

marc



gram

Volume 58, Number 03 - November 2012



*Next meeting - November 28, 2012*

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

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

**Presentation by Normand, VE2NHK  
on Amateur Radio Emergency Service.**

## 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.

Content Editor :

Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC  
va2utc@marc.ca

Contributing Editor :

Sheldon M Werner, VA2SH  
va2sh@marc.ca

Page Layout Editor :

Marc-André Gingras, VE2EVN  
ve2evn@marc.ca

Proof Editor :

Nora Hague, VA2NH

*Cover photo ©Radio Amateurs of Canada*

Articles published in the MarcOgram may be reproduced provided credit is given to the original author and the Montreal Amateur radio club. The opinions expressed herein are, unless otherwise stated, solely those of the authors concerned, and not those of the Club, the Directors or members and do not represent the policy of the Club.

## 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. 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:

Jim Hay, VE2VE

Membership:

Vernon Ikeda, VE2QQ

Secretary:

Eamon Egan, VE2EGN

Directors at Large:

Craig Brander, VE2YGK

Marc-André 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,

The new year of club activities is upon us starting with the MARC Christmas dinner celebration. This year we have a nice event planned for you and as an added bonus, we'll be sharing this festive time with the VE2RMP radio group. As you may or may not know, several members of the MARC are also members of VE2RMP. To me this is wonderful news and my thanks go out to Cliff, VE2YU for suggesting the idea as well as to the fifty plus members who welcomed it at the VE2RMP AGM. The MARC has been very lucky to be able to cultivate such close ties with other local area radio clubs and we look forward to more of these types of co-hosted events in the coming year. I know it seems that each year, our money does less and less for us and prices are almost always on the rise, but not so for the Christmas dinner. This year, the price to members and their guests has come down by half of what it cost last year's participants. We've chosen a new location where the cost per plate has gone way down to a flat rate of \$15.00 per plate. That low price will buy you soup, entrees, a main course consisting of 5 different classic Chinese delicacies, as well as coffee, tea and dessert. We're not talking about a warmed over buffet served under heat lamps either, dinner will be served at the table and the main course dishes will be refilled as needed. For further savings, you may bring

### 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.

your own wine. Of course your participation, also gives you a crack at some of the many door prizes that will be offered. I look forward to seeing you there on Wednesday evening of December the 5th (more details in this month's news letter). You can send your R.S.V.P. to [ve2ofh@ve2ofh.com](mailto:ve2ofh@ve2ofh.com) or [ve2arc@rac.ca](mailto:ve2arc@rac.ca).

In other news, you may have noticed that VE2BG is once again up and running more or less as it should be (at least for the past few weeks). We are not finished with this dossier yet however and here is what has been done so far. George, VE2NGH, Jim, VE2VE, Eamon, VE2EGN and Marc-Andre, VE2EVN paid a visit to the VE2BG repeater site after this month's board meeting and managed to get the repeater listening again. It looks like it is due for another alignment, which should be completed by the end of the weekend of the 24th of November. Thanks go out to George and the boys for taking the time during this busy season, for this much needed maintenance. That's not all though, as Claude, VE2YI was able to refer us to a certified rigger (a must when dealing with the water tower site where BG is installed) and last week we were able to have the VE2BG antenna system examined. I don't think we've had this antenna looked at for at least 20 years now and there are indeed some problems with the system that will have to be corrected. In the meantime, the feed line connection has been redone, but it looks like we'll need new Heliac and rent a cherry picker or a crane to bring everything up to snuff. This represents a major expense to the club and we are waiting on the rigger's report in order to take an informed decision as to what exactly must be done and when. Stay tuned for more news as this dossier unfolds.

Well I managed to fuddle through my first AGM and have yet to be run out of town... I'm glad David Ross, VE2SC was there as he was able to help me out with one or two points of order and helped to keep me on the straight and narrow. Thanks Dave! I'll get better with practice... (Cont. Page 4)

### Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

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

Club Email: [ve2arc@rac.ca](mailto: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 (+) -- OFF AIR  
Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club.

