

marc



gram



Next meeting - January 29th, 2014

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

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

Short presentation by Marc-André, VE2EVN
on the marcOgram Layout.
Other presenters welcomed.

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 editor@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,

I cannot believe I've been president of our club now since 2012 but that indeed seems to be the case. I know this, not because I have any particular grasp on the calendar. No... on my hard drive, I'm finding that this is my third president's note for the month of January. Only one day later than last years.... sorry about that Marc-Andre and Cliff... Well I'll admit to being super busy since the month of December and honestly I haven't seen the time go by. In just a few short weeks, the first quarter of 2014 will have flown by and we'll be into the spring and summer months. Speaking of which there are a number of things, I'd like to talk with you about.

Call for Opinions

At our last board meeting, we were discussing our club's treasury and commenting on how the significant raise in postal rates this year was going to affect our bottom line. Now we don't send out mailing after mailing to break the bank, but we do mail out a certain number of MarcOgram issues each month. One of the ideas we've been kicking around on the board, is to charge an extra amount (say 5\$ per year) to those who would

still like to receive a hard copy paper version of our news letter. I'm interested in hearing your thought on this idea. Please feel free to email, or send a letter to the Editor with your position or ideas on this subject.

The MARC is once again offering its annual basic qualification course. We have a good group of 6 intrepid students who would all love dearly to get their tickets. You know we are so lucky to have Jim VE2VE, Vernon VE2MBS and George VE2NGH teaching this course. These guys know their stuff so well and have the experience and skills to be able to offer such high quality instruction. With these guys on the team, securing your ham license is practically assured if all you do is show up at the course and read the suggested material throughout the week. Of course that's not to say you don't have to study, just that with high quality instruction, a course mailing list and three pros like these providing guidance and answers to questions, your success is almost assured. This activity is so important to our club, that our own success hinges on our student's success in obtaining their tickets. To the MARC it is more than just training a few guys on radio operations, we are training our own future members who will in turn become Elmers to others. In doing this, we insure the future of our hobby so that others may pick up the torch and continue enjoying what we have when we are long gone. What a legacy to participate in and it makes me feel very proud that our club continues to have a roll, no matter how small it may seem. It's an honour for me to be a part of all this and I hope you feel the same. Thanks to our team of expert teachers and thanks to this year's class of soon-to-be new hams. Because of you, we all get to participate in something special once again this year. Those first QSOs, discovering and enjoying new modes and ways to communicate with each other. Folks, this is what our hobby is all about and why I say we are so lucky to be able to continue to do what we do year after year as we have been now for so long.

(Continued on 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.



Well we waited for as long as we felt we could with the new spool of 7/8" heliax at Jim Hay's, VE2VE QTH next to the VE2BG repeater site, but finally before it froze to the ground moved it into a warehouse space for the winter. It seemed like our deal with Bell Mobility had fallen through and it was likely (we thought) that the work they had planned had proceeded without us. Well not so... just a few short weeks ago we got an email from the rigger to let us know that they were finally going ahead with the planned antenna work on the Pointe Claire water tower and could we please have our antenna and hard-line ready for installation by the next weekend? It was



like -30C outside and the first thought that went through my head was, "you've got to be kidding me". I sure wasn't expecting we'd be doing antenna maintenance in mid January and if you'd have asked me a month or so ago, I'd have said that it was very unlikely that we would. Nevertheless that is exactly what we've done. Last week myself and Jim VE2VE brought the coax, connectors and 4 bay Sinclair over to the VE2BG site and left them there for easy access by the riggers. The next day Jim and Vernon, VE2MBS along with George, VE2NGH were on site supervising and documenting the proceedings. So there you have it folks, VE2BG now has a new antenna system up and it seems to be performing very well. I'd like give a very special thanks to Sylvain Prévost, VE2LH for helping us make this work possible. Sylvain is a user of VE2BG and that is where I met him. After having a few QSOs with him and explaining our dilemma of finding a certified rigger we could afford, Sylvain very kindly offered to try and help us out through his professional connections. You see Sylvain happens to be a Bell Mobility RF engineer and was particularly well placed to be able to place the right words with the right folks and he is the one that put us ultimately in touch with the riggers and we were able to slide in on the coattails of maintenance being done by Bell Mobility. Of course we'll be paying for the riggers time, but the final amount will be nowhere near what our original quote was. Now if that isn't providence...

