



February 2008

Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3

NOTICE OF MEETING:

DATE / TIME: Feb 20, 2008 @7:30PM

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

PROGRAM: Our guest speaker is Art Sinclair VE3SQG /VA3TV who will talk about his new HF Stepper IR Yagi.

Club Repeaters: VE3QAR: 146.985 Mhz / 444.475 Mhz. (118.8 Hz PL)

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:

Kingston Online Services

Belleville K8N 2Y6 (613) 968-7137

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Wednesday 7:30 PM Loyalist College
(Pioneer Bldg.) Room P-2

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

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA ADDRESS:

Radio Amateurs of Canada Administrative Office 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217

Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5

Phone: (613) 244-4367 **Fax:** (613) 244-4369.

E-mail: rachq@rac.ca

QARC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Mike Papper VE3OX 613-969-1744 (ve3ox@rac.ca.)

VICE-PRESIDENT: Tim Pekkonen VE3UO 613-969 8012 (tim.ve3uo@gmail.com)

SECRETARY: Bob Moore VE3QWB 613-968-5128 (ve3qwb@rac.ca)

TREASURER: Miles LeClair VE3XDX 613-969-2290 (ve3wdx@kos.net)

PAST PRESIDENT: Peter Hodgson VE3UR 613-962-1386 (phodgson@kos.net)

MINUTES OF QARC MEETING 16 JAN. 2008

CALL TO ORDER BY: Vice President Tim VE3UO at 7:30pm

EXECUTIVE PRESENT: Vice President Tim VE3UO and Secretary Bob VE3QWB
Since there is not a quorum (3 of 5 executive) we cannot hold any votes.

Tim passed along word that President Mike VE3OX isn't at the meeting because he is sick, and then welcomed everyone to our first meeting of 2008 and Happy New Year. He welcomed our guest speaker, Richard VE3MHY and his son Ethan, also new member Art VE3SQG, who received his new name tag (we also have a nametag for Grant VE3IVU), and welcome to new ham Jason VE3AJK

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- a Christmas card from Christy, our hostess at the Saturday morning "break'fest",
- a Thank You card from Jim Ballard VE3GBJ and his XYL for the QARC mugs as a going away present. They now live in New Brunswick.
- A Thank you card from Brian VA3BS and his XYL Joan VA3JLS for the flowers. Brian is doing well.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Since the treasurer is not here, we will go with the last report he made, we have \$5,000.00 dollars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check out our new web page, thanks to Tim VE3UO for the great job

- our Christmas Dinner was a huge success. Thanks to Brian VA3BRW for all his work
- tonight's guest speaker is Richard VE3MHY, back by popular demand
- next month our speaker will be Al VE3OWO, he will be talking about his new FLEX radio
- we sent an invitation to Kingston Amateur Radio Club to join us for breakfast in Napanee sometime in the next few months
- someone asked how to become a "Life Member". The club's bylaws include this: having been a member for twenty consecutive years, a person may purchase a Life Membership by paying two (2) year's dues at the current rate, and shall have Full Membership voting privileges. Or, a person may purchase a Life Membership at any time by paying fifteen (15) years dues in advance at the rate in force at the time of purchase, and shall have Full Membership voting privileges.

The club's bylaws can be seen at: <http://www.qarc.on.ca/bylaws/>

- Dave VE3BIP has been contacted by Ottawa ARC. Every December their club holds a Trivia Quiz night with questions based on Amateur Radio. They asked if we would be interested in exchanging questions. If you have any questions that would be good for a quiz, send them to Peter VE3UR.
- Area clubs are going to put on another Basic Course. If we get ten to twelve students, it would begin around mid April. If you know anyone interested in taking the course, have them contact President Mike VE3OX

