WAVELENGTH

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

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

February 2013 Volume 7 Issue 2

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Vice-President:	Luc Seguin VA3LMS
Secretary:	Ray Chow VE3ZXC
Treasurer:	Lambert Philadelphia VE3LYP
Membership:	
Communications:	
Field Day:	Rod Long VE3SOY
Education:	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC
Examiner:	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC
Assistant Secretary:	Rod Long VE3SOY
Archives:	Gord Hogarth VE3CNA
	Audrey Little VA3YD
Elmer:	Rod Long VE3SOY
	Nick Blacklock VE3EBC

SARC Nets

Sunday	28.730 MHz
	CW 10:00 AM
	SSB 10:30 AM
Tuesday	147.060 MHz (VE3RPT)
	7:30 PM
	Alternate frequency
	146.520 MHz simplex
Thursday	28.730 MHz
	SSB 7:00 PM
Saturday	14.125 MHz
	SSB 10:00 AM (VE1EBK)

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.

Long-Delayed Echoes

Hello All SARC Members and "Alumni":

This month's "echo" is from XTAL magazine for February, 1948 and, once again, our good, old club is mentioned. It seems that on January 24, 1948 the club hosted their "Second Annual Banquet" and attracted more than 275 registered in attendance and was reported as one of the largest and best ham gatherings ever held in Canada! How about that.

I was around 7 years of age at that time and knew nothing about radio. How times do change. HI.

Take note of the notice about The Wireless Association of Ontario activities. Ham radio was "booming" in 1948.

With the help of Ken Grant, VE3FIT and our Secretary / Editor, Ray, VE3ZXC you will now find what is believed to be 'every known' copy of XTAL magazine on the Long-Delayed Echoes site. That is located on www.ve3we.org/ under "affiliates", under "long-delayed echoes", under "Canadian Amateur Radio Operators Association".

Also, to the best of my knowledge, no one else has digitized these magazines and put them on the WWW for all to enjoy. Other ham radio publications such as QST, CQ, 73, Ham Radio etc. are on the web and now XTAL.

There are some new photos taken by personal friends of mine's parents of the "Northern Ontario Hamfest" ca. 1954 and 1955 for you to enjoy. Thanks to Bob, VE3IEL for the loan of a slide scanner so these photos could be uploaded to the WWW.

If you communicated by wireless (radio) before 1988 and are still a "Ham" you are probably eligible to join the Quarter Century Wireless Association and take part in their activities.

The national and international QCWA website is: www.qcwa.org

Our own local chapter is the Fred Hammond Chapter 73 (previously known as the "Southern Ontario Chapter 73) and their website is: www.qcwa.ca

Chapter 73 meets twice a year at the Mohawk Inn, West of Toronto starting around 9:00 am for coffee and fellowship, followed by a speaker and a lunch and a lucky draw and concludes around 1:30 pm.

If you do wish to join, I will be pleased to propose you for membership as required by the QCWA By-laws. Please contact me to make arrangements.

73 for now. Gord, VE3CNA

CAROA CLUB ACTIVITIES

CAROA is endeavouring to revise its file of active clubs in Canada, so that the many inquiries regarding times and places of meetings, club executive, etc., can be fully answered. Numerous Canadian hams are required to be out of town on business and they would be like to feel that the welcome mat was spread for them wherever they go.

At some future date we would like to publish a club directory, so won't you please help us by dropping a line to 46 St. George St., Toronto, giving pertinent details?

It might be well at this time to remind the clubs that the only qualification for affiliation with CAROA is that 60 per cent of the club members be members of CAROA. Poll your membership, and, if qualified, request affiliation. There is strength in numbers and Canadian amateurs must have strength and unity if their future is to be secure.

Club news is brief this month, since many clubs suspended regular meetings during the Christmas and New Year's season.

The Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club held a pre-Christmas meeting on Dec. 15. A good representation of active club members were present and considerable time was given to discussion of the nomination for S.C.M. of ARRL. Members were urged to contact Alex Reid regarding the proposed amateur frequency changes. Ve4AD reported to the meeting the scope and significance of the new frequency allocation for NBFM.

The Lakeburn Amateur Radio Club, of Lakeburn, N.B., have elected their executive for 1948. They are: President, H. McKenzie, Ve1PA; Vice-president, R. Harris, Ve1RE, and Secretary-treasurer, D. Murphy, Ve1AQ. The club is looking forward to an interesting season with Ve1PA at the helm, as he was one of the original founders of the club and is an "old-timer," having been on the air since 1928.

