The Dummy Load

Official Bulletin of The Cambridge Amateur Radio Club (SWARC Inc)

serving the community since 1964

Club Executive and Volunteers

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Calvin Benoit VA3CBE

Vice President
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Treasurer
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Bulletin Editor
Tom Franks VE3MAH

Club Historian
Tom Franks VE3MAH

Call Custodians
VE3SWA
Calvin Benoit VA3CBE
VE3SWR
Tom Franks VE3MAH

Web Master
Steve Nyul VE3USP
http://www.cambridgeham.ca

Club Net
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

March 7, 2016
April 11, 2016
May 9, 2016
June 13, 2016
September 12, 2016
October 17, 2016
November 14, 2016
December 12, 2016

Visitors are always welcome

Editor's Column

You will no doubt note that this edition of the Dummy Load appears to be a week early. The March meeting is moved up by a week because our meeting room will not be available on the second Monday. (the reason for the *stared* dates above)

There were four submissions towards the two club operating awards. The engraved plates are being completed as this is being written.

A reminder from Shawn VE3PSV; The net times for the Great Lakes Emergency Traffic Net, nightly on 3932 KHz, as of March 1st are: pre net 8pm, 8:30 pm main net.

The upcoming March meeting will include nominations for the elected executive positions. Give some thought to these important positions and consider running. Elections will proceed at the Annual General meeting in April.

To make the pages of your newsletter more interesting, a few members are willing to write technical articles that are of interest to you – please pass any requests or ideas along to your editor.

We of the morning crowd have experienced some intermittent problems hearing a few of the weaker stations who check in. Suspecting a possible problem with our receiver, your tech team removed the main repeater for testing while putting the backup machine in place. Result – both machines test to well within sensitivity specs; testing of the site show no anomalies. Carefully measuring signal strengths of signals on the input frequency shows a large variance in strength at my location for the same stations. Therefore we will blame it on propagation for now.

Tom ve3mah@bell.net

Editorial

Tom VE3MAH

The discussion at the last meeting got me to thinking – which can be a very dangerous thing!
The thoughts presented are my own and should not be taken as a reflection of those of other members.

SWARC/CARC has been around for almost 53 years and our history tells us that this is not the first time – nor will it be the last – that our membership has declined, or our activities are enjoyed by only a few and there is talk of "what do we do now?". We find ourselves in a situation – real or imagined -- that may need to be addressed with a well thought through plan and practical method to accomplish the desired result. So – What is the ideal or practical desired result?
The definition of a 'club' from Middle English or Old Norse means 'to clump' as in stick together. Current meaning is "a group of persons organized for a social, literary, athletic, political, or other purpose." I guess our predecessors had the right idea back in 1964 when they organized SWARC as a group of "persons commonly interested in Amateur Radio."

Statistics of organizations (read clubs) show that;

- **5%** of members run the club and show up for almost every event
- **15%** of members regularly participate in events organized by the 5%
- **20%** occasionally participate
- The remaining **60%** never show up or get involved with anything!

If we examine the current activities that our members are involved in as a club, we find regular check-ins to the unofficial morning gathering and the directed Wednesday evening net as well as the many on air contests including Ontario QSO Party, ARRL Field Day, Canada Day Contest and RAC Winter Contest.

Where do you fit in? The 5%? 15%? 20%? or 60%?

I like to think that I fit in the first 20% but I know this has changed over the last few years. As we get older, many of our priorities change along with those things we want to get involved in. Personally, my main priorities have always been family first, work second, volunteer activities third and hobbies last. Having had a career where a normal week was 40 to 50 hours and my volunteer activities over 20 years peaked at a documented 400 hours per year; I, like most, complained about not having time to do anything extra. But we make time for those activities we are committed to. When asked recently to consider standing for an executive position I admitted that by nature, I am a rather selfish person and when I ceased those 'time' consuming activities (work and volunteer) a heavy load was lifted and I now find myself not volunteering or committing to very many things outside of family. Perhaps this may change down the log. Also, I found out last December that in fact I am no longer invincible.

