6IZT – Gregg,	W7IV – Paul,
W8HC – Hal,	WB9Z – Jerry.

2017 Dec 28: Here she is, the M/V Betanzos, the ship on which we will begin our journey to Bouvet in just



over two weeks. It's been a busy year for this vessel. She's been pulled from the water, inspected, refurbished and remodeled stem to stern to prepare her for new life as an Antarctic support vessel, and for our expedition to Bouvet.



Packed sea container.

2018 Jan 13: The contents of the sea container will be taken aboard our ship in Punta Arenas, and meet our team at King George Island in the South Shetlands.

2018 Jan 19: The M/V Betanzos pulled away from the Puntas Arenas pier today at 1240Z, with 20 happy and excited 3YØZ operators on board. Tug boats were

summoned for help, due to very strong winds and rough seas that were holding the ship against the pier. Now, it's full speed ahead to Bouvet!

2018 Jan 20: We had an uneventful traverse of the Straits of Magellan, and are currently just southeast of the Falkland Islands, making approximately 11 knots. At the moment, we have fair winds and following seas, and our weather forecast looks good for the next 12 hours. However, the weather can change quickly in this part of the world.

Our team is in good spirits, but one or two are feeling the effects of moderate seasickness.

We have one maritime mobile station active 3G9A/MM, with most of our QSOs on 20 and 40m.

We are running 100 watts to a Hustler vertical on the bow of the ship and an OCF dipole hung from the bridge area. Our transmissions include grid square information. We hope to add a second station, soon.

2018 Jan 26, 0945 Z: The forecast for worsening weather was accurate. The seas are an estimated 15 to 20 feet, and we are in heavy snow, as we continue toward Bouvet. There will be fewer of us at breakfast this morning.

Yesterday afternoon, the team and ship's crew moved our rod anchors, T-post anchors and the DX Engineering antenna masts to the rear of the ship for faster access during landing operations. This was a good thing, since these operations would not be possible today. Last night, N4GRN, N9TK and KØIR began planning the loading and sequencing of helicopter flights to the island. We plan to run one helicopter with only sling loads and one with only interior loads and passengers. One aircraft can operate off of the rear helicopter pad and one off the hanger deck.

Today, we will continue to work on load sequencing, and continue our packing and re-packing of the personal gear we will each take to the island. The landing process will focus on safety and building of our infrastructure, so that it can support the number of people on the island at any given time.

1600 Z: We are slowly being overtaken by a deep low pressure system moving from west to east. Strong southerly winds are producing a mixed-up and angry sea. This has slowed our forward speed to 2 knots. We should be out of this system around 2300 Z tonight. That's the good news. The bad news is that there is another low right behind this one, although it is not as deep.

2200 Z: We are still rocking and rolling, but sea conditions have improved since my earlier post. We had to take our stations off line, as equipment was not staying on the tables. Precipitation has stopped. We've been able to increase our speed to 8 knots. Attendance at dinner was down, but better than expected.

2018 Jan 27, 0120 Z: 25 Jan Thursday night, our weather took a major turn for the worse, as we were overtaken by a low pressure system with winds about

35 knots and confused seas at 5 meters.

The ship has been pitching quite a lot, but is riding well. (...) we have remained below decks.

We had to QRT our maritime mobile operation and secure the radios, because of the ship's rolling. We did not want to risk damage to the radios.

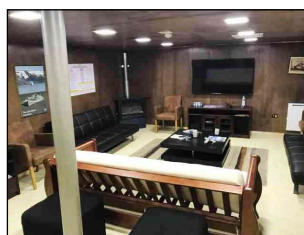


3G9A/MM before and during ...

We have yet to ascertain the status of our ship-mounted antennas for possible damage. The Hustler vertical is mounted on the bow, and took many salt water baths yesterday.

Today's forecast looks a little better. We hope to be back at full speed, and have 3G9A/MM QRV again, after checking and repairing the antennas.

2018 Jan 27, 0530 Z: Last night was a tough night for us. The full fury of the South Atlantic was unleashed upon us. Shifting winds and turbulent seas changed our ship's motion from severe pitching to pitching and yawing to very marked rolls. That which was not secured is no longer where it was. Some of those who were up and about yesterday are down and out today. Personal items are scattered, and some small items are lost in the mix. Bathroom floors are wet from water splashing out of the toilet bowls.



TV lounge, before and after

It was a tough night, but we knew this was likely when we signed on. We will persist and continue towards Bouvet.

2018 Jan 29, 0800 Z: We had another night of rocking and rolling. A strong southwesterly wind produced high

following seas resulting in the stern of the ship rising on the approaching wave or swell, the ship surfing down the front of the wave, and the bow plunging into the wave ahead of it. The change in motion produced a change in the migratory pattern of gear and furniture, but the chaotic end results were similar to our last rough ride. Entropy exists.

Last evening, we met with the helicopter pilots to be sure we understood each other. Safety first, and then get everything ashore as quickly as possible with never more people than our infrastructure can support. We parted with the "one team" commitment.

1605 Z: Satellite navigation shows the ship 370 nautical miles from Bouvet. We continue to bounce around, but for the soaring sea birds around us, it is just another day. Onward!



Bouvet glacier.

2018 Feb 1, 1300 Z: Our ship is still at anchor off the east side of Bouvet. Winds are 35 to 40 knots, and the ship is pitching and rolling up to 30 degrees. This makes flying and a landing attempt impossible today. The temperature is hovering at around 0 degrees C. Visibility has improved.