In related news, Earl, VE2ESP and Ron, VE2RJC have both stepped down from their positions on the MARC board. The MARC owes a deep debt of gratitude to them both, for their years of faithful service. I'm also very pleased to announce that we have two new directors on our board this year. Eamon Egan, VE2EGN and Cliff Tooher, VA2UTC have joined us this year and I'm sure you're all with me on congratulating them. These are two hams I'd be happy to work with anywhere, so we are very lucky to have them with us this year on our board of directors. Welcome aboard guys!

At our November meeting this month, Normand Pitre, VE2NHK will be giving us a presentation on ARES. Norm is our Quebec ARES SEC and I for one am looking forward to hearing about his plans for La belle province. This promises to be an interesting session and I know you'll not be wanting to miss it. I'll see you all there at the MARC general meeting Wednesday, November the 28th. Until then, stay well and good DX.

73 de Paul, VE2OFH

### From the Desk of VA2UTC

It's been a busy time for me. I recently took the opportunity to go back to school, I am training to be a Medical Secretary. Whoever said medical terms were easy to remember lied. Couple that with having to deal with a nasty eye problem that just does not want to quit, gory details left out, and you get the picture, challenging times indeed. But, a good test of stamina never hurts once in awhile.

Ham radio, busy? Yep, very, lets see. PA QSO party, WAG contest, Cal QSO party and a biggie CQWW with Gilles VE2TZT, George, VE2NGH, Jean VE2JM and Victor VA2WDQ. As a group we operated with the call VC2T, worked 4914 stations on all bands and our score was over 9.4

million points. The last known data shows us placing very high in the standings. I have a blog post on the event the link <http://va2utc.blogspot.ca/2012/11/v-c-2-t.html>. I was also approached and asked to join the board which, I am pleased to say I accepted and have assumed my role as a Director. I would like to thank all of you for the confidence you have placed in me and I pledge to do the best job I can to support the various projects and overall mission of the club. The main role of course is to continue as the editor of this newsletter. Once again thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Cliff T VA2UTC  
Marcogram Content Editor.

### Sunday Night Information Net

A tradition for many years for local hams has been to sign on to the Sunday Night Information Net. The net gives local operators the chance to congregate on the air and exchange information related to amateur radio. Segmented in four parts the net offers information on club and other events, hamfests, that are of interest to the amateur community. The second segment offers checked in station operators a chance to offer up information on what is going on at they're station. Third a swap shop and the last a round table forum where topics of interest are discussed. The net is a staple on the VE2RWI repeater. Recently VE2RWI has been plagued by difficulties, many hams report that they can not access the repeater, but on reverse are heard by most of the people on the net. This has prompted a change of frequency.

As of November 11, 2012 the net will now be run on the VE2RMP repeater. The frequency is 146.760 -600 for the input with a tone of 103.5. The repeater itself has been on the air since the 1970s and is located in the Laurentien region. The VE2RMP repeater group was founded in 2005 and it's objective is to ensure the upkeep and operation of the repeater. <http://www.ve2rmp.org/> has all the related details for this repeater. It is unclear if the change is permanent please stay tuned, so to speak for updates ad they become available.

Cliff T VA2UTC  
Marcogram Content Editor

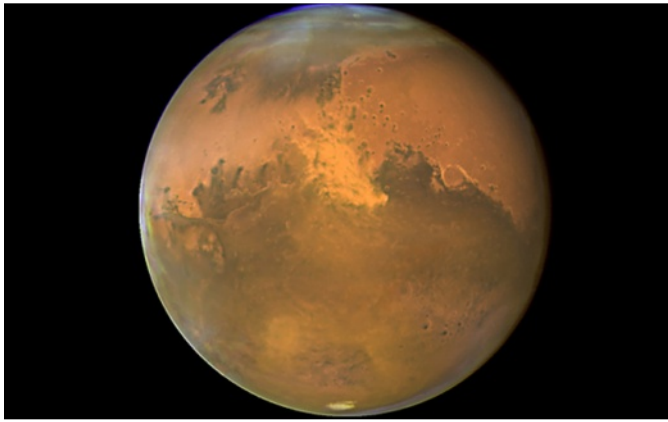
### HAM RADIO IN SPACE: GERMAN SPACE AGENCY REJECTS AMSAT DL MARS MISSION

Germany's space exploration plans will not support a proposed ham radio mission to the red planet. We have more in this report:

--

After five years of discussions and negotiations with the German space agency, AMSAT-DL reports that nation's space





exploration group has withdrawn its support for the amateur satellite organization's plan to send a ham radio satellite to Mars. This is the so-called P 5 or Phase 5 satellite mission.

According to the AMSAT News Service, the agency advised the group that P5's mission was not financially feasible. Also that compared with the current Mars missions the scientific attraction was simply not there. You can read that as being of insufficient interest to the formal scientific research community.

The decision by the German Space Agency also affects plans for a geostationary Earth-orbiting ham radio satellite. This being the so called Phase 3 E which was to be part of the overall P 5 program. None of this is good news for amateur radio's future exploration of the final frontier.

(For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, in Los Angeles. Note just mention that this was reported by Burt and that it comes from the show dated 9 November).

--

Add as footnote: AMSAT-DL officials sat that they are not giving up hope for these missions. They note that their organization recently had some interesting meetings in China adding that if it cannot do rocket science in Germany, that it will have to look for other countries. (ANS)



## Ham Radio Now

Ham Radio Now offers amateurs a news service online in video format. Programming is geared solely to ham radio. Gary KN4AQ is the man behind the site. Recently the focus was on Hurricane Sandy. In episode 31 of the Ham Radio Now show a feature interview with Mike Corey KI1U, who is

the ARRL Emergency Prep Manager along with John Zaruba Jr. Is the focus. Check out the site on the net at <http://arvideonews.com/hrn/index.html>.

Cliff T VA2UTC  
Marcogram Content Editor



## QRZ? Changing?

Some folks may have noticed that the behavior of the QRZ callsign search engine has changed. That's because we've just completed a major rewrite of the callsign search function and are pleased to announce several new features. These include:

- Support for prefix and suffix lookups using the star (\*) character, e.g. try "AA\*"

- The ability to find partial callsigns (e.g. \*7x\*)

- Improved USA County search

- The ability to list all of the QRZ callsigns for a given DXCC entity

- The ability to search by both major and minor grid squares

To see the new features, which include help info, just click on the search button at the top of the page, without filling in the search box. You will be brought to a new search box having all the aforementioned options.

This software update has also introduced more performance improvements and a general rewrite of many key functions. The callsign pages are now lighter (having fewer bytes to transfer) and some features are now loaded on demand instead of by default. One feature, however, which we called Notes, did not make the cut over. We're reviewing the usefulness of this feature which at its core was a Twitter-like capability that didn't work as well as Twitter. We're going to reevaluate the feature to see if it continues to make sense. Our sense is that the majority of our users didn't make use of it.

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ  
Publisher, QRZ.COM  
[aa7bq@qrz.com](mailto:aa7bq@qrz.com)



### 2012 ARRL Boxboro Convention

This past August 24th. – 26th. The ARRL New England Division Convention was held in Boxborough, Massachusetts. This three-day event is organized by FEMARA Inc., which is a consortium of area radio clubs. The convention has been running for over 30 years. The convention is held every 2 years, and had just over 2000 paying guests. The hotel and 2 other hotels within 5 minutes were all sold out of rooms. Details and a photo gallery is available at <http://www.boxboro.org/index.html>

Friday morning, companies and exhibitors are setting up to get ready for the crowds on Saturday. All the major radio manufacturers were present, with ICOM, Yaesu, Kenwood and Elecraft dominating the largest booths. Elecraft had the most impressive booth, with all their products on display and working. The KX3 was showcased. In speaking with Eric Swartz - WA6HHQ, Elecraft, president, he reported that he was very happy with the orders that people were placing at the show. The most innovative new radio was offered by Flex radio with their SDR transceivers. But with pricing starting at \$6,500.00 to \$9,000.00 dollars. Flex radio's most popular sellers are the Flex 1500 and the 3000 series of models. Most

