

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

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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

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

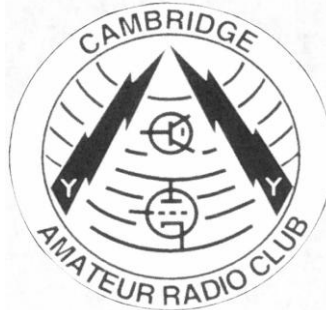
Local time.

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

November 9, 2015

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

As I write this column, the outlook for the coming week is summer like temperatures (in the daytime) and as hams we should be busy outside getting those antenna jobs done. So – what needs doing before the winter weather finally takes hold?

First – is the beam pointing where the rotator says it should be or has the wind been at it again? Is the rotator running smoothly or does the thrust bearing need greasing.

As to the many dipoles messing up the local flight path of the neighbourhood birds; how does the support rope look? Is this the year to replace that rope or have the antenna come down the next time we get wet snow and wind? Do any of the traps need resealing to protect them and to help them not change value when wet? Let's not forget the coaxial connectors. They may need to be tightened and resealed. Vertical antennas often need to have the element clamps and bolts tightened. The winter winds can be relentless on that 30' or more array of aluminium.

While there are a number of specialty products sold to weather seal coax connections, I have found that self-fusing silicone tape sold under a variety of trade names has worked well for me not only to seal connections but also traps without changing their resonant frequency. Coax connections opened up after more than 10 years in the sun and the elements are clean and shiny when the seal is removed. Removal is very easy. Using a sharp knife; slit the seal lengthwise and peel it off – no muss – no fuss – and no residue.

The coming month looks promising for some rare Dx. Among the activations announced are:
Willis Island VK9WBM Nov 14-23; Mauritius and Rodrigues 3B8/3B9; Equatorial Guinea 3C; Vietnam 3W; Bhutan A5; Seychelles S7; Tuvalu and Fiji Islands T2 and 3D2.

Tom ve3mah@bell.net

Meeting minutes: taken by Bob VE3MF in the absence of Secretary Brian VE3ESW

**CAMBRIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
(S.W.A.R.C)**

October Monthly Meeting

Minutes for October 19, 2015

The meeting began at 20:01 EST

There were 9 members and one visitor present.

Minutes read by Bob VE3MF. Accepted as revised by Steve VE3USP and Mike VA3MP.

Treasurer's report presented by Hugh VE3IHM with a balance of \$XXXX.XX Accepted by Clarence VA3CF and Robin VE3OAV.

Introduced ourselves to the visitor. Scott Mitchell VA3GGT. Will be moving from Kitchener to Cambridge.

Old Business-

- WatSat satellite project moving forward with assistance from Steve VE3USP.
- Dave's tower is down and has been removed.
- Discussion re Field Day operating facility.
- Shriners is approaching the club to return for future Field Days.
- discussion re Steve's VE3USP idea to operate on lands controlled by Indigenous peoples.

New Business-

- Joe Garnham VE3JGO is a new member, but works nights.
- Club constitution changes have been voted on and cleared. They need to be updated on the website.
- Club donation to CNIB was voted on and carried unanimously.

Club donation made by Mike VA3MP.

Meeting was closed 8:43 PM

Present at Meeting:

VACBE Calvin Benoit
VE3IHM Hugh Martin
VE3MF Bob Kernohan
VE3ANT Scott Buell
VA3GGT Scott Mitchell

VE3NXV Gerry Allen
VA3MP Mike Pap
VE3USP Steve Nyul
VE3OAV Robin Varcoe
VA3CF Clarence Fatt

Distracted Driving Law – for some and not others?

by Tom VE3MAH

While waiting in my mobile for my XYL to complete an appointment, as usual I gave a call on VE3SWR and had a quick chat with Hugh VE3IHM who was also mobile and if I remember correctly was heading for Hamilton.

A few moments later, a gentleman approached the car and struck up a conversation. He was interested in amateur radio and recognised me by my call license plate. Apparently he had heard me and others on the repeater a few times using a portable receiver that tuned the VHF spectrum.

