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# WAVELENGTH

## OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SCARBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

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### SARC Nets:

**Sunday: 28.730 Mhz.**  
**CW 10:00 AM**  
**SSB 10:30 AM**

**Tuesday: 147.060 Mhz.**

**Thursday: 28.730 Mhz.**  
**SSB 07:00 PM**

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

These are open nets. All licensed  
Hams are always 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.

**LEARN**

**PARTICIPATE**

**ENJOY**

## WHEN I'M RIGHT, I'M RIGHT WA9WJB

Well friends, it's happened again. I cannot seem to convince anyone about anything until I show them the proof. Well here it is, the truth about those spectacular energy saving light bulbs that are electrically noisy as hell. I got into an argument with another ham radio operator about the source of the electrical noise when the light is on. His claim was it was the ion charge exchange process in the bulb causing the noise. My speculation was an electronic chopper high voltage supply in the base. He dismissed my claim because a high voltage power supply could not fit in the base. Well, guess what? The type of analysis was destructive, only because the light quit working, probably because of component failure and nothing to do with the actual florescent element.

Here is the hapless light bulb before the analysis began.



As the base began to crack under pressure, gee whiz, looky what we have here, a circuit board. Fancy that.



Further analysis reveals the (electrically) dirty little secret.



I don't need to show you any more, you get the picture. The ham operator knows who he is. I won't further embarrass him. He probably will never speak to me again. Oh, what the heck, I wanna rub it in.

### HERE IS THE SOURCE!!!!

**Electronic switching supplies are inherently noisy. You can find them anywhere, here in these light bulbs, dimmer controls, light sensor (for outside lights; coach lights on the house), and even low profile light units that fit under kitchen cabinets (they have a one inch clearance). And now since I have shown you this, here is something else to think about. GE SoftWhite 100, the verbiage on the package reads as follows: ["This product complies with Part 18 of the FCC rules, but may cause interference to radios, televisions, wireless telephones, and remote controls. Avoid placing this product near these devices. If interference occurs, move product away from the device or plug either into a different outlet. Do not install this product near marine safety equipment or critical navigation or communication equipment operating between 0.45-30 Mhz."]** Also, this product notifies you that it contains **MERCURY** and should be disposed of in accordance with local disposal laws. It recommends seeing web

page: <http://www.lamprecycle.org/>

**The manufacturer obviously knows there is an electrical noise problem with this product and tells you so, but also says that it is in compliance with the FCC Rules, therefore use this product at your own (electrical) risk.**

**The process of lighting within the bulb (ion charge exchange) probably contributes minimal noise to the radio spectrum. The big noise contributor is in the base of the lamp. It is a chopper HV power supply which has minimal noise suppression. This kind of chopper noise is CONDUCTED on the wires throughout the house, a great antenna system.**

**Increased noise suppression in the socket or base of the lamp may help, but by-and-large chopper power supplies create noises on a broad spectrum because the devices switch so fast they shock excite resonant wires. A line filter placed as close to the product as possible could help. However, if your neighbors decide to use these devices in their home, you will have little choice but to endure the noises generated by this product.**

Here is another example of the FCC being bought out by big business. BPL isn't dead yet either, stay tuned folks, if you can hear through the noise.....

*De WA9WJB/Duke with tnx to VE3BHZ/Dave*

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“When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading.”

Henry Youngman

“24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not.”

Stephen Wright

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SARC MEETINGS

May 14 - T.B.A (Presentation about Camp X a possibility)

May 28 - T.B.A.

### U.S. HAMFESTS

May 18 - 19 - 20 Dayton Hamvention

June 2 - 3 Rochester Hamfest

### ONTARIO HAMFESTS AND FLEA MARKETS

June 9 - Central Ontario Hamfest  
Fergus, Ontario

July 7 - Ontario Hamfest  
Milton, Ontario

Aug 25 - VHARA Hamfest 2007  
Lindsay, Ontario

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## From the desk of the VE3ILE

Hope everyone enjoyed him- or herself as much as I did on April 23, the evening we celebrated SARC's 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary. There sure were a lot of stories related among those present. And the food!!! There was an awful lot of it and the quality sure was tops. We also had over 30 in attendance, which is not too bad for our club nowadays. It was also nice to see an old(er) SARC in attendance, Mike VE3FGU. Another highlight was that Gord VE3CNA had brought out some memorabilia. Interesting

that the gifts for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary were a beer mug and an ashtray. This was later changed for the 40<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> to coffee mugs. Attitudes do change. Especially ash trays are not very popular anymore.

On Monday April 30 we had an extra get together and we called it a training session. There were 11 in attendance and two were not licensed as yet. We talked about net operations in general and we had a couple of simulated nets going. It was so successful that everyone present wanted more of those sessions. We sure will try to do that.

Would like to see some contributions to Wavelength. Please try to send something in. Like your experiences on the bands, building projects, propagation or anything you think will be of interest to multitude of readers of this newsletter.

Good DX and may the Ham Gods be kind to you.

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### A bottle of wine

For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married, or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine.

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.

As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a

silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

“What in bag?” asked the old woman. Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, “It’s a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband.”

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said.....  
“Good trade.....”

