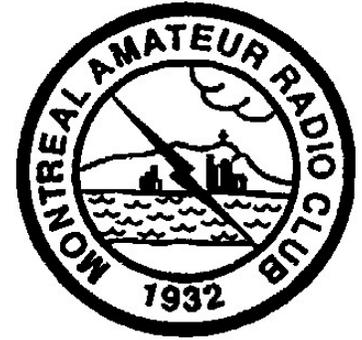


marcOgram

Official Publication of The Montreal Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Box 53047 - RPO Dorval, Dorval Quebec H9S 5W4



Volume 63, Number 8

May 2017

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 31 May 2017

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30

Club meeting: 20:00

St. Thomas Anglican Church

6897 Somerled Avenue (corner of Rosedale) in N.D.G. - Montreal

(see page 3 for details)

**** SHOW AND TELL ****

Bring in your projects, ideas, hacks, innovations, etc.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Please note the new location for the meetings of March, April and May, 2017. It's on two bus routes; bus 102 stops at the corner, and bus 51 one block away. See page 3 for details.

We're making a valiant effort to get MARCOgram out on time (it's already on budget) so this should reach you earlier than did the April issue.

Keep any articles coming, folks: more is better than less. As every editor has pointed out, MARCOgram is only as good as its contributors, so start writing.

73 de Nora, VA2NH

- . . . -

FIELD DAY 2017

In 2016, the MARC/WIARC Field Day effort attained the 3rd highest score in Canada, beaten only by the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club running a 12A entry & the Peel Amateur Radio Club running a 4A entry. We had the best score in our class; let's keep up the good work in 2017.



Remember to pick up your pre-ordered T-shirts! They will be available at the May MARC meeting, the June WIARC meeting, and at Field Day June 24-25.

Jim, VE2VE, Secretary-Treasurer

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.

Annual fees are:

General Members	...	...	\$25.00
Associate Members	...	...	\$25.00
White Cane Members...	...	...	\$15.00
Family Members (per family)	...	...	\$30.00
Postal delivery of MarcOgram	...	...	\$ 5.00

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

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Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

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

Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located on the Pointe Claire water tower.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located on Covey Hill in Franklin, QC.

The repeaters are open to all amateurs.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to any member to attend. Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (Sept. to June) at 19:30 in the Wardens' Room, St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, 4455 West Broadway. Should you wish to attend one of the meetings you are welcome; just speak to one of the directors before-hand to make certain that the meeting has neither been cancelled, nor the location changed.

Club Activities

Monthly Meetings

31 May 2017 — Show and Tell.
 27 Sep 2017 — Harrison, VE2HKW, on APRS.
 25 Oct 2017 — Annual General Meeting

Radio Classes

A basic level course is held starting in January of each year. If you know of anyone interested in taking the course they should send a message to classes@marc.ca.

MARC Hamfest

We are in the process of planning the 2018 flea market, hopefully to be held at the LaSalle Legion. Please watch this space or go to

<https://www.facebook.com/ve2arc>

for more information.

Incoming QSL card service

As has been mentioned in previous MarcOgrams, we are resuming the club's service of having incoming QSL cards sent to the club for members to pick up at meetings. This is a service which we are offering to our members which both saves the individual members money as well as makes more efficient use of our collective resources.

If you would like to avail yourself of this service please send an e-mail to qsl@marc.ca and we will add you to the list of cards that the incoming bureau sends to the club and bring them to the monthly meetings.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Montreal 911 Centre	514-280-2121
Laval 911 Centre	450-662-4240
Longueuil 911 Centre	450-646-8570
Sûreté du Québec	310-4141
Kahnawake Peace Keepers	450-632-6505