One thing led to another and he asked me why amateurs have an exemption from the use of mobile radio equipment while driving. Very honestly – I did not have an answer except the standard comments about how amateurs provide valuable services during emergencies, such as power failures or severe weather. But why are we allowed to use our radios when not performing an emergency service? Have we had any special driver training like police or ambulance drivers? What makes us any different than any other driver using a cell phone?

Again no ready answer.

Later I did a little thinking (this could be dangerous) and realised that this fellow has some valid points. As a driver, I spend a fair bit of time especially when stopped in traffic, looking in my rear view mirror at the person behind me sending or reading texts and at the first opportunity change lanes to get out of their way. Do other drivers do the same when they see me chatting with a microphone in my hand? What do you think?

Here is an excerpt from the Ontario Transportation Ministry website.

“Commercial and public transit drivers, as well as public service workers who are engaged in the performance of their duties, will be able to view the display screens of mobile data terminals and logistical tracking and dispatching devices. Specified commercial, public transit, and public function drivers, as well as licensed amateur radio operators, are permitted hand-held use of their two-way (“CB”) radios (exemption to expire January 1, 2018).”

For all but amateurs, use is conditional on the user being engaged in the performance of their duties. Apparently the extension to 2018 is to give time for manufacturers to develop hands free radios or add-on accessories. What is ‘legal’ however is a handheld attached to the vehicle with an earpiece microphone and separate PTT.

Something to think about.

Are we getting what we think we are getting when purchasing some of the new brands of amateur radio transceivers?

A recent article in QST by Larry WR1B with data supplied by Bob WB1GCM, ARRL Senior Test Engineer shows some not surprising results conducted over 4 years on handhelds. It is important to note that some of these radios were new, some used and some modified for out of band operation by their owners.

When a given frequency is introduced to a non linear circuit, there will be many other frequencies generated; the highest amplitude of these spurious emissions will be at two times, three times, four times or five times the given frequency. This spurious emission is RF energy that is unintentionally generated by a transmitter at any frequency other than the desired transmit frequency. As an example, a certain transmitters intended frequency is 146.790MHz. A poorly designed or misadjusted transmitter could also produce an output at 293.58MHz and/or 440.370MHz. Under normal conditions these spurious emissions will be very small in amplitude compared to the intended signal and may not pass through the output filter circuits.

For transmitters in excess of 1 watt, these spurious signals must be at least 60 dB lower than the intended signal to meet IC or FCC specifications.

So – a 1 watt VHF/UHF handheld must not produce spurious emissions exceeding 1 μ W; or set to 5 watts – 5 μ W. A 10/70 watt mobile must not produce spurious emissions greater than 10/70 μ Watts.

Of 919 handhelds tested by the ARRL staff over 4 years, the results show a trend.

2012 - 8 of 129 units failed (6%) – 54% of Baofeng units tested failed with an additional 15% borderline; and 33% of TYT units tested failed with another 17% borderline. All other manufacturers tested saw 0% failure.

2013 - 22 of 244 units failed (9%) -- 36% of Baofeng units tested failed with an additional 15% borderline; and 19% of Wouxun units tested failed with another 4% borderline. All other manufacturers tested saw <1% failure.

2014 – 46 of 282 units failed (16%) -- 57% of Baofeng units tested failed with an additional 33% borderline; and 33% of Wouxun units tested failed. All other manufacturers tested saw 2% failure.

2015 – 37 of 264 units failed (14%) -- 54% of Baofeng units tested failed with an additional 21% borderline; and 14% of Wouxun units tested failed. All other manufacturers tested saw 0% failure.

Some of the units that failed had 3rd harmonics in the 70cm band that were only 15.8 dB below the intended frequency. Therefore, this radio with a 1 watt output on 146.790MHz is also producing a 26 mW signal at 440.370MHz or 131 mWatts if set to 5 watts out. These same levels of a second harmonic being generated by this transmitter could interfere with aeronautical search and rescue.

To read the entire article – see the November 2015 issue of QST starting on page 74.

News from around:

Upcoming Events:

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

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.

For Sale: 440 ohm Ladder line. About 66 feet available – enough for 2 G5RV's. Price is ½ Maple Leafs advertised price. \$.30/foot. 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.

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% Hugh Martin
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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.