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# WAVELENGTH

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

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President:    Bill Catlender VE3ILE  
                  Tel: (416) 439-1891

Vice Pres.    Bernadine Dinnard-Williams  
& Membership:    VE3YDB  
                  Tel: (416) 750-9885 x 231

Past Pres.    Audrey Little VA3YD  
                  (647) 436-8190

Secretary:    Ray Chow VE3ZXC  
                  (416) 443-6230

Treasurer:    Lambert Philadelphia  
                  VE3LYP (416) 750-4727

Communications & Field Day: Bob Chrysler  
                  VE3IEL (416) 264-2872

Education:    Nick Blacklock VE3EBC  
                  (416) 406-2478

Archives:    Gord Hogarth VE3CNA  
                  (416) 266-6734

Elmer:        Tony Fegan VE3QF

Security:     Gord Gault VE3UFF  
                  (416) 447-2285

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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.

**LEARN**

**PARTICIPATE**

**ENJOY**

We also want to emphasize that  
28.730 MHz. is our calling frequency.  
Please monitor and/or call your  
friends.

## **A new season**

We are starting a new season. This time it will be our 62<sup>nd</sup>. And a lot has changed in those 62 years. 62 years ago amateur radio started its second stage. Many communicators came home from the various services and there was a lot of military surplus gear available and also a lot guys with the expertise in electronics. Soon there after, we saw many electronic manufacturers starting to make transmitters, receivers etc. for the amateur population.

Just think about names like Collins, Hallicrafters, Drake and many others. Of course Heath kit was very instrumental in getting many new hams on the air. Now you may think, "What is this all leading up to?"

Well, we are at the beginning of a new stage in Amateur Radio. There are many reasons for that. #1 is the development of computers that are taking away many of the prospective youngsters who 30 to 40 years ago probably would have been interested in Ham radio. Of course that is not the only reason that we had to for instance downgrade the licensing requirements. A move that was necessary for Ham radio to survive.

I think that amateur radio will survive. At least for as long as I am on this planet but the changes are not finished yet. Another indicator is the decline in membership in the various clubs and the numbers attending meetings. Very few clubs are actually thriving.

Let me now address our own difficulty. We definitely will have a meeting on Monday, September 10, 2007 at the Senior Centre of the Mid-Scarborough

Community Hall. But as of now, we do not have a reasonable alternative for our meetings. I hope to have some good news by next Monday and we do have some good lead through the services of our friend Jim VA3KU but nothing is finalized as yet. Keep your fingers crossed and I hope to see you all on

*Monday, September 10*

**We need you there!!!**

**De Bill, VE3ILE**

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## **FIELD DAY 2007**

The Scarborough Amateur Radio Club participated again, like in many previous years, in Field day. Bob VE3ILE was the field day coordinator and had everything well organized. 5 stations and one GOTO station were on the air. Yes, I know most stations operated SSB and only one station operated CW. CW of course gives you 2 points for every contact. But we can perhaps do even better next year.

This year was an improvement over 2006 and as long as we go forward, we can't be disappointed. Also next year we should try to get on the digital modes like PSK31, RTTY and the like. Start thinking about it ladies and gentlemen.

We had 28 hams, SWL's and visitors present at our site at Bruce's mill at one time or another. There were even stalwarts who camped over on Friday to Saturday night. That's the spirit.

The kitchen under guidance of Jim and Lois did a wonderful job. Pancakes, bacon, chicken etc. were dug into by those present. And most, if not all brought in a pot luck dish to make for a well-balanced diet.

Here a list of those who participated. If any one is passed over, please blame your scribe.

Bill VE3ILE & Paul VE3HFM 40 CW  
Peter VE3FJI (Bernadine VE3YDB, Ray VE3ZXC, Cyril VA3CJE, XYL and stepdaughter), 40 M SSB  
VE3EBC Nick 80M SSB  
VE3SOY Rod 160 SSB  
VE3HAG Hugh 10 M SSB  
VE3EBC Nick 15 M SSB  
VE3LYP Lambert 20 M Goto SSB with assistance of Bob VE3IEL  
Kitchen staff: Lois VE3QCK and Jim VE3PII

Other hams present and helping at different stations:  
VA3TSG Ted, VE3MMT Michelle and their 2 harmonics.  
VE3WTR Edgar, VE3KCO Earle, VA3RSA Richard  
Visitor: VE3CRU Bill  
VE3CIW Ralph  
SWL: Rob Helsby, Amy Bautista  
Debra & David Shepherdson.

