

The Dummy Load

Official Bulletin of The Cambridge Amateur Radio Club (SWARC Inc)
serving the community since 1964

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Call Custodians

VE3SWA

Calvin Benoit VA3CBE

VE3SWR

Tom Franks VE3MAH

Web Master

Steve Nyul VE3USP

<http://www.cambridgeham.ca>

Club Net

An information net is held every
Wednesday on VE3SWR at 9 pm.

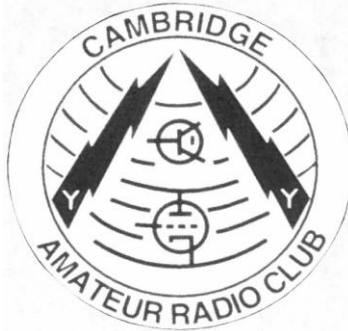
Local time.

All comers are welcome.

VE3SWR is an open repeater

146.790 MHz

-600 KHz offset



VE3SWA
DXCC HONOR ROLL
(335/335)
WAZ, WAC, WAS.

Next Meetings

Second Monday of the month
Preston Arena Boardroom at
8:00pm

December 14, 2015

January 11, 2016

February 8, 2016

March 7, 2016

April 11, 2016

May 9, 2016

June 13, 2016

Visitors are always welcome

Editor's column

Since last we met here in the Dummy Load, November has passed us by, and we are into the end of another year. I trust 2015 has been both profitable and rewarding for you and your families. In the north part of the city, we have gained a daughter-in-law and are still enjoying the mild weather. One of my summer cars was still out this past weekend.

The DXpedition to Willis Island VK9WBM (Nov 14-23) was listed as a success by the operators who took part. Bob VE3MF tells me that while he tried several days, he was not able to work them. I could hear the crisp but weak signals from the Coral Sea however, several calls netted no response for me either.

Coming up next month is another rare one. There will be two VP8 DXpeditions to the number 3 and number 8 most wanted countries. Both the South Georgia Islands and the South Sandwich Islands are British Overseas Territories located in the southern Atlantic Ocean. Plans call for a 10 day operation as VP8STI from Thule Island starting about mid January and then moving to South Georgia for a 3 day stint as VP8SGI. Stay up to date by checking the VP8 website at www.intrepiddx.com/vp8/index/php

As always, when I receive the December issue of QST, I immediately go to the FD results page to how VE3SWA did. Realising that the gallant efforts by those who braved the elements last June would result in a low score, I searched the pages of FD results column by column but cannot find VE3SWA.

For those who don't get on the air in the mornings, Bert VE3BGG celebrated his 90th birthday on November 29th. As I once heard, "None of us is "old" we've just been around for a long time."

In perusing QST, I see the entry for the ARRL Straight Key Night, held every year on Friday January 1st 0000UTC to 2359UTC. I did participate many years ago when my CW capability was still passable. Here is an idea for an activity --- why not have our own straight key night among members. This need not take place on the 1st but any night that is convenient for the bulk of the members. No speed demons allowed! It could be arranged on say 10 meters where we would have local propagation, little noise and not bother anyone.

A note from Gerry VE3NXV reminded me that the Band Plan I sent out with a previous bulletin was the proposed version. Attached is the updated final version from RAC.

With slightly less than a week before the December meeting – Why not invite one amateur that you know and who has not been at a meeting before or for some time. With all of the baking going on this time of year, perhaps you or your XYL could spare a few goodies to add to the festivities. (Festivities = short business meeting and long social meeting) Just a suggestion – not a formal plan.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES



MAY SANTA BRING YOU WHAT YOU WANT – BUT DON'T NEED

GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN 2016

Tom ve3mah@bell.net

Cambridge Amateur Radio club Meeting Minutes 9th November 2015

Meeting opened at 8:02 pm

VE3ESW, VE3USP, VA3CBE, VE3IHM, VESMAH, VA3MP, VE3MF, VE3CF, VE3JOI, VE3NXV, VE3WIF, VA3YK, VE3ANT Were present

Minutes were read and accepted on a motion by VE3NXV 2nd VE3WIF

A cheque is to be issued to CNIB to the value of \$25 this was voted on last month

VE3MF sorted out a slight mix up in VA3 VE3 designations

Treasurers report

Bank

Petty cash

Repeater donation

Total

VA3CF and VA3YK paid their annual dues

Steve is to update the website and add photographs of relevant members

VA3YK and VE3USP were thanked for setting up VE3PSV with a temporary antenna

New business

VE3USP is organizing the RAC Winter Contest and asked who was interested.

