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WAVELENGTH

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 Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
www.ve3we.org

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

November 2010

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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

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.

2011 SARC Elections

We will be having the elections on November 29 this year. To vote, you must be a member in good standing (dues paid by November 29). All positions on the Executive and Board of Directors are open. Please think of how you can help the club, and consider running for a position. If you are interested in standing for office, or if you wish to nominate someone, please fill in the contact form at [http://ve3we.org/](http://ve3we.org)
 The Christmas party will be on December 13 at 7 PM.

Field Day Report from Germany

by Thomas Sprinzing VA3TSE

Fellows from Scarborough,

hopefully you all enjoyed another fine Field Day this year! Let me restate here, that I really enjoyed your camaraderie back in 2009! Especially, I want to put a very big thank you to Nick, VE3EBC, who not only brought me on air by his very flexible and quick approach to scheduling exams, but also kindly borrowed the station to me so I could participate in the contest and get my first HF experience ever. 2009, at least in my eyes, was a real gain for me, I learned much and had loads of fun.

Soon after I got back to Germany, I got a used Kenwood TS-450, freshly readjusted, with all three filters on the first IF and 2 on the second, plus the third for the second IF packed but not installed. I must say, clueless as I was, I think I got a really really good rig. I still like it much, and it even gets me irky if I see an ad for a used 850 on the bulletin boards.... I obtained some wire, some 300-Ohm-twinlead, 2 fibre-glass-poles and a 6-Band-Window off DX-Wire.de, so I would be ready to go on air whenever I wanted. Soon enough, I went on an offroading weekend, brought all the stuff with me, and made my first QSOs from DL turf (original Solnhofen limestone, to be exact). My QTH in Stuttgart only offers very limited possibilities, and with me still missing a German licence, I don't want to rock too many boats.

So the plan this year was to get on the air on field day, and try to give you (ve3we) as many points as possible. I figured, the Window might be good, but since I cannot set the darn thing up in 30m height, at least not without lots of help or lots of money (rent a crane), to get to Canada I needed something with a lower takeoff-angle. Along came an article in the German magazine "Funkamateuer", describing a new approach, basically a multi-band lazy-H. The design looked awkward, but the results looked promising enough to make the effort building one. This Antenna consists of two (vertically mirrored) stacks of 4 dipoles, 2 single-band dipoles and one double-dipole array. So in total it's 8 dipoles of different length, spaced apart by roughly a metre, all fed from the same feeder pair but the feeder lines are crossed over between each dipole. Have a look at the picture from DO5UWE's homepage <http://www.neumann-antenne.de>.

So I contacted DO5UWE Uwe Neumann about some details I was missing, and he happily provided me the much needed info, asking for a little help in translating his texts to English and some pictures from setting up. Clearly something I can help out with. Weeks of procrastination followed, then I ordered some wire, managed to get my brain wrapped around some details regarding the spacers and insulators and started manufacturing the antenna the weekend before field day. I obtained loads of rope as well, and finally made it so far as to have the radiating part of the antenna assembled on Wednesday before field day.



Illustration 1: Friedrichshafen Ham Fair



Illustration 2: Typical variety stand

For Friday before field day I scheduled a visit to the famous Friedrichshafen Ham Fair (“Ham Radio”) - three objectives: go buy stuff (moderately), find out about getting my Canadian licence converted to a German one and meet DO5UWE. I learned that Canadian advanced is worth the German entry class and having them just check and acknowledge the licence is 130 Euros. That is 50 Euros more than taking the test for entry class, and 20 Euro more than taking the advanced directly. On top you need to shell out another 70 Euros for them to issue a callsign. Ham Radio is clearly seen as an elite hobby in Germany, I figure. I chose to give a darn and eventually take the German test, if I win the lottery. I travel often enough to re-enter the Schengen zone and restart my CEPT reciprocal period, and also, I do only operate when Rudolph the reindeer dates Easter bunny. Out of frustration, and preparing for things to come, I bought an SGC 237 autotuner off a British dealership. Found some knickknacks at the flea market - a MIL-Antenna for my Pinzgauer, an SMD soldering station, stuff like that. Then, just before heading home, I met DO5UWE, showed him what I had built so far, chitchatted with him for a while and then left for a beautiful back country drive home to Stuttgart.



Illustration 3: First Field Day site

So Saturday, the big day came. Last things I got in the morning were angling line, lead weights and something we call “Zwille” - a slingshot you use to fire the lead over tree branches. Lots and never-ending lots of loading the Pinzgauer followed, then I headed off to my first try of a field day QTH. I had looked up some forest tracks near Stuttgart, with the trees lined the right angle to have the antenna point along the great circle to Ontario. This meant I needed and had the luck to find an entry point for the forest road system with unlocked gate, and to be lucky the wardens wouldn’t show up. Well, at least this little luck was granted.

