

marc  gram

Volume 58, Number 05 - February 2013



Next meeting - February 27, 2013

Ragchew and Fleamarket : 19h30, Club meeting : 20h00

St-Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church
4455 West Broadway, N.D.G. - Montreal

**Presentation by Marc-André, VE2EVN
& Dan, VA2KEY on SOTA**

MarcOgram

The MarcOgram is published nine times per year on the second to last Wednesday of September through June, excepting December, by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Advertising and copy deadline is one week prior to publication.

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The marcOgram team needs you!

We're always on the lookout for interesting articles to include into your monthly newsletter. Do you have a ham radio news item you would like to contribute or just pass along to the marcOgram editors? Just send your document or links to Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC
va2utc@marc.ca

Club Activities - Monthly Meetings

Club meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at St-Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church, 4455 West Broadway, N.D.G. - Montreal. The meetings will be held in the Lounge which is the rearmost door on the South side of the building unless we have reason to hold it in the Parish Hall which is the first door on the South side of the building.

An informal flea-market and ragchew session starts at 19:30 with the formal meeting starting at 20:00. STM buses 51, 162, and 105 stops at or near the door!

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to any member to attend. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (Sept. to June) at 7:30 PM at the same venue as the monthly meetings (see above).

Should you wish to attend one of the meetings you are welcome. Just speak to one of the directors beforehand to make certain that the meeting has neither been cancelled, nor the location changed.

Club Directors

President:

Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH

Vice President:

Sheldon Werner, VA2SH

Treasurer - Secretary:

Jim Hay, VE2VE

Membership:

Vernon Ikeda, VE2QQ

Directors at Large:

Craig Brander, VE2YGK

Eamon Egan, VE2EGN

Marc-Andre Gingras, VE2EVN

George Hedrei, VE2NGH

Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC

MARC Fundraiser WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

In order for MARC to reach some of its goals, we have decided to re-introduce advertising in the marcOgram newsletter. The rates are as follows:

- Business card \$ 5.00 per issue
- Quarter page \$ 7.00 per issue
- Half page \$12.00 per issue
- Full page \$20.00 per issue

The "Marcogram" publishes from September to June, which is nine issues. We also publish a summer edition during the months of August/September, which becomes a free month. So we actually publish ten issues. We have a list distribution of about 200 persons. A business card placed for 9 issues would only be \$ 40.00. We are asking for all members with family or friends who have a business to place an ad. You could also advertise a special function.



A Word from the President

Hello all,

Oh my goodness are we the 20th of the month already? The MarcOgram staff is howling for my president's letter and I had better get it out before they send the man with the crooked nose after me...

Seriously, it's not because I have trouble finding things to say. It's getting started that's the most difficult part (well that and stopping me once I get going). There are lots of things to talk about though, here's what I have on my short list:

Hamfest season yay! I don't know about the rest of you, but I've taken to itching through the winter waiting for the hamfests to be upon us the same way I find my self yearning for the spring time weather and opening day for walleye fishing. I admit it's become a bit of a dilemma for me too, because both seasons sort of coincide. So I spend the spring, summer and fall planning to hit all the local hamfests as well as get my fishing in. I'm sure some of my ham buddies think I have some kind of multiple personality disorder, but really it's just poor calendar management on my part (are we the 20th of the month already?) Anyways, I wanted to get the message out early to you all this year. Our own hamfest is scheduled for April the 13th so be sure to put that date on your calendar and don't

forget to reserve your tables. Also as we usually do, the MARC has reserved a table at the Laval Laurentide hamfest which is fast approaching on the 23rd of March. We of course are happy to reserve a table for you at our own hamfest, but if you have one or two radio related items that you can't wait until April to get rid of, drop me an email at ve2ofh@ve2ofh.com if you ask nicely, you may put your treasure on the MARC table to see if there are any takers in March. Again, keywords here are 1 or 2 items for display and ask nicely.