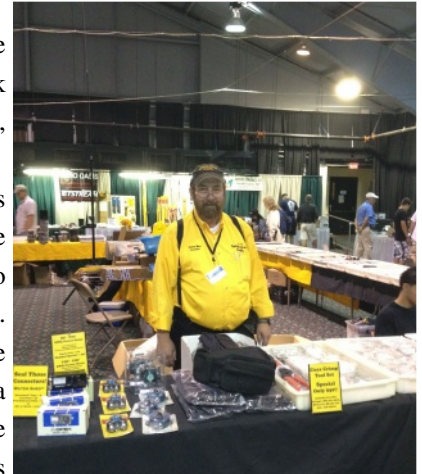


of the major ham radio retailers were present, which had tons of radios and accessories for sale. It was noted, and with speaking with the exhibitors that hams were buying and spending money.

Yes, there was a lot of new radios, but if you are still running a somewhat vintage station, Hagerty Radio Company has some interesting products. Check out <http://www.walfl.com> for some interesting VFO's for vintage gears. One product that I personally use, and have them for all my wire antennas is the Ladder-Loc. This allows me to use ladder line properly attached and secured.

The other long time exhibitor is, Quick Silver Radio Products, <http://www.qsradio.com>

Owner, Joe Bee has been selling Power Pole and assorted radio accessories for years. His biggest sellers are Power Poles, Antenna Rope, Coax. Over the two-day period, hordes



of hams surrounded his tables. I have been dealing with Quick Silver Radio Products for years, and I'm very happy. Another exhibitor, "Ham Source", had a lot of DC related products and QRP accessories. His website is <http://www.hamsource.com> Saturday was the opening, and the forums were starting. The forum topics were very complete and interesting. Topics such as, "Advanced Receiver Designs", "Antennas", "Elecraft KX3", "Vintage radios", "Power Pole Workshop", "QRP forums".

The New England QRP club had the most members in attendance at the convention. <http://www.newenglandqrp.org>



Thanks to Dennis, K1LGQ and Carl, WA1ZCQ, organized the QRP activities of the convention. The QRP forum had Eric Swartz of Elecraft as a presenter. I was asked to do a forum again, since I had done one in 2008, and they liked what I did. My talk on DC Power & Batteries drew, 84 attendee's at 9:00 AM. And I was not even offering free coffee. It lasted 1 hour with a question period at the end. At the close of my talk I rush to listen in on another forum.

A convention would not be complete unless it had a hamfest component. Which Boxboro, has, a few hundred outdoor spots, with hams selling everything from complete stations to components. At every convention, there is a banquet, which was sold out, and had live music.

The drawing for the banquet was a Elecraft KX3. Sunday

afternoon, there was the closing of the convention and the drawing of the door prizes.


The major door prizes were

- Kenwood TS-590S - HF Transceiver
- Kenwood TH-72A - APRS dual band HT
- Kenwood TM-281A 2-meter mobile transceiver
- Flexradio 1500 SDR transceiver

It was a fun filled time, and we able to see a lot of friends. We are looking forward to attending the next convention in 2014 to be held in Newington, Connecticut.

John Grow, VE2EQL

Marcogram contributor



**MENU**

**Soups**  
Wonton or hot and sour

**Appetizer**  
Spring Roll and 4 Peanut Butter Dumplings

**Main course**  
Chicken Fried Rice, Pan Fried Noodles, Diced Almond Chicken, Sesame Seed Beef, General Tao Chicken  
*Main course dishes will be put on the tables buffet style and replenished if needed.*

**Desert**  
Ice Cream or Fried Banana, Coffee or Tea

**\$15**

## Annual Holiday Supper

You are cordially invited to an evening of excellent company, interesting topics and good Asian food.

Please come and enjoy the beginning of this festive season with us.

