

*April 2009*

## Quinte Amateur Radio Club Inc. Newsletter

**PO Box 23039 BELLEVILLE Ontario K8P 5J3**

### **NOTICE OF MEETING:**

**DATE / TIME:** Wednesday, April 15, 2009 @ 7:30PM

**LOCATION:** Loyalist College - **\*\*Kente Building, Room 2H10 \*\***

**PROGRAM:** VE3ALC – a presentation of the history of the Loyalist College Ham Station and a peek at the new location. More info next page.

**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/> webspace provided by:**  
**Kingston Online Services, 153 Front St,**  
**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

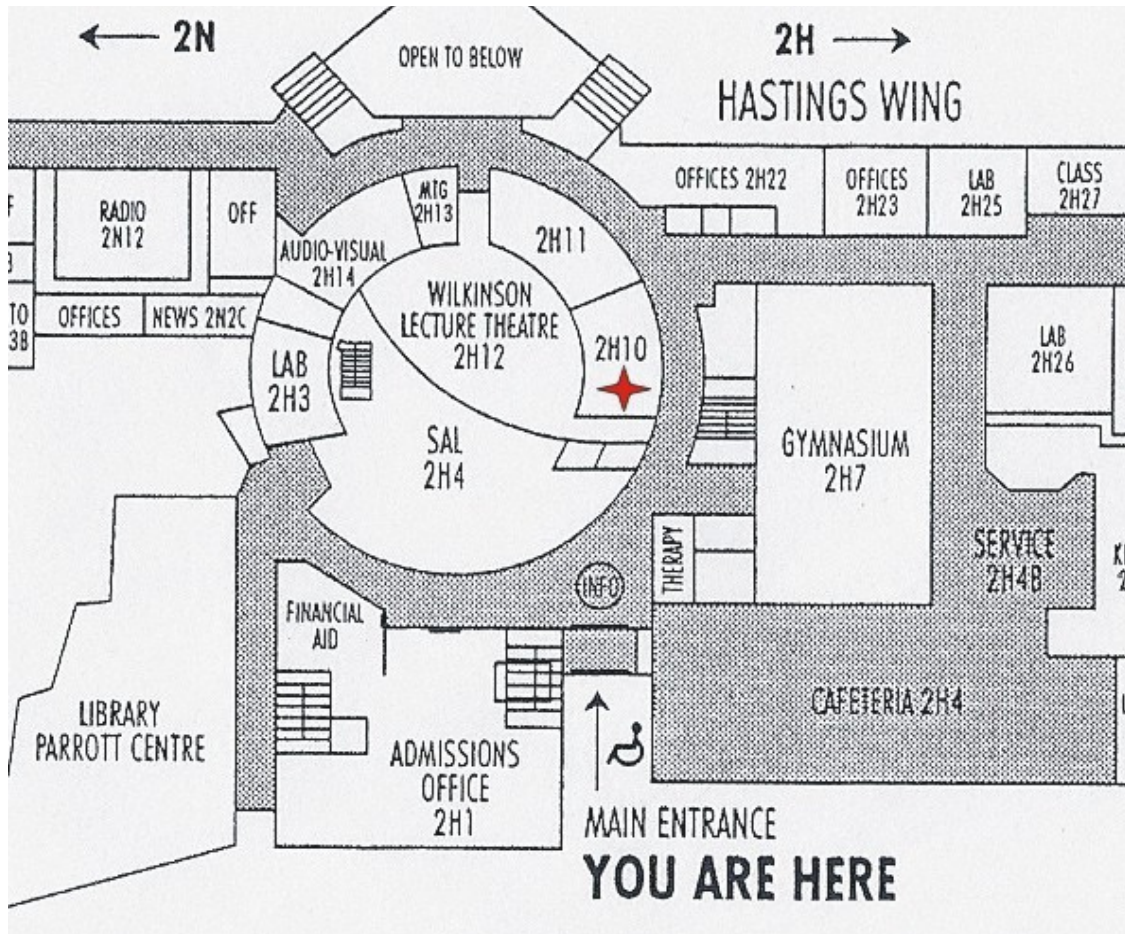
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### **QARC EXECUTIVE**

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## April Meeting Location

For this month only the QARC meeting will be in the main Kente Building of Loyalist College in Room 2H10. This is so we are close to the new location of the Loyalist Amateur Radio Station VE3ALC. We will return to our usual meeting location next month.



**Directions:** Proceed to the Main Entrance of the college. Veer to the right to walk around the Lecture Theatre. Room 2H10 is on the left.

