



May 2005

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: May 18, 2005 @7:30PM

LOCATION: Loyalist College (Pioneer Building) Room P-2

PROGRAM: Election of Officers and a short video presentation on BPL

Club Repeater: VE3QAR 146.985 MHz.

2 meter net: Tuesday 7:30 PM on VE3TJU 146.730

QARC HomePage <http://www.qarc.on.ca>

QARC HomePage <http://www.qarc.on.ca/> provided free of charge by:

Lakeshore Internet Services, 199 Front St, Suite 108

Belleville K8N 5H5 (613) 962-9299

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Wednesday 7:30 PM Loyalist College
(Pioneer Bldg.) Room P-17

Hams 'n Eggs: SATURDAYS 8:00 AM Quinte Restaurant 135 Cannifton Road

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA ADDRESS:

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QARC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Mike Papper VE3VMP 969-1744 (ve3vmp@sympatico.ca.)

VICE-PRESIDENT: Greg Schatzmann VE3CH

SECRETARY: Tim Pekkonen VE3UO 969 8012 (ve3uo@rac.ca)

CO-TREASURERS: Don Dalrymple VE3DQN 968-9242 (E-mail: ve3dqn@rac.ca)

And Bill Milligan VA3WOW (E-mail va3wow@rac.ca)

PAST PRESIDENT: Peter Hodgson VE3UR 962-1386 (E-mail: phodgson@kos.ca)

QARC APRIL MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM by Vice-President Greg VE3CH at 7:34 PM. Greg welcomed the Guests to the meeting and newly licensed hams Miles VE3XDX and Len VE3LRM.

Announcements:

Ron VE3IVC: MS Super Cities Walk to be held Sunday May 29 starting at 10 AM. Belleville Police Torch Run on Monday June 13. Contact Ron if you can help with these events.

PEC Marathon program on The Sports Network TSN on Apr 24 at 14:00, Apr 28 at 12:30, May 2 at 01:30, May 3 at 04:30. Ham Radio will be once again helping with this year's marathon on Sunday Oct 2 - contact Mike VE3VMP.

Annual Auction to be hosted by PERC this year on Thursday May 5 at Bloomfield Community Center. Door open at 6 PM - Auction starts at 7 PM. Peter VE3KWM to be the Auctioneer. "Bring your stuff".

Foxhunting Attenuator Building project to be held on May 2. Contact Dave VE3BIP ve3bip@rac.ca for more information about the project.

'Tour of the County' multi transmitter foxhunt to be on Saturday May 14 starting at 12 noon. Meet at Bloomfield Community Center. This year there will be a beginners transmitter added as well for those just starting out with foxhunting. Once you locate this one you are encouraged to try for the other hidden foxes as well.

QRZ CD-ROM Callsign Database: Al VE3LAW still has three available. Cost \$20.

New Business:

Mike VE3VMP has had a sample QARC t-shirt made up with club logo, name and callsign, which was at the meeting tonight. Anyone interested in obtaining one contact Mike VE3VMP. Cost is \$13 (\$14 for XXL and above). We have already put in one order for t-shirts.

Future Meetings:

May 18: Elections (yes it's that time again!). Contact Past-President Peter VE3UR to nominate a person for a position on the Executive. We will also be showing a short video presentation on BPL - broadband over power lines.

June 15: New RAC Director for Ontario North/East Ben Price VE3CDA will be speaking at the meeting.

Door Prize Draw: RAC pen donated by Dave VE3BIP won by Hermann VA3VHH; RAC operating manual donated by Dave VE3BIP won by Harold VE3HNQ.

VE3WV Licensed 70 years: At this point in the meeting we recognised and congratulated **Al Taylor VE3WV** who obtained his ticket in March 1935. Al gave a short recollection of his experiences and changes in the hobby over 70 years. There were no satellites and no handie-talkies when he first started hamming and all equipment was 'home-brew'. He also mentioned the now gone '5 meter band'. He also recalled the availability of war surplus equipment after World War 2, and of course that hams were ordered off the air in the war years. Al's first commercially bought piece of equipment was a Hallicrafters 'Sky Buddy'. His current station consists of an Alinco Hf rig and Kenwood 2m FM transceiver.

