

marcOgram

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May 2019

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 28 May 2019

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

**** Builders, designers, tinkerers ****

Show and Tell

Bring out your projects and innovations!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In case you were wondering what happened to the St. Colomban ham fest, please see the last page. They were sort-of drowned out.

Preparations for the 2019 ARRL Field Day, held on 22-23 June, are already underway. Co-ordinators are co-ordinating, volunteers are always welcome. Interested? Contact Harrison VE2HKW at: ve2hkw@gmail.com.

MARCOgram could certainly use more material. Somebody out there must surely have something about which to write an article, and photographs / diagrams are always appreciated.

73 de Nora, VA2NH

- . . . -

THE GOLDEN PACKET: A MARC EVENT REVISITED

By Gerald, VA2GLU

I was the guest presenter during the February 2019 MARC meeting. It takes these kinds of presentations to learn back-stories. My first slide was the iconic photo of New Brunswick's Mount Carleton, a peak along the International Appalachian Trail (IAT). Nora pointed out the heavy-duty cables securing the old fire-lookout building to the rocky crag [Fig. 1, p. 5]. It gets mighty windy on the 820m peak!

Each year since 2009, during a pre-determined Saturday in July, 15 teams of ham radio operators have climbed peaks along the Appalachian Trail (AT) from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine to communicate via packet from one end of the

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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

On the air from Ridgewood Ave. in Montreal; CTCSS tone of 103.5 Hz for access. Thanks to Claude Everton, the VE2RMP group and Metrocom for making this possible.

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

(last Tuesday of the month)

28 May - Show and Tell.
 Summer break!

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 2019 flea market was held at the LaSalle Legion on **6 April**. Plans are already afoot for the next hamfest. Go to <http://www.marc.ca/fest/fest.html> for more information as it happens.

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.

CW CLASSES

By Leo VE2SI

Some members have expressed an interest in learning what is now called the International Morse Code and adding CW to their operating capabilities.

If you're interested send an email to VE2ARC@marc.ca and indicate your level of interest.

SolderSpot

Group build Power Supply Project - By Leo VE2SI

If you're interested and even if you've spoken with me before, please send an email to VE2ARC@marc.ca and indicate your level of interest.

Participation is open to everyone and MARC membership is not a requirement.



UPCOMING FLEAS/EVENTS

2019

What: 37th Quebec Hamfest 2019

Who: VE2CBS

When: Sunday, 26 May, 2019

Where: Sorel-Tracy QC

What: Rochester NY Hamfest

Who: Rochester Amateur Radio Assoc

When: Saturday, 1 June, 2019

Where: Hilton, NY USA

What: Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket

Who: Guelph/Kitchener-Waterloo AR Clubs

When: Sunday, 2 Jun, 2019

Where: Cambridge, ON

What: London Vintage Radio Club Flea Market

Who: London Vintage Radio Club

When: Saturday, 8 Jun, 2019

Where: Guelph, ON

What: Ontario Hamfest

Who: Burlington Amateur Radio Club

When: Saturday, 13 Jul, 2019

Where: Milton Fairgrounds, Milton ON

What: Batavia Hamfest

Who: Lancaster Amateur Radio Club

When: Saturday, 20 Jul, 2019

Where: Alexander Firemen Grounds, Alexander, NY USA

What: STARC Summer Hamfest 2019

Who: St. Albans Amateur Radio Club

When: Saturday, 10 Aug, 2019

Where: St. Albans Elks Lodge, St. Albans, VT USA

HOSSTRADERS 1974 TO NEAR-FEST 2019

by Leo VE2SI

Amateur radio hamfests and fleamarkets are for many of us a fun and important aspect of amateur radio. We get to see new equipment, meet long-time friends and, to the delight of a spouse, bring home new treasures that are added to the shack. The largest gathering in North America is the Dayton Hamvention, but there are other fleamarkets, often located closer to home. Not too far away, Deerfield NH is home to a two-day fleamarket that's only a 5-hour drive from Montreal.

Starting about 1974, three New England hams organized the first Hosstraders amateur radio fleamarket. The event was held mostly at the Deerfield NH fairgrounds but it moved around occasionally to other nearby venues. A loyal group of amateurs from the New England area, Quebec, Ontario and even the Maritime Provinces followed it faithfully.

For those of us who are avid builders, Hosstraders was a source for the radios, parts, supplies and test equipment not found easily elsewhere, particularly in Canada. The annual spring ARRL convention in Rochester NY was similar in size, but the loss of their long-standing location about 20 years ago resulted in declining attendance. Hosstraders was the only remaining large fleamarket that could be reached easily.

