

marcOgram



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

A MARC Monthly Newsletter

Volume 54, Number 3 November 2008

Next meeting - Wednesday 26, November 2008

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30, Club meeting: 20:00

Matthew Biederman, VE2XBX

will be giving a talk about his Dare DX project this past September.

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

4455 West Broadway (corner of Terrebonne) in N.D.G. - Montreal

(Please enter by the back door)



**Seasons
Greetings**



**TO ALL MARC MEMBERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES**



A Word from The President

Hello,

Fall is here and hopefully you have the leaves raked and have your antenna work done and are ready for some good DX this winter. The MAB radio room moved across the hall this winter and I would like to thank Earl Paris, VE2ESP, Sheldon Werner, VA2SH, Mac Macdougall, VA2YQ, Vernon Ikeda, VE2QQ, Leo Nikinen, VE2SI and Nora Hague, VA2NH for their assistance in extending the coaxial and rotator cables. There is still some work to be done but the radio room is almost back in full operation. Thanks to these folks for their help.

We often talk about promoting the hobby and as you saw in the summer MarcOgram Matthew Biederman, VE2XBX was doing exactly that in Cabot Square in September with his Dare DX project. This month he will be telling us about this project and it should be very interesting to hear about it.

The Christmas dinner is coming on December 5. It promises to be a good time as always and I hope to see you all there. Details are elsewhere in this issue. Please let me know if you plan to attend so that I can advise the restaurant of the number of persons we expect.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting as it promises to be very interesting.

73 de Jim.

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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 Point Claire water tower.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur radio Club.

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 Montreal Association for the Blind, 7000 Sherbrooke St. West.

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.

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.

Editor

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Annual Fees are:

GeneralMembers... \$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.

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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.

Club Activities - Monthly Meetings

Club meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month. 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 stop-

MARC Fundraiser WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

In order for MARC to reach some of its goals, the BOD have decided to increase the 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" from September to May, which is eight issues. This year we added June, which becomes a free month. So we actually publish nine issues. We have a list distribution of about 200 persons. A business card placed for 8 issues would only be \$ 40.00. We are asking for all members to try and contribute either via a donation, or asking a friend or family who has a business to place an ad.

From the Editor's Desk

So it's that time again, the tail end of the year, 2008. the time when we should all be rejoicing with our family and friends and celebrating the coming of the new year - 2009. Let us just hope that 2009 will bring solutions to the drastic financial crisis that shook us all during the later half of 2008.

Some months back, the BOD agreed that we should investigate the possibility of producing multi-media on-line elearning material primarily for the Basic qualification programme. A small group of us held two meetings to discuss and outline the needs for such a venture. A recommendation from the group was that we produce one or two presentations to highlight difficulties that we could encounter in a practical environment. The first stumbling block was a lack of a suitable location to conduct such trials. We had initially thought of using the radio-room at MAB but this was squashed when we were informed that the radio room was about to be moved.

After much delay, an opportunity arose on Saturday 15th November, The on-going Advanced Course would be covering repeater utilizing the mobile unit for demonstration. So, yours truly along with podcast cohort Phil, hopped down to the learning location carrying all our video, sound and lighting paraphernalia. Having taken around 30 minutes of video and numerous pictures, the next step is some editing. From this stage, we'll need to get-together to review and critique the results. Hopefully, we can then come up with a firm programme.

On closing, I'll take this opportunity to wish you and your families the very best of health for the new year and may it bring much wisdom to all those decision makers out there.

That's it -

Your editor..

*Rjcam the Video-n-Podcast Ham,
VA2RJC*

From the ARRL**ARRL NTS SECOND REGION NET EXPANDS TO INCLUDE EASTERN CANADA**

As of November 1, 2008, the Second Region Net (2RN) of the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) expanded its reach, providing regular network nodes for Canadian provinces in Eastern Canada

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts-mpg/>.

In a joint announcement last week, NTS Eastern Area Chair Marcia Forde,

KW1U, and Bill Thompson, W2MTA, NTS Second Region Net (2RN) Manager for Cycles 2 and 3, invited those Canadian radio amateurs who handle traffic to participate in Second Region Net operations as the Eastern Canada Net (ECN) is no longer active. According to Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)

<http://www.rac.ca/>, the ECN, a CW Net, handled traffic for Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland into the US for transcontinental transmission.

"This expansion of 2RN operations is intended to allow Section Nets in the eastern provinces of Canada to have outlet to Eastern Area Net operations and to allow inbound traffic to flow to those provinces of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes," Thompson said. "This is much the same way as the more-western provinces in Canada currently interface with the NTS RN7 (Seventh Region Net) and TEN (Tenth Region Net) nets."

dvcam-ham productions

Ronald J Campbell, VA2RJC

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Submissions for entry into marcOgram

For submissions of text only it is preferable that you send as a ".txt" file, however, MS Word is acceptable.