- anyone doing volunteer work that requires a Police Check needs to know that the Belleville City Police have decided to do such checks only at certain times of the year. Their next day for checks is February 23.
- Tim VE3UO reminds members of the Pitter Patter Run coming up on Sunday April 20. If you are able to help, contact Tim.
- Cathy Quinn, Harold VE3HNQ Quinn's daughter is holding an Open House for her parents at St. George's Church, Parish House, in Trenton on Sunday, January 20, 2008 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Best wishes only.
- Gerry VE3APF has assorted computer parts he wants to give away. These computers are great for Ham use on Packet, APRS, TelNet, or for trying LINUX or whatever. Parts range from working to just empty cases. There are enough cases, motherboards, CPU's, Minimal SD and EDO Ram, smaller hard drives, Modem cards, Sound blaster cards, LAN cards Power supplies inside them etc. The lowest is Pentium 167 MHZ. There are a couple of 233MHz MMX ones, a 300 MHZ IBM and a Pentium 400 MHZ (Just MBoard) but could be put in another case. There is also a P3 650 MHZ NEC laptop (needs a little work) Nice leather carry case, with 12 Gig Hard drive. Laptop battery is weak not great. There is only one keyboard and one mouse and NO monitors.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None since we don't have a quorum. (see Repeater Report)

ARES REPORT:

Bill VA3WOW reports the Eldorado Sled Dog Races will be held on January 26. Anyone available to help is asked to contact Pete Blakely VA3PGB 613-473-1171

REPEATER REPORT:

The repeater went off the air last week. Tim attended the next day, found out the outlet it is plugged in to and other lights in that area of the school had lost hydro. He ran an extension cord to another outlet and put the repeater back on the air. A backup power supply would keep the repeater on the air the next time the hydro fails. Vice President Tim VE3UO was going to make a motion to spend club money for a repeater battery backup and charger, but since we don't have a quorum, he will bring it up again next month.

We had no tickets, so there was no 50/50 draw or door prizes but Mike had made available buttons that he gave out at the Christmas Dinner, one to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary with the club's logo on it and another button with I 'heart' HAM RADIO on it.

COFFEE & SNACK BREAK

GUEST SPEAKER: Richard Jones VE3MHY gave an interesting presentation about working at the Electro-Magnetic Compatability Lab at Northern Telecom.
Meeting closed at 9:32 with an attendance of 28

Belleville Community Policing Pitter Patter Run

This year's pitter-patter run will be occurring on Sunday April 20. The actual run starts at 10:00 AM.

As is the case in previous years, a Police background check is required for all participating volunteers. However due to changes in policies, Police background checks will only be done at certain times of the year. The first scheduled date is Saturday Feb 23 at the Belleville Police Service, 93 Dundas St East from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Therefore amateur radio volunteers are requested to do one of the following:

1) Attend at the Belleville Police Service, 93 Dundas St E, Saturday Feb 23 and complete the required forms there. You will be required to show two pieces of ID, one of which must be photo ID. Please advise Tim VE3UO (tim.ve3uo@gmail.com) if you will be attending on this date.

2) Go to the Community Policing Office at 318 Front St, Belleville, Monday to Friday and complete the required forms there. The office is generally open from 10 AM to 4 PM, but you should phone ahead (613-968-2242) to check that the office is open. You will be required to show two pieces of ID (one of which must be photo ID), which will be photocopied. The completed forms and photocopied ID's are to be left to the attention of the Office Manager, Jodi Donovan, who will take them to the Police Service on Feb 23.

3) If you cannot do either of the above, contact Tim Pekkonen VE3UO (613-969-8012) who will have a few forms available - they can then be filled out at or before the club meeting on Feb 20. It would be very helpful if you can have your own copies of your ID available.

Please note that there is no charge for radio amateurs completing the required background checks.

For Sale:

40' Delhi self-supporting tower from the estate of Clare Jaynes VA3CWJ. Tower has been taken down and is in storage. Asking \$150 or best offer.

Contact Tim VE3UO tim.ve3uo@gmail.com or Dave VE3UGT ackerman@xplornet.com

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Basic Radio Course

If you know someone that would like to get his/her Amateur Radio license, please contact Mike Papper at 613-969-1744 or e-mail at ve3vmp@sympatico.ca for information.

Field Day 2008

Although we are currently in one of our coldest and snowiest winter in years, it's not too late to start thinking about Field Day, which will be held this year on June 28 & 29. ARRL has already put out the 2008 Field Day package on their website, and there are some additions and changes to the rules. We don't have to plan every detail yet, but it would be a good idea to get a bit of a discussion going on whether we want to operate at the same location or is it time for a change of location? Please come to this month's QARC meeting with your suggestions for Field Day 2008.

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER

Just a reminder that our new dues payment schedule is still in effect. As well, following our constitution and bylaws, (which state any member whose dues is in arrears by 6 months fails to remain a member of the club), I am sad to report that this has cost us 10 of our members. These members were on average 10 months behind on paying.