And now for the results:

160 SSB	17
80 SSB	53
40 SSB	155
40 CW 183 x 2	366
20 SSB Goto VE3HR	42
15 SSB	9
10 SSB	3

So that comes to a total of 645 pts.

Thanks to all who were there, nice job and see you next year.

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## Propagation

Tad Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot numbers pulled up from zero this week, but barely. Average daily sunspot numbers rose more than nine points to 12.9. Geomagnetic conditions were quiet. Conditions have been quiet for so long that we may not appreciate this, as many of us wish for more solar activity and sunspots. Geophysical Institute Prague predicted earlier that August 31 would be quiet to unsettled, September 1 unsettled to active, unsettled conditions September 2-3, quiet September 4-5 and unsettled to active again on September 6. Over the same period, the US Air Force predicts planetary A index of 15, 25, 12, 12, 8, 5 and 15 for August 31-September 6. From the same prediction, it looks like September 8-17 may see a return of zero sunspot days. Sunspot numbers for August 23 through 29 were 12, 12, 14, 13, 12, 14 and 13 with a mean of 12.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.8, 71.6, 71.5, 70.1, 69.2, 70.1 and 69.6 with a mean of 70.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 2, 8, 10, 12, 11 and 4 with a mean of 7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 1, 6, 10, 10, 9 and 4 with a mean of 5.9.

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Licensed for 25 years? Join the QCWA. Next meeting and luncheon at the Plainsman Restaurant, Clappison's Corners. For more info contact Bert VE3OBU.  
balmemo@sympatico.ca



*Everybody complains about my drinking but nobody cares about my thirst.*

## SARC PICNIC

This year the yearly picnic c.q. BBQ took another turn and instead of getting together in a park, we gathered together at the QTH of Bill, VE3ILE.

The party started at 16:00 hrs and a total of 27 SARC members and a few invited guests were present. For weeks we had been begging for rain but nothing came down for weeks. However on Saturday, August 25, we had a downpour for a bout 20 to 30 minutes.

Fortunately because of the carport, everyone stayed dry. It was the only little that went wrong during that day. We all had a great time. Two BBQ's were set up under the carport and the hamburgers and sausages really hit the spot.

Before the BBQ, we had a social hour and some beer and wine were available. There were different salads, cheese trays etc. And for desert there was ice cream with a bit of cream liquor, different tarts and water melon. So nobody went away hungry.

A good time was had by all. Something to do again next year.

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## ABOUT CONNECTORS

The following was taken from the September CQ magazine. This is an excellent publication and it is worth to take a subscription out on this and also of course QST and TCA.

### *“Premium connectors”*

Next we would like to discuss the gold-plated “premium” connectors that are now being sold. These are touted as offering superior results as compared to the older solder or tin-plated versions that have been sold for years. Now it is true that gold-plated pins are used for high-end connectors to assure good connections for low-level signals, but this is because of the softness of gold as well as the fact that it doesn't corrode. When you have signals in the millivolt region, or in environments where the ambient conditions are severe, this is important. For routine connections, especially in the home, I think this is overkill.

As an Example, my old Kenwood TS-530s has plenty of solder-coated pins in a multitude of internal connectors and has never exhibited a poor connection. A 1930 Atwater Kent radio I restored has solder-coated tube socket pins as well as a solder-coated multi-pin plug to connect the speaker, and it is still going strong. Even the 800-MHz wideband RF feed to my home from the local cable company has solder- (or tin-) coated connectors both outside on the utility pole and at the splitter in the house. There connections have been intermittence free for mor than 10 years. To sum this up, I believe that while gold-plated connectors certainly are not bad and do look nice, they probably are not really worth the extra cost.

Irwin, WA2NDM

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## DX NEWS

FIJI, 3D2. Tomas, LY1F is QRV as 3D2MT until September 4. Activity is on 80 to 17 meters using mainly CW. This includes an entry in the All Asian DX contest. QSL to home call.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. In celebration of 50 years of nationhood, 16 stations located throughout Malaysia will use special call prefix 9M50M until September 1. QSL via bureau.