Perhaps many of us feel somewhat the same.

In an article on the ARRL web site titled "Tips and Tonics for Healthier Radio Clubs" by D. E. "Dee" Logan, W1HEO; Dee points out a number of interesting facts about amateur radio clubs.
http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Clubs/Tips%20and%20Tonics%20for%20Healthier%20Radio%20Clubs.pdf

"Healthy radio clubs are vitally important to the future of Amateur Radio. It is the club that often provides the motivation and support for such fundamental activities as recruiting new hams, sponsoring radio classes and doing volunteer testing. Clubs are often the best organizers and financers of expensive repeater systems, hamfests and emergency communication programs, as well.

What makes a radio club successful? What secrets enable them to keep adding members, providing interesting activities and offering interesting programs?"

Most clubs at one time or another ponders the ideal answer to these and other questions with varied success. I don't believe that there is one single list that provides all of the answers. The membership determines the direction, progress, and health of their club. There does however need to be some guiding force be it executive member(s) or a committee struck to see things through to completion. If we were a wealthy organization, maybe we could commission a 'Study' to give us a path to follow.

People leave a club because they lose interest, they have health or financial problems, they move away or pass away, or because they are no longer being served by the club and the "product" it offers. The club needs to be interesting to its current membership before new members can be sought. In order to recruit you have to have something to offer. Sounds like a “catch 22” to me. For those who are not familiar with this phrase – catch 22 – “*A requirement that cannot be met until a prerequisite requirement is met; however, the prerequisite cannot be obtained until the original requirement is met”.*

A perceived situation we find ourselves in is that no one will step forward to fill the executive positions that are up for election in April for the upcoming 2 year period.

Contrary to popular belief, the president is not responsible to ‘run’ the club, but rather to conduct any necessary business at meetings and work with the rest of the executive to see to the needs and wants of the combined membership. Should this position’s title be changed to Chairperson?
The vice-president (under our constitution) has the main duty to work with the executive and membership to have a suitable program arranged for the meetings. Notice – he does not do this all by himself! (unless of course he wants to)

So we find ourselves with a double ‘catch 22’. In one case the current membership feels it necessary to bolster the membership so that we may offer interesting and fun things to do, but without an interesting program it will be difficult to accomplish this. The second case has us questioning if there will be an executive in place to help direct the process.

Who would be the target for membership? What sort of program does the membership want? How might we proceed?

According to the IC database, there are 143 licensed amateurs in Cambridge. A quick breakdown shows 15 licensees are current members of CARC, 30 licensees are past members of CARC, 6 are known to be SK, 1 is known to be inactive leaving 91 whose status is unknown. There appears to be a second club in Cambridge. The Canadian Hungarian Amateur Radio Club VA3CHR. Who are they? Is there a possibility they may be interested in being involved with CARC?

Some random ideas/thoughts:

- Meeting dates and any program information could be ‘front and center’ on our web page so that web surfers would see what we are about from month to month.
- Program information should be published in the Dummy Load so members will know what is coming up.
- Today’s young adults have very different interests -- very different that those things that may have sparked our interests so many years ago. How might we approach this potential group of new amateurs?
- A well coordinated plan will need to be put in place to address such items as:
    - setting goals for what we want to achieve along with a timeline
    - meeting programs – say start with a specific program for 5 meetings out of our 10 per year – don’t forget to include social time
    - target groups for membership and methods to attract these target groups (no need to invent new methods-- there are time-tested tactics that work for many organizations)
        - Target Market: *who* you want to reach
        - Membership Offer: *what* a member will receive
        - Marketing Message: *why* a member should join
        - Promotional Tactics: *how* a member will be reached
        - Testing and Tracking: *where* to take future efforts
    - possible training/education program for new amateurs and advanced qualification
    - consider reviewing our website to see if we can appeal to a wider audience
    - possibly producing a promotional video
    - review our traditions – while some tradition is important, too much time spent on these rituals may prevent younger members from feeling at home in our club
    - involve new members early to build club loyalty
    - for current members -- people can be very frightened of change
    - .- -. -.. … --- --- -. ---Just some thoughts ---