In honour of Al's 70th year as a ham, we presented him with a cake, which the members present enjoyed during the coffee break and rag-chew.

After the break, we had a 50/50 draw, which was drawn by Al VE3WV and won by Len VE3LRM who pocketed \$18.

Guest Speaker: This month's speaker was Dave Sharpe VA3OPC (soon to be VE6OPC) who gave an overview of commercial satellite operations, which included free to air satellite systems. There is no monthly fee involved and the cost is limited to a dish and satellite receiver. Information is available at www.lyngsat.com and www.satcodx.com. Dave's email is pc_mobility (AT) yahoo.ca and he would be pleased to respond to any questions.

Dave is moving to Calgary soon and we wish him all the best in VE6 land!

Meeting adjourned - attendance was 30.

Tim, VE3UO

Secretary, QARC

Minutes of our March 2005 Meeting.

For a complete listing of events, activities and other related Amateur Radio information go to www.qarc.on.ca.

Visit to the Eastern Region Provincial Communications Centre.

By Len Arminio VE3LRM Professor of Broadcast Journalism

Radical changes have been taking place in the way the Ontario Provincial Police and other Provincial services are dispatched. Over the past 25 years, the OPP radio system has evolved from two low band VHF channels and were dispatched out of individual detachments... to a centralized district dispatch centers using multiple analog channels with separate input and output frequencies and repeaters.

(QARC member Bob Moore VE3QWB who spent more than two decades as an OPP dispatcher has stories about the "good old days").

Just over a year ago, the OPP, MNR and MTO, along with the Ministry of Health all signed on the Bell Mobility digital "Fleetnet" system leased by the province. Bell has built dozens of new towers and the OPP, MNR and MTO have further centralized the dispatch functions by moving all communications operations to what will eventually be five Provincial Communications Centres (PCC).

On Monday, April 26, I along with veteran broadcast radio newsman Tony Orr, the morning news anchor at K-Rock 105.7 in Kingston, attended the Eastern Region PCC in Smith's Falls, Ontario.

A former student of mine, Bill Dickson, who is a Media Relations Advisor for the OPP Eastern Region Headquarters, arranged the visit. Media Relations Officer, Senior Constable Dana Mellon, conducted the tour. Dana is also the father of Dan Mellon, an on-air personality at Quinte Broadcasting.

The PCC is located at the end of a retail shopping mall in Smith's Falls. That end of the building is totally unmarked. You wouldn't know anything was in the wing except for a communications tower and an OPP trailer parked way out back.

The Eastern Region PCC handles all OPP related radio traffic and phone calls and that of the MNR and MTO Enforcement, from the Quebec border westward to Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. That excludes the GTA, which is dispatched out of a similar PCC at

the OPP “World Headquarters” in Orillia. The third PCC currently operating is in London. Two more PCCs will open over the next while... North Bay sometime this year and Thunder Bay at an undetermined date in the future.

The building is a reasonably secure facility with video surveillance, electronic pass card, special key access, and a warning sign that says, “All conversations may be recorded”.

The tour began with a look at the backup power systems that include a gigantic Cummins Diesel generator with enough fuel to operate the entire facility for 8 days, a sizable L-shaped UPS room with two walls filled with batteries and a power converter in the center.

In addition, there is an electrical storm detector that automatically takes the building off the Hydro grid and switches to backup power if a thunderstorm approaches within 50 kilometres.

The dispatch area itself is a large open concept office area with about 30 (I didn’t get the chance to count them) cubicles with consoles. A number of the consoles (I figure about 8 or 9) are for the “call takers”... the people who you would actually talk to if you called 9-1-1 and were directed to the OPP. Those folks are bi-lingual with access to other language services. There are two call takers who are TTY operators for the hearing impaired.