The clock ticked 4 p.m. when I finally started threading the rope into the antenna’s isolators, and the fact that you have to attach 8 dipole ends on each side of the antenna to a piece of rope approx. 30m long made me run a lot. But anyway, I managed to get this done, re-solder one dipole, and start getting pull-up-ropes into the trees. That was when captain chaos struck. I struggled to shoot the lead over, and once I had the lead fly off the slingshot, it flew too far. So lots of tries, but to no avail, this didn’t work. The situation got unpleasant when darkness began to fall and all the mosquitoes from around Stuttgart

apparently decided to have a feast on me - exclusively. So I packed up, got all my ropes and the antenna in as quick as possible and left the area.

After I made the decision not to go back to my buddy's birthday bash and get drunk, I drove out a little more and found what seemed to be a nice spot – it was dark by now, so not too much to see, but enough due to the full moon. Slept in the car there, and got up with the birds. I gave the slingshot one last try, leaving two pieces of lead to rot in the forest. Obviously, I had to call up plan b. That was a quick one: get roughly 42m of wire, get out the fibre pole, and build a delta loop. Now my little antenna tuner came in very handy, and everything worked like a charm.

Almost. I heard no American station whatsoever, I overheard no QSO with Field Day format. I quickly found out that there was an Ukrainian DX contest going on as

well, so I half-heartedly decided to chip in there. Made 8 or 10 QSO's, not more. Pretty lame day. My old windows laptop sucks battery power the lot, at least, when I have it running from the 230V-inverter off my Pinzgauer's batteries. So, more often than wanted, I had to start the engine and recharge. No operating possible then, since I sat my table right next to the car - loud and smelly, super-healthy exhaust fumes galore. So while charging, I watched some RC-Heli-Guys throw their machines around in stunning and incredible ways. Apparently, they go to that place every weekend to fly their helis. At first, they were concerned, but we lived along happily, since their RC systems worked on 2.4 GHz. Only one 35MHz airplane at the spot, so whenever this guy was up in the air, I chose not to transmit on 7 or 14 MHz out of reasons of self-protection. You wouldn't want to have an 8 kilogram RC plane hit you because its tiny receiver is swamped by some harmonics of your 100W out TRX.



Illustration 4: Field setup with delta loop



Illustration 5: The sun burnt a lot!

yelling....By the way, did I mention that the guy who imported those darn trumpets to Germany would better not disclose the fact to me should we ever meet. This person needs to be punched in their b*****s seriously !!!

Well, that was it then. I mostly watched the helis, tried to get rid of the flies, and after having a last really nice QSO with GBORTM greeting everybody with “may the best team win”, packed up and went home just early enough before the world cup madness broke loose. Germans won the quarter final and kicked the Brits out, which meant the streets were full of guys out of their mid driving in motorcades, honking, yelling....



Illustration 6: Rare MAN truck with 40m and 20m mast

In summer, between August and September, on holiday in Denmark, I gave the neumann-antenna another halfhearted try, but the problem with it is to get it up. It is a very large construct, and it takes lots of patience and time to unwrap the mess before you can even think of pulling it up. Then you need an “anchor” point at least 12m up in the air, and it has to

be very stable and sturdy, because you need to pull the thing taut. No way to manage in my holiday QTH. So I fiddled with the towers and built inverted-Ls, and a vertical. I did some 150 QSOs, mostly PSK, but kept a low key as OZ/VA3TSE not to annoy my Karin and enjoyed some good DX. Some went over to Canada as well.

Though I didn't meet the ultimate objective of making it over to you on Field Day, I enjoyed the weekend, as field operating is what I like very much. It's just nice to know you can get out there, set up some kind of antenna, and rag chew sitting beside an old Swiss army radio car with a guy working from a tower in an old world war two airfield in Britain. As for the goal of reaching ve3we, I know there will be another field day next year to come. We'll get it done, come time.

Thanks to everyone of you, please keep the spirit, get more freshmen into this awesome pastime and hope to hear you pretty soon!