Minutes of Cambridge Amateur Radio Club Meeting 8th February 2016

Meeting opened at 8:09 pm on a motion by VE3ANT 2nd VE3PSV
Present: Va3cbe Ve3ant Ve3ihm Ve3mah Ve3mf Ve3lee Va3mp Ve3usp Ve3nxv Va3ggt Ve3psv Ve3esw

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read on a motion by VE3NXV 2nd VA3MP

Treasurers Report:

Balance in Bank $
Cheque $ (for WNSORC)
Petty cash $

Report received on a motion by VE3PSV 2nd VE3MAH

Hugh (VE3IHM) thanked Tom (VE3MAH) for the assistance given to the treasurer and wished it recorded

Old Business:

Any club contest submission have to be in by the end of the meeting
The interest in having slow morse practices or SSTV were

CW 4 SSTV 1 Joshua is interested in SSTV

VE3 ESW, VE3MF, VE3MAH, and VE3USP are interested in CW
Morse runner is free for the PC on the internet and anyone interested in morse code practice should email each other.
New Business:
Veronica Taylor sent an email about the web page and thanked us for the use of it for teaching.
VE3ANT is looking into the restaurant for our annual meeting with our ladies
VE3MF mentioned inviting non members to the banquette as a means of encouraging awareness of our group
AGM is in April and the following are to be elected

President	2 year period
Vice President	2 year period
Treasurer	2 year period
Secretary	2 year period

The volunteer positions are : bulletin editor, member at large and contest coordinator

Shawn (VE3PSV) gave a presentation on National Traffic System (NTS) and gave the forms out for sending messages. Shawn explained the form and the CEFG are codes for handling the message. Gerry (VE3NXV) asked if this was something that could have been used in the Haiti disaster and the answer was yes. Ontario Phone Net is a controlled directed net in affiliation with NTS
VE3USP asked “what happens if we do not have enough volunteers?” (for the club positions)
A discussion ensued as to how we keep going. Maybe working with kids (this would need clearance).Steve volunteered to look into outside involvement with other groups or Malls.
Scott spoke of KWARC taking part in ‘Makerexpo @cityhall’
The secretary is to contact KWARC liaison member for community involvement information
Repeater donation of $12 from VE3MAH
Meeting closed at 9:22pm moved by VE3IHM

