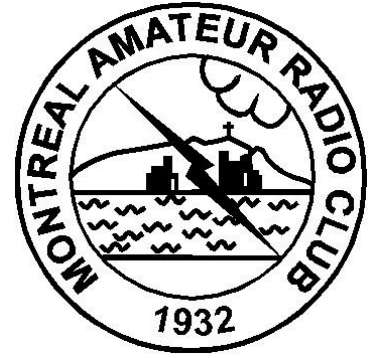


marcOgram

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Summer 2020

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 29 September 2020

CANCELLED

**See the President's announcement
and VE2RED net information
page 7.**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

One thing this COVID-19 "shelter in place" thing has done is digitize ordinary daily operations. Banking? Go on line. Education and classes? Go on line. Shopping? Go on line. Money, the coins and plastic bills have become vectors for the virus, piggy-backing on the cold hard cash that most people use. Stores that normally operated person-to-person, without an on-line shopping capability or debit-credit ways of paying for things have joined the internet. It has even penetrated that last bastion of FAX users, the medical world; they now can be persuaded to operate by email and PDFs, joining the 21st century. The internet has rendered possible tasks that would be risky in person. Zoom has become extremely popular for meetings, lectures, conversations and maintaining contact without contact, one might say. Carry on, folks! This too shall pass (but don't hold your breath).

73 de Nora, VA2NH

- . . . -

New! Discussion Group

Following last months announcement of the new MARC discussion group, about half the membership joined this group. This is great, but I would like to see the rest of our membership on this group so we can use it more efficiently. It's a great way for the club to inform its members in-between newsletters, and for members to discuss all things radio, upload photos, share ideas. You can find the group here:

<https://groups.io/g/VE2ARC/>

If you fear receiving too many emails from this group, you can set your preference to Daily Digest, or Special Notice, and read it on groups.io instead.

Email invitations will be sent to all members who have not yet joined. Keep an eye for it in your inbox.

Looking forward to seeing you in the group.
If you have any questions, please let me know.

Marc-Andre Gingras, VE2EVN
President - Montreal Amateur Radio Club

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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Family Members (per family) ... \$35.00
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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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.

Directors

President: Marc-André Gingras, VE2EVN... ve2evn@marc.ca
Vice-Pres: Leo Nikkinen, VE2SI..... ve2si@marc.ca
Treasurer: Harrison Kyle, VE2HKW..... va2hk@kylenet.org
Secretary: Nora Hague, VA2NH..... va2nh@marc.ca
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George Hedrei, VE2NGH
Eamon Egan, VE2EGN..... ve2egn@marc.ca
Mario Piacitelli, VA2TMP..... va2tmp@marc.ca

Club Call Sign: VE2ARC

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

Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. **Currently OFF AIR**, looking for a new location..

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 held on the first Tuesday of the month (Aug to June) at 19:30 on-line using the Zoom platform. The club no longer holds in-person board meetings. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions for the Board to discuss, please send an email to ve2arc@marc.ca for inclusion to the meeting agenda.

Club Activities

Monthly Meetings are suspended

(last Tuesday of the month)

Every Wednesday, @ 20:00 (00:00Z), go to the net on VE2RED.

See page 7.

Sep 29 - **Cancelled**

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 2020 MARC flea market has been cancelled.

It will be back next year but we still need a good location. Any ideas? Please contact any of the board members.

Ideas are welcome!

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.

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.

If you're interested send an email to VE2ARC@marc.ca and indicate your level of interest.

SolderSpot

Group build Power Supply Project - By Leo VE2SI

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. .



UPCOMING FLEAS/EVENTS

2020

What: Carp 24th Annual Hamfest
Who: Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
When: **CANCELLED**
 (12 Sep, 2020)
Where: Carp, ON

What: HARC Hamfest 2020
Who: Hamilton Amateur Radio Club
When: Saturday, 03 Oct, 2020
Where: Ancaster Fair Grounds,
 Ancaster, ON

What: NEAR-Fest XXVIII
Who: New England AR Festival
When: **CANCELLED**
 (16-17 Oct, 2020)
Where: Fair grounds, Deerfield NH

What: Montreal South Shore Hamfest
Who: Club RA Rive-Sud de Montréal
When: **CANCELLED**
 (17 Oct, 2020)
Where: Place Desaulniers, Longueuil,
 QC

2021

What: Iroquois ARC Fleamarket
Who: Iroquois Amateur Radio Club
When: Saturday, 3 Apr 2021
Where: Iroquois ON

What: NEAR-Fest XXIX
Who: New England Amateur Festival,
 Inc
When: Fri & Sat, 30 Apr & 1 May, 2021
Where: Deerfield Fairgrounds
 Deerfield, NH

TEST EQUIPMENT: THE BASICS AND BEYOND

By Leo Nikkinen, VE2SI
leo49@videotron.ca

Now that you have read, marked, learned, and inwardly digested all that there is to know about Voltmeters and Multimeters, and are eagerly awaiting the next installment of Test Equipment, the author begs to inform you that he is taking a holiday. The next chapter may be ready for the September issue, so watch your email in-boxes.