A complaint or emergency handled by the call takers then gets transferred via computer terminal to a dispatcher’s console for the appropriate detachment area.

There are currently 13 dispatch consoles (*they* were numbered) for detachment areas from the Quebec border to Bracebridge and will soon include Parry Sound and the Muskokas. There is also a console for the Sergeant in command of the PCC and another for the Media Relations officer.

Most of the dispatchers work two or more detachment areas. For instance, we stood by Brian... who works Quinte West (“3-Uniform”), Central Hastings (“3-Quebec”) and Bancroft (“3-Charlie”). All the units in these areas share “talk groups” (digitally encoded signals which allow multiple users of the same radio frequency) so they can communicate with the neighboring areas.

Brian conducted a mock “10-78” (officer needs assistance). An officer (who was actually at her home for lunch) was asked to hit her emergency button on her portable radio. A red flashing “emergency” message was up on every screen and a loud buzzer sounded at every console in the room.

Each dispatch console has LCD computer screens that keep track of the calls, officers’ status and the incident they were currently working. A map screen which, at its maximum width showed the entire southern part of the province and all the detachment areas, major roads and bodies of water. At its full magnification, it zoomed to a scale of a few hundred metres.

The map screen also shows the 9-1-1 location of an incident along with the ID number of the officer investigating and the incident number. It looked a bit like an air traffic control screen.

The third screen was the radio communications control with point and click operations for “Ops channels” and “talk groups”. They can also “patch” different talk groups for tactical situations and other special circumstances.

According to a senior dispatcher, they are looking forward to eventual GPS tracking of all units.

The PCC staff works 12-hour shifts. But the ergonomic design of the consoles makes the shift a little less demanding on backs, arms and wrists. Each level of the consoles can be adjusted with the push of a button. They can be lowered and raised to the comfort height of the operator. (I gotta get me one of those!) We noted some call takers and dispatchers standing and walking around at their workstations. We were told some of them stand for the entire 12-hour shift! Most of the staff we saw was female and less than 35 years old (Sorry, Bob). The several we spoke to said they, like the officers on the road, get the adrenalin pumping on a busy night or day. As one of them said... "You can feel the electricity in the air when this place is rocking".

All radio traffic and phone calls are recorded and now saved on double-sided DVD. They used to be on good old 10" audiotape reels, which are still on shelves in an adjacent room.

Part of Constable Mellon's job includes keeping track of the recordings and finding threads of communications for court cases or other inquiries. He also is the person who uploads incidents and news releases to the Crimealerts website (www.crimealerts.net) and answers phone calls and emails from the media.

The facility also has male and female locker rooms, a fitness room and kitchen. With 12-hour shifts, those facilities come in handy.

This trip to the PCC certainly put faces and names to some of the voices we in the media hear on the air and talk to on the phone. It also gave us a very good understanding of how the OPP communications system works and the challenges faced by the dispatchers and officers in the field.

If QARC members and other local Hams are interested, the officials in Smith's Falls say we could arrange a "field trip" to the Provincial Communications Centre with no problem.

This might be especially interesting for ARES members.

As was discussed on the Bay Bridge Net, May 3rd, this is something we can discuss at the next QARC meeting for perhaps a summertime venture.

Maybe some sort of other "event" could be organized around the road trip.

My email: larminio@cogeco.ca. or larminio@loyalistic.on.ca.

2005 Field Day

June 25th and 26th

PERC and QARC will again join forces to mount a Field Day operation at the Huff's Island Community Center. Stations and antennas will be set up on Friday afternoon and early Saturday. Everyone is welcome to participate. Drop-ins welcome. Contact Al VE3LAW or Peter, VE3UR for further info.

