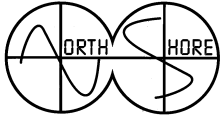


# NORTH SHORE ARC



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Volume 8 , Number 1

September 2005

## The Oshawa Cycling Club Scugog Circle Century Tour –2005.

Everyone:

Thank you for the support as coordinator, and to the NSARC for participating in the Scugog Circle Century Tour.

Mike and sons at Check Point #1

Thanks for being understanding of the various late entries. In fact the last entrants left at about 9:40 am on the 100 km circuit. This is a major fundraiser for the Oshawa Cycling Club, and every rider they have on the course is \$25.00, plus they may they purchase a T shirt. Thanks for the persistence on the SWEEP function to Checkpoint #1. I will bring this point up at the de-brief later in September. I hope your 2 sons enjoyed the day travelling the less traveled routes of Southern Ontario.

Doug at Checkpoint #2

It was just luck that you got a check point 2 blocks from your house. Thanks for setting me straight on the SWEEP function from #2 to #3 and #4. It was great you and Joe had breakfast together in Port Perry.

Ralph at Checkpoint #3

Thanks for the 2 meetings we had in preparation for the event. Your insight into the operations of the tour were invaluable to me.

Joe at Checkpoint #4

Always ready is our man Joe. He was at his appointed post in advance of the race official and was scoping out the site in Little Britain and found out that the Johnny on the Spot had no paper. Joe supplied that vital piece of equipment from his personal supply. We followed the last 2 riders past Checkpoint #4 all the way through to the end. Thanks for that transmission.

Bob at Checkpoint #5

Thanks for taking the journey from metropolitan Janetville to Lindsay. This is a major stop along the route, and Bob and Anne have done this Checkpoint

for years. Once again thanks for the continued support at the farthest Checkpoint.

Ray and Alex at Checkpoint #6

Ray is an old hand at Blackstock. Alex is usually out in the boonies, but he teamed up with Ray this year at the Community Centre. Thanks for taking over as Net Control for Ken when he needed a break. Well done in keeping the communications flowing.

Howie at Checkpoint #7

Howie did not have to double up this year, but he got a complete day in playing radio at Burketon. Thanks for the help at Checkpoint #8 in locating the last rider.

Luis at Checkpoint #8

This was Luis' first time with the event, and what a baptism of fire. All riders go through #8. Luis was there from early in the day until the last rider went by his post. Thanks for the dedication.

Will and Mike in Mobile #1 and #2

What an asset to the Tour Coordinator having 2 vehicles that were out on the course all the time, and in constant communication. This year we had 2 mechanical calls the mobile units responded to, plus delivering water to those Checkpoints that seemed to be low or out. No cyclist injury calls this year.

Ken at Net Control

What can I say! Ken kept it all together. I know what it is like to be out there at a Check Point waiting for a response. He was right on the ball with his responses, and kept everyone informed as he knew the answer to be. When Ralph and I were going over the club membership for a possible Net Control we both came up with Ken's name, and he did the club proud. We have another member who has been Net Control.

General comments:

1. It seemed the lack of water this year was one of the major concerns expressed over the radio. I'll ensure J.P. gets this information.
2. The washroom facilities at Little Britain need to have signage.
3. The SWEEP from #6 to #7 passed the riders. This person informed the Race Officials that there were 3

riders on the course, but did not wait for them to clear #7.

4. As mentioned earlier, the SWEEP from Durham College to Checkpoint #1 appears to have been missed. The Tour Coordinator handled this task eventually.

5. A number on the jersey of all riders would have helped in identifying the last riders on the circuit. Some had numbers folded in a pocket.

If you have any concerns you wish relayed to the race officials to make the event better next year please pass them to me.

Your volunteer efforts helped the race officials to be in constant communication as events happened on the course. All stations reported in when:

- \* the first rider passed through
- \* the last rider passed through
- \* the Checkpoint was shut down

We were able to help with locating the 'pack'.

All this information assists the race officials visualize the events on the course.

You did a service to the community and honed your communication skills at the same time.

In other years volunteers have been invited to a corn roast sponsored by the Oshawa Cycling Club. More on this event later.

Thanks one and all.