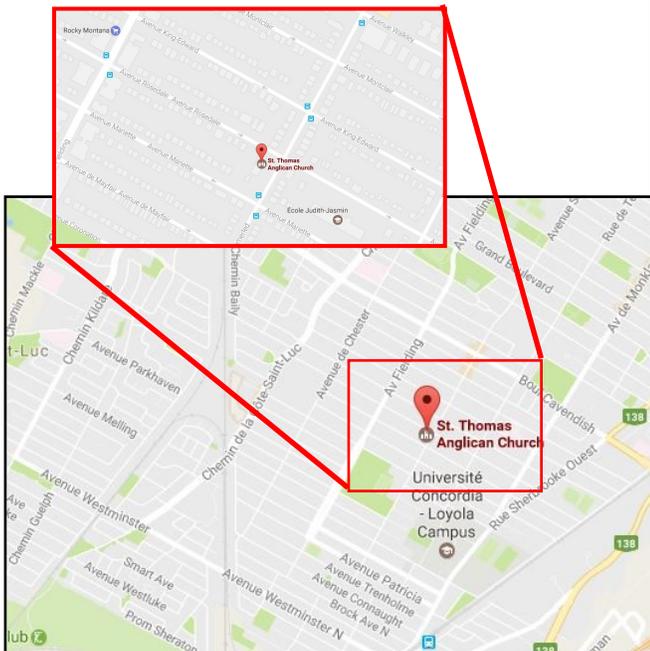
These numbers are for emergencies ONLY

CQ CQ ALL STATIONS!

This monthly meeting, **May**, will be the **last** held at the new location.

In September we return to St. Ignatius.

St. Thomas' Anglican Church is on the north-west corner of Somerled and Rosedale Avenues, at 6897 Somerled Avenue. It is accessible by public transit; the STM Bus #102 stops in the same block, at the corner of Mariette and Somerled, and the STM Bus #51 stops a block north, at Rosedale and Fielding. Please enter by the side door on Rosedale.



UPCOMING FLEAS

What: 35th Quebec Hamfest 2017
Who: Club Radio Amateur VE2CBS Sorel-Tracy inc.
When: Sunday, 28 May, 2017
Where: Sorel-Tracy, QC

What: Rochester Hamfest 2017
Who: Rochester Amateur Radio Association
When: Saturday, 3 Jun, 2017
Where: Rochester, NY, USA

What: Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket
Who: Guelph & Kitchener-Waterloo A.R. Clubs
When: Sunday, 4 Jun, 2017
Where: Cambridge, ON

What: London Vintage Radio Club Flea Market
Who: London Vintage Radio Club
When: Saturday, 10 Jun, 2017
Where: Guelph ON

What: Ontario Hamfest
Who: Burlington Amateur Radio Club
When: Saturday, 8 Jul, 2017
Where: Milton, ON

What: Parry Sound Hamfest
Who: Parry Sound ARC
When: Saturday, 12 Aug, 2017
Where: Parry Sound / Nobel, ON

What: SPARC-fest 5
Who: Sun Parlour Amateur Radio Club
When: Sunday, 13 Aug, 2017
Where: Leamington, ON

PACKET RADIO—WHERE IS IT NOW?

By Dan VA2KEY

The Montreal Amateur Radio Club was a pioneer in the development of Packet Radio. Wikipedia's Packet Radio entry mentions club members Robert Rouleau, VE2PY; Bram Frank, VE2BFH; Norm Pearl, VE2BQS; and Jacques Orsali, VE2EHP as starting to experiment with Packet way back in 1978. [1]

So, where is Packet still in active use today? APRS!

Automatic Packet Reporting System

APRS has been developed since the late 1980s by Bob Bruninga, call sign WB4APR, currently a senior research engineer at the United States Naval Academy. The initialism "APRS" was derived from his call sign. [2] Although it is most often used to transmit GPS coordinates, the system was designed to transmit many different types of information. So, as a hilltopping fan, what's the coolest thing you can do with APRS? The Golden Packet event!

Motivation for Golden Packet

Bob Bruninga says it best:

"For the last 30 years, Packet Radio just ain't got no respect

at the national Field Day events, so we do our own outdoors VHF packet radio field event!" [3]

Goals

The AT-Golden Packet event consists of APRS individuals on very high and widely separate peaks from Georgia to Maine to attempt to relay text messages from hikers using hand-held radios the 2000 mile length of the Appalachian national mountain trail. Of course, this is to be a no impact Leave-No-Trace communications test of a few individuals at each relay point to support possible other hikers equipped with APRS ham radios along the trail. APRS normally does not do long haul RF, due to the omnidirectional flooding of packets which causes QRM, but for LINEAR trails, there are NO dupes to worry about, and long haul along a trail is a great demo of emergency point-to-point communications.

To avoid confusion with packets from outside the event, AT-GP uses a frequency of 144.34 instead of the usual 144.39 APRS frequency. For voice communications with adjacent nodes, UHF is used at 445.925.