The MARC course is well underway and before even being finished, kudos must go out to MARC instructors Jim, VE2VE, Vern, VE2MBS and George, VE2NGH for the great job they are doing. This year's course is twice as challenging for them as they are covering material for both the basic and advanced qualifications simultaneously. If you think it was bad in the one room school house you went to when you were a kid, just try it with a roomful of HAMS and see what you get. These guys are saints compared to teachers of yore.... On a related note, I remember talking with Nora, VA2NH a few meetings back about her experience taking the advanced certification. She was telling me that she didn't go into the course already knowing all the required math. Nora, I can say one thing to you now and that is, I feel your pain... 100% copy from here, where I'm following closely in your footsteps (-: On the repeater front, George still has VE2RED in his garage and work on this system is still pending. That being said, VE2BG is doing well enough. I think the cold weather may have tightened up the squelch a little bit for us as that long tail we had doesn't seem too bothersome at the moment. Either that, or ice has gotten into the antenna system again (due to a few holes in the coax jacket) and sensitivity is decreased. At any rate, it's bought us a little time and it's less urgent at the moment for George, VE2NGH to run down to the shack and make the required adjustment. Things have (Cont. Page 4)

Annual Fees are:

General Members	\$25.00
Associate Members	\$25.00
White cane members	\$15.00
Family members (per family)	\$30.00

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Membership received on or after June 1 commences immediately and extends through the subsequent membership year - covering a period of up to fifteen months.

Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

Club Website: <http://www.marc.qc.ca>

Club Email: ve2arc@rac.ca

Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)
Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club.
Located on the Pointe Claire water tower.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)
Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club.

been improving steadily on the local English language repeater front and you'll be happy to hear the our sister club's VE2RWI repeater (146.910) is on the air again cleaner and louder than we've heard it over the past few years. Also their UHF repeater is back up as well and a little bird told me that they are waiting to coordinate with the commercial client with which they share the antenna system to hook it back up to it's main antenna (for the moment it is on a temporary one and may be up and down over the next week or so). Thanks and respect go out to J.F, VE2TBH and Charles, VE2RFI for their excellent work on these ailing systems.

I have a bit of a pet project this year that I'd like to share with you all. Since I have your attention, I hope you don't mind if I use this space as my personal soap box. I would like to find a way for qualified club members to get on the HF bands and who for whatever reasons, are unable to do so from their home QTH. Imagine being able to offer access to a radio which can be controlled remotely. Or again, perhaps a simple "portable setup" which can be loaned out (for a period), under a certain set of conditions. As you can see, this idea is still in it's infancy and many details would have to be worked out. I'm putting this out there today, because I'd like to solicit your ideas and

comments as to what may or may not be doable. You can email myself directly with any ideas, suggestions or comments you may have regarding this and I'll be sure to keep the rest of you updated, if and when we decide to do anything.

This month's meeting will be a good one. Our speakers are Marc-Andre, VE2EVN and Dan, VA2KEY with a presentation on SOTA operations. If you haven't heard about SOTA yet, you haven't been coming out to the meetings often enough. SOTA stands for Summits on the Air and it works to a certain extent like IOTA does, except with mountain climbing and gear lugging and no water (well unless the mountain happens to be on an island). Anyways I won't say any more about that, you'll have to come to the meeting in order to find out how you can get involved (there is a very active local SOTA group in and around our location). I'm looking forward to this presentation as well as seeing you there. In the meantime, be well and good DX.

73 de Paul, VE2OFH

From the Desk of VA2UTC

February has come, with it thoughts of summer looming. For hams that means one thing ANTENNAS and other projects. I am no different. Looking in my backyard I see another End Fed on the pole plus an improved grounding system.

Another thought crossing the mind is backup. As many are aware a cruise ship, Triumph, of the Carnival Cruise line company became a floating sewer after losing power due to an engine room fire. The ship lost all power and communications when the fire broke out in one of two engine rooms, 5 of 6 generators were knocked offline causing the ship to essentially become dead in the water. Listing, with sewage flowing in passageways and little in the way of food passengers on Triumph were forced to endure what can only be described as hellish conditions. From a communications standpoint the loss of communication even for a small period of time could have resulted in a greater disaster.

