

The Dummy Load

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

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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.

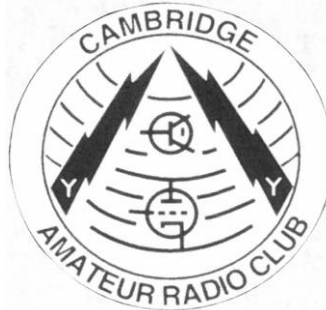
Local time.

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

Mon September 14, 2015

October 19, 2015

November 9, 2015

December 14, 2015

January 11, 2016

Visitors are always welcome

Editor's column

What do you mean summer is over! There is still much antenna work to be done, flea markets to attend and shack cleaning and arranging to be done before the white stuff arrives. If this past week is any indication, I suggest we have lots of time!

Mid June saw the antenna farm of Shawn VE3PSV taken down and readied for his move to Kitchener.

Field Day at the end of June had its problems. See the short report later in this issue.

As many of you know, Bob VE3MF spends much of his summer 'vacationing' at his cottage on Lake Nipissing. While we try to maintain communication via radio using 80 meters. The noise levels at this end of the path (S9+) make the 320 kilometer path (as the electromagnetic waves travel) not always possible. Bob's signal at my QTH is usually S9 +a little while he reports low noise and S9 +20dB for my signal. Mike VA3MP has been joining in and on August 13th Gerry VE3NXV joined our roundtable. As you have heard me say a number of times "If the path is open it does not matter how much power you use". To make my point, on this particular evening, Bob reported my 100 watt signal as S9 +25dB; Mike's 600 watt signal as S9 +30 dB and Gerry's 5 watt QRP signal got a respectable S8 to S9 report. It is important to note that while Mike and I are using full length dipoles in the inverted V configuration, Gerry's 80 meter antenna can only be described as a very large inductor covered in aluminium pie plates! Most anything will radiate! If you would like to join in - 3745 +/- 5khz Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 local time. As is common - if anyone cannot make it - no worries there is next time.

This past week work got started on Dave's VE3BHZ sk antenna removal. As the sun set on Friday September 4th, the big Mosley slowly made its way back to ground level.

There being no submissions for this bulletin, I'll carry on as usual.

Tom ve3mah@bell.net

Minutes of the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club Monday June 8th 2015

Meeting opened at 8pm with the following members present:

VA3CBE Calvin (President)	VE3ANT Scott	VE3IHM Hugh
VE3ILX Ken	VE3JWK Joe	VE3MF Bob
VE3ESW Brian	VE3USP Steve	VA3MP Mike
VA3CF Clarence	VE3NXV Gerry	VA3WIF Jeff

Minutes were accepted as distributed on a motion by Gerry VE3NXV 2nd Brian VE3ESW

Treasurers Report: \$xxxx.xx in Bank \$xxxx.xx in Cash Total \$xxxx.xx
Report accepted on a motion by ClarenceVA3CF 2nd SteveVE3USP

Nomination for Brian VE3ESW to be secretary by Hugh VE3IHM. Nomination accepted and unanimously passed by the members.

A Constitution Change is to be made to allow Proxy Votes

Jim Pitt's VA3JEP has his tower down now. Bob spoke to Jim. Jim has been ill and is unable to attend meetings

Burt Grapes VE3BGG has had his tower taken down and is now operating 2m on a J-pole

Shawn VE3PSV is to have his station taken down on the 20th June. Steve, Calvin and Ken have volunteered to assist in this

Field Day:

Steve is to give out frequencies to be worked by individual members on CW and phone. The current Field Day Logger is ver. 4.7

The dinner on Field Day will be "pot luck" with a maximum of 4 servings per individual. This is to prevent too much waste. Dinner time will be 6pm and all are invited to attend even if not taking part in the contest.

Steve will be setting up his aerials on the Friday night.

Next year Calvin will be absent so a member will have to give his name to rebook the field. Steve volunteered to put his name forward.

New Business:

Steve suggested promoting Amateur Radio in the Aboriginal Environment by awarding Diplomas to an individual (not necessarily a club member) for contacts made. The number of contacts to be determined. This will be discussed as a club project.