The meeting program will feature a short history of VE3ALC, a peek at the new ham shack, and a description of upcoming features of VE3ALC in its new location. Also, Greg VE3CH, who is the current trustee of the station, and is the Station Manager of the College's FM broadcasting station CJLX-FM 91.3 in his other life, has agreed to provide a tour of the studio for those interested.

The meeting date is Wednesday April 15 at 7:30 PM.

# Minutes of the QARC Meeting March 18, 2009

President Tim opened the meeting at 7:30pm and said too bad it is cloudy tonight as the Space Station should have been visible at 8:08 PM

Executive Present: President Tim VE3UO, Vice President Brian VA3BRW, Past President Mike VE3OX and Secretary Bob VE3QWB.

Tim welcomed members and guests, including our newest member Greg Simms VE3AWQ, our guest speaker Richard VE3MHY and his daughter Roshin.

Announcements: A reminder that Trenton ARC is running it's net 7:00 PM Sundays VE3TRN 147.015 <http://www.qsl.net/ve3ytr/> The Bay Bridge Net is still looking for a new RAC Official Bulletin Station, anyone interested in helping, please contact Tim. Basic Licensing Course update from Mike VE3OX, he will be contacting some people who showed interest in the last few months, there are two people in Trenton also wishing to take the next course.

The Tri-County club has started their meetings for this year, see their website <http://www.tcarc.ca/public/index.php>

President Tim advises he will be letting his Industry Canada Accredited Examiner qualification lapse, he will no longer do testing after March 31. This will leave us with only two examiners close by: Doug Monk and Eric Pierce, both of Picton, able to give amateur exams. <http://perc.lks.net/>

Foxhunts: Dave VE3BIP has posted the 2009 Foxhunt schedule and RECENT results on his webpage: <http://web.mac.com/dpward/TxHunting/>

Repeater Report: VHF: The receiver mods have been completed to correct the low audio problem. It will be moved back to Queen Vic school the week of March 20. UHF: Basically status quo. The club would like to look at controller upgrades and a commercial CTCSS board to correct some 'quirks'. The RX and TX are working OK.

ARES Reports: - The Pitter Patter run will be held on Sun Apr 19. Contact Tim VE3UO if you would like to volunteer to help with communications. A police check will be required, it is not known at this time when Belleville City Police will be doing their next CPIC checks. See <http://tiny.cc/Fy6D3> for details, and contact Tim VE3UO if you would like to volunteer to help with communications. The MS Super Cities Walk will be on Sun May 24 at Moira Secondary school. If you would like to help with communications, contact Ron VE3IVC.

[http://www.mssociety.ca/Ontario/scwalk\\_belleville.htm](http://www.mssociety.ca/Ontario/scwalk_belleville.htm) Doug VE3ZDG reports a few of the Picton group will be doing some signal tests on GMRS/FRS radios on Monday, between Shire Hall, the old public works in Bloomfield, the Picton fire hall, Picton waterworks and the OPP station, as a test for emergency communications.

## Upcoming Meetings:

April 15: A QARC tour of Loyalist College's amateur station, VE3ALC and presentation by Greg VE3CH in Room 2H10 and a studio tour of CJLX-FM. May 20: Elections. Our Past-President Mike VE3OX will be the chairman of the nominations committee and will run the elections. Contact him with your nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

June 17: Field Day Preparations. We are still discussing the possibility of operating 3A (one digital modes) and how there should be physical separation of operating positions and location. Please send your thoughts and suggestions to Tim VE3UO or Art VE3SQG (President, PERC).

Field Day: Tim mentioned that Al VE3FZ, Art VE3SQG, and himself have been down to see the site on Eric's VA3EP property on Bradley Cross Rd ½ km in from Lake on the Mountain Rd (Cty Rd 7) exact location is <http://tinyurl.com/fday4> . Also check <http://www.qarc.on.ca/fd2009/> for updated info as it becomes available.

Pros & Cons:

- 1) high elevation for VHF/UHF
- 2) Access might be difficult if the weather is wet
- 3) some trees for antenna supports
- 4) will have to bring EVERYTHING on site.

NEW Business: There is no new business

50/50 Draw: \$ 22.00 won by Joe VA3JAD

Door Prizes:

Two Ferrite Cores donated by Eric VE3GSI won by Brian VA3BRW A key-chain tri-pod flashlight donated by Bob VE3QWB, won by Greg VE3AWQ

Coffee Break - Thanks Dave VE3UGT for the refreshments and snacks

After the break our guest speaker Richard VE3MHY gave his presentation: Ferrite Cores de-mystified and their applications in amateur radio. As an introduction to the presentation, Eric VE3GSI showed us some pictures of his shack and his heavy use of ferrite cores and beads behind his desk, computer, and various equipment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 but several members stayed a while longer talking about the presentation and upcoming events.