Folks it's 12:09am and I've been going on now for sometime. The problem is, I'm really late with this MarcOgram submission and Marc-Andre was after me for it last weekend. I cannot make him wait any longer and will therefore save the rest until next month's issue.

73 de Paul, VE2OFH

MarcOgram article deadline reminder

Last month it was announced that starting with this issue, a new deadline would be in effect for article submissions. The deadline is 3 weeks before the next club monthly meeting. This gives the editors the ability to plan each issue according to the content that was submitted. Any article submitted past this deadline will be used for the following issue, or if time permits may be used right away. If you have time sensitive announcements, please send them in early.

The 2014 deadlines are: Jan 8th, Feb 5th, Mar 5th, Apr 9th, May 7th and Aug 13th for the summer issue.

MarcOgram Editors
MarcAndré, VE2EVN & Sheldon, VA2SH

RADIO EVENTS

MARC Hamfest New Location

Change of venue this year. Due to a scheduling conflict at obtaining the usual location in Ville LaSalle (Legion hall), this year the MARC Hamfest will be held at the same location as our monthly meetings.

Saturday, April 12, 2014 - 9AM

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

4455 West Broadway, Montreal

STM bus 51 stops in front, also bus 105 & 162 stop near-by.

Doors open for vendors at 8h15am, and for the public at 9am.

General Admission is \$5.00, Table Rental is \$10.00 or 2 for \$18. A table rental includes one admission.

The Talk-in frequency is 147.060+ (VE2BG). For more information please visit <http://www.marc.ca/fest/fest.html>

For information - Reservations, Call Jim Hay at 514-990-1965 or E-mail: ve2ve@marc.ca

Ham-Con Vermont

Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont are holding their Convention Hamfest - February 22nd 2014

The location is:

Holiday Inn Convention Center

1068 Williston Road at I-89 Exit 14, South Burlington.

Doors open at 8am until 2pm. General admission opens promptly at 8am. General admission is \$8. See website for early entry and advance sales.

Information : Phone: (802)879-6589, afternoons and evenings, BEFORE hamfest day. Or, via Email : w1sj@arrl.net

Talk in on the WB1GQR repeater on 145.15 MHz(-600). This repeater is monitored all the time.

On Hamfest day, look for prerecorded hamfest information and announcements on 146.67 MHz.

Full information available at <http://www.ranv.org/hamcon.html>

Thanks to John Grow, VE2EQL for informing us of this event.

Marc-Andre, VE2EVN

MarcOgram Co-editor

SPAR Announces Winter Field Day 2014

Not only during Field Day in June, do the bands come alive with improvised signals proving the ability to respond to emergencies. Since emergencies and natural disasters don't always happen in the summer, during Winter Field Day, frigid winds, icy limbs and bitter cold replace the thunderstorms and blistering heat of summer. In 2007, the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio, SPAR established a Winter Field Day event and invited all Amateur Radio operators to participate. The event was repeated in 2008 and was considered a success, so it was then designated an annual event to be held the last full weekend each January. In 2007 - 2013 the event was enjoyed by many, but it is time to issue the invitation for the Sixth Annual SPAR Winter Field Day!

The 2014 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Saturday January 25, 2014 through 1700 UTC (12:00 noon EST) Sunday January 26, 2014. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators: set up emergency-style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period. The rules encourage as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible, because during a real emergency, the most important factor is the ability to communicate, regardless of band, mode or distance.

This year, braving the cold and tent sharing, Dan VA2KEY, Malcolm VE2DDZ, Eamon VE2EGN, Harrison VE2HKW, and Sheldon VA2SH, will be participating in this year's Winter Field Day on the property of Mr. & Mrs. Kyle in Hemmingford Qc. (Many thanks to Harrison VE2HKW and his family)!