TONGA, A3. Ron, ZL1AMO is QRV as A35EA from Lifuka, IOTA OC-169, until September 16. His activity is holiday style. QSL to home call.

SPAIN, EA. In commemoration of the European basketball championship EuroBasket 2007, special event stations AN0EB, AN4EB, AN5EB, AN6EB and AN7EB will be QRV from September 1 to 16. QSL all calls via EA4RCH.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Heinz, DH1PS is QRV as EA8/DH1PS/p from Fuerteventura Island, IOTA AF-004, and its Lighthouse, WLOTA 0883, until September 8. QSL to home call.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Dieter, DL2BQD plans to be QRV as MD/DL2BQD from September 6 to 13 or 14. Activity will be mainly during his evenings on 40, 30 and 20 meters using QRP power. QSL to home call.

ST. LUCIA, J6. Bill, K9HZ is QRV as either J69HZ or J6/K9HZ until September 2.

Activity is on 20 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1. JA6GXX is QRV as JD1BMM from Marcus Island until September 20. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

PERU, OA. Dane, S57CQ is QRV as OA4/S57CQ until September 3 while working as an Emergency Preparedness and Response Officer with the UN World Food Program. Activity is mostly on 20 meters using SSB, with some CW and RTTY. QSL to home call.

FINLAND, OH. Markus, OH1MN hopes to be QRV as OF1OTA from Luonnonmaa Island on September 1 and 2. Activity is on HF, and 6 and 2 meters using SSB, with FSK on 2 meters. QSL to home call.

BELGIUM, ON. In tribute to the Belgium resistance during WW II, members of the Radio club de Binche will be QRV as ON4WAR from Waudrez on September 1 and 2. Activity will be on 40 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via ON7RY.

POLAND, SP. Special event station 3Z0MSPO will be QRV September 3 to 6 to commemorate the 15th International Defense Industry Exhibition from Kielce. QSL via bureau. In addition, special event station SN10IPA is QRV until September 16 in celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the International Police Association. QSL via bureau.

GREECE, SV. Geza, HA4XG is QRV as J48XG and SV8/HA4XG from Corfu Island, IOTA EU-052, until September 6

during a family holiday here. Activity is on all HF bands, including 6 and 2 meters. He will also try some Meteor Scatter on 2 meters. QSL direct to home call.

EAST KIRIBATI, T32. Gordon, WB6NOA is QRV as T32GW from Fanning Island, IOTA OC-084, until September 3. This is not a Dxpedition, so his activity will be in his spare time. QSL to home call.

CAMEROON, TJ. TJ3SL has been active on 17 meters around 1440 to 1600z and then 20 meters around 1630z. QSL via F5PSA.

EUROPEAN RUSSIA, UA. Special event station RC150KTS is QRV during September to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Russian scientist and pioneer of astronautic theory, Konstantin E. Tsiolkovsky. QSL via RU3SD.

CANADA, VE. Steve, VE2TKH is QRV as VO2ZT from Labrador City until September 4. Activity is on HF using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL to home call.

INDIA, VU. Members of the National Institute of Amateur Radio in Hyderabad are QRV as special event station AT60MY until November 17 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of India's independence. QSL via VU2NRO.

INDONESIA, YB. Rich, PA0RRS is QRV as YB9/PA0RRS from Bali Island, IOTA OC-022, until September 24. Activity is mostly on 40 to 10 meters, but will try 80 and 6 meters as well. QSL to home call.

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## SICK AND DISABLED

We would like to stay in touch with the members who are sick or have other physical problems. So if you do know of any of our members who is in a situation like that, please contact either Ray Chow VE3ZXC or myself Bill Catlender, VE3ILE so we can give a phone call or pay him or her a visit. This will be besides of course a nice card to lift up their spirits, hopefully signed by as many members as possible.

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A husband and wife came for counseling after 15 years of marriage. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a passionate, painful tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the fifteen years they had been married. She went on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of un-met needs she had endured over the course of her marriage. Finally, after allowing this to go on for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and, after asking the wife to stand, embraced and kissed her passionately. The woman shut up and quietly sat down as though in a daze. The therapist turned to the husband and said: "This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?" The husband thought for a moment and replied: "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I fish."



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**Late breaking news!**

**We do have a meeting place at the Mid-Scarborough Community**

**Centre. Tuesdays, rather than Mondays. And different room. Attend September 10 same time, same room, for further**