In early 2007 Hosstraders' organizers decided to call it quits after 30+ years and go into well-deserved retirement. It looked as if there would no longer be a Hosstraders fleamarket. With the major fleamarket in the northeastern part of the continent seemingly at an end, Mike Crestohl W1RC/VE2VW stepped up. Assuming the lead role, Mike quickly put together a dedicated and driven team that managed to secure the Deerfield fairground location and complete all the other preparations for a large event (obtaining insurance, attracting commercial vendors, arranging for on-site food, washrooms, etc.). In a surprisingly short time everything was arranged and Friday May 4th and Saturday 5th 2007 were set as the date for the first New England Amateur Radio Festival, or NEAR-Fest.

NEAR-Fest was a great success and set the tone for future events. With memories of the previous decades of Hosstraders, NEAR-Fest came into being as a twice-yearly hamfest; one in the spring and one in the fall. The event covers an area of approximately 10 acres with another 5 acres for parking. NEAR-Fest usually includes some forums and amateur licence exams are sometimes available.

This spring NEAR-Fest enjoyed a mix of sun and cloud, and helped me add to the stock of equipment and supplies that keep me busy. For those who are interested in attending the next event, all the info is on their web site: NEAR-fest.com. Hamfest organizers have negotiated very attractively priced accommodation in a Super-8 motel in nearby Manchester NH; again, check out the web site.

NEAR-Fest XXVI (26 for those who have forgotten their Roman numerals) will be held on Oct 11th and 12th, 2019. The tradition continues. As with all outdoor events, the weather can help or hinder attendance figures. However, rain or shine, it's an enjoyable trip and always a fun event.

NEAR-Fest encourages those who are interested in amateur radio to attend and uses event proceeds to promote amateur radio. One of their major initiatives saw the installation of an amateur radio station in the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord NH. Center staff were trained by NEAR-Fest volunteers, obtained their amateur radio licence and operate the station, KA1SKY, for the benefit of center visitors.

(Continued from page 1)

trail to the other. Called the "Golden Packet" by Bob Bruninga, the inventor of Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS), this exercise demonstrates the feasibility of an emergency communication backbone along the Appalachian Trail.

But the Appalachian Mountains do not end in Maine and neither does the trail. For the first time in 10 years, two Canadian stations successfully participated in the Golden Packet with stations along the IAT; one team on Mount Blanc in Matane, QC, and the other station on Mount Carleton in New Brunswick. And thus begin the back-stories.

Way back in 2015, Marc-André VE2EVN, Dan VA2KEY and Sheldon VA2SH had set up a station on Mount Carleton on the day of the Golden Packet. Treacherous weather conditions on Mount Katahdin, however, prevented our guys from communicating to the south and there were no other stations to the north.

Then in 2017, Dan VA2KEY and Bram VA2XE set up on Mont Saint Joseph in Mount Megantic National Park and relayed the Golden Packet information between Mount Washington in New Hampshire and Mount Katahdin. Although Mont Saint Joseph is in the Appalachian Mountains, it is not technically on the AT.

Again in 2018, Dan was on Mont Saint Joseph providing the necessary link between Mount Washington and Mount Katahdin (which this time connected all the way to Matane).

But it wasn't all technical stuff during the presentation. Eamon VE2EGN provided some comic relief by serving as a straight man on the subject of moose scatter and people who really know their shit.

What's next for the Golden Packet? The 2019 Golden Packet takes place Saturday, July 20. We already have logistics commitments from the Carleton Team. The Matane Team will surely be involved again.

In my humble opinion, we should work towards an autonomous Québec-New Brunswick APRS link during the 2019 Golden Packet. Our stations do not have to be on the IAT. Thus, Mount Saint-Joseph, the

Chic Chocs, Rimouski and Sept-Isles are all candidates for additional teams. Our Canadian APRS link on and around the IAT can link up with the US gang on the AT.

Shoot me an e-mail if any of this sounds interesting to you.

Looking forward to continued collaborations between MARC and CRADI.

Gerald Lemay VA2GLU
Member of MARC since 2017
President of CRADI (Club radio amateur de Drummondville Inc)
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Fig. 1: Old fire-lookout building, Mount Carleton, NB, a peak along the International Appalachian Trail.



Fig. 2: From Mount Washington NH in the South through Mont Saint Joseph QC to Katadin, Carleton QC and up to Mont Blanc in Matane QC.