Figure 1 shows the summit-to-summit path of the AT-GP event. In addition, an extended path to Mount Carleton in New Brunswick is shown.

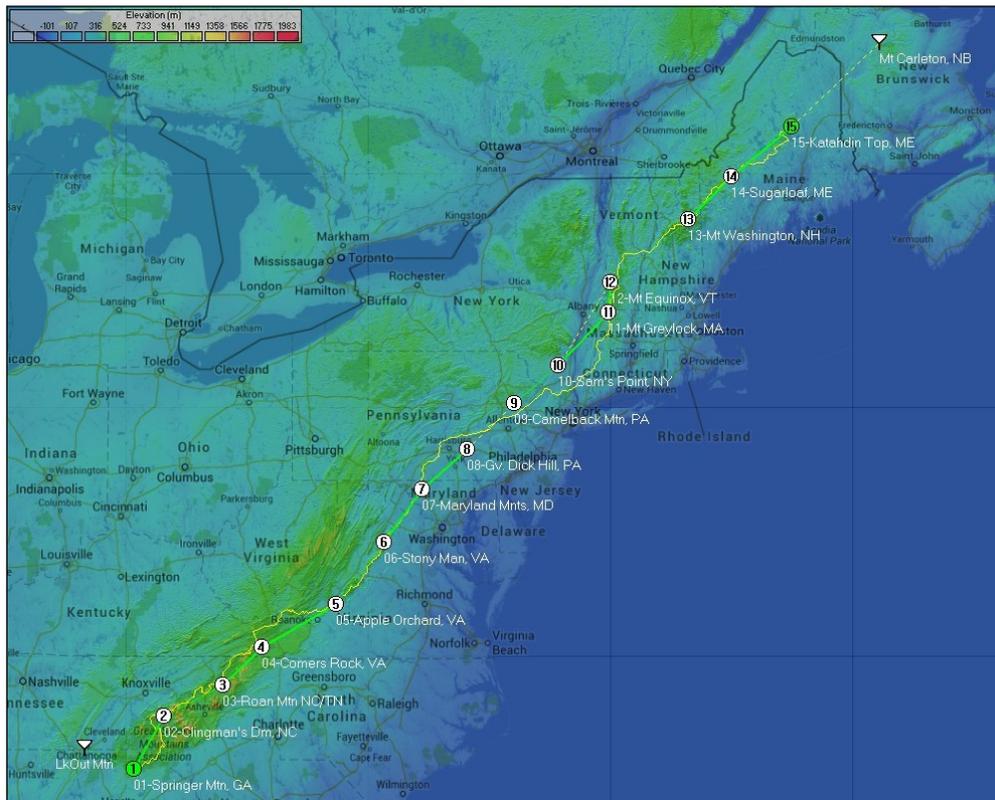


Figure 1

The original image can be found here: http://www.hamradio.me/events/AT_Golden_Packet_Event/

Local ham participation in Golden Packet

In 2013 Sheldon VA2SH, Marc-André VE2EVN and myself proposed an additional station north of Katahdin on Mount Carleton, New Brunswick. Mount Carleton is the highest summit in the Maritimes.

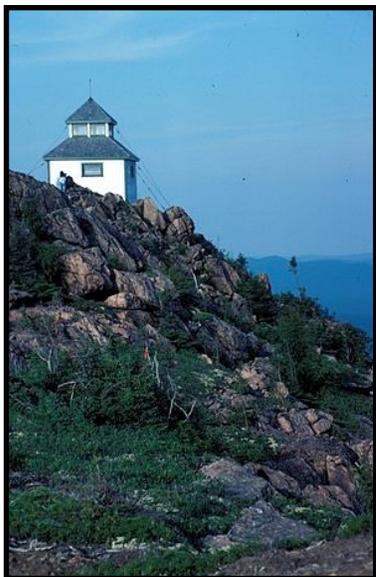
There were a number of challenges associated with using Mount Carleton as an AT-GP location:

- ◆ AT-GP uses HOP7-7 paths, meaning Katahdin could not digipeat packets coming from the south since the maximum of 14 hops is exhausted.
- ◆ Katahdin uses a radio that doesn't have digipeat capability, so it can't digipeat packets coming from Mount Carleton and heading south.
- ◆ Katahdin uses a directional 2m Arrow Yagi normally aimed south from an operating position on the south face of the mountain.

