

marcOgram



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

A MARC Monthly Newsletter

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Next meeting - Wednesday 31 January 2007

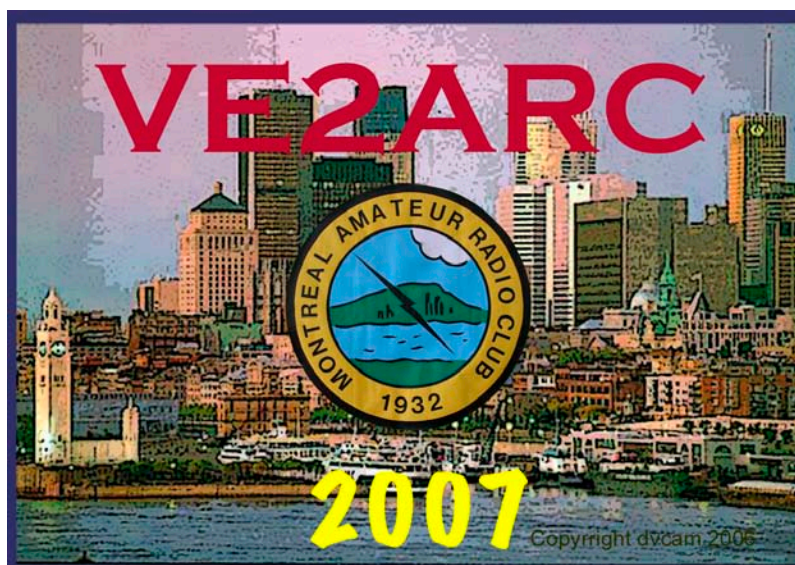
Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30 Club meeting: 20:00

HF Digital Voice by Francois Daigneault , VA2AAY

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

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

(Please enter by the back door)



Our 75th Anniversary Year

A Word from The President

Hello,

First, let me wish each of you and your loved ones the very best of health, happiness and prosperity in 2007. I hope that at the end of the year you will be able to look back and say that it was a good year.

As I write this winter has finally arrived - I think. There is snow on the ground (for now) and it has been cold. How long it will last - who knows. It looks like there is hope for the Canadian Ski Marathon which, is again looking for volunteers to help with communications and this year's conditions will make the communications even more important. Details are elsewhere in this issue but please offer your assistance if you are able to help.

While I am awaiting official word from the United Irish Societies of Montreal I expect that our services will be requested again this year. Once I have the official word I will pass it along so please consider helping out this March.

This year is the approach to the club's 75th. anniversary season it 2007-2008 and we are in the process of planning how to celebrate the anniversary. One thing we will be doing is hosting the RAQI Annual General Meeting on June 10th. at St. Ignatius. By doing this we can welcome amateur radio operators to the club's home. Apart from the actual business meeting the plan is to have an informal reception after the RAQI AGM. I hope that a good number of our members will come to meet colleagues from around the province and talk about a common interest. Hopefully we can have an amateur radio station set up and some items of historical interest on display as well as announcing to our fellow amateurs our plans for the anniversary season.

At the beginning of the season there was an editorial regarding the future

of the club. That was one member's view which may, or may not, be shared by all. My own view is that the life of all clubs is cyclical and at present we are not at a peak of activity. When I see stable attendance at meetings by members who actively participate this is a good sign. In my view MARC is far from dead but, like amateur radio, is wrestling with the changes going on in the world around us. In the coming year I hope that we will be able to offer a number of activities to help mark our anniversary. Some may be bigger events but I expect many will be more modest affairs that may only attract a handful of members. If those members enjoy the activity and find it useful or helpful as well then surely the club is fulfilling its mandate.

While looking at our past and the club's accomplishments we should also look to the future. November's topic did that by discussing a new technology and in January we will be looking at another new aspect of radio. It may not be always possible for amateur radio to be the leading edge of technology but that doesn't mean the end of the hobby. I am confident that amateur radio will continue to evolve as it has since the days of the early experimenters but that its renewed place in our society is assured - if we want it to be and are willing to work for it.

Thanks are in order for two important donations which the club has received.