Please look out for us on the bands.

The Call sign used will be VA2RAC.

73' de Sheldon, VA2SH

Canadian Ski Marathon

The 48th edition of the Canadian Ski Marathon will run from Buckingham to Lachute Saturday/Sunday, February 8 and 9th.

Saturday will be between Buckingham and Montebello. Sunday will be between Montebello and Lachute. 2014 will be the 41st year that amateur radio has provided communications support to the marathon. They are still looking for volunteers for the event. The Montreal Amateur Radio Club has provided support and member participation in the past. Let's not let them down.

More information about the marathon is available at <http://www.csm-mcs.com>

More information about the amateur radio operations can be found at <http://www.radio-1.ca>



Updates On The VE2BG Repeater

As most of you have been well aware we were having problems with our VHF repeater VE2BG on 147.060 MHz (+) which is located at the water tower in Pointe-Claire. Last year I had taken the radio and duplexer home and completely retuned the transmitter and receiver. Since the duplexer was quite old we decided to purchase another nearly-new duplexer and I had also installed a circulator on the XMIT side as well. We still were experiencing sensitivity problems. The VE2BG repeater is using the old Mutual Aid antenna system and feedline which is located on the Pointe-Claire water tower just off St. John's Blvd. The antenna and feedline were installed around 40 years ago and we thus decided to call a rigger to inspect the antenna system. This was done in the autumn of 2012. As I had suspected the hardline was badly damaged in several places and the antenna phasing harness was showing its age. The club thus had decided to replace both the hardline and antenna.



Luckily Jim VE2VE still had the 4-bay Sinclair antenna that was used for the VE2RED repeater when it was at Bonavista apts. After checking it out I found that this antenna was still in excellent shape. I had found a source for 7/8 in. hardline that was extremely affordable so we ordered 250 ft. last summer. The problem now was who would perform the work on top of the 150 ft. water tower. According to the city of Pointe-Claire the job had to be done by professionals for insurance purposes. The rigging company we had hired to inspect the antenna system quoted over \$10,000 for this job which was way too

high for our budget. Luckily Paul VE2OFH who happened to be chatting on this same VE2BG repeater had come across a fellow Ham who works as an RF engineer for Bell Mobility. Bell has numerous radio and cellular systems installed at the Pointe-Claire site and the fellow said that Bell was planning to replace some antennas very soon. He offered to instruct the rigging company doing the work to see if they could do our job at the same time. We waited and waited all summer and fall with no response and then we had to store the cable away for the winter. It was on a 5 ft. spool sitting in Jim's driveway!

In the middle of the cold spell just after New Year's we were advised that the telecom company was planning to do the work for Bell. Since it was -25 C at that time, we nearly fell off our chairs – we just were not expecting this! But we could not pass



up this opportunity. Luckily we had experienced a warm spell not long afterwards and during the week of January 13 the Bell guys were on site. We picked up the cable and antenna and delivered it to the site. Last Thursday I spent the entire morning supervising the installation and by the end of the day it was completed. The job was all done without a crane and the most difficult task was to lower the 20 ft. 6 in. pipe that supports the antenna since the U-bolts were covered with 1/4 in. thick paint! On Friday I went and checked the antenna system and it showed under 1.2:1 SWR across the band. Being satisfied, I put the repeater back on the air. Except for that annoying squelch tail which I still have to adjust, the repeater is working better than ever. The antenna has a cardioid pattern with its peak pointing towards the North. Many thanks go to Paul VE2OFH for locating the guy from Bell and for the use of his truck, Sylvain VE2LH from Bell Mobility who authorized our work, and Jim VE2VE and Vernon VE2MBS. I strongly encourage folks to use the BG machine and to give us some feedback on its range and performance. The new antenna system should now outlast the radio itself!