Accessing Mount Carleton

It's about a 12 hour drive from Montreal. Once at the trail head, it takes a couple of hours to hike to the summit. Although it's not a technical climb, the last 15 meters or so does require that you use your hands to ascend.

Figure 2. Fire-spotting hut on Mount Carleton.



Discussions on the AT-GP Yahoo group concluded that, although not participating in the full chain, a successful exchange of packets between Katahdin and Mount Carleton would be considered a success.

On the day of the event, we hiked up to the summit with a Kenwood TM/D710 radio and a dual band 10 element

Cushcraft A270-10S and set up. On the open rocky summit we could see dark storm clouds rushing by. We were prepared for the possibility of rain with waterproof ponchos (a tornado was confirmed by Environment Canada in New Brunswick that weekend). We eventually just got a sprinkling of rain on the hike down.

Meanwhile, we were getting reports of very hard conditions on Katahdin. Tim, KA1YBS had been hiking since before sunrise and was getting rain and temperatures in the single digits. Tim was eventually forced to abort his GP efforts and seek shelter. Since our only neighboring station was now off the air we shut down too. Despite the absence of success on RF, participating in the event was a lot of fun.

In 2014, on the 6th annual attempt, AT-GP was 100% successful for the first time. I'm not aware of any local participation for that year.

In 2015, Marc-André VE2EVN and myself operated an AT-GP station on Mount Saint-Joseph next to Mont Mégantic. Mount Saint-Joseph is only a 3 hour drive from Montreal and is a drive-up summit, no hiking required. Although that effort also has its share of misadventures, we were successful in receiving packets and also injecting a packet in the chain.

In 2016 AT-GP successfully extended its previous objectives by increasing the data rate to 9600 baud from APRS' usual 1200 baud. I'm not aware of any local participation in 2016.

Plans for 2017?

It would be fun to extend the chain deep into Canada. The Appalachian mountain range extends along the Gaspé peninsula and out to Newfoundland and we have lots of summits along that route, but it's not easy to find hams to activate an AT-GP summit. So far, three of us local hams have shown interest in going to Mount Hereford (a drive-up summit). This year the AT-GP coincides with the CQWW VHF contest. Mount Hereford is also a qualified Summits On The Air (SOTA) summit., so we can participate in 3 events in one outing.

If anyone is interested in activating another AT-GP station, let me know so we can coordinate.

Dan VA2KEY@gmail.com

References:

[1], [2] from Wikipedia; [3] from www.aprs.org

Fig. 1: www.hamradio.me web site, sub-page on APRS Golden Packet Gear; Fig. 2: Wikipedia: Mt. Carleton Provincial Park.

MORE RE ERIC METH, VE3EI SILENT KEY

I couldn't let Eric VE3EI go without a further elaboration on his contributions to amateur radio, packet and repeaters.

The following is snatched and edited from Eric's autobiography on his QRZ.com page via Lee K2HAT. The portrait is from ONTARS.com web page, and other occupational photos are from Twitter.

Let's let Eric speak.

"I also have the callsigns G4ILB (pending UK), 8P9AX (Barbados) and JG1HEP (Japan) as well as VE3NUU, VE3PGC, VE3YYZ, VA3YYZ and VA3NAG. I am now President of the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (NPARC) where the club operates VE3NRS, VE3WCD on VHF, VE3RNR on UHF and VA3NRS on 220 MHz. I recently became President of the Reginald Aubrey Fesseden Memorial ARC, operating repeaters VE3RAF on VHF and VE3RFM, VA3RFM on UHF.

"I was first licensed as Basic Amateur in 1966 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. I upgraded to Advanced Amateur in 1967. I taught Morse Code at the MARC (Montreal Amateur Radio Club) classes for the next two years. I was one of the technical crew on VE2MT, the main VHF FM repeater in Montreal, on 146.46/146.94; this was the start of a long radio career.

"I worked for Motorola Canada from 1969 to 1992, first in Montreal (1969-1980), and then in Toronto (1980-1992), and left to operate my own communications business [IES Communications]. I was President of MARC from 1972-1975, and was President during the birth of Digital Packet Radio.

"I operated 5V7GE from Lome, Togo, West Africa, during the summer of 1979, my one and only excursion as DX. I was President of the Motorola Amateur Radio Club sometime in the 80s, and Chairman of the Western New York - Southern Ontario Repeater Council (WNYSORC) also in the 80s.