First our thanks go to the family of Ron Jones, VE2BVJ. Owing to failing health Ron has moved out of his house and his family has very generously donated the contents of his shack to the benefit of the club. Second is a donation received from Mr. Christopher Lax of Jupa Sports. Mr. Lax has donated three complete UHF repeaters along with miscellaneous other equipment. We will be evaluating it shortly to determine how we can best put it to the benefit of the club.

To Mr. Lax and Larry Munday and the family of Ron Jones: Thank you very much for your support of the club.

This month's meeting promises to be interesting and I hope to see you all there.

73 de Jim

DIRECTORS

President: James R. Hay, VE2VE
514-697-7205

jrhay@HayA.qc.ca

Vice President: Sheldon Werner,
VA2SH

va2sh@rac.ca

Secretary: Paul MacDougall,
VA2YQ

va2yq@marc.ca

Treasurer: Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS
514-684-7944

ve2mbs@rac.ca

Directors:

Craig Brander, VE2YKG

craigyul@total.net

Earl Paris, VE2ESP 514-524-4633

Bob Paknys, VE2JBP

ve2wpt@videotron.ca

Nicholas Kalantris, VE2WPT

ve2wpt@videotron.ca

John Grow, VE2EQL

jgrow@sympatico.ca

Ron Campbell, VA2RJC

va2rjc@videotron.ca

Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

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.

VE2RJS 449.975 MHz (-)

Owned by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club and operated by the Cote St. Luc Amateur radio Association.

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

Ron Campbell, VA2RJC
va2rjc@videotron.ca

Tel: 514-767-2804

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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From the Editor's Desk

OK so I don't have to much to say for this January 2007 issue of the marcOgram except maybe just a few words that someone may note on the 100th anniversary issue of this illustrious journal.

My wife Mara and I have just returned from a three week visit to Europe,



more exactly Milan, Paris and London. Okay so they're old European cities that haven't change that much in the last few years except of course the exchange rates!!! and the cost of a cup of coffee.

Well, maybe that's not quite correct. While the three cities are in different countries the common factor that we experienced was the weather. We packed for a fairly kooool winter environment. Milan does get snow, on a clear day you can see the Italian Alps. Paris and London are generally cold and damp, well not so this year. The average day time temperate was 8-14 degrees C. In Milan it was sunny everyday while Paris and London were mixed. Imagine, we were able to sit outside in the sun having lunch in, on January 1st.

It doesn't take a climatologist or scientist to understand that something is happening with the weather patterns. The day before we departed London for Montreal I witnessed people jogging in shorts and walking around in Tee-shirts. Just to confirm that this change is factual and serious, last year temperature in the UK rose to their highest since 1659. Of course I'm making no comments about the Canadian weather pattern at this moment (January 17)

That's all for this edition.

Your editor
Rjcam the video-ham.
VA2RJC

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 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 nearby.

MARC meeting, January 31, 2007

Introduction to HF Digital Voice by Francois Daigneault, VA2AAY

"How Charles G4GUO, and AOR Ltd., managed to squeeze digitized speech in 3 kHz of bandwidth."

A call to Santa with Ham Support

In December 2006 children at the Shriner's Hospital had the opportunity to meet Santa Claus and make radio calls to Santa for their special Christmas request. This happy activity is done with the kindness of the Shriner's hospital and in particular Jerry Stein, a Shriner and Shriner Clown, John Grow, VE2EQL and members of the 712 Squadron.



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
va2rjc@marc.ca

Home Tel: 514-767-2804
Snail mail: Ron Campbell, 201 Du Club Marin, Apt. 209, Verdun, QC. H3E 1T4

From The ARRL

Romanian and Bulgarian amateurs celebrate EU membership:

Radio amateurs in Romania and Bulgaria are celebrating their countries' membership in the European Union with special event stations. The two Eastern European nations became full members of the European Union on January 1.

