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WAVELENGTH

Official bulletin of
Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
www.ve3we.org

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

March 2009

Volume 3 Issue 3

President:	Bernadine Dinnard-Williams VE3YDB	Sunday
Vice-President:	Cyril Jones VA3CJE	Tuesday
Secretary:	Ray Chow VE3ZXC	
Treasurer:	Lambert Philadelphia VE3LYP	Thursday
Membership:	Joe Ditta VA3JDX	
Communications:	Bob Chrysler VE3IEL	
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Examiner:	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC	
Assistant Secretary:	Amy Bautista	
Archives:	Gord Hogarth VE3CNA	
Elmer:	Rod Long VE3SOY Nick Blacklock VE3EBC	
Security:	Gord Gault VE3UFF	

SARC Nets

28.730 Mhz
CW 10:00 AM
SSB 10:30 AM
147.060 MHz (VE3RPT)
7:30 PM
Alternate frequency
146.520 MHz simplex
28.730 MHz
SSB 7:00 PM

Everyone is invited to check in on CW before the nets start.

These are open nets. All licensed hams are welcome. Come and join us.

We also want to emphasize that 28.730 MHz is our calling frequency. Please monitor and/or call your friends. 7:00 PM is a good time.

SARC 63rd Anniversary Night

April 27, 2009

History of the CQNR Trophy and SARC CW Contest 1966 - 1993

By Gordon Hogarth, VE3CNA

The American Radio Relay League Inc. sponsored many contests and one of them was the annual Novice Roundup that took place on the high frequency bands and required the use of Morse Code also known as CW. The Novice license was available to Amateurs in the United States and among other requirements was demonstrated proficiency in both sending and receiving CW at a rate of five words per minute.

Canadian Amateurs were required to demonstrate CW proficiency at a rate of ten words per minute among other requirements to qualify for their first Amateur license.

Experience showed that it was most important for a beginning Amateur to get on the air very soon after passing their examinations to gain hands-on experience. It was a fact then and now, that one might well pass a CW test at five or ten words per minute that was conducted in a perfect environment only to learn that once on the air their effective code speed dropped to very low levels. The first on-the-air experience meant that the new operator had to cope with such things as fading (QSB), static (QRN), interference from nearby signals (QRM) and perhaps with less than perfect equipment available to Novices at that time. The effect of this "shift to reality" could be acute disappointment and any number of aspiring Hams may have left the hobby at that point.

The remedy was simple and effective. It was to get on the air and make many CW contacts and just as important, to "hang on to the contact" (QSO) through thick and thin and talk to the other ham for an hour or so. By doing so, the Novice gained experience and the knowledge and confidence

that he could do this and enjoy it too. The Novice also learned how to listen and that, as we know, is a valuable skill both in radio and in life.

At Scarborough Club (SARC) a certificate was offered to those newly licensed Hams who had made 100 CW contacts in the first year of operation as encouragement to get on the air and get over "the hump" described above.

In addition, SARC offered an in-house trophy to encourage SARC members to get on the air and get involved in CW contesting. The trophy was called the "CQNR TROPHY" and was awarded to the SARC member who achieved the highest score as calculated by the rules established by the ARRL.

A photograph of the CQNR TROPHY is attached and the winners by year are as follows:

1966 Gunther Achleitner, VE3FTF

1967 Ivy Smythe, VE3EZI

1968 Ed Vanattan, VE3FRR

1969 Mike Toneri, VE3FGU

1970 Joseph Willis, VE3ADA

1971 Brian Simpson, VE3ENM

1972 Reg Pearson, VE3FSA

1973 Les Brown, 1973

1974 Gordon Hogarth, VE3CNA

1975 Jack Williams, VE3AUR

1976 Eric Olsen, VE3GGO

1977 Bernie Timothy, VE3HUU

1978 Tom Hedges, VE3GZV

1979 Bill Catlender, VE3ILE

1980 Bill Cate, VE3HR

1981 Jim Prince, VE3IMU

1982 Bill Cate, VE3HR

1983 Bill Catlender, VE3ILE

1984 Bill Cate, VE3HR

1985 Earle Cardozo, VE3KCO

1986 Earle Cardozo, VE3KCO

1987 P.K. John, VE3OGZ
 1988 Gordon Hogarth, VE3CNA
 1989 Bill Cate, VE3HR
 1990 Bill Catlender, VE3ILE
 1991 Bill Cate, VE3HR
 1991 Bill Cate, VE3HR

The wording on the CQNR TROPHY is: "This Trophy Presented for Annual Competition for Scarborough Members Operating in the Combined ARRL Novice Roundup and SARC CW Contest"

"CQNR TROPHY donated by Ed Charlton, VE3FCE and Jim Ashfield, VE3FOE, 1966"

"CQNR Contest Discontinued January 1992. Presented to Bill Cate, VE3HR in Grateful Appreciation January 1993."