Going to be involved: VE3USP VE3MF

Interested: VE3ESW, VA3CBE, VA3YK

VE3USP is to send an Excell spread sheet for participants

VA3YK accepted the oscilloscope which was available and the probe

Donation to the repeater fund of \$13 by VE3MAH

Meeting closed at 8:30pm motion by VA3CF 2nd VE3NXV carried

As received from Secretary Brian VE3ESW

Coming quickly is the RAC Winter Contest: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC December 19, 2015

(7:00pm December 18th to 6:59pm December 19th)

For many years members of the club have taken part in this fun contest. It is a chance to blow the snow and ice off of our antennas and possibly work many areas of Canada that are not regularly heard. Steve VE3USP has volunteered to coordinate this year's effort. Give it some thought and get into the discussion that I am sure will take place at the next meeting.

Follows is an excerpt from the contest rules for 2015:

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC December 19, 2015.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested frequencies: CW – 25 kHz up from the band edge and for SSB – 1850, 3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØs and stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSOs: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØs are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points. RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC. You may work any station once on each of the two modes, on each of the eight contest bands.

It is **prohibited** to make CW contacts in the conventional phone sub-bands and phone contacts in the conventional CW sub-bands. Contacts or soliciting QSOs through a repeater during the contest period is not allowed.

Multipliers: Thirteen in total, Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Each multiplier may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are: Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, VA1, CY9, CYØ); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB] (VE4, VA4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5); Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6); British Columbia [BC] (VE7, VA7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9); Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NU] (VYØ); Yukon [YT] (VY1); and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2). Certain special Canadian prefixes in use at the time of the contest may also apply; however there may be no more than 13 multipliers on each band/mode. Please use the multiplier abbreviations, in square brackets, noted above.

Final Score: The total QSO from all bands multiplied by the total number of multipliers from all bands.

Categories: The following 9 categories are eligible for plaque's or certificates as detailed in the Awards section of the rules.

Single Operator All Bands High Power (>100 Watts) – **Radioworld**

Single Operator All Bands Low Power (max. 100 Watts output) – **Contest Club Ontario**

Single Operator QRP (max. 5 Watt output) All Bands & Single Band ** – **QRP Canada**

Single Operator All Bands CW only, any authorized power – **Maritime Contest Club**

Single Operator All Bands PH only, any authorized power – **Saskatchewan Contest Club**

Single Operator Single Band, any authorized power *** – **Radioworld ??**

Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power (>100 Watts) * – **Alfa Radio**

Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low Power (max. 100 Watts output) * – **Tony Allsop VE3FTA Memorial by the Mississauga ARC**

Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter, any authorized power – **Radioworld**

For the Canada Winter Contest a special trophy is awarded for the highest Single Operator (no power classification) Foreign Entrant – **Russ Coleston VK4XA Memorial by Alan Goodacre, VE3HX.**

Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the top-scoring entrants in each category, as noted above in the category list. Special thanks to our sponsors for their ongoing support!

Certificates will be awarded to the top-scoring entrant in each category in each of:

Canadian provinces or territories

Continental US call districts, W0 through W9 as well as Alaska and Hawaii. US Commonwealths, Territories and Possessions such as Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, etc will be treated as equivalent to a DXCC country

DXCC country, excluding Canada and the US.

To facilitate the proper allocation of certificates, all US stations should indicate their actual US call district based on their actual address, as provided in the Cabrillo header, if different than indicated by their call prefix. DX stations should indicate the actual country of operation if different than indicated by their call prefix by indicating the country as part of the portable call sign designator.