Following is a list of members who are still on the membership list but owe dues and the amount owing.

\$16.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$6.00	\$2.00
VE3CSU	VA3THB	VA3VHH	VE3GSI	VA3KRV	VA3ORC	VE3RWE
	VE3FZ	VE3ASR	VE3HBR	VE3AZV	VE3BIP	
		VE3NFP	VE3HNJ	VE3CWS	VE3TFI	
		VE3UGT	VE3KWM	VE3HAR		
				VE3UGU		

Paying these amounts will carry your membership through to the end of June 2008. If you wish to add \$25.00 on top of the amount owing this will then carry your membership through to the end of June 2009.

To all other members our annual \$25.00 memberships will expire at the end of June 2008 except for VE3TQJ, VA3BRW, VE3WV, VE3EER, and VE3HBM whose memberships will expire the end of June 2009.

Days are numbered for stick antenna

Why the once-ubiquitous stick antenna is now an endangered species
(Associated press - Jan 26, 2008)

DETROIT—An automotive appendage that often goes unnoticed on the road – unless it loses a battle with the automatic car wash – is disappearing as it succumbs to changing technology, tastes and economics.

The stalwart stick, pole or fixed-mast antenna, mounted on the fender of nearly every vehicle two decades ago, is now on about half of all new models and its ranks continue to

dwindle. When trucks are removed from the equation, it's around 25 per cent.

Its vanishing act is notable on many new vehicles. The 2008 Ford Taurus, for example, has a hidden, in-glass antenna and optional small, roof-mounted satellite radio antenna.

"There's an industry wide push to move away from a metal mast antenna," said Alan Hall, a spokesperson for Ford Motor Co. "Within the next few years, all (Ford) cars and crossovers will have transitioned to the smaller antenna."

The stick antenna faces interference on several fronts. Designers seek to erase anything that detracts from sleek lines, engineers want to eliminate drag that increases noise and decreases gas mileage, and consumers desire signals for their cellphones, satellite radios and global-positioning system devices. And auto executives are trying to cut costs of commodities such as steel and reduce threats to quality – even before cars reach consumers. Stick antennas are removed when the carriers deliver the cars to dealers so they aren't damaged.

Toyota Motor Corp. is mostly free of the traditional long stick antenna, except on single-cab pickup trucks and convertibles, which aren't well-suited for in-glass antennas.

One Toyota executive said the change began in 2001. Quality, fuel economy and cost of operation, drive Toyota's decision-making, said Paul Williamsen, the national manager of Lexus College, a training school for U.S. dealers.

"Both are what come out of the customer's pocketbook. And an antenna is going to lose on both."

The change has challenged antenna suppliers. Some have gone out of business or been acquired by larger suppliers as automakers have sought to squeeze costs.

"You have to provide what they want or else you lose their business," said Jan Boring, president of Global Products Inc. and sales representative for the U.S. subsidiary of Japan-based Harada Industry Co. Ltd., one of the world's major mobile antenna makers. "There's been a demand by the industry for increased technological improvements for hidden types of antennas."

Boring said Harada still makes stick antennas, but has moved toward roof-mounted and in-glass models that accommodate GPS, cellular and other frequencies.

The old stick probably would have vanished by now – but for one nagging thing: It has provided better reception than its offspring.

"For really good reception for low and high frequency, boy, it's hard to beat a good stick on a large field of metal," Williamsen said.

He said auto makers have worked for 25 years on a "diversity antenna," a field of antennas that can be embedded in the side and rear glass of the vehicles to pull in signals. It's a way of achieving similar results from the stick.

General Motors Corp. tried putting antennas in windshields in the 1970s, but they didn't offer good reception. And the standard stick also was threatened in the 1980s and '90s by power mast antennas, electronically controlled by drivers. Problem was, the power antenna was even more likely to be damaged in car washes if it wasn't lowered.

Boring said the evolution of the antenna – and demise of the stick – is positive.

"You have abilities to have navigation systems in your vehicle, cellular phones and telematics, capability of having satellite radio and others," he said. "You have these conveniences without having extra antenna masts protruding from the vehicle."

Toronto Star <http://www.wheels.ca/article/167028>