The club donation of \$10 went to Brian VE3ESW

Next meeting will be 8pm September 14th 2015 at the Preston arena

Move to adjourn by Gerry VE3NXV 2nd Mike VA3MP carried at 8:47pm

Field Day Report:

While I was looking forward to being able to attend Field Day this year for the first time in many years; I had been fighting some sort of flu/fever for about 3 weeks and had to cancel. This may have been to my advantage since the 27th and 28th of June suffered the rath of Mother Nature with winds, rain and more rain.

But this did not stop Steve VE3USP, Calvin VA3CBE, Brian VE3ESW, newcomer Josh VE3CEN and others who helped to set up at the usual site and attempted to keep VE3SWA in the contest. This was the 49th Field Day that SWARC/CARC has participated in. (as far as my records show)

The First Annual ARRL Field Day took place in 1933. Portable stations, some that needed to be carried in by truck, operated primarily on 75/80 meters, 40 meters and 6 meters with power output in the range of 2 to 50 watts. There were limited contacts on 160 meters and 20 meters. For a complete report on this first FD, see the September 1933 issue of QST or the reprint in the September 2015 issue.

Following is a short report that Steve VE3USP emailed me. (I have corrected some spelling etc. -- Sorry Steve)

“Indeed, this year was a complete washout; literally :) The wind speed picked up just as the contest started and blew the 30' x 50' tarp away; I had to hold it in a pouring rain; it was dripping down on my elbow. Tying it down to trees, my car, park benches (*picnic tables? – ed.*) did not work as the wind was so strong that it ripped out the eyelets from the tarp. The tent almost become airborne which did not help either. The window flaps were not a match to the driving rain and water started to come through the window making everything wet, including the TS130, the tuner, laptop and everything in the tent. I had no choice but to let the tarp fly and try to gather everything in a hurry and put the electronics in the car. I was about to collapse the tent, but the strong wind came to help :). All I had to do was to secure the deflated, collapsed, soaked and beaten tent by putting park benches on it. (*picnic tables? – ed.*) The idea was that I would recover it the next day, hoping that the exceptionally bad weather would cooperate Sunday morning.

This year I was located at the near-right part of the area, which was wide open to the wind from East. The far-left corner was well protected by the tall trees, you could light a match, it was that calm there. From a distance I sadly observed the damage being done to my tent. I learned my lesson and next year I will go back to my old place where I used to mount my ZL-Special beam.

I only made a few contacts; Calvin, VA3CBE, Josh VE3CEN and Brian, VE3ESW were better prepared (and luckier, I guess) and have made a good number of QSOs. Even though it was a complete washout, I still wanted to make a short video and a few pictures, only to realize that the battery in my camcorder was fully discharged and wet. There are no pictures or video about Field Day in this year...

On a positive note, VE3SWA did take part in FD this year as well, just like we do in every year! Lessons have been learned and preparations have started for next year. There is always a 'next year' “



From a much drier year!

News from around:

Congratulations to Brian VE3ESW on his new volunteer position as Secretary of the Cambridge Amateur Radio Club.

Shawn Gartley VE3PSV now has a new residence in the south end of Kitchener. As of this writing I am unaware of his plans for a new tower and antennas.

While we have not seen nor heard from Robin VE3OAV, I understand he has been preparing and looking forward to his upcoming nuptials. Robin and Lauren are scheduled to be married on October 3rd.

For many of us tower and antenna work is becoming more difficult and most of us are unwilling or not able to climb any longer. I did a little investigation to find a company or individual to call upon. Most commercial companies I contacted either do not get involved in small jobs or are very expensive. This past summer I coordinated 3 antenna jobs and used Lorne Wight from Princeton. Lorne is not familiar with amateur installations but is prepared and comfortable doing what needs to be done. This arrangement where I ground crewed and he climbed worked very well. Lorne charges a basic service call and an hourly rate for each job. Should you use Lorne, I would suggest being well prepared ahead of time so as to keep the 'working' time as short as possible.

Please note: This is not a paid announcement or endorsement – just a report on the positive experience I had.

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I was saddened to hear of the passing on August 2nd at age 72 of long-time ham friend Bill McElroy VE3BM. Many of you may remember Bill from club meetings and his involvement in the early club VHF nets. Since there was no published obituary for Bill; following is some of what I remember. Bill and Sandi have 2 children.