73 and good DX

Thomas VA3TSE

Getting your own Callsign Licence plate in Ontario

by Asif (Joy) Ahmed VA3SIF

Ever since I obtained my amateur licence I wanted to get a licence plate with my call sign. I had to wait until my current tag expired, which finally came around this month. I mistakenly believed that all callsign plates were vanity plates and therefore prohibitively expensive. My club buddies informed me that it is not, sweet surprise! Anyways, before visiting MTO Service Ontario centres I decided to "Google" it. All results pointed to RAC website and their advice is, sadly, very precise. "Be sure to ask"! That's all they suggested. So, I asked my club buddies. I received some really good advice from them. Thanks guys.

So, I went to Kingston Road and McCowan Service Ontario office. These guys supposedly processed multiple ham licence plates in the past. I waited through the excruciating long line with excitement. Finally my turn came. What followed was a disappointment. This was how it went:

Me: I would like to apply for a Amateur Radio licence plate please.

Clerk: [Clueless] You mean those? [She points me to the display of premium plates hanging on the wall.]

Joy: No

Clerk: A vanity plate then? \$336 please.

Joy: [Heck] No. I am an amateur radio operator and we get to have a plate with our call sign on it for much cheaper than a vanity plate.

Clerk: I don't know what you are talking about. Let me ask my manager.

Clerk calls in the manager. The manager was equally clueless. She also tries sell me the premium plate with a RAC logo on it. I declined.

The long line of people was growing increasingly impatient with me at this point. So, I gave in. I asked her to simply renew my old plate. \$74 and I was done. No amateur plate!

But they were kind enough to highlight the customer service number for MTO before I left the office. They also very misleadingly suggested that I can probably apply over the phone

I called that number. Not a long wait .A lady picked up. She also did not know what I wanted but was kind enough to do a search and informed me that I should give a call to Service Ontario customer service, in Kingston. I called Kingston right away and finally found somebody who actually understood what I wanted. I was informed, to my dismay that nothing can be done on the phone. I have to go back to the nearest Service Ontario office and ask to get a Radio Amateur plate. Back to square one. Then she gave me the best advice of the day. If the clerk did not know how to order callsign plates, I was told, I should tell him/her to call their help desk(aka Kingston) for step by step instruction..

So, I went back to my nearest office on Dufferin & Sheppard and finally managed to apply for my VA3SIF licence plate.

So, in a nutshell this is how it goes:

Any Service Ontario office can order these plates but don't be surprised if the people are not really knowledgeable.

Explain to them that it is neither a "Vanity plate" nor a "Premium plate". It is a regular plate only radio amateurs can order.

They should call their helpdesk, in Kingston for step by step instructions.

They should ask for your Industry Canada certificate and keep a photocopy.

They will charge you \$30 for the plates(as of 2010). This is how much the actual callsign plates cost. Your yearly renewal is additional. For me it was \$74 for a year but I paid it earlier in the morning.

They will give you a receipt with your callsign printed on top.

The plates will arrive in 6-8 weeks, by mail. When you receive them you will have to take both part of vehicle ownership and your existing plates for a plate transfer. Since I am still waiting for my own plates, I don't know if there is a cost involved for transfer, but I suspect it will be minimal, if not free.

I hope my fellow hams will find this information useful. I can always be contacted on the air, via email (va3sif@gmail.com) or at the club meetings.

Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One thing that I find amusing about Morse Code is that the more people claim that it's dead, the more people there are that rise up to defend and promote it. Note that I said "defend and promote it," not actually use it, but that topic is for another column.

Having said that, let me direct you to a new tome on our ancient art, Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy by Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ. This book is available as a free download in the original Italian (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_ita_v20100826.pdf) and in an English translation (http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf).

What makes this book different from others is that instead of concentrating on the mechanics of learning and using Morse Code, the author spends a good deal of time talking about the psychology of learning this skill. To succeed in learning Morse Code, Consoli advises that we need to change our approach to learning:

"When learning CW, therefore, we must establish a new component in our self-image and, when doing so, we need to be relaxed. Always practice during the same time of day and in a place where you can experience positive feelings of comfort and pleasure. When we make a mistake we are always ready to blame ourselves. This is the way we learnt from our environment during childhood, often accepting any fault as our own error or weakness.

This potentially destructive mechanism can be used to build a positive self-image, rather than demolish it. A mistake must be considered a signal, pointing us in the right direction. If you fail, let your mistake pass away, with no blame or irritation. Learn CW in a relaxed mood, enjoy the pleasure of learning something new, repeat your exercises every day and be confident in the self-programming abilities of your self-image. Just a few minutes a day: you can take care of your 'more serious' stuff later on."

Consoli also has some interesting things to say about getting faster. He agrees with me that it's essential to abandon pencil and paper and start copying in one's head. We also agree that at this point, you need to start using a paddle instead of a straight key.