Larry G. VA3FHG

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## HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID

Note: This "Rusty Bumpers" column is from the May 1993 issue of "Solid Copy", the Richmond (VA) Amateur Telecommunications Society's monthly newsletter. Most of the examples used by "Rusty" have happened on the local repeaters exactly as written, although some of the items are exaggerated slightly for humor. (Step 35 was written before

the 1993 "no business" rule change.)

## HOW TO SOUND LIKE A LID

by Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

On two meters lately, I have noticed a tendency of people making a concerted effort to sound like a Lid (i.e. poor operator). Since this appears to be the new style in amateur radio, I thought I would present this handy guide to radio nerd-dom. The following is what I call: "How to sound like a Lid in one easy lesson."

1. Use as many Q signals as possible. Yes, I know they were invented solely for CW and are totally inappropriate for two-meter FM, but they're fun and entertaining. They keep people guessing as to what you really meant. i.e. "I'm going to QSY to the kitchen." Can you really change frequency to the kitchen? QSL used to mean "I am acknowledging receipt," but now it appears to mean "yes" or "OK." I guess I missed it when the ARRL changed the meaning.
2. Never laugh, when you can say "hi hi." No one will ever know you aren't a long time CW ragchewer if you don't tell them. They'll think you've been on since the days of Marconi.
3. Utilize an alternative vocabulary. Use words like "destinated" and "negatory." It's OK to make up your own words here. "Yeah Bill, I pheelbart zaphonix occasionally myself."
4. Always say "XX4XXX (insert your own call) for I.D." Anything that creates redundancy is always strongly encouraged. That's why we have the Department of Redundancy Department. (Please note that you can follow your call with "for identification purposes" instead of "for I.D." While taking longer to say, it is worth more lid-points.)
5. The better the copy on two-meter FM, the more you should phonetically spell your name, especially if it is a short and/or common one. i.e. "My name is Al...Alpha Lima" or "Jack...Juliatt Alpha Charlie Kilo." If at all possible, make up unintelligible phonetics. "My name is Bob...Billibong Oregano Bumperpool."
6. Always give the calls of yourself and everyone who is (or has been) in the group, whether they are still there or not. While this has been unnecessary for years, it is still a wonderful memory test.
7. Whenever possible, use the wrong terminology. It keeps people guessing. Use "modulation" when you mean "deviation" and vice-versa. And even if the two-meter FM amplifier you're using

is a Class C type amp, and thus not biased for linear amplification, be sure to call it your "linear." Heck, refer to all FM-style amplifiers as "linears." You'll be king of the "wrong terminology" hill.

