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WAVELENGTH

Official bulletin of
 Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
www.ve3we.org

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

December 2010

Volume 4 Issue 10

President:	Bernadine Dinnard-Williams	Sunday	SARC Nets
	VE3YDB		28.730 Mhz
Vice-President:	Ralph Muecke VE3VXY		CW 10:00 AM
		Tuesday	SSB 10:30 AM
Secretary:	Ray Chow VE3ZXC		147.060 MHz (VE3RPT)
Treasurer:	Lambert Philadelphia VE3LYP		7:30 PM
Membership:	Ian Gibbard VA3IGD		Alternate frequency
Communications:	Luc Seguin VA3LMS	Thursday	146.520 MHz simplex
Field Day:	Rod Long VE3SOY		28.730 MHz
Education:	Ralph Muecke VE3VXY		SSB 7:00 PM
Examiner:	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC		
Assistant	Dean Dalrymple VA3DBD		Everyone is invited to check in on CW before the nets start.
Secretary/Treasurer			
:			
Archives:	Gord Hogarth VE3CNA		These are open nets. All licensed hams are welcome. Come and join us.
	Audrey Little VA3YD		
Elmer:	Rod Long VE3SOY		We also want to emphasize that 28.730 MHz is our calling frequency. Please monitor and/or call your friends. 7:00 PM is a good time.
	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC		

SARC Annual General Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2011 starting at 7 PM.

New ARES Net

by Bernie Roche VE3OTR
forwarded by Bob Chrysler VE3IEL

On Sunday Nov.7th, Toronto ARES started a new weekly ARES / EmComm GTA Regional Net. The net will be on VE3TWR on the CN Tower 145.410- no tone. The net will be on every Sunday at 5.30 PM. The net is a roll call net. The regions are - City of Toronto - Halton - Peel - York - Durham.

Every station that calls into the net will be on the roll call list for the next two nets. Subsequently any station that does not call in for two weeks is cut from the roll call list. This way we will be able to maintain an automatic rolling list of active stations who keep up an interest in this activity. There is a specific net related bulletin on the Toronto ARES website home page listing the roll call stations for each week.

Also be aware that there are plans to run a daily ARES / EmComm Net. We are considering the powerful VA3BAL repeater and expect the time to be 11.00 am every morning. I will inform you as soon as we are ready to go with this daily net. I shall be seeking net controllers from our region for both nets. All of this regional activity should be a big boost to our mutual aid initiatives. Your support is important and much appreciated. Working together we can make it happen.

Long-Delayed Echoes

To continue the Long-Delayed Echoes column, I have attached a copy of a page from XTAL magazine for December 1948 that may make for some interesting reading. You can see an announcement for the SARC Annual Banquet to be held Saturday, January 29, 1949. Tickets at \$2.75 !

Also the column: "C. & U.S.R.S. COLUMN" by Sid Prior is worthy of note as Sid was a long-time member of SARC and was out on many Field Days. He liked to man a central kitchen and had things to eat and drink to keep the operators making those contacts. In those days, we operated the full 24 hours. His nickname was "Cookie". As I recall, Sid never got his ham license and moved on to the specialty of "vintage radio" where I lost track of him.

C. & U. S. R. S. means, "Canadian & United States Receiving Station". Short-wave listening (SWL) was an honorable activity back before and after World War II and that was the "route" I took before I got my "ticket" in 1958. SWL'ing trained and taught about the vital radio skill of listening. Yes, listening is a skill. HI. Other "routes" taken to enter Amateur Radio were ex-service personnel who had been part of radio one way or another during the war like Eric Olsen, VE3GGO and Roy Tuttle, VE3BNV (sk) and Bill Catlender, VE3PA / VE3ILE. All long-time members of SARC. After that, many entered Amateur Radio through the General Radio Service or Citizen's Band, (CB).

Please keep an eye out for any old Amateur Radio memorabilia / publications and let me know what you find. Also, please keep an eye on the SARC website from time to time, as I now have a new scanner and 1 Tb external hard drive and plan to scan the more interesting things among the Club Archives and arrange with Ray to put them up on VE3WE.org.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Health and Prosperous New Year from my QTH to your QTH.

73 de Gord, VE3CNA

Victoria A.E.C.

7TG is emergency co-ordinator, 7SW AEC. In charge of two-meter EC activity is 7AEB. 7AKB and 7HR are organizing things on 10. Forty and 80 meter CW activity are under 7SW and 7XA. 7SW is also AEC and OBS on 80 meter CW. TIM is setting up a EC net on 75 phone. 7AAZ and 7CB are EC representatives to the 5 o'clock net and linking stations to mainland points. Other appointments are pending.

Disaster day will be Dec. 5 in Victoria. AEC plans are for a local net on 75 and 235 Mc at the Armories, Red Cross headquarters, police departments, VSWC clubhouse mobile stations. Links will be set up on 75, 40, 10 and 2 meters to pass traffic points. Taking part will be AEC, VSWC, Red Cross, Army units, and police departments.

QRRRR Alberni and Port Alberni

Lost all lines, slides block road and rail train missing Nov. 16-48. Twenty-four hours handling traffic were the following stations: Ve7ACW, 7PY, 7CX, 7KE, 7SW, 7PO, 7AAZ, 7WP, 7DA, 7FB. Many thanks to the Ve6's and Ve7's who let us use their frequencies and to any others that we may have left out of the roll call.

Information regarding all active Canadian nets will be appreciated.

C.&U.S.R.S. COLUMN
By Sid Prior

Good December, my friendlys, and how is the S.W.L. contest coming on in your shack? If by chance you missed seeing the rules and regulations, turn back to October issue of XTAL and you will see there is lots of time to get in, and have a lot of fun this winter with a chance of winning one of the prizes which I will be telling you about very shortly.

Since Nov. 1, the start of the contest, 10 and 20 has been very spotty as far as dx is concerned. There has been some short skip and the S.A.'s and W6's have rolled in, but with the winter coming on dx should get better.

Have had a couple of nice letters this month, and one is from Cyril Wallis of Lansing, Ont. He listens in on a Super Pro 400x and a H.F. 10-20 converter ahead of it. Cyril is putting up a Hammond Beam for 10, so SWL for him is going to be a treat.

The other letter was by carrier pigeon and in it was some choice QRM about the boys in the Upper Canada College Radio Club, so I will spill it:

Gordon West, "Bill", is the secretary and a CAROA member, and keeps out of trouble listening in on a 19 set on 75 and 80. Bill is quite old, all of 15 years.

John Dick, 16, is the treasurer, and has engineer's papers to operate a 19 set on 75 and 80.

Dave Bowden, all of 17, we think, is the big noise up at U.C.C.R.C., as he is the president, and he too manipulates a 19 set on 75 and 80.

Now there is just one thing we all want to know. Did you fellows put in a bid to the Canadian Army to buy up all the 19 sets available? All kidding aside, I like to hear from all you young gaffers, so carry on, young Canada.

So save anybody interested a lot of trouble, I may mention an incident that happened to me:

I was interested in securing a surplus P.E. 103A Dynamotor at \$9.95 from St. Louis, Mo., for the club to use as an experimental supply for mobile work. In accordance with our Department of Trade and Commerce, I sent six copies of C.G. 101 and the necessary letter, etc., to secure permit for import. In answer, I received a letter dated Nov. 8 to affect that we regret, no soap, etc., foreign exchange, (\$9.95), so, fellows if you are looking through a U.S. catalogue and see a choice surplus item, just forget it.

So, gang, as this is December and Xmas very near, may I extend to each one of you my personal best wishes for a very Merry Xmas, and a happy and prosperous dx New Year, and I hope you all get that something for the shack.

Till January and the new year 1949—73.

Meet Your Friends At The

SCARBORO A.R.C.

ANNUAL BANQUET

AT THE Y.W.C.A.

1152 Gerrard St. E.

Saturday, Jan. 29

TURKEY DINNER

ENTERTAINMENT

PRIZES

Registration Starts 3 p.m.

TICKETS: \$2.75

SARC Elections

On December 13 we had our elections and Christmas party. All positions were open for election, but since we had no more than one nomination for each, there was no need for ballots. The new executive panel for 2011 is as follows.

President	Ralph Muecke VE3VXY/VE3CIW
Vice-President	Arpad Vadasz VA3VAD
Secretary	Ray Chow VE3ZXC
Treasurer	Lambert Philadelphia VE3LYP
Membership Coordinator	Antonio Tiongson VE3FDU
Communications Coordinator	Bob Chrysler VE3IEL
Education Coordinator	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC
Field Day Coordinator	Asif Ahmed VA3SIF
Assistant Secretary	open
Assistant Treasurer	open
Past President	Bernadine Dinnard-Williams VE3YDB

Appointed Positions

Examiner	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC
Archives	Gord Hogarth VE3CNA/Audrey Little VA3YD

Is Ham Radio Dying?

[Editor's note: although this is a US-specific article, I've included it here because the concerns in Canada are very similar.]

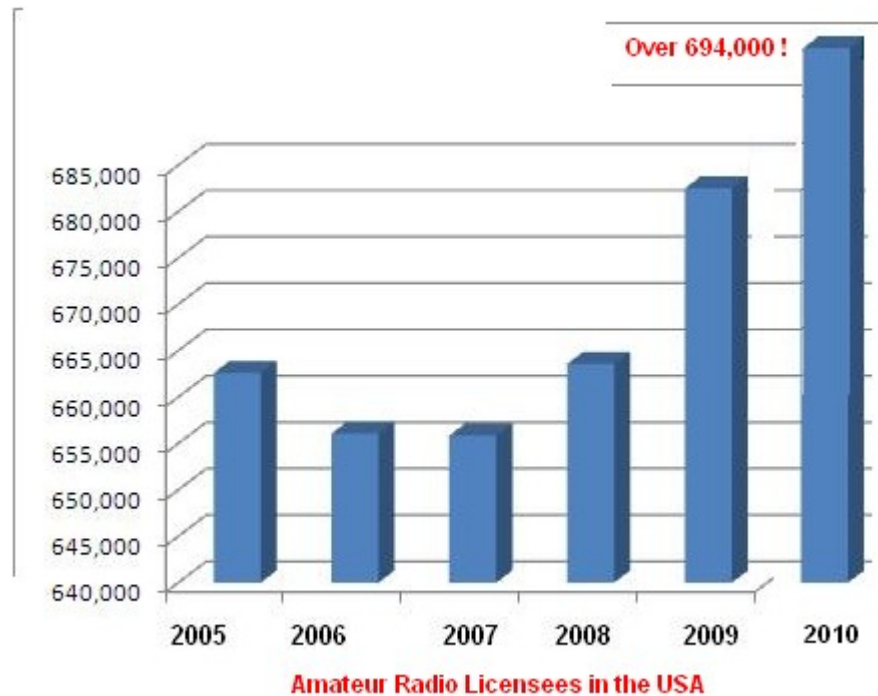
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

If you've been around ham radio for even a year or two, you've no doubt heard or participated in the debate as to whether or not ham radio is dying. The question is as perennial as the grass.

Recently, this was a topic of discussion on the ARRL PR mailing list. Allen, W1AGP, the ARRL's Media & PR Manager, generated a chart to show that ham radio is NOT dying. It showed the number of licensees in the U.S. every year from 2005 to 2009:

2005: 661,000
 2006: 655,000
 2007: 655,000
 2008: 662,000
 2009: 681,000
 2010: 694,000!

This chart as drawn is a good example of how you can lie with statistics. The y-axis started at 640,000, so the rate of increase in the number of licensees looked quite dramatic. Even so, the good news is that the number of licensees is quickly approaching 700,000, and should surpass that number shortly.



Upon seeing this chart, Jerry,

N9TU, did a little statistical analysis of his own. Of the 83 licensees in his zip code, nine are deceased and one has expired. There are four Novices, 36 Techs, 18 Generals, 5 Advanced and ten Extras.

From this data, he deduces, "If this is an average sampling of deceased members, expired members and club licenses, there are roughly 90,000 fewer licensees than shown in the data nationwide. I have no clue of the error rate involved with my data. Your results may vary." My guess is that his zip code is probably pretty typical, and that his analysis is essentially correct.

There's also the question of activity. It's my guess that nearly half of all licensees are inactive, and that if we could figure out a way to activate those hams, then we'd really be able to say that our hobby is not dying. It's something worth thinking about, but there's certainly no easy answer to this problem. As Yogi Berra is purported to have said, "If people don't want to come out to the ball park, there's nothing you can do to stop them."

Overall, though, I think the numbers are headed in the right direction. Ham radio is NOT dying. Let's all keep up the good work.

When not pondering whether the reports of ham radio's death have been greatly exaggerated or not, Dan operates CW on the HF bands, teaches ham radio classes, and blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com. All comments welcome and appreciated. E-mail them to cwgeek@kb6nu.com.