



WAVELENGTH

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SCARBOROUGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.

February 2007 Volume 1 Issue 1

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UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12 - Quiz Night

**February 26 - Guest speaker: Our own
treasurer Lambert Philadelphia VE3LYP**

**March 12 - Stan Leschinsky VE3TW.
Subjec : Radio Amateurs of Canada.**

VE3ILE rambles on!

After many years of absence, it was decided to start a monthly bulletin again. It may be another way of reaching out to all members, especially those who are unable to attend meetings. We are all getting older and the travel, especially during the dark hours, can be a burden. Distance also is a problem, as some of our long time members have moved out of town, but still want to stay in touch with us.

The Scarborough Amateur Radio Club has always been one of the premier radio clubs in the Toronto area. Many awards were deservedly won over the years. Today with a new executive in place, there is a task for all of us to follow up on that tradition. This will not be an easy task and will need the cooperation from all of us. I do think however that with the quality of hams we have in our organization, our club can achieve quite a few things.

We are still looking to fill some positions on the board. We do not have either an assistant

secretary, an assistant treasurer or a social convener. Also the positions for editor, e-mail director and membership co-ordinator are temporarily filled by board members who have to do double duty. We also unexpectedly lost our field day coordinator again. So we have to discuss all of this on Monday.

As I have said on numerous occasions, SARC is an organization that is run from the bottom up; not from the top down. It is you the members who will make this club strong again. Your board is working hard to make the meetings interesting. If you have any ideas that were not brought forward, please let us know. The same goes for interesting speakers, presentations etc. Also, join us on the nets.

Two meters is moving in the right direction. A suggestion was made by one of the senior members of the club and will be discussed during the next meeting. Ten meters, both Thursday evening and Sunday morning, is I think a bit disappointing as far as the check-ins are concerned. A 10 meter antenna is easily constructed for us on balconies. We have an Elmer, VE3QF, who is very anxious to come up with a solution for you. Please talk to him about it. See you all on the bands very soon.

De Bill, VE3ILE.

For Sale
TH7DX 7 element yagi for 10-15-20
\$150.00 - You take down.
Contact Norm VE3ON or Bill
VE3ILE. Located in Ajax, Ontario.

About two metres, again

People have a lot of negative thoughts these days about 2 meter operation. This by extension also includes operation on the UHF bands.

The beginning of vhf operation goes back a long way. Members of SARC were building 2 meter AM equipment long before I joined the Club. This was real home-brewed stuff that worked. It was followed shortly by the Benton Harbor, or Heathkit "Lunch Boxes", which were also AM 2 M kits, or outright purchases. Our members had a lot of fun with these things. The DX was limited to inversion anomalies, just as it is today on this band. It all took place before the CB/GRS fad began. I'll try to give a little blurb about 11 meters operation in some other article.

Some old taxi radios fell into the hands of enterprising Hams. These were quickly modified to amateur radio 2 meter frequencies, at the opposite end of the 2 meter band from the AM rigs. The taxi radios were FM, very clean sounding, of course mobile; and had a healthy 10 to 13 watt output. The rigs themselves had been commercially made and were by no means "amateur". There was the GE Progress line, "Prog-line", and various Motorola types available. The early commercial rigs had a dynamo tor to produce AC from the automobiles DC supply. The AC was transformed into operable B Plus for tubes, which of course had to be rectified as tubes required a high voltage DC supply. Later versions of these commercial rigs used transistor switching to produce AC. Many of these types were identifiable because of the T whine that got into the transmitted signal. More and more old

taxi and old Police radios were finding their way into the hands of Hams. The rig I had was an old GE "Prog-Line" that I mounted in an AMC Hornet mini wagon. If I forgot to turn the radio off when I parked, the battery would be surely dead when I returned. Tubes, though clean sounding, would drain an idle battery quickly. Boy, what fun I had in those days. People would gather around my parked car if I had left the radio on, to try and find out who was in there talking, the voices sounded so real.