73, de George VE2NGH

DX and Contest News

Hello and welcome to my new column which is all about Amateur Radio DX operations and contesting. Have you ever stopped by to visit or participated in an Amateur Radio Field Day event? This very popular activity has teams of amateur radio operators set up in remote locations and the goal is to contact as many stations as possible in the 24 hours of the event. Well if you did then you have experienced a DXpedition and contest event all rolled into one! Do you remember how exciting it was? Well if you have even a modest Ham station or know a friend with a decent setup, you can experience this all throughout the year! Two meter repeaters are great to chat with your friends across town but how about talking to a Ham on a remote uninhabited island in the Antarctic or on an island in the middle of the South Pacific?

Many Ham radio associations organize teams of operators to travel to rare and semi-rare DXCC entities to set up stations to give the amateur radio population an opportunity to work them and include them in their DXCC totals. Hams call these events "DXpeditions". The teams often operate on all bands and all modes (CW, SSB, RTTY) and some even operate PSK-31 and SSTV. Many also operate with two or more radios at the same time. They obtain the special permits and ham licenses that are required, secure funding, and organize all the logistics needed to operate anywhere from 10 to 20 days non-stop, 24/7. There are also Hams who go on vacation to "semi rare" DXCC entities and bring their radios along. These are called "holiday-style" DXpeditions and they are a bit harder to work because they operate on a random schedule. You can easily see that major DXpeditions involve tremendous effort and expense. Some take years to plan and to secure the required permits and can easily cost up to half a million dollars! All Hams who work these DXpeditions are encouraged to donate some funds if they can.

The ARRL has divided up the world into DXCC entities which are assigned unique call-sign prefixes just like "VE", "VA", "VO", and "VY" are the prefixes for Canada. There are different DXCC awards available for working at least 100 entities in different bands, modes, and combinations thereof. Believe me, these are very prestigious awards in the Ham radio community and sure does give you some "bragging rights"! Currently (2013) there are 340 distinct DXCC entities available as designated by the ARRL but obviously not all of them are active during the year. You can check them out by going to the ARRL website at: <http://www.arrl.org/> The purpose of this column is to make you aware of major DX operations to the really rare DXCC entities, some of which have not been activated for over 15 years!

You can check out the "most wanted" DXCC list here: <http://www.clublog.org/mostwanted.php> There is no room in this column to list all DX operations since there are quite a few at any given period of time. I will list only the major expeditions to the really rare entities. There are many DX bulletins available that list DX operations throughout the year. Some are subscription only such as "The Daily DX", and others are free through the internet. There are also many DX cluster spots on the internet where you can find out when and on what frequencies the DX station is operating.

A very popular free list of DX operations can be found here: <http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> Many of the major expeditions even have their own websites and also have available an on-line log so you can verify if you have worked a "new one". All major DXpeditions eventually upload their logs onto LOTW (Logbook of The World). They also print some awesome QSL cards with which you can proudly wallpaper the walls of your shack.

Contesting is another way to enjoy Ham radio. Every hobby has a competitive side and Ham radio is no exception! Hams usually refer to Ham radio contesting as "Radiosport". Many Amateur Radio organizations such as the ARRL and CQ magazine organize major contests spread out over various weekends throughout the year. The most popular is the CQ World-Wide DX contests, CQ WPX contests, and the ARRL International DX contests. These contests attract many amateurs throughout the world and the purpose is to contact as many Hams as possible following specific rules throughout a given time period which is usually 24 to 48 hours. There are many entry categories available so you can contest all by yourself or enjoy a multi-operator contest with your Ham buddies, high or low power operation or even with two or more radios at the same time. The contests are often divided into different modes (CW, SSB, RTTY) over different weekends or are of the mixed variety like the IARU contests. There are also contests for VHF and UHF operators, microwave, and moon-bounce contests. You choose your flavor! You must read and follow the rules though! They can be found either on the ARRL or CQ websites or the website of the contest sponsor. The purpose is to achieve the highest score possible in your entry category. Even with a modest station where you might have no chance of winning a No. 1 World title, you can always compete with yourself or with your friends. All the contest sponsors offer awards in the many different categories which are available, some of which are not that difficult to win. I have operated many contests during the last few years both as a single operator and as multi-operator. (Continued on Page 8)

I was even invited as a guest at a really well-equipped Ham station to operate with a team of some very serious contesters! Even though I don't have a "big gun" station, I have always succeeded to improve my score over the years and I have even won awards for the highest score in my category in my section of Quebec. Contesting is a great way to train yourself to become a superb Ham radio operator and it really gives you and your station a workout. Simply speaking it is great FUN!