Attendance was 28.

Bob Moore VE3QWB Secretary,  
Quinte Amateur Radio Club [ve3qwb@rac.ca](mailto:ve3qwb@rac.ca)

# A Brief History of VE3ALC

(From Bill Campbell VE3NFP – Feb 2009)

Jerry Ingles VE3HBR and Stan Biggars VE3HBT(?), both from Tweed, were hams at the college in the 1970s but I don't remember exactly how they fitted into the history of VE3ALC.

The Loyalist College amateur radio station was sponsored by Bill Crabbe, VE3CUK, an electronics faculty member. I don't remember the first year but it was probably in the late 1970s. The transmitter was a Heathkit 101? It was probably purchased from the electronics budget account. In those days there actually were budgets. The chief accountant would carefully scrutinize any proposed expenditure but Heathkits always seemed to get approved. I remember the Surveying department needed a short wave receiver for getting the exact time for their star shots. The purchasing department refused to buy an \$80 ready to run Sony radio and instead ordered a \$120 Heathkit as a substitute. There were lots of Heathkit VTVMs around in the lab then. The first transceiver was two separate units, Kenwood 560 twins. They were linked together by a cable that allowed them to function as a single unit. There was a 2 meter rig from an old taxicab but I never saw it working. It weighed about 80 pounds. There was a small Drake 2 meter rig but all the crystals were missing. Bill Crabbe left the college in 1985. Bill and his brother Richard were avid pilots. They flew their Cessna 172 to England and back. Bill gave a great presentation to the QARC about this trip. They wanted to fly to Hawaii but the Cessna 172 didn't have sufficient range so they built a longer-range plane from a kit. Sadly both brothers were killed when this plane crashed in Ottawa.

After Bill left I took over the station. The late John Lester, VE3MB was living in the Quinte area then. He suggested a 40 metre dipole would be a good compromise so we strung one up on the roof. It ran sort of North - South along the building. Then John suggested a 2 meter *plumbers nightmare*. Since there was no budget for the purchase of copper I started to scrounge around the college. I discovered there was a course for young unemployed women teaching them carpentry, electrical wiring and plumbing. They had lots of copper so John drew up the plans and the girls assembled it.

Getting permission to install it on the roof was a problem. The maintenance department was and still is paranoid about water leaking through the roof. Back about 1984 there was a contractor repairing the roof over the college's main computer centre. He cut a large hole in the roof on a Friday afternoon then covered it with a tarp and went away for the weekend. On Sunday afternoon a terrible storm came up, blew away the tarp and soaked the mainframe computer. The computer was sparking and smoking when the commissioner on his rounds noticed it and killed the mains power. The contractor's insurance paid \$250,000 for a new computer. Ever since then all mainframe computers at the college must have umbrellas over them; they look like aluminum grill hoods. Thus the water leakage paranoia. We used a tower attached to the stairwell but standing above the roof for the 2 metre antenna. VE3ALC never had a 2 metre rig so I would bring mine out during the week. There seems to be a line of sight through the Oak Hills to the Peterborough repeater as I could reach it on 5 watts.

## A Brief History of VE3ALC (cont'd)

There was very little student interest in amateur radio at that time. I did manage to get some of the environmental students collecting data and reporting to the weather net. A couple of students came down from Ryerson, VE3RIT, to run the station on several occasions. The chap who replaced Bill Crabbe in 1985 was from Poland. He wanted to use the station as his personal telephone back to Poland. When he found out that I would have to retain physical control of the transmitter while he doing so, he decided to get his own licence. When he found out that he would have to learn code he went ballistic and never went near the radio. Off and on during the 1980s Doug Hinton, VE3BGY, would do some part time teaching at the college. He offered technical advice but I don't recall him operating the station. Lawson Staples, VE3FVL, was a mature student at the same time. He would often get the Kenwood twins humming between classes. There was a student, Eric Mundle, VA3EAM, who was interested in radio. His family owned a campground on the Flinton Road near Actinolite. They generously allowed QARC to use their location for several annual June field days. The late Paul Davidson, VE3UUM, was an electronic student who got his licence after graduation.