"I started Toronto's first packet radio BBS [Bulletin Board System] (the first was actually in Brampton) VE3NUU in 1985, which has been on the air continuously with the same call, first in Toronto, then in Cornwall, Ontario; I am a diehard. I installed repeater VE3PGC (Packet Group of

Cornwall) in March 1993 on 443.000 MHz, which has been on the air continuously ever since. It went on line with IRLP Node 260 (Internet Radio Linking Project) in October 2001."

"To paraphrase someone on the Internet ... 'Amateur Radio is NOT a hobby it is an ADVENTURE' ...

"I moved to the Niagara Region of Ontario in the summer of 2004. I am now Treasurer of the COBRA Radio Club and manage VE3YYZ repeater in Toronto. I operate Echolink node VE3YYZ-R in Toronto, VE3EI-L in Niagara and VE3PGC-L in Cornwall. As of April 2006 I now work for ICOM Canada as a Technical Representative for all divisions of the country. My main responsibility is to oversee DSTAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) operations throughout the country as well as all new Digital Modulation Technologies.

"As I stated before, Amateur Radio, and life, are an adventure. I can be found mainly on DSTAR Node VE3YYZ in Toronto, but it is DSTAR, so entering my callsign anywhere in North America will get me on the system! Look forward to talking to you!"

Born 26 Apr 1945, died 4 Apr 2017.

"We're here for a good time, not a long time, so have a good time. The sun can't shine every day."

====

A selection of recollections of Eric reveal his helpfulness, unequalled expertise, overwhelming enthusiasm and function as a goodwill ambassador for amateur radio, and the tributes quite literally came from all corners of the globe. Here are some memories by his friends and fellow hams:

Here in Windsor, many of us knew Eric for his efforts at promoting the hobby and helping to expand the world of FM repeaters and later digital communications. Helpful to the n'th degree. (Bill Leal VE3ES)

...his advice and assistance over the years was very helpful in bettering my knowledge of a hobby that eventually became my vocation. Once in the radio business our paths would cross many more times. Eric was always a goodwill ambassador of ham radio and his enthusiasm for it was contagious. (Andrew Moss VE3YES)

A mind full of information, business smart and a great individual always ready to assist. (Denis VA3ONO)

Eric was not only a good friend, but his vast knowledge and skills were generously shared to the benefit of all. The amateur radio community and every community within which he lived will miss him. (Paul Smith VE3PS)

...he was always very generous with his time and anything you may need to finish your project. (Nick Ciarallo VE2HOT)

Eric was a great contributor to the amateur radio communities in Montreal, Cornwall and the Niagara area especially VHF/UHF repeaters. His knowledge was encyclopedic and was always happy to share what he knew freely with his fellow amateurs. (Michael Crestobl W1RC, formerly VE2FW)

Eric is one of those people who have had a profound and positive effect on people around them. He will be greatly missed in the Ham community as a friend, leader, teacher and innovator. (Lawrence Dorsey VE3XLD)

...he was always a helpful and generous friend, a textbook-perfect radio ham, and just a really nice guy. (Paul VE3GPB / VE3KU)

He always took the time to help others and explain how technology worked. (John Leonardelli VE3IPS)

...when I first arrived from Saskatchewan to the big city. Eric took me under his wing and eventually helped me start my career with Motorola Canada. He always had advice and help for any radio problem. He lived his life for Radio, his Family and Friends. (Norm Freidin VE3CZI)

His last words to me were some advice to help me with a radio problem. That was Eric, always there to give a helping hand from the time I first met him back in Montreal. (Nigel VE3ID)

Eric's write-up on QST.com is a powerful statement to his accomplishments affecting communications over the years. He was super-active and responsible for much of the development of the D-STAR system in Canada. (AVRAC, Avalon Radio Amateur Club)

All this to say, Eric was a mover and groover, a constant source of energy, expertise and support. He will be missed.

Nora VA2NH

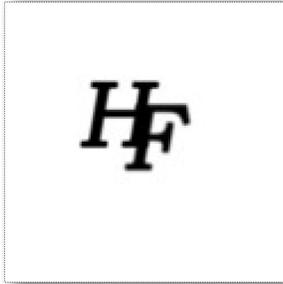


Above: Eric and the VE3YYZ repeater.

Below: Eric during VE3XPR repeater installation.



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