

**CQ CQ CQ DE VE3WE**

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# WAVELENGTH

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

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

October 2012

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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  
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:

Here is some information on a clock I recently purchased on EBay that I thought you might be interested in. Note that there was such a thing as a "Calling Frequency" of 500Kcs. established ca. 1913 ! KiloCycles was changed to the more correct KiloHertz in 1959 as part of the International Geophysical Year or IGY.

This clock needs repair and if any of you know of a good clock repair shop please let me know.

Happy Halloween and 73 de Gord, VE3CNA

Here is some text about the face of the clock:



After the sinking of the Titanic, an International Radiotelegraphic Convention was held in 1912, producing an agreement which came into effect in July, 1913. This established 500 kHz as the primary frequency for sea-going calling and distress signals. Most two-way radio contacts were to be initiated on this frequency, although, once established, the participating stations could shift to another frequency to avoid the congestion on 500 kHz. It was provided that there should be two periods of radio silence every hour, at 15 and 45 minutes after the hour, to allow distress signals to be heard without interference from other communications. This arrangement remained in force for much of the 20th century, although it has now been superseded by the use of other channels. Clocks like this one were produced for ships' radio rooms, with the red sectors on the dial acting as a visual reminder of the periods of radio silence.

# 25, 50, and 75 Years Ago in QST

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

QST publishes a column every month towards the back of the magazine that highlights from issues 25, 50, and 75 years ago. Now that the QST archive is online, it's really worth taking a look at these articles. Here are a few that caught my eye in October:

October 1937

- Modernizing the Simple Regenerative Receiver ([http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs\\_archive/19076](http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/19076)) by Vernon Chambers, W1JEQ. This a nicely-designed and built regen using two tubes, a 6K5 pentode and 6C5 triode. I'm going to keep this design in mind if I ever get around to playing with all the tubes I have. As an aside, I searched on W1JEQ's callsign and found out that he wrote 87 articles for QST from 1936 through February 1958. This was his third article.
- Concentrated Directional Antennas for Transmission and Reception ([http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs\\_archive/19078](http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/19078)) by John L. Reinartz, W1QP, and Burton T. Simpson, W8CPC. This article describes two different antennas. The first is a half-wave loop antenna that the author says works on 2-1/2, 5, 10, and 20m. The second is a square loop antenna called a "signal squirter" for 14 Mc.

October 1962

- In "New Apparatus" ([http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs\\_archive/46246](http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/46246)) on page 27, a key made by J. A. Hills, W8FYO, of Dayton, OH is shown under the heading, "New Key Mechanism for Electronic Keyers." The photo clearly shows a key whose design was adopted by Bencher for the BY-1 paddle.
- The Towering Problem ([http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs\\_archive/46122](http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/46122)) by Jay Kay Klein, WA2LII clearly shows that putting up towers have always been a problem for amateur radio operators. This is a humorous take on the problem. What's notable is that this type of humorous article almost never appears in QST anymore. Amateur radio seems to have lost its sense of humor, or at least its cadre of humorous writers.

October 1987

- Stalking Those Fugitive Components ([http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs\\_archive/81357](http://p1k.arrl.org/pubs_archive/81357)) by Doug DeMaw, W1FB. Today, we often complain about the demise of local parts suppliers, but this article shows that this was a problem 25 years ago as well. W1FB gives some advice that I gave not long ago on my blog. That is, stock up on parts, especially when you find a good deal on them, and you won't have to scrounge around for them when you want them.

Digitizing all of the back issues of QST and putting them online is one of the things that the ARRL has done right. This is a wonderful resource for members. If you have a favorite QST article I'd love to hear about it. Please send me the title and the month it was published. My e-mail address is [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). Thanks & 73.

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When not perusing old issues of QST, Dan is the station manager for WA2HOM, the amateur radio station at Ann Arbor's Hands-On Museum. He also writes amateur radio license study guides. In fact, by the time you read this, the No-Nonsense Extra Class Study Guide should be available on Amazon. Just search for "KB6NU."

# Meeting Dates

November 12 – General meeting

December 10 – Elections/Christmas party

## How important is low SWR?

Luc VA3LMS sent in an article on SWR from the August 1981 issue of Ham Radio magazine. Since it's copyright material but publicly available for personal use, here's a link:

<http://www.wadsworthsales.com/Pages/baluns.aspx>

That site also has other useful articles on baluns – well worth a look.



## RAC Ontario South Director's Report

Hello from your Southern Ontario RAC Director. Summer is slowly fading away and the leaves around here are starting to change colour. The shorter days and longer nights mean even more time to get on the air!

### Distracted Driving

On September 20, the Minister of Transportation, Bob Chiarelli, formally announced to RAC President Geoff Bawden that, after the helpful submissions by RAC and other radio amateurs in Ontario, the Ministry of Transportation has extended the exemption for mobile amateur radio operators from the distracted driving legislation for an additional five years. This extension will come into effect on January 1, 2013 when the current three year exemption expires. On September 26, RAC Bulletin 2012-057E was issued updating the Ontario amateur radio community about the extension. The RAC Distracted Driving Committee is pleased that the Minister considered our submissions and moved to extend the deadline until 2018, however, we will continue to work to achieving a permanent exemption for Ontario amateur radio operators.

### New Ontario Sections

With the official implementation of the new RAC Field Organization in Ontario on September 1, the province has now been divided into four sections: Ontario North (ONN), Ontario East (ONE), Ontario South (ONS) and Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Please see the map at [http://www.rac.ca/en/news/bulletins/2012/Ont\\_Section\\_Boundaries.\\_Ver\\_2.jpg](http://www.rac.ca/en/news/bulletins/2012/Ont_Section_Boundaries._Ver_2.jpg) for an idea of the boundary lines for the various sections. Going forward these will be the designations used for contesting purposes.

### RAC Ontario Field Organization

Effective September 1, the new Ontario Sections have been implemented as well as new Section Managers. Of particular interest to radio amateurs in my area, the new Section Manager for ONS is Ian Snow, VA3QT and for GTA is George Duffield, VE3WKJ. The new Section Manager for ONN is Al

Boyd, VE3AJB an Ontario East is Mike Hickey VE3IPC. Many thanks to these individuals for stepping up and taking on these new positions. It is anticipated that the reorganization of Ontario will foster more and better communications between RAC and the clubs and hams in Ontario.

#### Hamfests and Fleamarkets

On Sunday, September 23 I attended the London ARC hamfest with my Assistant Director Gord Moogk, VE3DBP and special guest Bill Unger, VE3XT, RAC Ontario North Director. It was a good event and we had a chance to speak to many hams from the London and surrounding area. I also plan to attend the York Region ARC Hamfest on Saturday, November 3 at the Markham Fairground. I hope to see you there!

If you have any questions or concerns please send me a message at [va3wxm@rac.ca](mailto:va3wxm@rac.ca).

73,

Jeff VA3WXM

Ontario South Director

Radio Amateurs of Canada