Leo, VE2SI
Leo49@Videotron.ca

- . . . -

VE2RED TUESDAY NET REPORT

Any discrepancies, please inform Leo, VE2SI

Note: Net is now on **Wednesdays**, at 20:00 00:00Z

2020-05-26 (Tue) Net commenced 19:30 local, 23:30Z

Net control Pawel, VE2ARC (VE2ZPZ)
 VE2SI, Leo, St-Lazare
 VA2NH, Nora, St-Lazare
 VA2LEQ, Lee, Laval
 VA2WF, Martin, Ahuntsic
 VA2GLM, Lubo
 VE2FXO, Charles
 VE2EVN, Marc-André, Montreal
 VE2FSE, Frank
 20:15 Net closed.
 8 check-ins.

2020-06-16 (Tue) Net commenced 19:32 local, 23:32Z

Net control Leo, VE2ARC (VE2SI)
 VA2LEQ, Lee, Laval
 VA2NH, Nora, St-Lazare
 VE2FSE, Frank, Lachine
 VE2XHL, Jong
 VE2BAB, Mitch, Cote-St-Luc
 VE2EVN, Marc-André, Net Control @ 20:07
 VE2LRZ, Erick, Cote St. Luc
 VE2ZPZ, Pawel

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

VE2XPM, David, Verdun
20:19 Net closed.
9 check-ins.
Discussion: cycling, new FT-891.

2020-06-23 (Tue) Net commenced 19:30 local, 23:30Z

Net control Leo, VE2ARC (VE2SI)
VE2WRH, Wayne, Cote St. Luc
VE2DDZ, Malcolm, Pointe-Claire
VA2NH, Nora, St-Lazare
VE2KFC, Norm, St-Constant
VE2TSM, Mario, Rawdon
VA2GLM, Lubo
VE2BAB, Mitch, Cote-St-Luc
VE2FSE, Frank, Lachine
20:10 Net closed.
8 check-ins.

2020-06-30 (Tue) Net commenced 20:00 local, 00:00Z

Net control Marc-André, VE2ARC (VE2EVN)
VA2XS, Mike, Ville St-Laurent
VA2NH, Nora, St-Lazare
VA2LEQ, Lee, Laval
VE2SI, Leo, St-Lazare
VE2FSE, Frank, Lachine
VE2MVY, David, Oka
AC2CZ/VE2, Chris (G0KLA)
VE2SUS, Shawn, Pointe-Claire
VE2YI, Claude, Laval
VE2WRH, Wayne, Cote St. Luc
Net closed.
10 check-ins.

2020-07-07 (Tue) Net commenced 20:20 local, 00:20Z

Net control Marc-André, VE2ARC (VE2EVN)
VE2XE, Bram
VE2SI, Leo, St-Lazare
VE2WRH, Wayne, Cote St. Luc
VA2LEQ, Lee, Laval
VA2NH, Nora, St-Lazare
VE2MXN, Martin, Villeray
Net closed 20:43
6 check-ins
Discussion: RigExpert, MFJ

2020-07-14 (Tue) Net commenced 20:20 local, 00:20Z

Net control Marc-André, VE2ARC (VE2EVN)
VE2YI, Claude, Laval
VE2WRH, Wayne, Cote St. Luc

VA2NH, Nora, St-Lazare
VE2LRZ, Erick
VE2SI, Leo, St-Lazare
Net closed.
6 check-ins

2020-07-21 (Tue) Net commenced 20:20 local, 00:20Z

Net control Leo, VE2ARC (VE2SI)
VA2NH, Nora, St-Lazare
VE2NGH, George, Montreal
VE2FSE, Frank, Lachine
VE2KFC, Norm, St-Constant
VA2LEQ, Lee, Laval
VE2EVN, Marc-André
VE2BAB, Mitch, Cote-St-Luc

(Continued on page 8)

News from the Board

As the more perspicacious of our readers may have noticed, there have been changes to the MARC Board of Directors.

After a great many years serving in various positions on the Board of Directors, and as Editor of MARCogram, Jim, VE2VE, has resigned from the Board of Directors for personal and medical reasons. The Club owes Jim a hearty thanks for all the work he has put in over the years. Organizing the communications for events such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade, arranging Field Day, and in previous years, the Canada Day event, is time-absorbing work involving diplomacy, tact and a friendly persuasive manner. Jim could get people to volunteer even if they had no intention of doing so. Jim was also the point man for arranging meeting halls and event venues, and developed a useful list of contacts. Jim was the club's rep for the Town of Pointe Claire during the years our repeater, VE2BG, was located on their water tower. We wish Jim good luck and good health, and hope he enjoys having more time to relax.

The Board is happy to welcome Harrison, VE2HKW, an incoming director, as Treasurer, and Nora, VA2NH, as Secretary. Strangely enough, COVID-19 has enabled our Board members to attend meetings from far-flung places like Hemmingford and BC, via Zoom.

- . . . -

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SK - Silent Key - SK



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our friend Daniel Richard Montpetit, VA2KEY, on July 3rd, 2020, at the age of 61, at the West Island Palliative Care Residence, with his loving wife and partner of thirty years, Barbara McKay, by his side.

Devoted father to Nicolas and Marc Montpetit and cherished brother of Diane, Hélène, Jean, Robert and Carole Montpetit (Don Pavlasek), Daniel will be missed by his nephews and nieces Mathieu and Dominique Lalonde, Léah and Naomi Taylor, John Montpetit, Catherine Montpetit-Deschamps (Jonathan Keenan), Jana (Parker Ewen) and Natalia Pavlasek. He was predeceased by his parents Florian Montpetit and Norma Slavin.

After studying computer programming at CEGEP de Ste-Thérèse, Daniel had a successful career in information technology which spanned over 30 years in the telecommunications and banking industries. His expertise in the area of applied cryptography was particularly valued and respected. Daniel's

natural curiosity and passion for learning continued throughout his lifetime, in his career and in his interest in amateur radio. Dan was an active member of the West Island Amateur Radio Club and the Montreal Amateur Radio Club, where he enjoyed technical challenges and long-lasting friendships with his amateur radio colleagues, and was very active in club events, namely ARRL Field Day. He was a mover and shaker in our club and hobby, an Elmer to some and an inspiration to all of us. Dan's positive attitude, get-it-done initiative and sunny disposition will be greatly missed by his fellow hams; all of us who were lucky to have known him.

A private graveside service will take place.

The family wishes to thank the staff of the West Island Palliative Care Residence (WIPCR) for their care and compassion during these difficult times. Donations in Daniel's name can be made to the WIPCR or to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/pointe-claire-qc/daniel-montpetit-9248245>

Courtesy WIARC web page, VE2EVN Marc-André, Collins-Clarke funeral home.



MARC-WIARC lunch 2012-06-09, photo by Vernon Erle Ikeda VE2MBS/VE2QQ.

Repeater News

As we are now holding a regular net on VE2RED, on Wednesdays at 20:00, 00:00Z, it became apparent that the repeater had some technical problems. Claude, VE2YI, has been working hard on improving the range and the behaviour of the repeater.

Here are some of Claude's notes.

I went up to the site and tried to bring the MSR2000 back to life. Unfortunately it's had its day; the power supply now seems to have an issue and the receiver still has stability issues, likely due to the XTAL. I've prepared a Motorola MTR2000 repeater from one of the Public Safety systems onto the VE2RED frequencies. This is a superb, robust and fully programmable repeater so it should operate really well as a replacement to the older machine. I will install it at the Ridgewood site in place of the other.

I made several tests over-the-air using the new Motorola MTR2000 repeater. Thanks to Duncan, VE2DF, and Cliff, VE2YU, who assisted in the tests by using low-power and giving a relative indication of the receiver sensitivity as well as that of the de-sense and interference levels. This is a great replacement of the "Back-to-Back" and the old MSR2000 that previously ran from the Ridgewood site.

I was able to reconfigure the RX-multicoupling chain and made it better than it has been for the last several months. Marc-André, VE2EVN, and Duncan could also make it in using extremely low power (100mW or so), and Cliff could make it in using a handheld from Blainville without being wiped out by the VE2UMS repeater when it was On-the-Air.

I also witnessed the "screaching and whistling" kind of tones and noise that would be repeated occasionally at the release of our PTT's. During a QSO with Tony, VE2HEW, there was often a bothersome squealing interference, however Tony would walk right over it with only 1 Watt or so. I believe I can make a slight change in the programming of the MTR to minimize this howling, which is likely caused by an option, "extra sensitivity mode" that I had enabled; I will remove it. This mode was to prevent momentary drop-outs of extremely weak signals working through the machine, however in a crowded heavily-loaded RF environment, it should be disabled. I'll reprogram the option.

Here are a few photos:

- 1) The full-rack containing VE2RCM (DMR), VE2RMP (multi-mode DSTAR-DMR-P25-NXDN-FUSION), VA2RMP (FUSION) (the old MSR2000 is right at the bottom) and the VE2RED (Quantar) in the middle of the rack;
- 2) New (used) Motorola Quantar;
- 3) A few filters, RX of VE2UMS and RX of VE2RED;
- 4) The site tower and antennas.

73 de Claude - VE2YI

1: The whole stack



2: Motorola Quantar



4: Antenna tower

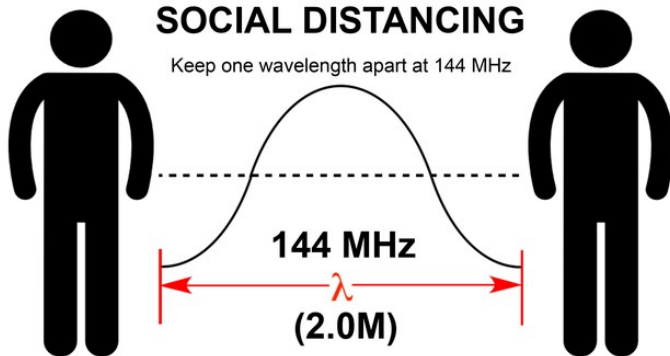


3: Filters



Amateur radio enthusiast guide to SOCIAL DISTANCING

Keep one wavelength apart at 144 MHz



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since there have been no changes to the directives from the Quebec government regarding COVID-19, the MARC has taken the decision to **CANCEL** our General Meetings until such time as we can hold them safely. The Church authorities are also following recommendations, and the meeting hall is unavailable.

We are in the planning stage to hold General Meetings via the Zoom platform. Stay tuned for more news regarding this in the next few weeks, as well as a notice in the September issue.

Also, please note our weekly net on the VE2RED repeater has moved to every Wednesday, at 20:00 local. Everyone is welcome.

We have a few Net operators hosting it, but we're always interested in adding to this team if you're interested. Send me an email if you would like to try out Net Operations for an evening.

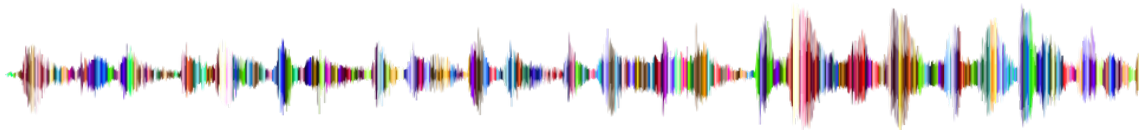
Please join us every Wednesday evening on VE2RED on 2m output frequency of 147.270 MHz (+600 kHz input offset).

Note 1: the repeater uses a CTCSS tone of 103.5 Hz for access.

Note 2: thanks to Claude, VE2YI, VE2RED is in excellent health, with a new, more modern unit, with lots of power.

Please be safe, and stay healthy.

Marc-Andre, VE2EVN
President - Montreal Amateur Radio Club



(Continued from page 4)
VE2MXN, Martin, Villeray
VE2PVI, Pardo
VE2CY, Joseph, St. Lambert
Net closed 21:00
11 check-ins
Discussion: W1ARC meeting.

VE2YMV, Yves, St. Therese
VE2HIT, Greg, Hampstead
VE2HEW, Anthony
21:27 Net closed.
11 check-ins.
Discussion: hermits, preppers, COVID-19, parts database.

- . . . -

2020-07-28 (Tue) Net commenced 20:00 local, 00:00Z

Net control Marc-André, VE2ARC (VE2EVN)
VE2SI, Leo, St-Lazare
VE2HKW, Harrison, Hemmingford
VA2NH, Nora, St-Lazare
VE2WRH, Wayne, Cote St. Luc
VE2BAB, Mitch, Cote-St-Luc
VE2EGN, Eamon, NDG
VE2KFC, Norm, St-Constant

LIFE IS SIMPLE



If I add just one more antenna and increase power by 3db,
I can bounce signals off Jupiter.