He has analyzed the situation a lot more than I have, though. When hams ask me how I learned to copy in my head, all I can do is to relate my own experience, which is that one day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to work for a lot of operators. If that doesn't work for you, Consoli says that what you need to do is to program yourself to copy in your head. You do this, he says, by relaxing and visualizing. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and one day, you will be one.

That seems to have worked for him. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm.

Will it work for you? I'm not sure, but if you haven't been successful with other methods to improve your code speed, then Consoli's methods are certainly worth a try.

When not pondering the psychology of operating CW, Dan actually operates CW. You'll find him almost every day on either 40m, 30m, and as we transition to winter here in North America, 80m. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Very Long-Delayed Echoes

by Gord Hogarth VE3CNA

I have made it a personal project to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the founding of Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated by contributing a column in each "Wavelength" some documentation or other historical information about Amateur Radio generally or Scarborough ARC specifically.

Please enjoy reading this page from the June 1948 issue of XTAL magazine, the official journal of the Canadian Amateur Radio Operators' Association, (CAROA)

CANADIAN CLUB DIRECTORY

Clubs marked with an asterisk (*) are clubs about which CAROA does not have complete information. In some cases we only have the address of a member. Other cases, we possess only the secretary's name. Please take note of these omissions and let us know the full executive at the earliest convenience.

- *ABOVE 100 Mc CLUB, c/o 818 Mulvey Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- *ALBERNI DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 608 Redford Rd., Port Alberni, British Columbia. Secretary, Dave Dootson, Ve7PY.
- *ANNAPOLIS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Bridgetown, Nova Scotia. Secretary, Fred Both.
- CALGARY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 196, Calgary, Alberta. Secretary, Hugh Picken, Ve6QS.
- *CARIBOO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., Box 160, Prince George, B.C. Secretary, R. J. Tate, Ve7DV.
- CHATHAM - KENT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y.-Treas., 35 Lorne Ave., Chatham, Ontario. Secretary-treasurer, Bill Papps, Ve3BLA.
- CLINTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., Albert St., Clinton, Ontario. Secretary-treasurer, Red Ultican, Ve3BHO.
- COLLINGWOOD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 725 E. 52nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. Secretary, Gord. Clark, Ve7OJ.
- *DARTMOUTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., E. Edey, c/o R.C.A.F., Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.
- FRONTIER RADIO ASSOCIATION, 86 London St. W., London, Ont. Secretary, Stephen Postelnic, Ve3AXP.
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- HALIFAX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 20 Compton Ave., Halifax, N.S. Secretary, R. R. Pattison, Ve1RP.
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- LAKEBURN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y.-Treas., 11 Copp St., Lakeburn, New Brunswick. Secretary-treasurer, B. Murphy, Ve1AQ.
- *LONDON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., Box 82, London, Ont. Secretary, Jean Calder.
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- *MONTREAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 5379 Coolbrooke Ave., Montreal, Que. Secretary, J. A. (Al) Campbell, Ve2RL.
- ONTARIO PHONE CLUB, c/o Sec'y.-Treas., 92 Elizabeth St., Chatham, Ont. Secretary-treasurer, Ron Moir, Ve3AQB.
- OTTAWA RADIO TRANSMITTING ASSOCIATION, c/o Sec'y., 129 Beech St., Ottawa, Ont. Secretary, H. W. Hayes, Ve3BEB.
- *PROGRESSIVE RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 85 Victoria St., Waterloo, Ont. Secretary, Bill Wight, Ve3ADE.
- *QUEEN CITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 82 Kalmar Ave., Toronto, Ont. Secretary, Harold Kenmare, Ve3JO.
- SCARBORO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 1227 Gerrard St. E., Toronto. Secretary, H. Langstaffe, Ve3FO.
- SHORE RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., Mahone Bay, Lunenburg County, N.S. Secretary, M. I. Barry, Ve1NA.
- *SOUTHERN ALBERTA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., CJOC, Lethbridge, Alta. Secretary, Murray McLeod.
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- *ST. THOMAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 82 Hemlock St., St. Thomas. Secretary, W. E. Shaw.
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- *WEST SIDE RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 470 Glenlake Ave., Toronto, Ont. Secretary, Art Frazer, Ve3ANO.
- WINNIPEG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., P.O. Box 26, Winnipeg, Man. Secretary, Leone Young.
- WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO, c/o Sec'y., 130 Belsize Dr., Toronto. Secretary, Fred Reynolds, Ve3TC.
- *TRURO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, c/o Sec'y., 91 Park St., Truro, N.S. Secretary, Gord. Burchell, Ve1IB.