For pictures please use "jpg" format with maximum size 400 x 240. Where possible use at least 240 dpi.

For clip art if possible use "gif". Maximum size 480 x 340 pix. This will give a picture size of approximately 8 Kb.

Contact me at:

va2rjc@videotron.ca

Home Tel: 514-767-2804

Canadian operators are invited to participate in the 2RN operations in addition to those of their provincial NTS Section Nets. The Second Region Net operates four times daily on the 75 and 80 meter bands (3.925 and 3.576 MHz) in accordance with the NTS Four Cycle timetable using Cycles 2, 3 and 4.

HURRICANE NETS, WX4NHC ACTIVATE AS HURRICANE PALOMA BATTERS CAYMAN ISLANDS AND CUBA

As Hurricane Paloma a Category 4 storm at its peak threatened the Cayman Islands and Cuba, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN), the VoIP Hurricane Net (VOIPWX) and WX4NHC the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) were active and standing by to take and relay reports from the affected areas.

WX4NHC and the various hurricane Nets were active beginning at 4 PM EST on Friday, November 7, going through the evening and overnight hours into Saturday morning. Later that afternoon, hams reactivated the Nets, keeping them open through Saturday night to gather more information

from Cuba.

Arnie Coro, CO2KK, was active with Cuban Emergency Nets on 40 meters. He relayed reports of widespread communication outages; at least one communications tower was blown down in Santa Cruz Del Sur. In the province of Camaguey, sustained winds of 95 MPH and gusts to 155 MPH were recorded.

"We had to go through two different relays on 40 meters to gather those reports from Arnie, as propagation which is normally good between WX4NHC and Cuba was poor," said Assistant WX4NHC Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R. "Arnie's reports were also used in official advisory statements issued by the NHC."

The Cayman Islands also saw their share of the storm. "Through a variety of contacts that we were able to make [in the area], we learned of hurricane force wind gusts measured as high as 100 MPH on Grand Cayman Island," said VoIP Hurricane Net Director of Operations Rob Macedo, KD1CY. "There was significant damage, particularly over Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. We received a relayed unofficial report of a 155 MPH wind gust on Cayman Brac. Roofs were blown off homes and significant damage was reported at resort locations on Cayman Brac."

Ripoll said that the NHC used many of the reports received from the Nets in the official advisory statements issued by NHC forecasters. A complete list of reports received from various sources can be seen on the VoIP Hurricane Net Report Viewer <http://report.voipwx.net/qilan/nhcwx/list_VOIP_records?auth=OK>.

"The efforts of the VoIP Hurricane Net were very helpful, especially during Paloma's track through the Cayman Islands," said Ripoll. "The information relayed by the Nets gave the Hurricane Center forecasters additional insight of what Cayman residents were actually going through. The multi-tasking, multi-mode methods of combining EchoLink, IRLP,

VoIP, HF monitoring, Internet Web blogs and direct e-mail is a great example of information gathering without limitations. These hybrid communications efforts before and during the hurricane to contact hams and non-hams were successful in promoting awareness that people had alternate means of sending and receiving hurricane information during the event. Some of these new contacts will now be better prepared for future storms."

SATELLITE SERVING AS VOICE REPEATER EXPECTED TO GO QRT BY END OF YEAR

Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16) a digital satellite has been operating as a voice repeater since January 2008, using FM voice on the uplink and transmitting DSB voice on the downlink (best received on SSB)

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/23/100/>>. But according to the satellite's command team, the satellite's orbit might force this to end sometime before the end of the year.

According to Mark Hammond, N8MH, a member of the AO-16 command team, AO-16 has a hardware/watchdog timer that resets the satellite and shuts the transmitter down. This timer in AO-16 will fire and cannot be reset when the satellite's temperature is 15 degrees Celsius or cooler. When the timer "fires," it shuts down the transmitter. "When the bird's temperature is more than 15 degrees Celsius," Hammond said, "the hardware timer behaves and continuous operations are sustained."

The satellite's temperature depends upon solar illumination. Hammond said that the "magic number" is around 85 percent of the orbit in sunlight: If the orbit provides AO-16 with less than 85 percent illumination, the spacecraft's temperature falls below 15 degrees and the hardware timer fires. "Illumination projections, as well as subsequent temperature predictions, suggest that we might be able to

sustain operations until sometime in the window of November 22 until December 4, 2008," Hammond predicted. "So if you want to make some AO-16 contacts, you had better get them as soon as possible!"

Hammond said that long term-orbital projections suggest that if the satellite hardware remains fundamentally unchanged -- such as no deterioration of on-board components -- "it will be nearly 10 years before AO-16 receives sufficient illumination to warm up the spacecraft enough to again support sustained operations."