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Sometimes when I reflect back on all the wine I drink, I feel shame. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the vineyards and all of their hopes and dreams. If I did not drink this wine, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered.

Then I say to myself, “It’s better that I drink this wine and let their dreams come true rather than be selfish and worry about my liver.” Jack Handy.

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*Kids Learn Morse Code at Dutch Military Aviation Museum*

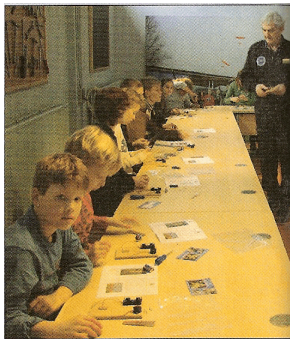
*Hans Coelers, PA0AAJ*

I am a volunteer of the Dutch Military Aviation Museum, at Soesterberg, The Netherlands. We have a vintage radio shack in a mock-up of a B-25 Mitchell WWII-era bomber. I operate mainly CW, on 80-40 meters; the call sign is PI9MLM.

The museum is giving workshops for children age 8 to 12 years on jet engines, flying and Morse Code.

On arrival the kids receive a booklet with all the information about Samuel Morse, the code and instructions on how to assemble the "sounder." The cost is about \$5 per child.

Then there's an explanation of Morse code history and a demonstration with station PI9MLM. The "sounder kit" consists of a predrilled wooden base and keyer, made from a strip of PC board and a doorknob. (The kids can keep the sounder and take it home.) Assembly takes about 20 minutes. After the assembly of the "sounder" they start to practice Morse, trying to key their name. On a laptop with a CW program they can check if the dot-dash ratio is okay. The Morse workshop takes about 90 minutes, and is very successful – the kids like the "secret code" and they also start writing in dots and dashes.



A 40 year ARRL member, Hans, PA0AAJ, helps teach Morse code to youngsters at a Dutch military museum.

AZERBAIJAN, 4J. Members of the 4K7Z radio club in Baku are QRV as either 4KP7Z or 4K1V until May 14 in commemoration of the Day of Victory in WWI. QSL via UA3FDX.

TIMOR-LESTE, 4W. Geoff, VK3ZGW is QRV as 4W6AAD while working in Dili. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q. 9Q1EK has been active at various times of the day on 160, 30, 15 and 6 meters. QSL via SM5DQC.

PORTUGAL, CT. Members of the Portuguese Navy Amateur Radio Group will be QRV as CQ5MGP in the Portuguese Navy Day Contest. In addition, look for CS5NRA to be active in the contest as well.

GERMANY, DA. Members of the Duisburg-Huckingen radio club are QRV as DL16XXV during 2007 in celebration of its 25th anniversary. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

ANTARCTICA. Mirko is QRV as DP0GVN from the Neumayer Research Base and has been active on 20 meters around 1600z. QSL via DL5EBE.

NORTH COOK ISLANDS, E5. Mike, KM9D and Jan, KF4TUG will be QRV as E51QMA and E51TUG, respectively, from Suvarrow Atoll. QSL via OM2SA.

BELARUS, EW. Hams in Orsha and Baran are QRV as EV6ZK until May 14 in celebration of the Day of Victory in WWI.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, HL. Rocky, HL1VAU/3, Han, DS2GOO/3 and Ryou, DS4NYE/3 are QRV from Anmyon, IOTA AS-080, until May 5. Activity is mainly on the newer bands and using digital modes. QSL to home calls.

HONDURAS, HR. Members of the Radio Club de Honduras are QRV as HQ9L from Little Cay, Bahia Archipelago, IOTA NA-057, until May 6. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via HR2RCH.

ITALY, I. IC8/IZ4AKS, IC8/IZ4DPV, IC8/IK8UND and IC8/IZ8GCB are QRV from Procida, IOTA EU-031, until May 7. They will be QRV as IC8R in the ARI contest. QSL IC8R via IC8OZM.

JAPAN, JA. JA1GLE, JA3BKM, JA4JBZ and JR8GZU are QRV as homecalls/6 from Taira Island, IOTA AS-049, until May 8. Activity is on all HF bands, including 6 meters. QSL to home calls.

BONAIRE, CURACAO, PJ2. Dale, PJ2/KC2PZ will be QRV from Signal Point on Curacao, IOTA SA-006, from May 8 to 14. QSL to home call.

POLAND, SP. Special event station SN70MKK is QRV until May 10 in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Morski Klub Krotkofalowcow. QSL via SP2AVE.

TURKEY, TA. TA1HZ and TA2RX are QRV as TC100FB during May in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the

football club Fenerbahce Istanbul. QSL via TA1HZ.

SPECIAL EVENT. Special event station EN62EN will be QRV from May 5 to 13 in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of the end of WWII. QSL via UR4EYN. In addition, special event station EM50ARDF is QRV until the end of 2007 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of amateur radio direction finding. QSL via US0VA.

PITCAIRN ISLAND, VP6. Tom, ZL2HGR will be QRV as VP6TD for about 4 months. He will be active using mainly PSK31 but also with CW and SSB as time permits. QSL direct to home call.

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*Deadline copy for the next*

***Wavelength***

*is June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007.*

***Keep them articles and letters coming.***

***Good Luck DX and see you down the log.***

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