I met Bill and his Wife Sandi around 1976 when they moved to Cambridge (Hespeler) from Toronto. Bill had retired from the Toronto police force early due to a severe injury he received in the line of duty.

Bill received his first call VE3EST in early 1958 just before turning 15. As happens to many hams, school, family and a working life get in the way and as happened to Bill, let his station license drop. In 1974 he was relicensed as VE3HPM. In 1978 or so Bill had the opportunity to pick up his original call and therefore became VE3EST once again. Sometime in the later 1980's he received his initials VE3BM. Bill was an avid DXer on 20 meter CW and phone and ragchewer on 75/80 meters. I was most impressed back in the late 1970's when Bill demonstrated his automatic CW keyer connected to a video monitor that displayed both incoming and outgoing decoded CW. Look ma – no computer involved. As can be seen in the accompanying



picture of his current shack, there is no lack of RF power available. Bill told me once that there was no sense going on the air with a weak signal. You may as well use all that is available. Bill was an active member of SWARC for a number of years starting in 1979. Bill's other hobby involved detailed construction of both RC model aircraft and boats. He enjoyed flying all of his large and small aircraft as well as sailing his fleet on the open water. Bill tried to learn to fly helicopters (model) at about the same time as I did. After more than 60 hours learning to hover, I met Bill at his companies large building on hwy 24 just north of Hespeler for some indoor flying lessons and tricks to keep these rotating wing craft in the air.

We will miss Bill's booming, broadcast quality voice on the airwaves.

Upcoming Events:

London Amateur Radio Club Inc. Flea Market; Sunday, September 20, 2015; London, Ontario; HELLENIC COMMUNITY CENTRE. 133 Southdale Rd.W. Coming from the East on Hwy 401, exit onto Wellington Rd. and go North until Southdale Rd. Go east until Notre Dame Dr., turn right into entrance of Hellenic Centre; 9am - 12pm; Admission- \$8
Tables - \$15 first one \$10 for each extra one; VA3LON, 147,060 PL 114.8

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club Flea Market; Saturday, October 3, 2015; Located in the School Fair Building at the Ancaster Fair Grounds 630 Trinity Road, Ancaster, the south-west corner of highways #52 and #53, just west of Ancaster; General Admission: Doors open at 9:00 a.m.; Vendor access : After 7:00 a.m.; General Admission: \$7.00 per person
Vendor Tables: \$12.00 per table; Talk-in 146.76 (-) with tone 131.8 VE3NCF Parking on site.

York Region ARC Saturday, October 31, 2015; 10801 McCowan Rd, Markham, ON; Vendors: 0630 - 0830. General public is admitted to the indoor gathering area commencing at 0730. No more braving the elements while waiting for the event to open! Have breakfast on site. Doors open to the vendor areas at 0900. \$7.00 per person and this includes a door prize ticket. We have "express lanes" for those with exact change. Children twelve and under admitted free. Vendor tables are \$33.00 each for a table eight feet long. Grand Prize tickets are \$5.00 each, three for \$10.00. VE3YRA 145.350 MHz (-) T: 103.5 Hz OR VE3YRC 147.225 MHz (+) T: 103.5 Hz <http://www.markhamfair.ca/canadas-largest-4-day-agricultural-fair-6/greetings/how-to-get-here/>

DX News:

As already announced Da Nang city-Vietnam will be the next destination of the Mediterraneo International Dx ClubTeam and so it will be soon on air any mode/any band. With the call-sign: **3W3MD**. Antonio, IZ8CCW the leader and the co-leader Gabriele, I2VGW will share this new adventure with 24 dxoperators coming from 9 Countries.

Save the dates because from **October 31 to November 10** , they will be on air from the beach of Da Nang. According to the evaluations that they have done, they are confident to give to a lot of dxers the possibility to work this Country in the Low bands, Warc and especially in the Digital modes. Any donation will be very very appreciated by the team. For any further news and updates please visit the official web site of this new great adventure 3W3MD

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: New copy of Windows Home Premium 64 bit. Never registered. Currently selling for \$110+tx.

Substantially reduced price for club members. Tom VE3MAH

Free: Kodak Digital Camera. Easyshare DX6340. All original accessories. Cary case also available.
Tom VE3MAH

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. Tom VE3MAH

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