Because of space limitations, I will list only the major contests held during the upcoming month for each edition of the MarcOgram. There are many, many contests throughout the year; some big, and some small hosted by many countries in the world. In fact you can participate in a Ham radio contest on almost every weekend of the year! There are also "sprints" or mini-contests which are held during the weekdays, as well as US state or provincial QSO parties. A good list of popular contests is the "Contest Corral" available on the ARRL website or in QST magazine.

DX OPERATIONS

The really BIG DXpedition which will be QRV by the time you read this is FT5ZM, Amsterdam Island in the French Austral Islands group which is No. 7 on the Most Wanted DXCC list. They plan to be QRV January 24, until February 12 and will operate with a team of 14 operators 24/7 on all bands and modes (CW, SSB, RTTY). They will have multiple radios on the air at the same time from two different locations on the island. Their website can be found at: <http://www.amsterdamdx.org/> The last time this entity was activated was in 1998 so try not to miss this one!

ZS8C, Carson is QRV on Marion Island until May, 2014. This is also a rare DXCC entity which is No. 21 on the most-wanted list. For more information check him out on QRZ.com. I have been chasing him for the past few weeks since he operates just a few hours per day.

TY1TT – will be QRV from Benin, Africa from Jan 26 to Feb 5. Check out their website at: <http://www.dxpediton.be/Benin.html>

OX5T, Greenland will be active from Jan 31 to Feb 2. I am listing this one because due to the location of Greenland in the auroral oval, it is not easily worked on some bands. Check him out on QRZ.com

A52JR, Araucaria DX Group from Brazil will be QRV from Bhutan from Jan 31 to Feb 4. Check them out on QRZ.com

S9TF, Sao Tome & Principe will be QRV from Feb 1 to Feb 13. They have a website at: <http://gmross.wix.com/principe-is-2014>

5I0DX, Tanzania will be QRV from Zanzibar Island from Feb 2 to Feb 13. Check them out on QRZ.com

V73MV, Marshall Islands will be QRV from Feb 4 to Feb 14. Their website can be found at: <http://n6mw.jimdo.com/v7-dxpediton/>

TO7CC, Reunion Island will be activated by the F6KOP Radio Club from Feb 5 to Feb 17. Their website can be found at: <http://www.to7cc.com/>

CONTESTS

By the time you read this we will be approaching the "spring contest season" which is centered around the Spring Equinox when HF radio propagation is the best all throughout the world. The following is a list of the major Ham radio contests upcoming in February and March, 2014. Remember to check out the contest rules, dates and times on the ARRL or CQ websites. Rules for the smaller contests can be found on the various sponsors' websites. Another very useful resource is to subscribe to the ARRL Contest Update which you can receive via e-mail every two weeks and is available to ARRL members. You can also find third-party contest listings for free on the internet.

CQ WW 160m CW Contest -- Jan 24, 2200z to Jan 26, 2200z

REF French Contest -- CW, from Jan 25, 0600z to Jan 26, 1800z

SPAR Winter Field Day -- Phone, CW, Digital,

from Jan 25, 1700z to Jan 26, 1700z

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest -- RTTY,

from Feb 8, 0000z to Feb 9, 2400z

ARRL International CW DX Contest -- CW,

from Feb 15, 0000z to Feb 16, 2359z

CQ WW 160m SSB Contest -- SSB,

from Feb 21, 2200z to Feb 23, 2200z

North American RTTY QSO Party -- RTTY,

from Feb 22, 1800z to Feb 23, 0559z

ARRL International SSB DX Contest -- SSB,

from Mar 1, 0000z to Mar 2, 2359z

Those are the lists so far so it looks to be a very busy month for Ham radio in February! Please remember to follow the "DX Code of Conduct" when working any DX operation since practically all of them operate on split frequencies, and remember to listen, listen, and listen FIRST before you transmit. Also remember to read the complete contest rules. Now go work that "new one" and have fun on the air and I hope to work you in the next contest!