As received from Brian VE3ESW club secretary

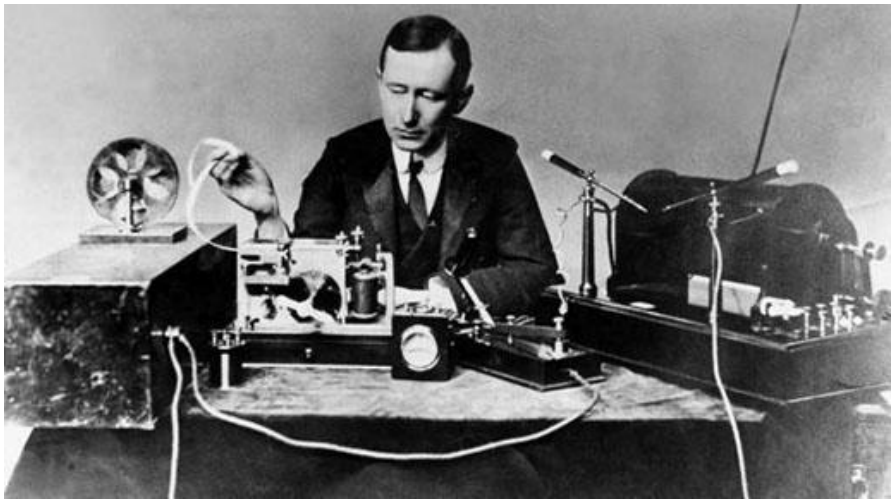
Submitted by Steve VE3USP

Celebrating National Radio Day and Guglielmo Marconi's Irish connection

Niall Cullen @FindmypastUS
February 13,2016 01:24 AM

Guglielmo Marconi, pioneer of radio communication

Today is National Radio Day, a day to celebrate the invention of the radio, when communication around the globe changed forever. You may be surprised to hear that Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937), pioneer of radio communication and inventor of the first practical system of wireless telegraphy, has an Irish family connection. Guglielmo Marconi was born in Bologna on April 25, 1874, the son of Giuseppe Marconi and his Irish wife Annie Jameson. Annie was one of "the Jamesons."
Her grandfather, John Jameson, founded the whiskey distillers Jameson & Sons in Dublin in the 1780s. Annie's father, John Jameson's son Andrew, was a famous distiller in his own right. He founded a Jameson distillery in Ennicorthy, Co. Wexford, and settled with his wife Margaret Millar in Daphne Castle, on the outskirts of Wexford.



It is believed that Guglielmo, along with his mother and older brother Alfonso, often visited the castle during his boyhood summers. Unfortunately, little now remains of the distillery or Daphne Castle. You'll find Andrew Jameson in Fairfield, Enniscorthy, County Wexford in 1853 on Findmypast.ie. There's also an entry which lists Mr Jameson as a member of the "Nobility, Gentry & Clergy" of Enniscorthy.

The Irish family connections don't end there though. On March March 16, 1905 Marconi married the Hon. Beatrice O'Brien (1882-1976), a daughter of Edward Donough O'Brien, 14th Baron Inchiquin and High Sheriff of Clare. Beatrice grew up in Dromoland, Co. Clare but moved to London with her mother in 1900 after the death of her father. It was here that she met Marconi who immediately broke off his engagement to an American woman to pursue her.

After initially declining his offer of marriage, due to his burgeoning celebrity status, she eventually agreed and they married in St. George's Church in Hanover Square, London. They honeymooned in Dromoland. As large landowners there are many entries for the Barons of Inchiquin in Findmypast's records, with over 800 in Griffith's Valuation alone. Edward Donough O'Brien is also listed as a "Representative Peer Elected For Ireland Since The Union" in Thom's Irish Almanac 1880.

Although the marriage was ill-fated, resulting in an annulment and both remarrying, Guglielmo's Irish connection continued via his business interests. Ballycastle, Co. Antrim was the site of the world's first commercial wireless telegraph transmission, performed by Marconi's employees, on 6 July 1898. His company had established a wireless transmitting station at Marconi House, Rosslare Strand, Co. Wexford and begun a regular transatlantic radio-telegraph service between Clifden, Co. Galway and Glace Bay in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Marconi was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1909 and died in 1937 aged 63 following a series of heart attacks. His ex-wife Beatrice visited him as he lay in state.

Submitted by Steve VE3USP

"RUSTY BOLT EFFECT"

by:
Mike Durbin K5MJD
Technical Specialist ARRL
North Texas Section

Ever had a case of interference that seems to come and go? Sometimes it seems weather related, sometimes wind, and sometimes it doesn't make any sense at all? Well look into what is called the "RUSTY BOLT EFFECT". Most of us have towers, antennas, fences, TV antennas, gutters, or anything else made of metal that has been around awhile. Since Mother Nature likes to change things with time, (RUST) she has developed a method of manufacturing diodes that could compete with commercial manufactures. Diodes are very efficient generators of signals and produce non-linear current flow which is rich in harmonics and spurious signals. This type of rectification may contribute to mixing of ham radio signals, commercial signals, and just plain noise, can mix together and form signals that we call Intermodulation distortion. The most annoying type of signals form as a result of signals not usually related to amateur radio transmissions. These signals are usually from things like commercial AM transmitters, digital paging systems, digital transmitters (becoming wide spread), and other signals sources in close proximity to towers, power lines, or metal buildings.
In general any conducting surface (plumbing, electrical, fences, towers, guy lines, multiple piece antennas, or any place where two metals meet, can cause a rectifying joint and produce a natural signal/noise generator. Don't forget items that have diodes in them by design, when looking for an interference source. How about things like, rotators, controllers, power supplies, alarm systems, etc. (You do have things like these around don't you?)