This brought to the mind the need to be prepared in an emergency. Whether it is a commercial or in our case an amateur enterprise a good backup system is a must. Even more effective is a system that is not attached to or located near the mains located in a place easy to access. In short a backup that really is a backup. But, before one goes forward

with building a backup shack or assembling a pickup and go kit one needs to understand what is needed in the shack and kit and also what standards and protocols are in place should an emergency take place. The key thing that we all must be well aware of is our capability to help in in an emergency if asked. Would you, do you know what to do in the event you are called upon to respond to an emergency where your skills as an operator may be called upon?

As summer comes and we approach Field Day, we probably should think about how we would handle a request for help as individuals and also in a team environment. It is a project we rarely think about as hams, but seeing a floating sewer this week and knowing FD is coming up I can not help but ask are we ready, really ready to answer the call as individuals and as a club.

Cliff T VA2UTC
 Marcogram Content Editor.





CANWARN

Speaking of emergencies, weather has the power to cause massive destruction. Winds rain and yes even heat can create conditions that affect populations. CANWARN works with Environment Canada and reports severe weather via telephone and online. It's really quite simplified. A local operator informs a net control station that severe weather has or is occurring. The control op then advises the sever weather office at EC of the situation via the web or by telephone. The staff at Environment Canada analyze the data collected from CANWARN along with other sources like radar and satellite data and then proceeds with the appropriate forecast or warnings for the area affected.

On the web CANWARN sites are at:

Environment Canada :

[http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-](http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=82ADE061-1)

[weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=82ADE061-1](http://www.ec.gc.ca/meteo-weather/default.asp?lang=En&n=82ADE061-1)

Quebec <http://www.canwarnquebec.ca/> French only.

Ontario <http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/canwarn/home-e.html>

There are also sites in Alberta Saskatchewan and the Atlantic.

It was brought to our attention that Patrick Fortin VE2PWT, has passed away. Patrick was one of the founding members of Canwarn Quebec.

VA2UTC



ARES

It's only fair to mention ARES the other body of hams that provide communications in the event of an emergency. RAC and ARES are connected. The program enables hams from across the country to train and be ready to answer emergency

calls should they arise. Those interested in ARES can visit RAC at <https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/public-service/ares/> and here in Quebec Norm VE2NHK is the contact for ARES. You can reach him via email at ve2nhk@rac.ca

VA2UTC



WORLDBEAT: IARU TO REVIEW REGION II HF BABDPLAN THIS YEAR

The ARRL reports that the International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 High Frequency band-plan will be a topic of discussion at a conference will be held later this year in Mexico. According to the League, the Region 2 conference is held every three years and is attended by delegations from the national Amateur Radio societies in the western hemisphere that are members of the IARU.

The ARRL is the IARU Member Society for the US. It notes that IARU band plans are voluntary guidelines. It adds that they do not have the force of FCC regulations and that for radio amateurs in the US, IARU band plans are informational, not regulations. However most other countries do not have the detailed sub-band regulations as are in place here in the United States, so for radio amateurs in those nations the voluntary IARU band plans may offer the only guidance on frequency usage.

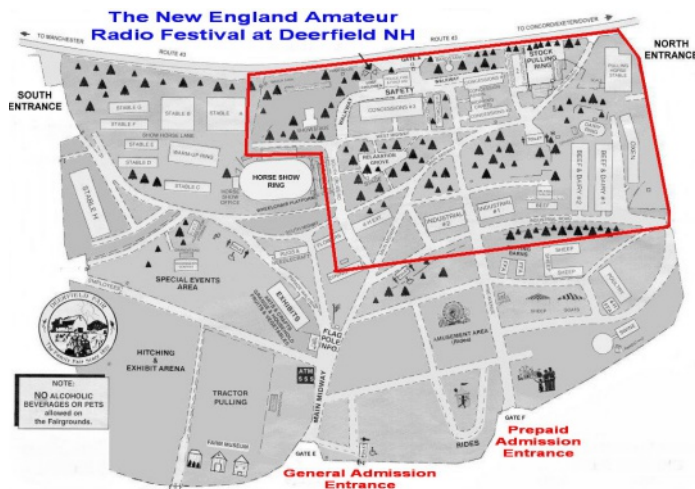
Hams living in Region 2 can find the current band-plan on-line at www.iaru-r2.org/band-plan. The Region 1 and Region 3 band plans are also posted there as well. (ARRL, IARU)