It is possible that the transmitter on AO-16 will turn off sometime in the next few days or weeks, Hammond said. "This requires some commanding to get it running again, meaning a pass over the eastern coast of the United States is required for a change in operational status. We expect that as the spacecraft cools down, transmitter shutdowns will become more frequent. You can be sure that we'll continue to probe the craft with commands, in hopes that we something will change in a good way that will allow us to use the bird for operations of some sort."

AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, said the satellite hears very well; the reduced bandwidth by using either USB or LSB on the ground station receiver "allows for a very robust downlink. Tuning the downlink is just like on a linear transponder, meaning it is tight and with fast Doppler. Uplink tuning is not required, just as with the FM mode V/U satellites. My personal observations include being able to access and hear the satellite within one degree of the horizon, much lower than any other current bird for my location [in Florida]. This should be an easy satellite with omni antennas and a 70 cm preamp."

AO-16's uplink is 145.9200 MHz FM; the downlink is 437.0260 MHz SSB. Users are asked to restrict their uplink power to a reasonable powerlevel, and not to transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-

channel guidelines apply. "Enjoy this grand old bird while you can!" said Hammond.

Some fun stuff

We all like a movie with some action so here's one that may have a little extra for us hams, its called "**The Bank Job.**"

The Bank Job is a 2008 British crime film directed by Roger Donaldson and starring Jason Statham, based on the 1971 Baker Street robbery in central London, from which the money and valuables stolen were never recovered. The producers allege that the story was prevented from being told because of a D-Notice (now known as a DA-Notice) government gagging request, allegedly to protect a prominent member of the British Royal Family. According to the producers, this movie is intended to reveal the truth for the first time, although it includes significant elements of fiction and the extent to which it represents historical fact is difficult to determine.

Petty-criminal-gone-straight Terry Leather (Jason Statham) owns a failing car-sales garage being harassed by two debt-collectors. His old girlfriend Martine (Saffron Burrows) offers Terry a chance to earn enough money to never worry about debt again: a bank robbery in Baker Street, London. Terry gathers a bunch of petty-criminal friends to help execute the plan. They lease a shop two lots away from the bank and start digging a tunnel underneath the middle shop (a chicken fast-food restaurant) in order to reach the underground bank vault. Terry employs Eddie (Michael Jibson), a worker in his garage, as a "watchman" with a walkie-talkie to sit on the roof of the building opposite and keep a look out for trouble.

What they don't know is that Martine, who has been caught smuggling heroin into Britain and desperately wants to avoid jail, is setting them up on behalf of MI5, which wants the contents of a certain safe deposit box (No. 118)

within the bank. This safe deposit box contains compromising photos of a female member of the British Royal Family participating in a three-some, The photos are in a box belonging to a black militant who calls himself Michael X; he is using the photos to avoid trouble with the Metropolitan Police, and MI5 is desperate to keep the photos out of circulation.

As Terry and his crew dig, their radio chatter draws the attention of a local **amateur radio operator**, who listens in on the conversation and realizes he's overhearing a bank robbery in progress. He calls the police, but with a ten-mile radius to search and a lack of concrete details, they fail to pin the robbery down.

It's not a bad movie and easy to digest and the participation of the ham makes it interesting. You have to take into account that the film is taking place in the early 1970s and may explain the dress of the ham, or is that something British? It is available locally on DVD.

Ron, VA2RJC



VOYAGES
Aladdin
TRAVEL
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489-5723

STEPHEN PICKFORD --TRAVEL EXPERT

Host of The Travel Hour with Stephen Pickford and Friends (formerly CIQC's Travel World Radio Show)



**Marche aux Puce de Montréal - Samedi le 11
Avril, 2009**

Montreal Fleamarket - Saturday, April 11, 2009

Royal Canadian Legion Hall Branch #212 (La-Salle)

7771 Bouvier (Coin de Shevchenko/Corner of Shevchenko), Ville LaSalle, Quebec

Autobus STCUM # 109 Arrêt au coin/stops at corner.

Planibus/Bus Schedule - 109

<http://www.stm.info/English/bus/planibus/109.pdf>

Ouverture/Opening:

Vendeurs/Vendors 08h00 - 08:00 AM

Public/Public 09h00 - 12h00/09:00 AM - noon

Prix de Presence - Door Prizes

Radio-Guidage/Talk-in To Be Announced

Frais D'Admission/General Admission 5.00\$

Tables/Tables 10,00\$ chacun/each 18,00\$
pour deux/for two

Renseignements - Reservations - Information

James R. Hay Telephone (514)-697-7205

(evenings) (514)-990-1965 (days)

courriel/email: ve2arc@rac.ca

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

Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner will be at Antico Martini, 6450 Somerled. NDG

Date & Time: Friday, December 5, 19:00

Cost: \$38 per person (cash or cheque)

Menu: similar to the 75th. with a choice of veal, salmon or chicken.