RAC stations will compete and be considered the same as any other entrant for eligibility to plaques and certificates.

Results: Will be published in *The Canadian Amateur* magazine published by the Radio Amateurs of Canada. The results will also be published on the RAC website at <http://wp.rac.ca/contesting-results/> in the Contest section.

As an incentive for club members to get involved – There will be an award of one year's paid membership (\$20 value) to the operator who amasses the most Canadian contacts towards the club entry. Sponsored by Tom VE3MAH.

Windows 10 – to upgrade or not to upgrade -- this is the ongoing question. by Tom VE3MAH

Since the beginning days (for me) of becoming involved with microcomputers, every time I turned around there was a need to upgrade how we communicated with the ever increasing amount of hardware and its capabilities. I won't even mention BMLP (basic machine language programming) or better known as assembly language since the interface to the hardware was not for most users – just those of us trying to manipulate the hardware directly. About 1975 along came MS-DOS (Microsoft- Disk Operating System), an interface for the home/business user from a newly formed company called Microsoft. While DOS, through 6 major upgrades, worked great for those of us experimenting and servicing, many home users were looking for a less complex method of interfacing to these machines. In the early 1980's Microsoft released a new graphical interface operating system called Interface Manager which turned out to be a mouse driven DOS system. My first introduction was version 3.1 now renamed Windows since the graphical part consisted of many boxes on screen (that looked like windows into the system) in which you could, using a mouse, run DOS commands. In August of 1985 Microsoft launched Windows 95 – the first of what would become the predominate operating system for most business and personal computers. Most of us know the rest of the story – new hardware capabilities driving more capable software Much of this evolution as a result of the ever increasing complexity of the Internet and its scientific, personal and business uses.

So – here we are today with another upgrade – this one touted as “the best yet”; “the last version of Windows you will ever need to purchase”; “first version of Windows that is completely free” and so on.

Through the 1998, 2000, XP and 7 upgrades, my personal perception is that as users, we lost more and more control of what is happening at the basic level of operation. Don't get me wrong, most users enjoyed the wide variety of programs available either as freeware or purchased and licensed. New versions of Windows forced newer and more capable versions of these programs. Faster and faster processing allows for very enhanced graphics and speed of operations.

In the end, the Windows operating system (up to Win 7) is produced primarily for desktop and full laptop computers. But – we have some very sophisticated tablet type systems and smart phones that neither need nor could run a full Windows OS. Not wanting to be left out of the ever increasing need for Mobile Operating Systems, it appears that Windows 10 is Microsoft's answer to a cross hardware (desktop, laptop, notebook, tablet smart phone ...) operating system.

So – is Windows 10 running on your shack computer for you? Obviously, we all have to make up our own minds on whether to move from what we are currently using or – as they say – be left behind in the dust. (not sure who 'they' are!)

I loaded the 'free upgrade' on my notebook. Since I no longer use it for any purpose other than reading the news or checking the swap lists, I didn't think I had much to lose since Microsoft says you can revert back to

your previous OS if you don't like it. What follows are some of my observations not necessarily in any order of positive or negative.

- The upgrade went well; about 1 hour; no reported issues – until I tried to restart and found no drivers present for the video or sound. These had to be downloaded and manually installed.
- The initial display is set up as a tiled screen looking like Windows 8.1 or your tablet or your smart phone and including a large number (29) of new built in apps. (apps for Applications rather than the traditional Programs) Most of these I have tried and subsequently turned them off. (except for those I cannot find a way to turn off)
 - Microsoft Edge -- a new browser to replace Internet Explorer
 - Cortana – personal assistant technology
 - Alarms & Clock
 - Scientific Calculator
 - Calendar, Mail – linked to the Calendar App,
 - Camera control
 - Contact Support
 - Get Office – a subscription service
 - Get Skype
 - Get Started
 - Groove Music– a subscription service
 - Maps – based on Bing Maps
 - Microsoft Solitaire Collection
 - Money -- providing financial news from MSN
 - Movies & TV
 - News--Microsoft's MSN News website in app form
 - OneNote--Microsoft's note-taking application
 - People-- uses the same accounts you configure in the Calendar and Mail apps
 - Phone Companion
 - Photos – organizes and stores your photos
 - Settings—replaces the control panel
 - Sports-- an interface for MSN Sports
 - Store—to keep you up to date on everything Microsoft has to offer
 - Voice Recorder
 - Weather-- weather data and weather-related news from MSN
 - Windows Feedback-- to provide feedback to Microsoft's Windows team
 - Xbox with DX-12 capability for gaming