We are poised and ready when a weather window opens. We had our maritime mobile station up for a few hours, but had to take it down again to avoid damage caused by the extreme motion of the ship.

1445 Z: Winds have increased to 45 knots. Unsecured items are again sliding across floors and tables. Some team members are again feeling seasick.

The barometer has risen, slightly. We are anxiously awaiting calmer conditions. Hang in there with us!

2018 Feb 3, 2000 Z: During the last 72 hours, we continued to experience the high winds, low clouds, fog and rough seas that have prevented helicopter operations since our arrival at Bouvet.



Ralph Fedor, KØIR

No improvement was predicted in the weather forecast for the next four days. Then, last night, an issue developed in one of the ship's engines.

This morning, the captain of the vessel declared it unsafe to continue with our project and aborted the DXpedition. We are now on our long voyage back to Punta Arenas. As you might imagine, the team is deeply disappointed, but safe. There is already talk about rescheduling the DXpedition.

2018 Feb 5, 0930 Z:

Our captain has decided that it is in the best interest of safety and expediency to proceed directly to Cape Town, South Africa rather than Punta Arenas, Chile. We are now heading north to avoid the possibility of encountering ice. Currently, there is no ice in sight or on radar. In due time, we will head easterly toward Cape Town.



Bouvet - so close ...

Our entire team is safe. Most are resting in their bunks and in good spirits. We will keep the amateur radio community and our families informed, as we continue our journey.

1445 Z: Position: 53 degrees 42 minutes South, 0.41 degrees West. Heading 58 degrees. Speed 7 knots. The wind is from 165 degrees and pushing us along in moderate following seas.

Our ride is now considerably smoother than earlier, today. We did pass through some ice between 1200 and 1300 Z. The sea is clear now.

We are headed for Cape Town, South Africa.

This is the safest and most expedient course for us.

We thank those who have expressed concern and good wishes. We are, of course, very, very disappointed. We are slowed, but safe.

2018 Feb 8, 2045 Z: 49.32 degrees South, 6.73 degrees East. 1,058 nautical miles from Cape Town.

We are continuing our slow voyage to Capetown, currently making 6 knots, with one of our two engines out. The team is healthy, with plenty of food and water, and working to keep our spirits up. We cannot, however, escape the cloud of disappointment hovering over us and the DX community. We traveled 2700 nautical miles to Bouvet, but the last mile proved to be the most difficult.

As we type this, a tugboat is on its way to assist our vessel to the port of Cape Town. We will continue to keep everyone informed, as this saga plays out. We would like to thank all of our friends and families who have been with us every mile of the way. Your good wishes, thoughts and prayers have sustained us over the last three weeks.

2018 Feb 16, 1320 Z: ETA at Cape Town harbor is 0930 on Saturday morning. We understand that immigration and customs will come aboard at 1700, and we will likely be cleared to depart the vessel. DAP has us all booked into a local hotel near the waterfront.

On Sunday, there will be a reception held at a local yacht club sponsored by a local radio club and numerous DXers. We are very much looking forward to that and are certainly honored.

The first of the team will begin departing for home on Sunday night, and the majority will be on their way Monday evening/early Tuesday morning. A few more will straggle out and be on their way home on Wednesday.

When we depart the vessel on Saturday, that will be our 31st day aboard the ship. Needless to say, we are ready to set foot on dry, un-moving ground once again. Ralph and I are very proud of this team. They have endured many hardships since departing home in early January. They have been patient and resilient and good company. There will be more



3YØZ banner, signed & presented to Cape Town

updates in the future, as we begin to unravel this attempt and plan our subsequent strategy.

2018 Feb 17, 0900 Z: The Cape of Good Hope is in site with Tabletop Mountain rising majestically above the sea. A tugboat shot a line to us to deliver updated local charts, and we are proceeding toward dry land. We've been at sea and aboard this vessel for over a month now. For some, this has been a difficult time, but now stability and dry land is on the horizon.

I'm not sure, but this may be our last update until we arrive safely at our homes. If it is, thank you once again to all of you for your support during this difficult time. We've enjoyed the "GLs" and "dit-dits" during our 9,000+ maritime mobile QSOs. It was nice to have you riding with us. Thank you.

2018 Feb 17, 1450 Z: Awesomeness is being greeted by a 37-foot ketch in Cape Town Harbor and its crew of ZS ham friends. We are grateful for their assistance in getting us into the dock and processed by the SA customs and immigration folks.

1530 Z: We are now docked, and we have been processed by customs and immigration.

Thank you and 73 - Ralph, KØIR

- -

Production Manager

Edward Wielgus

D.C.S., B.Eng., M.Eng., VE3VMF

Montréal, Quebec, H2K1J2, Canada

Fax.: (514) 360-2956

ed_die.2@Hotmail.com

Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter

COMPLETE ANTENNA SYSTEM

Hygain TH 11DX, 20 - 10 m HF Beam

Cushcraft 13B2, Thirteen element 2 meter Yagi

Cushcraft A5606S, Six element 6 meter Yagi

Hygain Taitwister Rotor

48 foot DMX heavy duty Tower

Andrews Heliac one inch dia-60 feet

RG 213-2 X 50 feet

FOR AN AMAZING PRICE !

CONTACT MARK VE2JT

450-247-3598

vejt@rac.ca