In 1988 a new president started at the college. His favorite program was Environmental. At one point there were 125 first year environmental students; this was far more than all the years of the electronic program combined. I managed to convince the environmental dept that they absolutely needed a 35 amp Astron power supply. With so many students it slipped through their budget process unnoticed. VE3ALC has guarded it for them ever since. John Lester got a friend in Kingston to donate a pair of Hammarlunds to us. He described them as the Rolls-Royce of tube equipment. I managed to check into a net with them. I was terrified of transmitting when the receiver was still active. IIRC there was a kiln or oven that kept a crystal at exactly the correct temperature, thus the frequency remained right on. When he died, John Lester left some radio equipment to QARC. After a while QARC decided to donate his Kenwood 430 to VE3ALC. Greg Schatzmann and I used it off and on. It was also used by the electronic students as a source of ssb signals.

After I retired in 2004 Greg Schatzmann, VE3GJS (now VE3CH), took over as the sponsor of VE3ALC.

**Note:** After Jerry Ingles VE3HBR passed away, his family contact DOC and requested that his callsign be re-issued to Marlene Reid, a close friend of the family.

### PERC Auction

The Annual Prince Edward Radio Club Auction will be held on **Thursday May 7** at the Bloomfield Community Center at 289 Main St starting at **7:00 PM**. The same format as in previous years will be followed. An invitation has been extended from the Prince Edward Radio Club to all members of neighbouring radio clubs to attend as well. Updates and information about the auction will be on the weekly 'Bay Bridge Net' Tuesdays at 7:30 PM (VE3TJU - 146.73) as it becomes available.

## **VE3CWS Estate Items Donated to QARC**

The family of Bob Allison VE3CWS, who became a Silent Key in January, has generously donated his radio equipment to the Quinte Amateur Radio Club. A couple of items have been sold already, and the bulk of the items will be at the Prince Edward Radio Club auction in May. If you're interested in any of the items listed, contact Tim Pekkonen VE3UO.

The following is a listing of the items available:

1. Yaesu FRG-7000 General Coverage Receiver
2. Yaesu SP-102 Speaker/Phone patch
3. Swan 350 HF Transceiver & Power Supply
4. Dentron Tuner 'Junior Monitor'
5. MFJ Versa Tuner Model MFJ-945
6. Astatic D-104 Microphone (4-pin connector on end)
7. Kenwood TR-7800 2m FM transceiver  
Bearcat model 220 Scanner  
Astron 7 amp power supply
8. Icom IC-22S 2m meter FM transceiver & mobile mounting bracket  
Vista 3R Regulated 12v power supply 3 amps (used with IC-22S)
9. Amcomm 2 meter power amplifier Model 2m15 serial # F1176
10. Tigertronics soundcard-radio interface Signalink SL-1+
11. SWR Field Strength Meter Model SWR-3P
12. RF Field Strength Indicator Model FL-30H
13. Armaco SWR / Field Strength Meter
14. Power /SWR meter Model SP-1 No-027
15. MFJ Crystal Calibrator 25/50/100 Khz
16. Swan SWR-3 SWR meter
17. Drake DL-300 Model# 1550 Dummy Load
18. B&W rotary antenna switch ("tuna can")
19. Radio Society of Ontario Low Pass Filter
20. E.F Johnson Company Low Pass Filter (round)



21. CDE Antenna Rotor, control box and cables
22. MFJ World Explorer II shortwave converter Model # MFJ-308
23. JVC AM/FM/SW Cassette Recorder Model RC-s1JW
24. Gradco 5" black&white portable TV- AM/FM receiver (12v)
25. President HR-2600 GRS Radio (Citizen's Band)
26. Astatic Microphone "Trucker 555"
27. Desk Microphone (make & model unknown)
28. AEA 'wall wart' model# AC-3
29. Motomaster battery charger 12/6 volts - 10 amp
30. Assorted antenna whips (HF ?) and one antenna mount (was used on apt balcony)
31. One bag misc contents: computer cables, antenna mount, A.C power cord

## **Belleville Community Policing Pitter Patter Run**

This year's pitter-patter run will be occurring on **Sunday April 19**. The actual run starts at 10:00 AM. If you have a required police background check done this year, and are able to help out with this event, please contact Tim VE3UO. The event is a 5k/10k run, and is usually completed by 1:00 PM.

## **MS SuperCities Walk for MS**

This event is scheduled to take place on **Sunday May 24**, starting and finishing at Moira Secondary School in Belleville. Contact Ron VE3IVC for more information about this event.

## **ARRL Field Day - June 27 & 28 2009**

Preliminary planning for Field Day was started at this month's Prince Edward Radio Club meeting. It was decided to hold it at the Eric Pierce VA3EP 'estate' near Lake on the Mountain in 'the county'. The location can be found by driving to Bradley Cross Road, which is just east of the lookout, and proceeding about ½ km on Bradley Cross Road. A Google Map of the location can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/fday4> . More details and plans to be determined at future QARC and PERC meetings. Also you can check <http://www.qarc.on.ca/fd2009/> .