The new executive of the **Calgary Amateur Radio Club** is as follows: President, G. Sargenia, Ve6AO; Vice-president, W. Hackett, Ve6PY; treasurer, J. Hunter, Ve6XX; Secretary, H. Picken, Ve6QS, and officers, Ve6BV and Ve6GR.

The Hamilton Amateur Radio Club, who hold their regular meetings in McMaster University on the third Thursday of each month, held a recent by-election, and Dan Welsh now fills the vacancy in the post of secretary. The first monthly issue of their "Radio Club News," a mimeographed bulletin was published on [illegible]ry 10. In future this newsheet will serve to notify members of coming meetings, and a staff covering dx news, operation skeds, activity, etc., is under the able editorship of Whetham, Ve3BNU.

The Wireless Association of Ontario, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the auditorium of the Training and Re-establishment Centre, Gould St., Toronto, was fortunate in having Morley C. Patterson, Ve3ER, address their January 13 meeting on N.B.F.M. In view of the fact that frequencies have recently been allotted in all phone bands for this mode of transmission, Mr. Patterson's talk was very timely and well attended.

The Cariboo Amateur Radio Club, Prince George, B.C., one of the newest organizations in the province, have made a fine beginning by instituting a drive to publicize the cause of amateur radio. The president, C. B. Moore, Ve7ADH, owner of a large electrical store in Prince George, donated window space to a special amateur radio exhibit, where receivers, transmitters, parts, books and miscellaneous gear were displayed and demonstrations given to an interested public. Results were a dozen new club members and embryo hams who are being given code instruction. The club secretary, Ve7DV, addressed the Prince George Rotary Club on amateur radio, and has been invited to enlarge upon the talk at a future meeting. Many of the leading professional and business leaders of Prince George were enlightened on the work and activities of the amateur in Canada and other countries of the world, both in peacetime and during a national emergency. There is a definite need for more publicity of this nature for amateur radio. What better way to handle this type of program than through an organized club? The Cariboo A.R.C. meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and code and theory classes, under the direction of Ve7ADH, Ve7DV and Ve7AHT, are held each Tuesday and Thursday.

The Scarboro Amateur Radio Club held their second annual banquet Jan. 24. More than 275 registered. Congratulations for conducting one of the largest and best ham gatherings ever held in Canada.

Please do not send membership fees in cash to H.Q. in unregestered letters. Send a postal note, money order or cheque.

Ferreting out noise sources

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About three months ago, I put up a 20m antenna—an end-fed, half-wave antenna (http://www.kb6nu.com/kb6nu-finally-builds-an-end-fed-half-wave-antenna/). Right off the bat, I was flummoxed by the high noise level. It was nearly S9, obliterating all but the strongest signals.

The strange thing about this noise was that I was only experiencing it on 20m, and only using this antenna. If I switched to my 40m dipole, the noise dropped back to the S1 - S2 noise level that I usually experience here. (Yes, I know. I'm really lucky to have such a low noise level here.)

It didn't really make any sense to me that this antenna would be so susceptible to noise while my other antennas weren't, but I just couldn't come up with any other explanation. I was not experiencing any noise on any of the other bands, after all. Sometimes 40m is so quiet here that I check to make sure that the antenna is connected to the radio.

As luck would have it, I stumbled upon the noise source a couple of days ago. I had taken the laptop I normally use in the shack somewhere one day last week, and when I returned it to the shack that evening, I switched the rig over to 20m before connecting the power supply back to the laptop. No noise! When I plugged the power supply into the laptop, the noise jumped up to S9 again. The problem noise source was found!

I posted about my experience to my blog and to the HamRadioHelpGroup (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup/). Mark, K5LXP, one of the gurus on HRHG, advised me to throw the main circuit breaker in order to determine if it was something inside the house generating the noise. Bob, K0NR, commented on my blog post, "I have found that flipping off circuit breakers in my house is a good first step to try and find a noise source. Usually ticks off the family, but what the heck :-)" Either of these methods will help you determine if a noise source is inside or outside of your house.

I'm still thinking that the way my antenna is positioned may have something to do with its picking up the noise generated by the power supply. I plan to play around with the positioning of the antenna once the snow melts and see if that makes any difference. Until then, I can work 20m with the power supply disconnected and run the laptop off the battery.

So, the next question you might ask is how does the antenna work? It seems to be putting out a very good signal. One evening last week, I worked several DX stations, including 6W/HA0NAR in Senegal. It's not a beam, but I'm pretty happy with it.

When he's not worrying about his signal-to-noise ratio, Dan, KB6NU publishes the "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides. The latest in this series is the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Study Guide. For more information, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.