Amateur Radio Newsline February 15 report 1853

NEARFEST

Each time, or it seems that way, that I am at club meeting our good friend and fellow operator Leo, when given the opportunity, makes mention of NEARFEST. Now I have not been to many hamfests but, from the sounds of it this one almost compares to the Dayton Hamvention. NEAR-Fest as it is commonly noted as is a 2 day event beginning on Friday and

ending Saturday afternoon. However there is more to this hamfest than meets the eye. Thursday evening a pre-hamfest get together is planned, a jam session on Friday night is another of the highlights and besides the tailgating that goes on outside the venues there are 3 buildings where vendors from far and wide gather to sell all things radio related and maybe some things that are not.



The XIII edition of the event is scheduled for May 3rd and 4th at the Deerfield Fairgrounds in Deerfield NH. An enhanced drivers license may provide enough ID to cross the border but, your best bet is to have a valid Canadian Passport. Oh yes and did I mention, the door prize is a K3! Check the NEAR-Fest site for more details at <http://near-fest.com/>

VA2UTC



**HAM HAPPENINGS:
11TH WORLD HIGH SPEED
TELEGRAPHY CHAMPIONSHIP IN
BULGARIA**

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs will host the 11th World High Speed Telegraphy Championship in the city of Borovets. This from September 22nd to the 26th. Competitors from all over the world are invited to take part. More information is on-line at www.bfra.org, or by e-mail to bfra_hq@hotmail.com.

(BFRA) via Amateur Radio Newslines



**HAM HAPPENINGS:
SPEAKERS NEEDED FOR 2013 HAM RADIO
TOWN MEETING**

And for the past 15 years or so, Amateur Radio Newslines has produced and presented "The Ham Radio Town Meeting" at the Dayton Hamvention. Whenever possible, we try to stay close as possible to the Hamvention's overall theme which this year is simply "DX." And in going with that theme, this years Ham Radio Town Meeting will be titled "What DXing Means To Me" and will be a very personal glance at the various aspects of DXing from those who are involved in so many different ways. The 2013 Ham Radio Town Meeting will be on Saturday, May 18th, at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. We usually are scheduled from 11:45 am to 2 pm EDT. If you are interested in being a speaker please contact us by e-mail to newsline@arnewsline.org or using the fill-in-the-blanks form at www.arnewsline.org/contact. Either way, please include all of your act information, including a SKYPE ID if you have one so that I can get back to you.

Thank you in advance and we hope to see some of you this May at Hamvention 2013.

Amateur Radio Newslines



Annual St. Patrick's Parade

The annual St. Patrick's Parade will be on Sunday March 17 this year. We will need two or three volunteers to assist with position reporting. The radio equipment will be provided and the parade goes regardless of the weather.

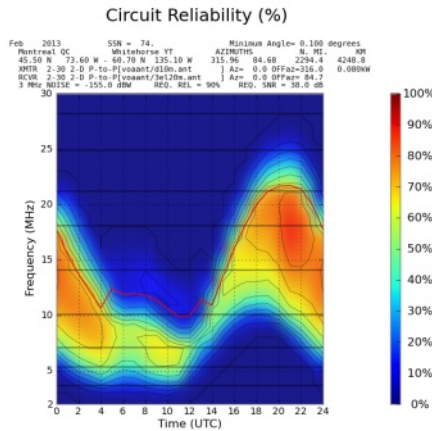
If you are interested please contact Jim Hay, VE2VE at ve2ve@marc.ca or 514-697-7205.