Members of the Romanian Federation of Radio Amateurs will be on the air as YROUE until January 10, while special event station LZ2007EU is operating from the headquarters of the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs until April 30

World Scout Movement announces centenary of scouting ham radio award:

The World Scout Bureau is sponsoring the "Scouting 100 Radio Award" for contacting Scout stations via Amateur Radio during 2007 -- the centenary of Scouting. This international award is also available to short-wave listeners

(SWLs). Stations may be worked/ logged on all bands and modes including EchoLink and IRLP, and endorsements are available for special modes or bands, such as "All Satellite Contacts" or "All QRP Contacts." Award activity will focus around the international Scout frequencies <<http://www.home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/Jota/frequencies.htm>> (in the Americas, use 7270 kHz as the 40-meter SSB frequency; on 80 meters, avoid RTTY/digital DX on 3590 kHz). Complete details are on the Scouting 100 Radio Award Web site <<http://www.scouting100award.org/>>. Meanwhile, special event station VI3JAM <<http://www.vi3jam.com/>> will be on the air until January 13 from the 21st Scouts Australia Jamboree, and the Scout Radio and Electronics Service Unit will activate special event VI3SAA throughout 2007. Both events are part of the World Scouting centenary activities, and commemorative QSL cards will be available.

GLOBAL AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE SET FOR HUNTSVILLE

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has announced that Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference 2007 (GAREC-07) will take place this August in conjunction with the 2007 ARRL National Convention at the Huntsville Hamfest. IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS, says GAREC-07 will take place Thursday and Friday, August 16 and 17 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, just prior to the convention and hamfest.

"Let's hope that this will be a good year for progress with our work in emergency communications, but that there will be no major disasters that will need them!" Zimmermann said.

The ARRL Alabama Section and the Huntsville Hamfest Association will sponsor GAREC-07. This will mark the third annual Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference and the first held in the

US. The two previous events were held in 2005 and 2006 in Tampere, Finland, which loaned its name to the Tampere Convention <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/1998/12/02/1/>>. That 1998 pact is aimed at removing regulatory impediments to swift deployment of emergency telecommunications equipment and personnel to disaster zones, especially in those parts of the world where the telecommunications infrastructure may be marginal and the regulatory environment hostile.

The above Material is republished from the The ARRL Letter Vol. 26, No. 01, January 5, 2007

From the BOD

We are looking for a new auditor to start in 2007.

SMALL ADS

FOR SALE:

PROCEEDS TO MARC

Some of the items from donation of equipment by family of Ron Jones. More items to be listed.

Tektronics Oscilloscope Model 545A w/Manual, reported to be in excellent working condition.

Packard Bell Computer w/12 in. color monitor, speakers.

Large assortment of all kinds of useful parts, components.

Large assortment of resistors, capacitors, etc.

For info - Paul VA2YQ 514 482 3642 <va2yq@marc.ca>

2007 Hamfest**MARC Hamfest April 21,
2007.****Oct 29 Westminster
(Maryland) Hamfest
Art Horovitch, VE2AHH**

This is a small local hamfest which had a lot of interesting things to see. We took off from the Hagerstown Wall-Mart where we had stopped the afternoon before due to very high winds, making the trailer unstable on the road. We started out at 7:30 AM to arrive at the hamfest around 8:15. The talk-in was very good. When we explained we had a 30 ft fifth wheel trailer and did not want to go through narrow streets in town, they took us right up highway 27 directly through rural areas into the agricultural center. Sue parked the trailer, and I went in to register. I passed the tailgating areas which had a lot of stuff, some junk and some good. Inside, I found there were some local vendors, but no major ones. I did find a dealer who had the powerpoles I needed, \$10 for a package of 10. The 30 amp connectors were on special for \$7 for the package.

After registering, and listening for the door prizes which seemed to be called every five minutes or so, I went outside to look around. First thing I came to was a guy selling junk off the back of his pickup truck. I saw a "robot dog" which I thought would make a good toy for my grandson. It barks, eyes light up, ears swivel and it rocks back and forth while barking. He said, you want it for your grandson? Here take it, no charge. Well, first good deal of the day.

Further on I found a guy with a whole table of Ten-Tec Omni transceivers and a couple of keyers. The transceivers were priced around \$300-350, and looked to be in good shape even though they were twenty years old. If only I had room in the trailer....