We have a section of the restaurant reserved.

Please inform our President if you plan to attend.

James R. Hay

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514-697-7205



Instructor - Vern VE2MBS and students Malcolm Harper - VE2DDZ, John Lang - VE2SWE, George Hedrei - VE2NGH



Instructor's Jim, VE2VE and Vern VE2MBS, Students: Malcolm Harper - VE2DDZ, John Lang - VE2SWE, George Hedrei - VE2NGH, and videographer Ron, VA2RJC (Pictures by Phil)

**Advance Course for Radio
Amateurs**

There are five hams undertaking the advance course, they are:

Malcolm Harper - VE2DDZ

John Lang - VE2SWE

George Hedrei - VE2NGH

Terry Ladd - VE2WTQ

Barnaby James Astles - VA2DRB

The course ends on December 5th.

We wish the students success and good luck with their exam

Broadband Internet delivered over power lines

IBM Corp. is throwing its considerable weight behind an idea that seemed to have faded: broadband Internet access delivered over ordinary power lines.

The technology has been around for decades, but most efforts to implement the idea on a broad scale have failed to live up to expectations.

Now, with somewhat scaled-back goals, improved technology, and a dose of low-interest federal loans, IBM is partnering with a small newcomer called International Broadband Electric Communications Inc. to try to make the idea work in rural communities that don't have other broadband options.

Their strategy is to sign up electric cooperatives that provide power to sparsely populated areas across the eastern United States. Rather than compete toe-to-toe with large, entrenched cable or DSL providers, IBEC is looking for customers that have been largely left out of the shift to high-speed Internet.

Signing on IBM, perhaps the highest-profile company to buy into the idea, could juice a technology that has failed to make much of an imprint.

"The technology is important but what's really important is this is a seminal moment in the delivery of broadband services to rural customers," said Bill Moroney, the head of the Utilities Telecom Council, an industry trade group. "Here's a beginning and really a great leap forward."

That's a claim likely to be met with some skepticism. Other companies touting broadband access over power lines and through wall outlets have come and gone, dogged by technical hurdles and opposition from amateur radio operators who said the technology interfered with their signals.

In the most recent case, a Dallas utility that planned to provide broadband access to 2 million customers on its power grid decided to shelve the idea in May. Instead the company, Oncor Electric Delivery Co., said it would use the equipment only to monitor the grid.

Federal Communications Commission statistics for 2006, the most recent year available, showed that fewer than 5,000 customers in the U.S. had broadband access through power lines.

IBM and IBEC say their approach has a better shot.

Neither see big utility companies ever adopting broadband over power lines, which simply can't match the speed of phone or cable lines.

"Broadband service by any of the major utilities doesn't make sense," said Ray Blair, IBM's head of advanced networking. "It will never be able to compete head on."

But in rural areas, where other broadband providers can't afford to build infrastructure, Blair said the technology has come far enough in the past few years to make the power line model economical.

Progress has been slow going, he said, because the technology suppliers in the industry are smaller players without large budgets for research and advertising.

The technology involves sending data on the same wires that provide electricity. Every half a mile or so, a device clamped to the line perpetuates the signal. Inside homes, customers plug a modem into any wall outlet and sign on. But that stream of data has often run into interference with other wireless devices that happen to be nearby.

Ham radio operators have been particularly irked, and even sued the FCC over it.

The key innovation introduced in the past few years, Blair said, is the ability to remotely control the devices fixed to power lines. That way it can be told to switch frequency when it meets interference.

IBM has signed a \$9.6 million deal with IBEC to provide and install the equipment. IBEC Chief Executive Scott Lee said putting the network in place should take about two years and cost as much as \$70 million.

The company will have access to 340,000 homes in Alabama, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin, about 86 percent of which have no cable or DSL access, Lee said.

Capturing a large segment of that market would be a huge step for IBEC, which currently provides only about 1,400 customers with broadband, most of them starting in the past year and half.

The basic service will start at \$29.95 per month, with more expensive plans offering higher speeds.

IBEC has had help along the way from the federal government: Lee said the company has received \$70 million in low-interest loans from the Department of Agriculture. Federal officials have seen broadband over power lines as an attractive option for spreading economic development in rural areas.

"Most of these people have broadband at school or at work but when they get home they lose all of those advantages," Lee said. "It's a service that is desperately needed."

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Provided through Jim Nagle, KF4OD

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AMATEUR RADIO / RADIO-AMATEUR

ALINCO, ICOM, KENWOOD, RANGER, S.G.C., YAESU

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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

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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

NATURE BOOKS / LIVRES DE LA NATURE

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