These are the included apps. Microsoft will continue updating them, and new versions will be automatically downloaded to your Windows 10 PC from the Windows Store on a regular basis.

- I normally leave my notebook in 'sleep' mode rather than turn it off after each use. Sleep mode in windows 10 is not like before. What I am used to is the machine powering down without closing the OS. Now I find the machine sleeping with at least one eye open. It continues to correspond with someone via the wireless internet connection. There does not seem to be a battery save mode.
- During use, the wireless connection is terminated for no apparent reason and it begins to search other available connections. I need to stop what I am attempting to do and reconnect to my home network. (note: this is not a problem I have had with this notebook until now)
- After reading through many of the comments from reviewers and security experts about the amount of "Data Mining" taking place with Windows 10 users, I have turned off almost all of the privacy settings including: Microsoft apps that use my internet searching to target advertisers; recording of my typing to help me improve my future typing and writing, letting websites choose languages for me based on what I may have looked at; my location; my camera; my microphone; speech, inking and typing information stored for use by other apps; any account information I store so other apps can use it; other apps that try to use my contacts; all apps that try to access my history or send emails; all access to my personal settings. After all of this I still get targeted ads and suggestions of purchases I may want to make based on what I have purchased or looked at...

- Since so much feedback is asked for, I suspect that Windows 10 users are really BETA Testers for Microsoft.

If the preceding comments seem like I don't like Windows 10 – so far you would be correct. But – I am not the normal user. I see my computers as very sophisticated tools. Like a wrench in my tool box, I am in control when I choose to put it to work. In my perspective, programs I own are loaded and then used as tools – with me in control. Apps are purchased or leased software that helps me perform tasks where I am not totally in control of the processes taking place. This is quite possibly an antiquated view on my part.

For most others, this is the upgrade that they may have been looking for. Now it is possible to have an operating system and apps that are contiguous across many hardware platforms.

I understand that there will be no new Windows upgrades but rather continuous Windows 10 updates. So; How free is this update? It appears that the OS is free but many apps will be on a subscription service.

If you decide to try Windows 10, make sure you back up (suggest with third party software) your complete operating system, partitions and files so that if you choose to revert back to your current OS, you will be able to do so with limited losses.

If you decide you don't want to try Windows 10 and want to get rid of the annoying "Upgrade Now" pop-up, simply remove the windows update KB:3035583. This can be accomplished in a number of ways. 1. Go into control panel, programs and features, installed updates – find the update and uninstall it. 2. Faster method: in the Search programs and files box type WUSA/UNINSTALL/KB:3035583 and execute. This will uninstall the update. In both cases you will have to restart your machine for this to take effect.

If you are running Windows 10 a note from Calvin VA3CBE points out a usable app

"Windows 10 has a live grayline map.

Click "start" "all apps" "alarms and clock" open the "world clock" tab and Microsoft has included many features to their new operating system.

Quite handy if you do not want to download a standalone program or open an ad infested webpage."

Understanding Engineers – no offence intended to those reading who hold the degree and status

To the optimist, the glass is half-full.

To the pessimist, the glass is half-empty.

To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be OR someone didn't order enough liquid.

What is the difference between mechanical engineers and civil engineers?

Mechanical engineers build weapons.

Civil engineers build targets.

Technicians believe that if it isn't broken, don't fix it.

Engineers believe that if it isn't broken, it doesn't have enough features yet.

An engineer was crossing a road one day, when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess."