Further on I found a VF-1, the VFO companion to the early AT-1 transmitter, then the DX-40. It drifted terribly, but allowed us to get on the air without having a package of expensive crystals. Then there was a nice Mohican receiver, covering all 5 ham bands (pre-war). I asked when it was last used and the guy said about 20 years ago. It had sat around in someone's basement and been neglected. He hadn't fired it up yet as it has to be done very slowly with a variac to restore the electrolytic capacitors. This receiver was semi-portable as it normally operated on 110 volts, but had a battery box for field operation. Asking price was \$25, and it sold as I was asking him about it.

The steal of the hamfest was a beautiful HQ-110 complete with a clock in the upper left hand corner. Asking price was \$250 to the widow of an estate, but as I was playing with the tuning knob, the owner said he could come down to \$75, and it was grabbed by the guy standing next to me. By noon after numerous draws and the main prize being called (not my number) Two main prizes were a two meter vertical antenna, and a 2006 handbook valued about \$60. Including admission, purchases of small parts and connectors, the total bill came to \$35. Not bad for a morning's entertainment and nostalgia. This was the last hamfest of the year for the area. If you are ever in the Washington DC area around the end of October, it's worth attending. It's about 50 miles north of the city.

Equipment Review**The ICOM IC-ID1 1.2 GHz transceiver is a vital part of a D-STAR system**

Extracts from the review produced by Dan S. KO1D/4 via Jim Nagle, KF4OD.

This is a timely review as the ID 1 was introduced to MARC during the presentation on D-Star by Eric Meth, VE3EI at the November 2006 meeting.



Currently the IC-ID1 is mounted in a truck with the rig in the back and the speaker mounted near the ceiling of the truck in the back. The head is remotely mounted in the driver's area and the antenna is a Diamond NR124NMO monobander mounted on a mag mount.

As a monoband UHF radio it is not bad. It sounds nice on transmit (I have talked to others who have them) and on receive. The ability to remote mount is nice and the remote head is a pretty good size to use. Overall it is a decent radio.

I use the radio on 1.2 GHz FM simplex, repeaters and DStar DV simplex currently. I will soon begin playing with the DD function (the reason I got the rig) and repeaters and gateways on DStar once they are installed. The microphone is a bit oddly over sized and I am not sure why to be honest. Seems almost like they had a bunch of old CB mics lying around. Not a complaint but the mic did not seem to go with the aesthetics of the rig.

The instruction booklet, for its faults, is a world ahead of the one for the ID800. While not perfect it is a bit more readable.

The downsides I have found thus far are not deal breakers but I found them disconcerting. Why is there no mobile mount? It's a mobile radio and even if you use it as a base you need to put it on something to get airflow over the entirety of the unit. I would think that for a radio as pricey as this they could have thrown in the mounting bracket instead of having it as an option.

The software is neat. I think they have a great idea going for those digital guys out there who never use the head of the radio or mic. I first saw the ID1

demonstrated this way and to have a virtual head for the radio is a good idea in this application. Just fix the software bugs. For example I could not program 1253.500 MHz into memory as it defaulted to 1260 MHz. Checking the specs the radio is ok down below 1260MHz but the software would have none of it. Only after I got the ID1 hooked up and set the ID1 to the 1253.5 frequency I wanted would it let me save and manipulate the memory I required.

Icom did think of one good thing, the extension USB cable has a male and female USB connector on it. I think, however, maybe the rig should have had the female receptacle and then I can run to any computer store and buy USB extension cable I need for remote work. The supplied cable serves its purpose for now. Also why is it USB 1.0 and not 2.0 or whatever the latest version is?

I appreciated that Icom put the drivers and operating software on one disk instead of 2. More importantly it came with the rig rather than buying it separately. This is a definite plus.

The ID1 is a platform from which we hams will build. I can see many worlds of growth coming from this line of technology. The best piece of advice I can give is this:

1) The tinkering on this rig is for the software developers amongst us. Look for the new applications as the price of the technology falls. Just have the applications set up for those of us without computer science degrees thanks!

2) Just because 1.2 GHz is quiet don't give up on the band. I got this rig used and discounted because the previous owner felt the band was useless after 3 days! His loss, my gain. I already have a few people to talk to and will be jumping on at least 2 new repeaters in the coming months.

I got into DStar because nothing else exciting is going on for FM communications. This is exciting and new and definitely something I am

going to enjoy exploring.