8. If someone asks for a break, always finish your turn, talking as long as possible before turning it over. Whenever possible, pass it around a few times first. This will discourage the breaker and, if it is an emergency, will encourage him to switch to another repeater and not bother you.
9. Always ask involved questions of the person who is trying to sign out. Never let him get by with a yes or no answer. Make it a question that will take a long time to answer.
10. The less you know about a subject, the more you should speculate about it on the air. The amount of time spent on your speculations should be inversely proportional to your knowledge of the subject.
11. If someone on the repeater is causing interference, you should talk about that person at great length, making sure to comment on at least four out of six of the following: (1) His mental state; (2) His family; (3) His intelligence, or lack of same; (4) His sexual preference; (5) His relationship to small animals; (6) His other methods of self entertainment.
12. If you hear two amateurs start a conversation on the repeater, wait until they are 20 seconds into their contact, and then break-in to use the patch. Make sure that it's only a simple routine phone call. It's also very important that you run the autopatch for the full three minutes. This way, once the two re-establish contact, they won't even remember what they were talking about.
13. You hear someone on the repeater giving directions to a visiting amateur. Even if the directions are good, make sure you break-in with your own "alternate route but better way to get there" version. This is most effective if several other Lid trainees join in, each with a different route. By the time the amateur wanting directions unscrambles all the street names whizzing around in his head, he should have mobilized out of range of the repeater. This keeps you from having to stick around and help the guy get back out of town later.
14. Use the repeater for an hour or two at a time, preventing others from using it. Better yet, do it on a daily basis. Your quest is to make people so sick of hearing your voice every time they turn on their radio, they'll move to another frequency. This way you'll lighten the load on the repeater, leaving even more time for you to talk on it.
15. See just how much mobile flutter you can generate by operating at handheld power levels too far from the repeater. Engage people in conversations when you know they won't be able to copy half of what you're saying. Even when they say you are uncopyable, continue to string them along by making further transmissions. See just how frustrated you can make the other amateur before he finally signs off in disgust.
16. Give out wacky radio advice. When a newcomer's signal is weak into the repeater, tell him he can correct the problem by adjusting the volume and squelch knobs on his radio. Or tell people they're full quieting except for the white noise on their signal. Or....well, you get the idea.
17. Use lots of radio jargon. After all, it makes you feel important using words average people don't say. Who cares if it makes you sound like you just fell off of Channel 19 on the Citizen's Band? Use phrases such as "Roger on that," "10-4," "I'm on the side," "You're making the trip," and "Negatory on that."
18. Use excessive microphone gain. See just how loud you can make your audio. Make sure the audio gain is so high that other amateurs can hear any bugs crawling on your floor. If mobile, make sure the wind noise is loud enough that others have to strain to pick your words out from all the racket.
19. Be as verbose as possible. Never say "yes" when you can say "He acquiesced in the affirmative by saying 'yes'." (No kidding, I actually heard that one.)
20. Start every transmission with the word "Roger" or "QSL." Sure, you don't need to acknowledge that you received the other transmission in full. After all, you would simply ask for a repeat if you missed something. But consider it your gift to the other amateur to give him solace every few seconds that his transmissions are being received.
21. When looking for a contact on a repeater, always say you're "listening" or "monitoring" multiple times. I've always found that at least a half dozen times or so is good. Repeating your multiple "listening" IDs every 10 to 15 seconds is even better. Those people who didn't want to talk to you will eventually call you, hoping you'll go away after you have finally made a contact.

22. Give out repeater FM signal reports using the HF SSB R-S system ("You're 5 by 9 here"). Sure it's considered improper for FM operation and you may even confuse some people, but don't let that spoil your fun!
23. Always use a repeater, even if you can work the other station easily on simplex -- especially if you can make the contact on simplex. The coverage of the repeater you use should be inversely proportional to your distance from the other station.
24. If you and the other station are both within a mile or two of the repeater you are using, you should always give a signal report. ("I'm sitting under the repeater and I know you can see it from there, but you're full quieting into the repeater. How about me?")
25. In the same vein as the previous step, when monitoring a repeater, you should always give signal reports as if the repeater didn't exist. ("Yep, I'm right under the repeater. You've got a whopping signal. You're S-9 plus 60. That must be a great rig.")
26. On repeaters with courtesy tones, you should always say "over." Courtesy tones are designed to let everyone know when you have un-keyed, but don't let that stop you. Say "over," "back to you," or "go ahead." It serves no useful purpose, but don't worry -- it's still fun.
27. Think up interesting and bizarre things to do to tie-up the repeater. The goal here is not to facilitate communications, but to entertain all the scanner listeners out there. Do something original. Try to hum CTCSS (PL) tones. Sing pager tones. You're getting the idea.
28. Use the repeater's auto-patch for frivolous routine calls. While pulling into the neighborhood, call home to let them know you'll be there in two minutes. Or call your spouse to complain about the bad day you had at work. After all, the club has "measured rate" service on their phone line, so they get charged for each auto-patch call. Your endeavor is to make so many patches in a year that you cost the club at least \$20 in phone bills. That way you'll feel you got your money's worth for your dues.
29. Never say "My name is....". It makes you sound human. If at all possible, use one of the following phrases:  
 "The personal here is...."  
 "The handle here is...."
- Normally, handles are for suitcases, but it's OK to use them anyway. Don't forget, this has worked just fine for Cbers for years.
30. Use 73 and 88 incorrectly. Both are already considered plural, but add a "s" to the end anyway. Say "73's" or "88's." Who cares if it means "best regardses" and "love and kisseeses." Better yet, say "seventy thirds." (By the way, 70 thirds equals about 23.3.)
31. Make people think you have a split personality by referring to yourself in the plural sense. When you're in conversation and are alone at your radio, always say "We're" or "We've" instead of "I'm" or "I've" (i.e. "we've been doing this...", "we're doing that...", "we're clear"). Everyone knows you're by yourself, but when they ask you who is with you, make up somebody important like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bill Clinton.
32. Always attempt to use the higher functions of the repeater before you have read the directions. Nothing will work, but you'll have great fun and get lots of people to give you advice.
33. Test repeater functions repeatedly (that's why they call it a repeater). Test your signal strength from the same location several times every day. Concentrate on testing the things that really matter, like the number of time the repeater has been keyed-up. That stuff is fun to track. Test the outside temperature as often as possible. The farther the temperature goes from the norms, the more often you should test it. Also, if you get a pager set to the repeater's output frequency, as soon as you receive it set it off every 30 seconds or so until the battery runs down. Better yet, interrupt conversations to test it.
34. If the repeater is off the air for service, as soon as it's turned back on complain about the fact that it was off the air. Act as though your entire day has been ruined because the repeater wasn't available when you wanted to use it.
35. Find ways to get around the "no business" rule on auto-patches. Your plan is to try and fool the repeater control operators. Invent code words your secretary at work will understand to disguise any business talk so it sounds like personal chatter. Or get to be friends with the local Domino's Pizza manager. Make it so that when you call him on the patch and ask him to bring over the "floppy disk" you need to your house, he shows-up 30 minutes later with a piping hot large pepperoni and sausage pie. The possibilities are endless....