Station manning details, courtesy Bob Bruninga's web page, WB4APR@amsat.org, Annapolis, MD

APRS Station ID	Station Site	State	Lead Call	Lead Name	Access	Primary Packet Radio	Antenna	Power	Voice Monitor (TX Tone 100 Hz)	Local Talk-In	ANSRVR 2nd HT	ANSRVR Station ID	Additional Team Members
MTBLAN-2	Mont-Blanc, Réserve Matane	QC	VE2EEG	Clermont	Drive-up+ ATV	TM-D710G	Comet GP3	Battery	445.925 T100				Jean VA2JPI, Richard VA2RBC
MTCARL-1	Mount Carleton, NB	NB	VA2GLU	Gerald Lemay	Hike Up	TM-D710G	Diamond X-50	LiFePO 7.5AH	445.925 T100				Sylvie Roberge
KATHDN-15	Baxter or Pamola Peak	ME	KA1YBS	Tim	Hike Up	TH-D72	Duck	Battery	445.925		Yes	KA1YBS-7	Leo, KC1FOD
SUGRLF-14			n/a	OBE									
MTSTJO-14	Mont Saint-Joseph	QC	VA2KEY	Dan	drive-up	TMD710	arrow j-pole	battery			yes-d72		
MTWASH-13	Mount Washington	NH	WA1KLI	John	Drive-up	TM-D710	Vertical 3dB gain	battery					
EQINOX-12	Mt Equinox, summit parking lot	VT	WA1PLE	Jeff Marden N1JCM	Drive-up	TM-D710G	Larson 5/8 Mobile	5/10/50 W and 35aH battery	445.925 & local repeaters	145.39 Mt Equinox Repeater	yes-d72	EQINOX	
GRYLCK-11	Mt Greylock, Notch Road pull-out	MA	N4WFP	Jim	Drive-up	TH-D72	Radio Shack 5/8 Mobile	Battery	445.925 T100	146.91, PL162.2 Mt Greylock Repeater	TH6	?	
SAMSPT-10	Near Ice Caves Park	NY	N2FMC	Dwight	Drive-up	TM-D710	Vertical 3dB gain	utility AC	445.925 T100	?			
CAMLBK-9	Big Pocono Mountain	PA	KB3EJM W3OKW	Kevin Frank	Drive-up	TM-D710G	4 ele yagi ->North Buddipole3eleYagi>So.	3x14Ah Solar	445.925 T100	146.865pl100 WX3OES	yes - 2nd d710/m	CAMLBK	
GDHILL-8	Gov. Dick Obs. Tower		WB4APR	Bob Bruninga	hikeup	TM-D710	Vertical 3 dB gain	battery	445.925 T100	145.39 T???	yes	GDHILL	Andy KB3CHT
MDMTNS-7	WN3R QTH	MD	WJ3K	Gordon	Drive-up	TM-D710G	5' Vertical on 120' tower @ 1720'	Utility AC	445.925 T100		WJ3K-7 D-72	MDMTNS	Jon AE3JG
HWKSBL-6	N. Virginia Mtns, VA		N3AE	Shawn	Hike up	TM-D700A	TBD	LiFePO4 96WH	445.925 T100				
AOMTN-5	Just S. of Apple Orchard Mtn.	VA	KX4O + others	John	Hike-up	TM-D710G	Dia. CP22e on 8 foot mast	LiFePO4 10AH	None				
COMERS-4	Comers Rock Overlook		KB8LMR	Ted	Hike-up	TM-D710G	J-Pole or 1/4 Wave	2x10AH Solar	445.925 T100				All welcome
ROAN-3	Cloudland Hotel Parking Area	NC	N4AZR	Glenn	Drive-up	TM-D700A	Diamond X30 @ 25'	75 ah marine battery	445.925 T100		Kenwood D72 maybe	Maybe N4AZR-7 or -10 (Android)	KB3WRT
CLNGMN-2	Parking lot about 0.25 mi. below Obs Twr at summit		KK4YLX KK4DQO	Greg & David	Drive-up	TM-D700A TM-D710G	2-meter/440 mobile on 18' tele mast	Battery/ Solar recharge					
SPRNGR-1	Considering Mt. Oglethorpe further south, original AT terminus	GA	KG4VUB K4SJR	Tom & Frank	Drive-up	TM-D710A	VHF/UHF Ground plane	Battery	445.925 T100			SPRNGR	



ANNULATION HAMFEST DES LAURENTIDES

Dimanche 28 avril 2019

Suite aux récents événements sur les inondations qui touchent plusieurs secteurs des Laurentides, à l'annulation et à l'incertitude de plusieurs participants, le club annule son hamfest du 11 mai.

Le hamfest est un rassemblement des radioamateurs et en quelque sorte une fête. Il serait déplacé de tenir cet événement. Même si d'ici à la mi-mai les niveaux des cours d'eau devraient être normaux, il y aura une période de nettoyage et de reconstruction.

73 et merci de votre compréhension.

Martin VE2QR
Président CRA Rivière du Nord