Ah, repeaters, and the clubs that began constructing them soon established themselves in the Toronto area. The Toronto FM society, I think, was the first established repeater club. These fellows were really of a technical type. For them CW was for old fogeys. These guys were technicians and engineers, even though their techniques were not that far from the early bread boarders of the previous era. Back to my GE Prog-Line, which had room for three crystals. Two of these were for transmit, the other single one for receive. It was great traveling. Most of the time you were listening on 146.940 MHz. In the city, when you heard a repeater identifier on that frequency, you would switch from the simplex frequency for 146.940. 146.940 to 146.340 transmit, 146.940 remaining for receive. It was easy to tune this equipment for receive. You just listened to people talking. Transmitting was a different story. Most times you had to have someone with a frequency counter to help you tweak your transmitting crystal smack on frequency. Crystals for these rigs were often purchased from Les Smith Co., in Oakville. There were a lot of Hams on 2

M in those days. Ah, but things change quickly.

Radio Amateurs soon realized that you did not have to have the burden of Knowing Morse code, the CW discipline of the old fogeys to be a Radio Ham on 2 M. Also many people now entering the hallowed halls of Ham Radio had the experience of CB under their belts, or rather, under the dashboards of their cars.

Honestly, many of these CB operators were radio enthusiasts who found getting an Amateur Radio Licence just too difficult. In those days I had talked to people who had their pilot license, and an Amateur Radio Licence. In every case I was told that getting and Amateur was harder for them. 2 M ham radio was just the thing. It gave you distance. In some cases even one hundred miles distance, compared to the often only six miles for the CB radios available.

In any case there was an influx of CB operators and other types getting on 2 M with a fresh VHF only Amateur Radio License. The fact that also now Japan was producing small effective two meter equipment, and available in Toronto, that did not need to be modified. You bought the crystals. You tweaked it up the best you could; and you were on the air. Sadly some came on with many of the old questionable CB habits. Hiding behind a microphone in a sea of voices is not new. More repeaters came on, to in some cases avoid the riff-raff of the older machines. Then the PL tone board was the next attempt to blank out the riff-raff. In this area it was the Thornhill Radio Club and its repeater VE3TTY, that required a pl tone for access. These tone boards were restricted to

Thornhill Club members. It was soon found that not only did a pl tone requirement limit access to non members, it also helped limit rf interference from the pager systems that had cropped up during these years. Other, and soon all repeater systems limited their receive capabilities to 6 Khz bandwidth to help solve the problem of various sources of rf interference. By now the Japanese "Rice Boxes" as Yaesu and Kenwood equipment was labeled by some hams, were commonly found under the dashes of mobile Radio Amateurs.

Enter ICOM with the first mobile rig that I know of that did not require crystals. It had a diode matrix that would allow up to 20 receive/transmit frequencies to be programmed in by the Radio Amateur. This was no rice box. It was a ten watt solid transceiver, but had the annoying fault to intermittently going into receive mode after a few months of normal operating. A fix for this problem became known through the ham community. Two meter people were "fixing" their own radios.

Then came Drake, a highly respected name in all amateur radio circles and brought out its "Micoder" microphone. This had all the tones and buttons of a tone operated telephone on the back of the microphone element. This allowed for easy autopatch connections, a development that many repeater clubs had added to their equipment. Drake was in the 2 meter business. Could 2 M then be that bad?

The answer was, yes it could. There seems to be a 5% equation built into the human race that allows for that percentage of people to be operationally moronic. These are the

people who will climb a tree to tell a lie, when the truth could be told much easier while standing on the ground. These are the people who are by nature disruptive under any available condition. Because the two meter band is so accessible, the 5% equation is more than just noticeable, it is a problem. Industry Canada says that Radio Amateurs are to police their own bands; but, have not given us the powers to legally do this job. What we might do I shall deal with another time, as this one article is already getting too long. You would think that by now I would have learned how to get my point across without being so long winded.

The 2 M band is too enjoyable, too useful, to be allowed to remain as it is with so much malicious interference. As in the rest of society, bad people have to be caught. They have to be stopped. The best way to do this is through Club activity. I think our club, the Scarborough Amateur Radio Club is up to the challenge. Let our President know that we are up to the challenge. Tell him that you are up to the challenge. Tell him that you are willing to help. I am.

Bob Chrysler VE3IEL 73

*The opinions expressed by our contributors, are not necessarily those of the board and members of SARC Inc.
Keep those articles coming, please!*

OLD MEGAWATT

Ham 1 -- Hey I hear Old Megawatt is retiring from Ham Radio
Ham 2 -- Yeah I heard him say that before
Ham 1 -- I know, but this time the Industry Canada said it!