It was about 1992 that the US Government discontinued the Novice license and so SARC discontinued the CQNR trophy. In all, it was 27 years of good times and friendly rivalry.



Photo by Gordon Hogarth VE3CNA

Announcements

From Bob VE3IEL:

Cathy Hrischenko VE3GJH, became a Silent Key Friday 20th March 2009.

Cathy, along with her husband George Hrischenko VE3DGX, were long time active member of the Scarborough Amateur Radio Club. She was one of the original TOTs, The Ontario Trilliums ladies amateur radio group; and, a moving force within the present day CLARA, Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association. Her column in the TCA Magazine was a regular feature highlighting the activities of our lady amateurs.

From Gord VE3CNA:

Thelma Woodhouse, VE3CLT has a change of address and telephone as follows:

Willow Estate Nursing Home, Room 114B,
 13837 Yonge Street,
 Aurora, Ontario. L4G 3G8

Telephone (main number): 905-727-0128

Thelma is able to have visitors and would love to hear from her friends.

Propagation Forecast

QST de W1AW

Propagation Forecast Bulletin 13 ARLP013

From Tad Cook, K7RA

Seattle, WA March 27, 2009

To all radio amateurs

Every day I check the 45 day forecast of planetary A index and solar flux from NOAA and the U.S. Air Force. For quite some time now, the solar flux forecast has been the same. The projection shows 45 days of solar flux at 70, with no variation. I look at this because there is so little sunspot activity, and I hope that any increase in predicted solar flux values may coincide with renewed

sunspot activity. But this method hasn't worked out very well in the past year or so.

When I looked at this on Wednesday night, March 25, the 10.7 cm flux forecast showed 70 for March 26-27, then bumping up to 72 for March 28-31, then back to 70 for all of April and beyond. This is not much increase in activity, but with such a quiet Sun for the past few years, we become sensitive to small changes, and even optimistic at times.

Last night, Thursday, March 26 the prediction was nearly the same, except with the solar flux of 72 lasting two more days, through April 2.

The forecasts are via <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/index.html>, click on "Alerts, Forecasts and Summaries," then "USAF 45-day Ap and 10.7 cm Flux Forecasts." The new daily forecast is posted around 2100z, but often doesn't appear in the list at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html> until later.

If you suspect this is the case, just click on the latest available date, then edit the URL at the top of your web browser to reflect the current date. So if it is Friday, March 27, and the latest listing you see is for March 26, just click on that link, and at the end of the URL change /032645DF.txt to /032745DF.txt and hit the Enter key. If that day's forecast has been uploaded, it should pop up when you hack the web address using these instructions.

Early on March 26 Spaceweather.com reported a new "proto-sunspot" seen "struggling to emerge" at high latitude, making it a Cycle 24 spot. The same site reported the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) is monitoring "intense activity on the Sun's northeastern limb."

The following day Spaceweather.com repeated a common refrain heard lately after some activity begins to emerge: "Yesterday's proto-sunspot failed to emerge. The Sun is blank."

The NASA STEREO (Solar TERrestrial RELations Observatory) mission will eventually enable views of the entire Sun, so we will know in advance about emerging solar activity that is outside Earth's view.

The two spacecraft orbit the Sun similar to earth, but one leads the Earth and the other follows. The leading spacecraft A travels faster than the trailing spacecraft B, and because of this the angle of the two relative to each other gradually increases over time.

The craft were launched October 26, 2006 and they reached quadrature, or 90 degrees separation 62 days ago on January 24, 2009. Spacecraft A takes 347 days to complete an orbit of the Sun, and spacecraft B takes 387 days. They separate from each other at a rate of about 44 degrees per year.

View their current positions relative to Earth, the Sun, Venus and Mercury updated hourly at <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/where.shtml>.

Click on the STEREO Orbit Tool link, and you can view a similar image for any date and time from the launch date through the end of 2015.

NASA has a dense, single page pdf document describing the mission at <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/img/mpb.pdf>, and while we can't recommend Wikipedia as an always-reliable resource (its immediately changeable nature drives teachers and reference librarians crazy), the Wikipedia community seems to have a good information page on STEREO at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/STEREO>. Other NASA resources are at <http://stp.gsfc.nasa.gov/missions/stereo/stereo.htm> and <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/>, and Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory has information at <http://stereo.jhuapl.edu/>.

Currently USAF and NOAA predict a planetary A index of 8 for today, March 27, then leveling off at 5 (a very quiet, stable level) until April 9-10, when it jumps to 15, then 10. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions March 27, quiet March 28-29, quiet to unsettled March 30-31, and back to quiet for April 1-2.

This weekend is the CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest. Perhaps we'll get lucky with some worldwide propagation. The chance of disruption by any geomagnetic activity seems remote.

Finally, Kenneth Beck, WI7B of Kennewick, Washington responded to last week's musings

about east and west on the Sun. Referencing an image at, <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astromy/sun/rotation.shtml>, he wrote, "It always seemed to me to be clearer when I realize that the Sun rotates around its axis in the same direction as the earth.