Just using a few of these easy steps should put you well on the way to Lid-hood. I hope these helpful hints will save you some time in your quest to sound like the perfect Lid.

73,  
Rusty Bumpers, N4LID

P.S. "Rusty Bumpers" is a pen name. He maintains anonymity so he can sit peacefully at club meetings and avoid the wrath (and breath) of the uninformed.

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**From The Chair in the Shack:**

As we begin the year of meetings and events, it is appropriate to consider not only why we enjoy amateur radio but why it continues to exist in an age where anything is for sale, including the airwaves. Over the last ten years we have had news that our spectrum was threatened by low orbiting satellites, wind shear radar, possible expansion of the cell phone bands, radio tracking devices for packages, broadband over power lines and a multitude of others.

Most of those threats have passed by without seriously robbing us of our hobby but many will return to haunt us. Why, after all, should a relative handful of hams hold millions of potential users from using the spectrum? Isn't it democratic to produce the greatest good for the greatest number?

The answer lies in some traditional reasons and some new reasons that governments have actually announced over the same number of years. First, there is the aspect of invention. Early hams were on the cutting edge of technology and their work on both equipment and propagation studies is very helpful and led to some important uses of radio. Second is the aspect of education, hams learning things that they might be able to use in other fields, experimenters raising the general level of skill and interest in the population.

A third reason for the preservation of the ham hobby/service is it's usefulness in emergency communications. During several disasters of late hams have played significant roles in preserving and restoring communications. While the media have not given headline coverage to this contribution, Governments have admitted that hams are useful. This is the killer reason for the existence of our ham bands. We are competent enough, every one of us, to use our low tech methods and equipment to fill gaps in the much touted modern telecom networks of voice and data. Yup, we fail too. The difference is that each of us has enough knowledge to get us

through power failures and loss of structures like repeaters.

In the coming years you will be asked to commit to helping during emergencies because of your skills. Want to keep your bands and privileges? Stay tuned for ways in which you can contribute enough that losses will be minimized or avoided. None of us seriously thinks that ham radio is there just for fun. That's why CB exists and is limited to low power and shorter range. That is also why family radio was invented. Ham radio is serious stuff and we need to keep that firmly in our minds. Just think, we are the only group in society who can communicate with no service provider (and bills) OR third party equipment worldwide. If that doesn't impress you, it should in an age when even water costs oodles.

You will be asked! You will also be asked to spread the word to those who haven't been contacted. I hope you'll say yes and work with ARES to keep amateur radio safe and productive.

73 de Pete

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So starts the fall. Man, it's been great summer for all kinds of reasons. As we focus on the fall, lets remember what the great opportunity we have to impact our community in a positive way. Help a fellow Club member, help in the community, help someone.

Your humble scribe.  
Ken  
VE3RMK

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