SPRATLY ISLANDS. A group of operators will be QRV as DX0JP from Pag-Asa Island, IOTA AS-051, from February 3 to 13. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and JT65 EME on 6 and 2 meters. QSL EME contacts via JA1RJU. QSL all others via JA1HGY.

RODRIGUES ISLAND, 3B9. Nigel, G3TXF will be QRV as 3B9/G3TXF from February 7 to 13. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using only CW. QSL to home call.

FIJI, 3D2. Jack, WB6JZY is QRV as 3D2RN near Nadi on Viti Levu, IOTA OC-016, until February 20. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

AZERBAIJAN, 4K. Boris, 4K4K is usually QRV on 160 meters using CW around 0230z.

SRI LANKA, 4S. Joel, F5PAC is QRV as 4S7PAG until February 22. On February 10 and 11, he will be active from IOTA AS-171. QSL to home call.

ALGERIA, 7X. Mike, DB1JAW and Michael, DK5MH are QRV as 7W0JAW and 7W0MH, respectively, from the northern part of the Sahara until February 10. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using mainly SSB, but also some PSK31 and possibly RTTY. QSL direct via DB1JAW.

GHANA, 9G. Walter, DC8XL is QRV as 9G5SW from the north Accra until March. He is usually active on 20 meters

SSB from around 0700 to 0800z. QSL to home call.

PAKISTAN, AP. Tariq, AP2TN is usually active on 40 meters using CW just before 1400z.

CHILE, CE. Hector, CE3FZL is QRV as CE2P from Panul Lighthouse, ARLHS-073, during the month of February on the weekends. Activity is on 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using only SSB. QSL via EA5KB.

ENGLAND, G. In commemoration of the 60 years of the Torbay Amateur Radio Society, special callsign GB60TR is active until December 31. QSL via bureau.

DJIBOUTI, J2. A group of operators are QRV as J20MM and J20RR from Moucha Island, IOTA AF-053, until February 15. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via I2YSB.

BRAZIL, PY. Maia, PY5CA is QRV as ZY5100SCOUT through the rest of 2007 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of scouting. QSL to home call.

SWEDEN, SM. Members of the Uppsala ARS are QRV as SC5L until June 26 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Carl Linnaeus, the famous botanist, physician and zoologist. QSL via bureau.

COTE d'IVOIRE, TU. Jean-Luc is QRV as TU2/F5LDY and is often active on 40 meters using RTTY between 2200 and 0100z. QSL via F1CGN.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Jim, W9VNE will be QRV as VQ5FOC during the FOC Marathon. QSL direct to home call.

CAMBODIA, XU. G4JVG, G3OOK and SM5GMZ are QRV as XU7DXX, XU7XRO, and XU7ADI, respectively, until February 10. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL XU7ADI via SM5GMZ. QSL XU7XRO and XU7DXX via M5AAV.

AVES ISLAND, YV0. Members of the 4M5DX group will be QRV as YW0DX from February 5 to 11. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via IT9DAA.

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Bob VE3IEL and lady friend Ruth having a good time. Ruth had an accidental fall decorating the Christmas tree and double fractured her leg. We wish her a speedy recovery. Take Care!



The DX information this time is not really up to date. We will try to be more accurate for the next bulletin. Wanted to let you see that there still is a fair number of DX stations on the air. Just activate the bands, call CQ and see what You can come up with.

Upcoming Contests:

Feb 10-11	PACC
Feb 10-11	CQ WW WPX RTTY
Feb 10-12	YLRL YL-OM SSB
Feb 17-18	ARRL CW DX
Feb 24-25	CQ WW 160M SSB
Feb 25-26	North Carolina QSO Party.
Mar 3-4	ARRL SSB DX
Mar 24-25	CQ WW WPX SSB

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 24	BARC Spring Flea Market. Royal Canadian 828 Legion Rd. Burlington.
Mar. 31	HAM-EX 2007 Hamfest. Brampton Fall Fairgrounds, Heart Lake Road and Old School Road, Brampton.
June 9	Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket. Centre Wellington Community Complex, Fergus, Ont.

And of course there is always DAYTON!