This is the 'right-hand rule,' with your thumb pointing towards the 'north.' With that perspective, look up at the sky (you can stand, sit, or crawl on your knees for this thought experiment), hold up your right hand with the thumb pointing up to the sky, and then rotate it. Sunspots will travel in the direction of your fingers, counter-clockwise around your thumb."

He continues, "Better yet, hold a full mug of beer in your right hand and turn it. The bubbles in the beer will turn just like sunspots. Now drink!"

Thanks, Kenneth. If you look up his call on qrz.com, on his page you'll see Kenneth in a kilt, hunched over and ready to launch a Scottish Hammer, a Stone Put, or perhaps doubled over in pain after a manly contest of Caber Toss.

If you would like to make a comment or have a tip for our readers, email the author at, k7ra@arrl.net.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at,

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. For a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/k9la-prop.html>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw/prop/>.

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://www.arrl.org/qst/propcharts/>.

Instructions for starting or ending email distribution of this bulletin are at <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw.html#email>.

Sunspot numbers for March 19 through 25 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 69.1, 68.7, 70.1, 68.7, 68, 69.1, and 68.5 with a mean of 68.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 4, 8, 4, 3, 8 and 10 with a mean of

5.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 2, 5, 4, 2, 6 and 7 with a mean of 4.1.

Hamfests and Flea Markets

Courtesy of RAC

Durham Region Hamfest (33rd Annual)

Sponsored by: North Shore ARC & South Pickering ARC

Date/time: Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9 AM – 1 PM

Location: Iroquois Park Recreation Centre, 500 Victoria St W, Whitby, Ontario

Admission: \$6

Talk-in: VE3SPA 147.375 Mhz (+)

Website: <http://drhamfest.tripod.com/>

CNIB HAMFEST 2009

Sponsored by: CNIB Amateur Radio Program

Date/time: Saturday, May 23, 2009, 9 AM – 1 PM

Location: CNIB Centre, 1929 Bayview Ave. Toronto – North of Eglinton Ave - south of Lawrence Ave. Directly south of Sunnybrook hospital. Exit Bayview #369 from the 401 and head south.

Admission: \$5

Talk-in: VE3NIB 443.500 (+) 103.5; VE3RPT 147.060 (+) 103.5 SIMPLEX 146.520

Website: <http://www.cnib.ca/amateurradio/hamfest>

MS Walk

By Bob Chrysler VE3IEL

Sunday, April 19, 2009 is the date for the Scarborough Area MS Walk through Thomson Park.

MS, or Multiple Sclerosis is an unpredictable illness. It is usually diagnosed between the ages of 15 to 40, during career and family building years. It can affect vision, hearing, memory, balance and mobility. It affects the nervous system. Its effects are physical, emotional, financial; and, lasts a lifetime. There is no cure.

Canadians have one of the highest rates of MS in the world; and, women are three times more likely than men to develop the disease.

Every step matters in the fight to end MS.

For quite a few years now our Toronto ARES group along with the Scarborough Amateur Radio Club have assisted the Scarborough MS Walk organizers with communications assistance.

We set up a base station at Cedarbrae Collegiate near Markham Rd. and Lawrence Ave. at the MS Walk Headquarters. Along the Walk trail, Radio Amateurs are positioned to report on the progress of the walk, and weary walkers. At certain locations, such as Thomson Park check point, a radio operator is stationed to report on whatever is happening at that location.

For communications activity we have adopted the unique ARES call-out system for handling traffic.

In other words operators wait until the headquarters station calls them in rotating order for a report on their position. This procedure is followed over and over again, unless an emergency or very important message must be passed. Also in the past we have had a home base station monitoring the event so that an outside call or emergency message can be handled off site.

For communications we use portable hand-held radios, set for the two metre band. We also use FRS/GMRS radios as back up. Those who have cell phones are allowed to bring them. It often happens that the pictures we take with our

cameras are the only ones available after the event.

The bringing of cameras, and using them is encouraged.

Usually our group provides 12 operators for this event. I hope that we can provide at least twelve operators, again this year.

I always push public service as a worthwhile activity for all Radio Amateurs. Though we seldom get many accolades within the Amateur Radio Community, our work in public service is the first thing that is referred to when dealing with Government or other agencies.

Public service does not get you the kind of certificates that you might get from contesting. Public service, though, gives you the satisfaction that your radio licence is being used for something useful to the community.

I hope that you too shall volunteer this year and help out.

Contact Bob VE3IEL, at the Scarborough Club, on the AIR during ARES or SARC nets, or by telephone: 416-264-2872. My e-mail address is: ve3iel@aol.com

Yours, Bob VE3IEL...73

Upcoming Events

April 13 – No meeting (Easter Monday)

April 27 – SARC 63rd Anniversary and Awards