The favor of your RSVP, including the number of guests, is requested by November 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 at [ve2ofh@ve2ofh.com](mailto:ve2ofh@ve2ofh.com)

Join us on Wednesday, December 5th 2012, at 7:30 PM at l'Empereur Szechuan Restaurant (formerly knows as **On Luck**)

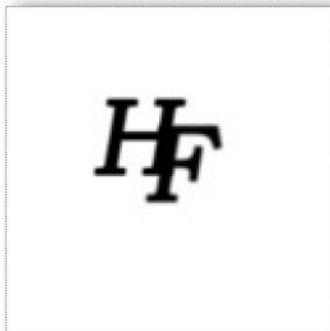
1701 Boulevard des Sources,  
Pointe-Claire, QC H9R 5A2

GPS: N 45 27 46.7346 W 73 46 59.6382  
[Click here for the Google Maps link](#)

M.A.R.C. Holiday Draw  
Prizes will be handed out to the lucky winners.

Each person will pay individually (\$15, tax included). Bring your own wine, beer or liquor. Cash, debit or credit cards are accepted. The tip will be paid for by M.A.R.C.

M.A.R.C. welcomes the members of the VE2RMP Radio Group

**RADIO H.F.**

PO Box 67063-Lemoyne

St-Lambert, Quebec

J4R 2T8

tel/fax :450-671-3773

sans frais - toll free in Canada

1-800-463-3773

email : [info@radiohf.ca](mailto:info@radiohf.ca)

Specialists in shortwave radio, scanners, amateur radio, FRS/GMS, CB radio, antennas, accessories

Les spécialistes en radio ondes courtes, balayeurs d'ondes, radio-amateur, dispositifs radio domestiques (DRD/GMS), la bande publique (CB), an-

**SHORTWAVE & AM/FM RADIOS / RADIOS ONDES COURTES & AM/FM**

A.O.R., ALINCO, GRUNDIG/ETON, ICOM, JRC, S.G.C., YAESU

**SCANNERS / BALAYEURS D'ONDES**

A.O.R., ALINCO, ICOM, UNIDEN/BEARCAT, WINRADIO

**AMATEUR RADIO / RADIO-AMATEUR**

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

**CITIZENS BAND (CB) / BANDE PUBLIQUE (CB)**

ASTATIC, COBRA, GALAXY, K40, MACO, PARADYNAMICS, RANGER, ROAD NOISE, SHAKE-SPEARE, SOLARCON/ANTRON, UNIDEN, VALOR/PRO-AM, WILSON, WORKMAN

**FRS & GMRS TWO WAY RADIOS / FRS ET GMRS PORTATIFS UHF**

COBRA, GARMIN, ICOM, MOTOROLA

**ANTENNAS / ANTENNES**

ALPHA DELTA, ARROW, BUTTERNUT, COMET, COMPROD, CUBEX, CUSHCRAFT, DIAMOND, FIRESTICK, FORCE 12, HUSTLER, HYGAIN, ISOTRON, LARSEN, MALDOL, MFJ, MIRACLE ANTENNA, OUTBACKER, PRYME, RADIO WAVZ, TENNADYNE, VALOR/PRO-AM, WORKMAN

**SPECIALTY PRODUCTS / PRODUITS SPECIALISES**

AMERITRON, ASTRON, BENCHER, CONNECT QUICK, DAIWA, D.C.I., GARMIN, GEOCRON, HEIL, KANTRONICS, KIWA ELECTRONICS, L.D.G., MAGELLAN, MAHA, MFJ, MIRAGE, NYE VIKING, OPTOELECTRONICS, OREGON SCIENTIFIC, PALOMAR, PALSTAR, PRYME, RF CONCEPTS, R.F. SYSTEMS, RIGBLASTER, S.G.C., TIMEWAVE, UNADILLA, VECTRONICS, VIBROPLEX, WEST MOUNTAIN RADIO

**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

**NATURE BOOKS / LIVRES DE LA NATURE**

SIBLEY GUIDES, PETERSON FIELD GUIDES, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY