

marcOgram

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



Volume 65, Number 4

January 2019

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 29 January 2019

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30

Club meeting: 20:00

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

4455 West Broadway (corner of Terrebonne) in N.D.G. - Montreal

**** Bryan Rawlings VE3QN****

**Information about the upcoming World Radiocommunications Conference,
in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 28 Oct to 22 Nov 2019.**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**Hotel Alpha Papa Papa Yankee.
November Echo Whiskey.
Yankee Echo Alpha Romeo!**

Welcome to 2019, and hope you're enjoying the recent blizzard.

We have an agenda of interesting and informative speakers lined up for our General Meetings, and Leo VE2SI has refined and solidified the building project on which the Solder Spot group will be working. See more info on page four.

73 de Nora, VA2NH

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St. Patrick's Day Parade

The 196th. St. Patrick's Day Parade will be taking place on March 17, 2019 and I am looking for amateurs to assist with certain communications. I will be needing three persons to walk with the parade to provide position information. I will be contacting people shortly to assist me at parade headquarters.

If you are interested remember that the parade will be held regardless of the weather so you'll have to dress appropriately. Please contact me if you would like to help.

73 de Jim, VE2VE



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Family Members (per family) \$35.00
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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 (+) 103.5

On the air from Ridgewood Ave. in Montreal; CTCSS tone of 103.5 Hz for access. Thanks to Claude Everton, the VE2RMP group and Metrocom for making this possible.

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 on the first Tuesday of the month (Aug 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

(last Tuesday of the month)

- 29 Jan - Bryan VE3QN on up-coming WRC 2019.
- 26 Feb - Gerald VA2GLU on Golden Packet.
- 26 Mar - Rene VA2QR & Jacques VE2CYJ on RAQI.
- 30 Apr - George VE2NGH on how repeaters work.
- 28 May - Show and Tell

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

The 2019 flea market will be held at the LaSalle Legion on **6 April**. Plans are already afoot.

Go to

<http://www.marc.ca/fest/fest.html>

for more information as it happens.

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.



UPCOMING FLEAS/EVENTS

2019

What: NPARC Big Event Hamfest/
Electronics Fleamarket

Who: Niagara Peninsula A. R. Club

When: Saturday, 2 Feb, 2019

Where: St. Catharines, ON

What: Canadian Ski Marathon 2019
Ham Support

Who: CSM 2019

When: Friday, 8 Feb, 2019

Where: Montebello, QC

What: VE3CJ Memorial Spring Flea-
Market

Who: Burlington Amateur Radio Club

When: Saturday, 16 Feb, 2019

Where: Burlington, ON

What: Vermont State Convention
HAM-CON

Who: Radio Amateurs of Northern
Vermont

When: Saturday, 23 Feb, 2019

Where: Holiday Inn Convention Ctr, S.
Burlington, VT

What: Iroquois ARC Fleamarket

Who: Iroquois Amateur Radio Club

When: Saturday, 6 Apr 2019

Where: Iroquois ON

What: Montreal ARC Flea Market

Who: Montreal Amateur Radio Club

When: Saturday, 13 Apr 2019

Where: Lasalle Legion, LaSalle, QC

What: 43rd Annual Durham Hamfest

Who: North Shore ARC & South
Pickering ARC

When: Saturday, 27 Apr 2019

Where: Pickering, ON

CW CLASSES

By Leo VE2SI

Some members have expressed an interest in learning what is now called the International Morse Code and adding CW to their operating capabilities.

In addition to our regular monthly meetings, the club undertakes a number of activities so we'd like to gauge the interest in learning the code before adding it to this year's schedule.

If you're interested and even if you've spoken with me before, please send an email to VE2ARC@marc.ca and indicate your level of interest.

Leo, VE2SI

Leo49@Videotron.ca

WIARC News

Congratulations to the new West Island Amateur Radio Club Executive:

President	Larry Dobby, VE2DO
Vice-president	Martin Charbonneau, VA2HKR
Treasurer	Dave Cheney, VE2DGC
Secretary	Mark Morin, VA2MM

They were elected at the club's December meeting and we wish them a successful year.

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SILENT KEY



In Memoriam - Ronald Campbell 25 Jan 1933 - 29 Nov 2018 VA2RJC

It is with great sadness that I pass along the news of the passing of Ron Campbell, VA2RJC, in Ottawa on Nov. 29, following a brief illness. Ron took the MARC Basic Qualification course in 2002 and later joined the board of directors and acted as editor of the MarcOgram for several years. An active participant at club meetings and events, he will be missed by all who knew him.

He was also a wildlife photographer and a member of the Montreal Camera Club. He was a former FS RCAF and worked for the ICAO, managing on-site installations of airport radio communications in Africa and Asia. Following his long career he came to Canada and lived in Montreal and Ottawa.

At the request of Ron's wife, Mara, we are forwarding the notice sent out by the Montreal Camera Club of which Ron was also a member. That notice can be seen here:

<http://www.montrealcameraclub.com/in-memoriam.html>

The members and directors of the Montreal Amateur Radio Club extend their sincere condolences to Ron's family and many friends.

73 de Jim.

SolderSpot

Group build

Power Supply Project - details.

By Leo VE2SI

The SolderSpot variable-voltage bench power supply (PS) is finally ready. The delay was related more to other conflicting time demands rather than any difficulty in designing or assembling the power supply. The basic power supply design was done in about 30 minutes and the schematic and calculations can fit onto one sheet of paper. The most expensive components are the power transformer and case, and significant time went into exploring various choices for those two items.

The design goal was a PS that would provide an output that could be set between approximately 1 volt and 20 volts, deliver at least 750mA and have digital output meters for the voltage and current. An LM-317 three-terminal voltage regulator would be the heart of the power supply.

As is often the case, there are options to be considered and time and effort went into possible modifications of the basic power supply. Mainly, should it be a bipolar supply, one that could provide a positive voltage (0 to +20 volts) and a negative voltage (0 to -20 volts)? The cost for the bipolar supply would be slightly greater than that of the single-output supply and each output would be able to deliver only half the current of the single-output power supply. However, providing operating power for the digital meters displaying the positive and negative output voltages complicated the design. Keeping one of the objectives of the project in mind – learning how a power supply works, a single-supply design is easier to understand. Although a more advanced design might find broader application, the essentials of power supply design and operation would be buried in more complex circuitry. In the end I returned to a single-output PS.

While the 3-terminal voltage regulator has a maximum current rating of 1.5 amps and the rectifiers are rated for an average forward current of 3 amps (200 amps peak), the PS output current is limited to 750mA by the transformer. As almost always, cost enters into the

design and a transformer with a higher current rating would significantly increase the cost and possibly dissuade some prospective participants. When set to its lowest output voltage and providing 750mA, the voltage regulator would need to dissipate approximately 20 watts of heat. While a convectively cooled heatsink (costing approx. \$20) could be used, a computer CPU fan with attached heatsink (\$5 from electronic surplus stores) can provide superior cooling for a lower cost. The selected filter capacitor provides more than adequate filtering for a 750mA power supply. In this way the design is conservative, the rectifiers and voltage regulator are operated well within their ratings and any AC ripple on the PS output will be negligible for most applications. The transformer is protected from over-current by a primary line fuse and all 120-volt connections are made with insulated connectors or covered by heatshrink tubing.

The PS shown below was built using a so-called prototype board. While useful for assembling a simple “one off” circuit, prototype boards are not the easiest way to build a circuit. The availability and quick delivery of printed circuit boards (PCB) from Pacific Rim countries provides an attractive way to improve the ease-of-assembly. With a late winter or spring start date for the SolderSpot PS, I plan to transfer the design to a printed circuit. The cost for small quantities of custom printed circuits boards is actually lower than the prototype board that was used for the demonstration unit.



The SolderSpot kit will include all the parts for the PS and participants will be asked to bring whatever tools, such as a soldering iron, they might have. It should be possible to assemble the kit within six 2-hour sessions.

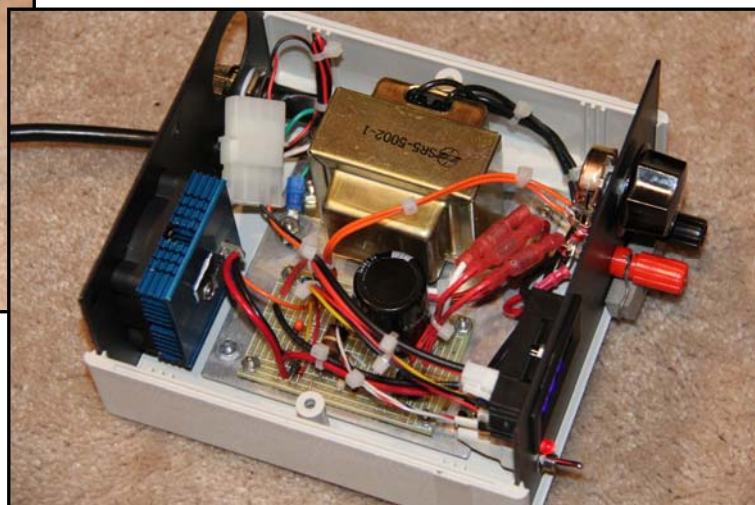
Below are some photos of the final power supply. The (blue) heat sink/fan assembly with attached LM-317 is mounted on the rear panel of the case, draws fresh air into the case to cool all components and then exhausts the warmed air through a hole at the back of the case. The fan and exhaust openings will be protected by a grill in the final version.

Each build session will open with a short description of the work to be done and the relevant design considerations. In addition to the PS that each participant will build, it is hoped that this project will provide an introduction to electronic circuit construction and a more detailed view of the way that a linear power supply is designed.

If you're interested and even if you've spoken with me before, please send an email to VE2ARC@marc.ca and indicate your level of interest.

Participation is open to everyone and MARC membership is not a requirement. .

Leo, VE2SI
Leo49@Videotron.ca



British Columbia QSO Party

Happy New Year! Hope 2019 has started out well for you and yours.

I'm writing today to invite Montreal ARC members to join Orca DXCC in the next running of the British Columbia QSO Party, coming up in a couple of weeks. I realize that horrible CONDX is a major deterrent to participation and other same-weekend on-air events may offer greater QSO potential, but if MARC members are on the air, I encourage them to keep an ear out for BC stations calling "CQ BCQP". Even a few QSOs may be enough to capture some lovely wallpaper for the shack, if, of course, the log is submitted. :) Over the last couple of years, several Quebec stations have captured certificates and even the Top Canada Outside BC plaque!

Details for British Columbia QSO Party 2019

sponsored by the Orca DX and Contest Club

Date/Time:

1600Z Feb 2 to 0359Z Feb 3 AND
1600Z to 2359Z Feb 3

Objectives:

Stations outside BC have to find as many VE7/VA7s as possible in the 20 hours of the contest. BC stations will be taking calls from anyone, anywhere.

Exchange:

BC stations give RS(I) + three-letter code representing the federal electoral district in BC and stations outside BC give province/state/"DX"

Incentives:

- Collectible, original photo certificates for top scores in all classes, BC and outside BC. New photo every year! Plus, BC-themed keepsakes.

- Plaques awarded in 10 sponsored categories: Top YL, Top BC single-op, Top BC multi-op, Top US, Top Canada outside BC, Top DX, Top Mixed Mode, Top CW, Most Federal Districts Contacted and Top Club in BC.

- BCQP is fully supported by N1MM contest logging software, CQ/X GPS-enabled software for mobile contesting, N3FJP state QSO party logging programs and several other generic programs. Any software that creates a Cabrillo log is OK but the content MUST show the required information. See the rules for details.

- Follow links at <http://orcadxcc.org/bcqp.html> for rules, multiplier list, FAQs, in-depth event analysis/reports and scores from past years, and examples of photo certificates and plaques.

BCQP runs in two segments:

12 hours on Saturday and 8 hours on Sunday.

Saturday 11am to 11pm Feb 2 UR time - 1600Z Feb 2 to 0359Z Feb 3

AND

Sunday 11am to 7pm UR time - 1600Z to 2359Z Feb 3.

The segments are NOT split by mode. Operators can work PH, CW and/or digital as they wish, on one day or both during the designated blocks of time. Operators can work all 20 hours of the contest or a few hours on Saturday and a few hours on Sunday, or just Saturday or just Sunday; it's completely up to each person. There is no required off-time, but there can be NO activity during the gap between the 12-hour block on Saturday and the eight-hour block on Sunday. For people who love CW but don't have time to play on Sunday, we have alternate suggested frequencies - see the rules - during NA Sprint CW (last four hours on Saturday) to mitigate the QSY mayhem.

Hope MARC members can join us in BCQP 2019. It's always a whale of a good time.

GL and 73!

Questions? Email me at va7bec@rac.ca

Rebecca VA7BEC

BCQP Contest Coordinator, Orca DXCC