WHAT TO LOOK FOR!!

Guy Wires that help keep us safe can cause a problem. The connections on the tower of guy line cables are usually of two different types of metals and are a perfect source for one of natures diodes. Guy lines are usually broken up by insulators which help reduce the effect of resonant lengths which reduce harmonics and signal radiation. The insulators can however break and form connections which then becomes a diode. The connections to the tower legs are usually just wrapped around the leg and not bounded, what a great diode this makes. The worse scenario for this type of problem is a continuous guys lines with no grounds on the ends, or bounding to the tower. Where is the ground on your guy lines?

Towers that hold our antennas (this also goes for jointed masts) usually have joints in them where legs are bolted together. The best installation probably has bolts that are different metal then the tower itself making a natural diode after nature has had time do some work. The best supports have a bonded straps over joints to help reduce this effect.

Antennas usually are made of multiple pieces of metal and joints of telescoping metals. Well what do you know, a tunable diode noise source. Most antenna manufacturers will include a conducting grease to help eliminate the effects of corrosion. The joints of commercial antennas are usually moisture proof to help reduce this effect even more. Now you know what that funny grease that came with antenna is for.

Stranded wire we call copperweld, is used in some antennas construction, and by some for ground connections, is a good source for natural diodes as the aging effects go to work. The copper around steel used in most of these types of wires tend to corrode with time. (Look at your copper wire is it green?) The steels rusts and the copper turns to copper oxide. The first commercial diodes were made from copper oxide! Now you know why solid conductor wire is used for grounding in most properly installed antenna systems. Another good example is your telephone ground. I would bet that your telephone entrance box on the side of your house has a solid conductor grounding wire.

Metal roofing, Gutters, Duct work, Metal window frames are good sources for diodes. (metal barns/storage sheds anyone?) The metal used in manufacturing of these devices are usually just laid over each other and can form great diodes. The screws used to assemble these types of structures are also generally of different metal than the metal they are holding. The same goes for those very attractive and functional gutters we all have around our house. Your gutters aren't, say 40 meters long are they?

Elevator Shafts are great vertical antennas of various lengths, usually about the proper length for receiving broadcast radio stations. Do you have a repeater system mounted on top of natural antenna source? The joints in the lengths of these vertical beams are bimetallic!
This could go on forever but here are a few other things you might not think of; Metal pipes touching each other, pipe joints, power line guys, loose hardware on power poles, metal fences, wire fences, and yes even bed springs.

73's de K5MJD

Editors note: This is known as galvanic reaction or 'galvanic effect'. When any 2 dissimilar metals come in contact, they will corrode and generate a voltage differential. The amount of corrosion depends upon the actual metals. The net result of this corrosion is the formation of a crude diode that will radiate all sorts of 'garbage' if excited by RF in the vicinity.

Upcoming Events:

Mark your new calendar in advance:

Saturday, March 19, 2016. Ham-Ex 2016. Brampton Fairgrounds Exhibits and Demonstrations 8 am. Flea Market 9am to 1 pm. Details and a map http://www.ham-ex.ca/Flyer

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

The 19th Annual Ontario QSO Party 2016; Held on the third full weekend of April
(1800Z April 16 to 0500Z April 17 and 1200Z to 1800Z April 17)

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

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/swap.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 Treasurer
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.