Jim Hay, VE2VE

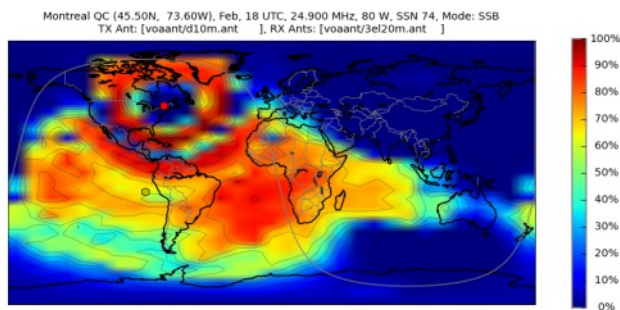
Weather Radio Listeners Newsletter Net

VOACAP

Hams always want to know what the bands are doing re propagation. It's in our DNA so to speak to find out what band works best for DXING. There are many tools out there one can use. One that I found very interesting is a website called VOACAP. I heard VY0HL mention this site and I checked it out. This site is awesome. An operator can check point to point or in general which frequency span is best suited for use based on antenna, location power and mode of transmission.



I experimented with this and it does work. The day I worked VY0HL on 12 I looked at VOACAP and did a point to point check. This was around 1900z. I went to the site and set up my location, power, 100w, antenna Dipole @ 33 ft about 10 meters. Then I selected the region I wanted to see in this case VE8 antenna I chose for receive 3 element yagi @ 60 ft or 20m. His power also 100w. The path short no E scatter on SSB. And sure enough for 12 I got a prediction of between 50 and 60%.



Now if you want to see where in the world one can work on 12 or another HF band, you can do that. For me it's around 1800z to 1900z for 12m based on my working conditions and the other station having an antenna 20m up 3 elements. Try it for yourself. The website is at <http://www.voacap.com>

VA2UTC

I just want to let you know about a fairly new net on Saturday nights called the Weather Radio Listeners Newsletter Net. It is hosted by Gordie VA3WXA out of Toronto. It begins at 8pm Atlantic, 7pm Eastern on IRLP Reflector 9034 and if you have a computer, Echolink node 223557. It has information about Weather Radio and also CANWARN. It will also include weather warnings across Canada and power outages. We are trying to make this a Cross Canada Net to include all provinces and Territories. We do not at this time have any contacts from Quebec. This may only be because you do not know of this net. I am inviting you or anyone you know in Quebec who is interested in weather to take part. If you have a weather station, you can report your findings at your QTH or if you have any local_severe_weather going on, you can report on that. For more information about the net, go to The Maritime Amateur website www.maritimeamateur.ca and click on CANWARN. Once there, click on CANWARN news where you will find articles on this net. Here is the direct link below. <http://www.freewebs.com/ve1jbl/canwarnnews.htm>

Any questions, please let me know.

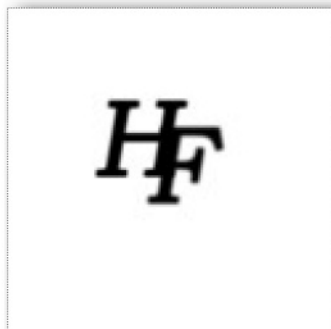
Thanks for reading, Hope to hear you on the net,

James (Jim) Langille VE1JBL
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 Amherst NS B4H2T4
 902-667-1485
 Email: ve1jbl@eastlink.ca
 Web: www.maritimeamateur.ca
 Monitor: VE1WRC 147.285+ / IRLP 2060

VE2GW, SK

I am sorry to announce that we have lost one of the characters of the amateur radio, and radio, community in George Wolley, VE2GW. A former club member George was frequently active on two metres and regularly heard on the various nets where he always had a story to tell. George was well known as the owner of AAA Communications which was located in Roxboro for many years. George will be missed and we extend our sympathy to his friends and family.

de Jim, VE2VE

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AMATEUR RADIO / RADIO-AMATEUR

ALINCO, ICOM, KENWOOD, RANGER, S.G.C., YAESU

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PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL), ARTSCI, BAYLIN PUBLICATIONS, BILLBOARD (WRTH), CQ, CRB, HIGHTEXT, IBS (PASSPORT), KLINGENFUSS, KRAUSE, LOOMPANICS, NATIONAL RADIO CLUB, RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK, RADIO AMATEURS DU QUEBEC, SCHIFFER BOOKS, SONORAN, TAB, TIARE

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