Treasurer's Report

	BALANCE SHEET April 28		
<u>ASSETS</u>		<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
CURRENT ASSETS		CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Bank Account 1017-084	<u>\$4,915.67</u>		
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>\$4,915.67</u>	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$4,915.67</u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00
		EQUITY	
		EARNINGS	
		Retained Earnings	\$4,522.90
		Current Earnings	<u>\$392.77</u>
		TOTAL EARNINGS	<u>\$4,915.67</u>
		TOTAL EQUITY	<u>\$4,915.67</u>
		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$4,915.67</u>
	QUINTE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB		
	INCOME JULY 1, 2004 TO JAN 30, 2005	APRIL 30, 2005	
<u>REVENUE</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
Membership Dues	\$975.00	Radio Course Printing	\$43.52
Equipment Rental	\$0.00	Packet	\$0.00
Directory Sales Paper	\$0.00	Repeater Repairs	\$10.00
Directory Sales Disk	\$0.00	Licence Fees BEL RL QAR	\$0.00
Radio Course Fees	\$0.00	Mall Display	\$0.00
Equipment Sales	\$0.00	Equipment Purchases	\$0.00
Donations to Club	\$514.92	Bank Charges	\$0.00
50/50 Draw	\$152.53	Awards	\$0.00
Study Guide Sales	\$540.00	Misc. Radio Course Purchase	\$669.52
Question Bank Sales	\$0.00	Postal Box Rental Fee	\$80.25
Building Project	\$0.00	Incorporation	\$0.00
Coffee	\$55.38	Office Supplies	\$211.42
Repeat Move	\$0.00	Social Events	\$33.08
Interest	<u>\$1.55</u>	Question Bank Purchases	\$0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$2,239.38</u>	Berevement	\$50.00
		Name Tags	\$8.05
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$1,294.75</u>	Door Prizes	\$0.00
		Guest Speaker	\$0.00
		Insurance	\$426.32
		EHT Expense	\$0.00
		Hall Rental	\$0.00
		Donations	\$152.97

		RAC Membership	\$0.00
		Newsletter Printing	\$161.48
		Directory Printing	\$0.00
		Equipment Repairs	\$0.00
		Cost of Parts	\$0.00
		Coffee	<u>\$0.00</u>
		TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$1,846.61</u>
		TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$1,846.61</u>
		I NCOME	\$392.77
	I NCOME APR 1, 2005 TO APR 30, 2005		
<u>REVENUE</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
Membership Dues	\$225.00	Radio Course Printing	\$0.00
Equipment Rental	\$0.00	Packet	\$0.00
Directory Sales Paper	\$0.00	Repeater Repairs	\$0.00
Directory Sales Disk	\$0.00	Licence Fees BEL RL QAR	\$0.00
Radio Course Fees	\$0.00	Mall Display	\$0.00
Equipment Sales	\$0.00	Equipment Purchases	\$0.00
Donations to Club	\$444.92	Bank Charges	\$0.00
50/50 Draw	\$18.03	Awards	\$0.00
Study Guide Sales	\$0.00	Misc. Radio Course Purchase	\$0.00
Question Bank Sales	\$0.00	Postal Box Rental Fee	\$0.00
Building Project	\$0.00	I ncorporation	\$0.00
Coffee	\$11.98	Office Supplies	\$40.07
Repeat Move	\$0.00	Social Events	\$33.08
I nterest	<u>\$0.00</u>	Question Bank Purchases	\$0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$699.93</u>	Berevement	\$0.00
		Name Tags	\$0.00
		Door Prizes	\$0.00
	-	Guest Speaker	\$0.00
		I nsurance	\$0.00
		EHT Expense	\$0.00
		Hall Rental	\$0.00
		Donations	\$0.00
		RAC Membership	\$0.00
		Newsletter Printing	\$19.45
		Directory Printing	\$0.00
		Equipment Repairs	\$0.00
		Cost of Parts	\$0.00
		Coffee	<u>\$0.00</u>
		TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$92.60</u>
		I NCOME	\$607.33