# VE3QAR Repeater Up-date

On Friday March 27, Dave VE3UGT and Tim VE3UO moved the two meter repeater (146.985) back to it's permanent home at Queen Victoria School in Belleville. The receiver has been replaced and the repeater seems to have most of it's receive sensitivity back again. Please pass along any reception reports to Tim VE3UO.

Prior to the move, Tim VE3UO visited the school with a 50 watt two meter radio and VHF wattmeter to check out the antenna. He was able to access several repeaters a good distance away, including VE3PBO in Peterborough, VA3FOY in Foymount, and KA2QJO in Watertown NY. And for good measure, the 'acid test' was with Eric VE3GSI on the 'Napanee Repeater' frequency(146.49 Mhz simplex).

With the 2m repeater off the critical list, we can perhaps now look at some improvements to the 444.475 UHF repeater. The receiver and transmitter are bullet proof Motorola equipment, but the controller is a very basic homebrew, so perhaps we can look at upgrading it to make the repeater more functional. In the meantime it is on the air and available to be used. (Don't forget the 118.8 Hz tone!)

## Hamfest Calendar

Durham Region Hamfest (33rd Annual)  
North Shore ARC & South Pickering ARC Saturday, April 18, 2009  
Whitby, Ontario (just east of Toronto, Ontario)

**St Lawrence Valley Repeater Council** Spring 2009 Meeting – 1:00 PM  
Brockville Firehall, 360 Laurier Blvd  
Saturday, April 25, 2009 more info: [www.slvrc.org](http://www.slvrc.org)

Smiths Falls Flea Market, Celebrating 25 Years  
Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club inc.  
Saturday, May 9, 2009 Smiths Falls, Ontario

ONTARIO HAMFEST 2009  
Burlington Amateur Radio Club  
Saturday, July 11, 2009 Milton, Ontario

Hamfest 2009  
Brantford Amateur Radio Club  
Saturday, August 15, 2009 Burford, Ontario

VHARA HAMFEST  
Victoria Haliburton Amateur Radio Association  
Saturday, August 22, 2009 Lindsay, Ontario

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club 13th Annual Hamfest  
Saturday, September 12, 2009 Ottawa (Carp), ON  
(**Note:** this event has moved to the Saturday after the Labour Day week-end)

Barrie-Orillia Hamfest  
Barrie Amateur Radio Club & Orillia Amateur Radio Club  
Saturday, September 12, 2009

32nd Annual London Amateur Radio Club Flea Market  
Sunday, September 27, 2009 London Ontario

Montreal South Shore Annual Hamfest  
Club Radio Amateur Rive-Sud de Montreal  
Saturday, October 24, 2009 Longueuil/Quebec (10 minutes from downtown Montreal)

York Region Hamfest  
Markham Fairgrounds  
Saturday, October 24, 2009 (to be confirmed.)

## **2009 Foxhunting Schedule**

**Saturday May 2** at 12 PM until 3PM or until all foxes are found by everyone. This will be the spring **Tour of the County** hunt. There will be 3 transmitters located somewhere in Prince Edward County. The hunt will start at Pinecrest Elementary School Bloomfield.

**Wednesday June 10** at 7 PM. The start place is yet to be determined.

**Thursday July 2** at 6PM. This will be a turkey shoot format. Hunters will hunt as a team. This is to simulate a group of radio hams hunting for an interfering transmitter. The fox will be somewhere in Prince Edward County. The hunters will start at various points around the county.

**Wednesday August 12** at 7PM. This will be a walk in the park on foot hunt. The location and number of transmitters are yet to be determined.

**Sunday September 20** at 1:30. Start at Sidney & Bridge St Belleville. This will be a hunt by car. The fox will be determined at the August hunt.

**Sunday Oct 18** at 12PM until 3PM or until all foxes are found by everyone. This will be the fall **Tour of the County** hunt. There will be 3 transmitters located somewhere in Prince Edward County. The hunt will start at Pinecrest Elementary School Bloomfield.

**Sunday November 8** at 1:30 PM. Start at Sidney & Bridge St Belleville. This will be a hunt by car. The fox will be determined at the October hunt.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.qarc.on.ca/foxhunt.htm> and: <http://qarc.on.ca/countyfox.html>

Pictures from previous hunts can be found at:

<http://web.mac.com/dpward/TxHunting/Welcome.html>