SoapBox - News and Updates

by John Grow, VE2EQL

The new year is looking more upbeat for Amateur Radio.

On December 31st. The ARRL had its "SKN" (Straight Key Night), where I was operating Portable from Ottawa. I was using my ICOM 703 and Super Antenna MP-1 Dipole. Due to the celebrations at our guests home, I was only able to make one contact with K1LGQ in NH. Conditions were great, there were a lot of South American CW stations on 40 meters.

On February 3rd, The famous "FYBO" (Freeze Your Butt Off) QRP contest will be held. This year, as in past years, I will be operating from Mount Mansfield, VT with the Northern QRP Society. If any MARC members want to join in the fun, please contact me. Details of FYBO 2007 can be found at http://www.azscqrpions.org/FYBO2007_01072007.htm

"Milton Vermont Hamfest" - The end of February, signals two things in mind. The first is, Spring is right around the corner, and the second is the Milton Hamfest in Vermont. Please see <http://www.ranv.org/milton.html> for more details. I have been asked to give two (2) talks this year. One will be on portable antennas, and the other is the Emergency Situations that we can find us in. How Amateur Radio can help us cope.

"Field Day 2007" Are there any members of the MARC interested in doing FD. The past years, there has been no effort. Members were free to join other FD events around Montreal. If there is any interest, the following items have to be looked into.

1. Date availability of the interested members. FD is always the weekend of June 23 to June 24th.
2. Where do we hold FD?

3. What Bands & Equipment is required? What class of station do we want to get on the air?
4. Who has radio equipment / antennas that they could bring to Field Day.
5. The logistics of planning, set-up, running, food, waste management, and take-down has to be addressed.

"Special Event Stations – 75th. Anniversary" There are two possible event stations in the early planning stage. The Montreal Shriners Hospital, where a HF & VHF station will be installed for a 1 week period. We are looking at some possible dates. We would require help with the station installation, antenna installation and operators. Shriners throughout Quebec, Ontario, and the New England States will be made aware of the station. The RAQI AGM, which will be hosted by the MARC. The ideal, is to set-up some HF & VHF stations, so members of the public could be invited to see what Amateur Radio is all about. We are asking for Interested MARC members for help make these two events a success.

"JOTA 2007" Last year, we tried to set up a JOTA station for a scout group. When we were in our planning stage, the scout group leader wanted us to set up the portable station at his house, with the scout group present. Planning and setting a Portable HF station in an unknown location is difficult, but at a persons house with short notice is asking for potential problems with a lot of unknowns and pitfalls.

With JOTA 2007, scheduled in the fall, we would have enough time to plan an Amateur Radio station at a central location. Then the invitation, can go out to all the scout troops in the Montreal Area to visit. This is not something that can be done by 1 or 2 persons. Is there any interest from the members in helping out.

For more information, please contact any of the board members



So we enjoyed the MARC 2006 'end of year dinner'

Photo's by Suzanne Thauvette, VE2SZN

RADIO HF

TELEPHONE & FAX: 450-671-3773

C.P./BOX 67063-Lemoyne

SANS-FRAIS/TOLL FREE:

St. Lambert, Quebec

1-800-463-3773

J4R 2T8

E-MAIL/COURRIEL:

info@radiohf.ca

Sheldon Harvey, Prop.

web:

VE2SHW

www.radiohf.ca

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WILSON, WORKMAN

FAMILY RADIO SERVICE (FRS) / DISPOSITIFS RADIO DOMESTIQUES (DRD)
AUDIOVOX, COBRA, ICOM, KENWOOD, MOTOROLA

ANTENNAS / ANTENNES
ALPHA DELTA, ANTENNA SUPERMARKET, ARROW, ATOC, BUTTERNUT, COMET,
CREATE, CUSHCRAFT, DIAMOND, FIRESTICK, FORCE 12, HUSTLER, HYGAIN,
LARSEN, MFJ, MIRACLE ANTENNA, OUTBACKER, PRYME, SCANMASTER,
VALOR/PRO-AM, VAN GORDEN, WORKMAN

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CONCEPTS, R.F. SYSTEMS, RIGBLASTER, S.G.C., TIMEWAVE, UNADILLA,
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WEST MOUNTAIN RADIO

PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS
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