He bent over, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn back into a beautiful princess and stay with you for one week."

The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want."

Again, the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you for one week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The engineer said, "Look, I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog - now that's cool."

Two engineering students were biking across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?"

The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what you want."

The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice: The clothes probably wouldn't have fit you anyway."

And finally:

Two engineers were standing at the base of a multiband Butternut vertical, looking at its top. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to find the height of this antenna," said Sven, "but we don't have a ladder."

The woman took a wrench from her purse, loosened a couple of bolts, and laid the antenna down on the ground. Then she took a tape measure from her pocketbook, took a measurement, announced, "Twenty six feet feet, six inches," and walked away.

One engineer shook his head and laughed, "A lot of good that does us. We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Both engineers have since quit their engineering jobs and are currently MPs.

Upcoming Events:

Fleamarkets for 2015 are now complete – until 2016 ---

Mark your new calendar in advance

Saturday, February 6, 2016. St. Catharines, Ontario. Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Saturday, March 19, 2016. Brampton, Ontario. Peel and Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs

Saturday, May 7, 2016. South / West end of Barrie, Ontario. Barrie Amateur Radio Club

Saturday, May 14, 2016. Smiths Falls, Ontario. Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club

DX News:

Rather than list some of the events coming, here are some sources that I find quite complete.

For DXpedition news: <http://www.dx-world.net/>

For special events: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Islands on the air: <http://www.rsgbiota.org/>

For Sale / Swap / Free

The intention of this section of the bulletin is to provide a space where **members** can advertise items of a ham related nature to other members of the club. It is not intended as competition to the many on air and internet based swap shops.

Free: (to club members) 440 ohm Ladder line. About 66 feet available – enough for 2 G5RV's. Tom VE3MAH

Free: (to club members) Cushcraft A3S TriBand beam. Needs new hardware. Tom VE3MAH

Free: (to club members) CDE AR-44 rotor unit only. Working when removed from VE3FC's tower.
Tom VE3MAH

Free: (to club members) Tripp-Lite Internet 750u UPS. Battery is about 60% capacity. Tom VE3MAH

Free: (to club members) 60' RG8X coaxial cable – new – Tom VE3MAH

For Sale: (from the estate of Bill VE3BM) most any reasonable offer accepted Tom VE3MAH

Astatic D104 Microphone

B&K 1403 Oscilloscope

Comet CSP-80 Speaker

Heathkit HM-102 HF SWR/Power Meter

Heathkit HW-101 HF Transceiver

Heil Microphone and Luxo Boom

Icom u2AT VHF Handheld

Icom IC-41A UHF Australian UHF CB Hand Held

MFJ-941B 200 Watt Antenna Tuner

MFJ- 982B 3 Kilo-Watt Antenna Tuner

National NC-188 Receiver

Nye MB-V-A 3 KiloWatt Antenna Tuner

Realistic Pro44 Scanner

Realistic/Turner +2 Desk Microphone

Shure 444 Desk Microphone

Yaesu 5 channel 2 meter Handheld

Yaesu FT-11R 2 meter Handheld

Real Swap Sites:

KWARC Swap Shop -- one of the best around. <http://www.kwarc.org/swapshop/index.htm>

Maritime Swap Shop -- <http://www.ve1pjs.com/swapshop.html>

ONTARS Marketplace -- http://www.ontars.com/cgi-bin/classifieds/classifieds.cgi?session_key=&search_and_display_db_button=on&results_format=headlines&query=browse

Membership / Information update form: Membership in the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club is \$20 per calendar year. Please help the Treasurer by printing this page, filling in your information and giving it to him. If mailing, please use the address listed.

**Cambridge Amateur Radio Club
% Hugh Martin
310-400 Champlain Blvd.
Cambridge, Ontario
N1R 7J6**

***First Name:** _____ ***Last Name:** _____ *** Call Sign:** _____

***Address:**

***Email Address:** _____ **Telephone Number:** _____

Full membership \$20 Renewal New Member
Associate member \$5 Renewal New

*required – your information will not be shared with third parties.