73, & good DX

de George, VE2NGH/VA2EN

ARRL DXCC Card Checker for Quebec

I am pleased to announce that I have been nominated by RAC and appointed by the ARRL as Card Checker for the following award programs:

- DXCC
- WAS
- WAC
- VUCC

According to the new 2012 rules and having an active 160m DXCC I can check any QSL card including 160m cards, card with QSOs older than 10 years and deleted entities. Additionally there are no limitation to the number of submitted QSOs; you can submit as few as one, to as many as 600 QSOs in a single submission. I prefer when physically possible to receive and hand back the QSLs-to-check in person, and for that reason I will manage to attend the main hamfests as long as there is enough demand. It will also be possible to attend on invitation to some club meetings held in the Montreal area.

If it is easier for you to send me your submission and cards by mail, please get in touch with me (by e-mail) before sending anything. We will validate together that everything has been prepared correctly and that we are OK on the procedure to follow. This could save additional mailings and costs.

My appointment is in response to the need of a physical bilingual presence for the Ottawa-Montreal area and I insist on the fact that there is no obligation to have your cards checked by me. You can continue to have your cards checked by your usual card checker or directly by the ARRL headquarter.

The Card Checking activity is a volunteer activity and the amount requested for your submissions and checking of your cards is either sent in its entirety to the ARRL to cover their administrative cost or used for postage to send your submission to the ARRL or return your cards to you. I get no commission or material benefit from this activity, my only motivation is to encourage DX activity and to create friendly emulation among DXers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you haven't previously or recently submitted QSL Cards for checking, get in touch with me before starting the submission work. We will check together that you know exactly what to do. This could save you unnecessary delays or having to redo part of the job.

73's and good DX

Gilles VE2TZT
ve2tzt@arrl.net



Ham Radio in Space: Ham Radio CubeSats Launched to ISS

An Antares rocket takes off from NASA's Wallops Island launch pad. [NASA TV image]

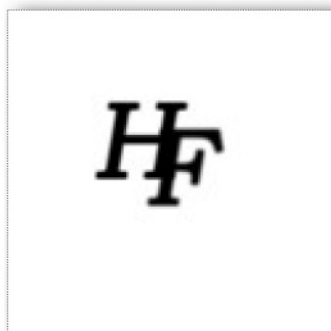
An unmanned Orbital Sciences Corp Antares rocket that blasted off from NASA's Wallops Island launch pad on Virginia's Eastern Shore January 10, carried aloft an Orbital Sciences Corp (OSC) Cygnus freighter with a bevy of Amateur Radio CubeSats aboard, bound for the International Space Station (ISS).

"We're in good shape," Orbital Sciences Executive Vice President Frank Culbertson, ex-KD5OPQ, told reporters after launch. The launch had been delayed twice, first by cold weather and then by high radiation levels due to a massive solar flare on January 7. Both events could have affected critical rocket systems.

The Cygnus freighter rendezvoused and docked with the ISS on January 12. The four Amateur Radio CubeSats are LituaniaSat-1, LitSat-1, ArduSat-2 (an improved version of the single unit ArduSat-1), and UAPSat-1. Other satellites also are onboard. LituaniaSat-1 carries a 145/435 MHz FM transponder, while LitSat-1 is thought to carry a 435/145 MHz linear transponder for SSB/CW. UAPSat-1 will carry an AX.25 145/437 MHz packet digipeater. ArduSat-2 will downlink 9,6 k MSK CCSDS data format on 437 MHz.

The CubeSats are expected to be deployed from the ISS in the coming months. The January 10 launch marks the first of eight OSC cargo resupply missions to the ISS for NASA. -- Thanks to Southgate ARC and Orbital Sciences Corp

-- The ARRL Letter, January 16, 2014

RADIO H.F.

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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, SHAKESPEARE, 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, RADIOWAVZ, 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