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# WAVELENGTH

Official bulletin of  
 Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
[www.ve3we.org](http://www.ve3we.org)

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

April 2012

Volume 6 Issue 4

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 Nick Blacklock VE3EBC

Sunday

Tuesday

Thursday

Saturday

### SARC Nets

28.730 MHz  
 CW 10:00 AM  
 SSB 10:30 AM  
 147.060 MHz (VE3RPT)  
 7:30 PM  
 Alternate frequency  
 146.520 MHz simplex  
 28.730 MHz  
 SSB 7:00 PM  
 3.740 MHz  
 SSB 7:30 PM

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

These are open nets. All licensed hams are 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. 7:00 PM is a good time.

## **SARC 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party**

### **April 23, 2012 7 PM**

### **Don Montgomery CC**

# VA3/VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau

From Gord VE3CNA:

I was at Hamex 2012 and the QSL Bureau had a display where I have learned that the Incoming VA3 / VE3 QSL Bureau has a new mailing address:

The NEW ADDRESS is:

VA3 / VE3 Incoming QSL Bureau,  
P. O. Box 216,  
STREETSVILLE, ONTARIO L5M 2B8

Email contact: [qslmgr@ontarioincomingqslbureau.ca](mailto:qslmgr@ontarioincomingqslbureau.ca)

This is a user-pay service and the fee structure is:

Postage + \$0.20 for up to 100g,

Postage + \$0.75 for 101 to 500g.

100 g is approx. 30 QSL cards.

It seems that the Post Office closed where the previous box was located.

For those with mailing labels and funds at the old address, nothing needs to be done now. New labels and money should be sent to the new address.

## Free Circuit Design Tools for Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a week ago, I started looking for a schematic capture program so that I could easily generate some simple schematics for my upcoming Extra Class study guide. Since I use a Mac as my main computer, I first asked on the Ham-Mac mailing list if anyone knew of a good one. I got several recommendations, including:

Diptrace (<http://www.diptrace.com/>),

Eagle (<http://www.cadsoftusa.com/downloads/freeware/?language=en>), and

McCad (<http://mccad.com/>)

Eagle looked like a good choice, although several people mentioned that the user interface “left much to be desired.”

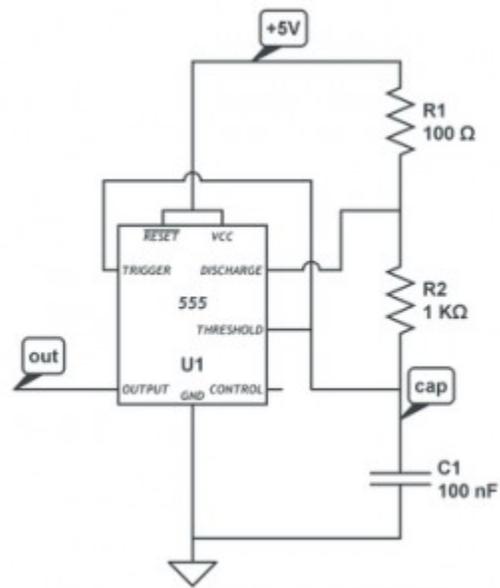
Then, I remembered that I had OmniGraffle (<http://www.omnigroup.com/omnigraffle>), which is a general-purpose diagramming tool. Googling around, I found several sets of electronic symbol libraries that could be used with OmniGraffle. I installed them, and generated a couple of figures for the study guide section that discusses T-network and pi-network filters. It was a reasonably good solution to my problem.

## A Web solution

A couple of days ago, though, someone on the local Maker mailing list, pointed me towards CircuitLab (<https://www.circuitlab.com/>), an online schematic capture tool and circuit simulator. I haven't tried the circuit simulation yet, but the schematic capture tool is really easy to use. It's much easier to use for drawing circuit diagrams than OmniGraffle.

Another benefit is that it doesn't matter what computer you're using. Because it runs in a Web browser, it doesn't matter whether that browser is running on a Mac or a PC or even a Linux box.

If you set up an account, you can save circuits to your "workbench." To get you started, there are some sample circuits, such as the 555 timer circuit shown in Figure 1. There's also some decent documentation and a forum where you can discuss circuits and get some help.



Finally, the price is right, too. It looks like using CircuitLab is completely free. I couldn't find any pages that required payment.

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When not searching the Web for circuit design tools, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW and twittering away about his contacts. His Twitter id is @kb6nu. He would love for you to follow him there. If you don't tweet, you can still read his blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)

# Long-Delayed Echoes

Hello All SARC members and Alumni:

On Monday, April 23, 2012, our Club will achieve the full age of 66 years. Truly a landmark.

The founding meeting took place on a Tuesday evening, April 23, 1946 at 160 Scarboro Crescent in the Kingston Road and Midland Avenue area of Scarborough and our Club has been in continuous operation since then.

Thinking backwards from now in 2012 to 1966 a time of 46 years ( and at that time our 20th Anniversary ), I retrieved from the Archives, a copy of the SARC newsletter called: "VE3WE Calling" at that time, for the combined months of April and May of 1966 for an historical picture of SARC as it was then. Here are some of the highlights:

- The front cover contained a hand-drawing of a map of the coming Field Day site drawn by VE3FET showing Copperfield Park that was a great radio location on the brink of the Scarborough Bluffs and overlooking Lake Ontario. Bit cool and damp in the morning but what a view from 100 feet above the lake.

- A column called "Leave it to the Engineers" on page 4 where members' questions were answered.
- "XYL & YL News", page 5.
- Letters to the Editor.
- A short list of some repeater stations including VE3RPT(!) on page 6. Repeaters were new then! Can you imagine ?
- Minutes of some general meetings on page 7 & 8 tell what was happening in SARC in 1966.
- Article about: "Field Day --- A Kaleidoscope by Dick Guy, VE3TT" Tells about FD HI. and offers a list of things to bring along too. Worth the read today for next FD. Dick was a top CW man and contester. He moved to B.C. and became VE7TT.
- For Sale and Wanted.
- A list of members of SARC complete with cross-references to call signs on pages 13-15. How many of those members do you remember ??
- And more.

"VE3WE CALLING" was printed on a Gestetner duplicating machine and used legal size paper, printed both sides. That meant creating a master for each page using a typewriter set so that the typewriter ribbon did not engage and the type face penetrated the master making up a "negative". This was then placed on the machine with ink and each page was printed. Then the pages had to be collated, stapled, labeled and postage affixed and delivered to the Post Office. This issue involved making 16 legal sized sheets and a lot of work by many volunteers of the club. Audrey, VA3YD can tell of many Saturdays spent at Eva and Barney's (VE3EVA & VE3MB) home getting the paper out. Much coffee and good times for sure.

My own memory tells me that we went through two Gestetner machines before we went to a club-owned photocopy machine. I know that Bill Catlender, VE3PA / VE3ILE typed many of the masters. Thanks Bill and Audrey and to many other "willing hands" who produced the paper..

The whole of "VE3WE Calling for April / May, 1966" is available by following this link:

<http://ve3we.org/archives/3464>

I do hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter as much as I did while preparing this column.

HAPPY 66<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY, SARC. And many more of them.

73 de Gord, VE3CNA

# Distracted Driving Legislation

RAC Bulletin 2012-023E - Distracted Driving in Ontario  
2012-04-17

On April 16 the MTO posted a regulatory notice proposing a change to Ontario Regulation # 366/09 (Display Screens and Hand-Held Devices) that would Extend the current exemption for licenced amateur radio operators for an additional five years.

As you know, the exemption was due to expire at the end of this calendar year, and Radio Amateurs of Canada has been lobbying for a permanent exemption since this regulation was introduced back in 2009. We will be providing comments to the Road User Safety Branch of MTO on this issue and will continue to press for a permanent exemption. That said, a 5-year extension is certainly welcome at this point but is not the ultimate resolution that we have been seeking.

The only other group to obtain an extension are commercial, public transit, and public function drivers.

You can view the notice in the provincial registry at:

<http://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=9043&language=en>

RAC and the Distracted Driving Committee wishes to thank all organisations that supplied letters of support to assist us in obtaining this extension. This shows the support we have from many Ontario organisations.

Bill Unger VE3XT - North/East Ontario Regional Director  
Chair - RAC Distracted Driving Committee  
Radio Amateurs of Canada