

# NORTH SHORE ARC



Box 171, Oshawa, ON, Canada, L1H 7L1  
www.osha.igs.net/~Isolomon/nsarc.htm

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2000

## 12WPM Dropped?

### Executive Members

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| President            | Peter, VA3PWH     |
| Vice President       | Alan, VA3ALN      |
| Secretary            | Jean Paul, VE3JPT |
| Treasurer            | Ries, VE3UEA      |
| Program Co-ordinator | Winston, VE3WFS   |
| Membership Chair     | Les, VA3LTB       |

### Newsletter Staff

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Publisher | Glen, VE3LIZ  |
| Editor    | Laird, VE3LKS |

Submit articles or info to Laird buy one of the following:  
e-mail: ve3lks@rac.ca or Isolomon@osha.igs.net  
packet: ve3lks@bbsbbs  
direct: ve3lks-1 on ve3ush

### Monthly Meeting

See you at the RCAF building at the Oshawa Airport.  
Meeting is on the third Monday of the Month at 1930hrs.

### April Meeting

Lynn Hodgson, who recently authored a book on Camp X, is our guest speaker tonight. Lynn will be bringing along books to sell and to autograph. Lynn will kick off our "camp X forthcoming Camp X special event station project.

### May Meeting

Our tentative speaker is Phil Gebhard. Phil is widely respected for his studies on meteorites and their effect on FM signal propagation. Phil comes with solid credentials as a columnist and an excellent speaker. You won't want to miss this one.

### June Meeting

Field Day preparation. Ghost Towns. What else. You name it and we'll do it.

### From the Chair in the Shack

**Peter, VA3PWH**

After a rather long winter, the spring thaw has shown up (even though we can expect more snow) and it is now time to consider a few things seriously.

First item is the Defense of Amateur Radio Fund. As most of you know, there will be no license fee this year or again except in some cases of call sign change. Why not donate that \$24 you had saved for the fee to DARF. It can then be used to send our Canadian delegate to the WRC 2000 and also to help finance other defensive moves aimed at preserving our ham bands. I know they need it right now so go for it.

Address: Defense of Amateur Radio Fund  
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217  
Ottawa ON K1G 0Z5

Second item is R.A.C.. I find it difficult to believe that so many of my friends are not members of R.A.C.. I have never spoken out before on this issue even though we went to the trouble of becoming a RAC affiliate club some time ago. Now I must before the issue is dead and we have no national association. All of us recognise that the times have changed and that we need someone to speak out for the protection of ham bands and someone to remind us of our shared interests. R.A.C. is the only recognized spokesman for our interests and is presently in danger of having to cut its activities even further. I suggest that we all take a look at the things R.A.C. has done and join if we have done so already. We need a balance to the pressure of large corporations who really like the idea of our 2 m and 70 cm bands for phone use, the higher bands for phones and data links and who already make household wiring network hardware which radiates on our hf bands. If you can't afford it, that is one thing. If you can and you still don't want to join, you'd better sell your radios since there will be precious little you can do when the bands are lost. Think I'm kidding? In informal tests done by hams in the states, home networks using telephone and hydro wiring were shown to be potent interferers up to several blocks from the houses where they were installed. Those same devices are beginning to be marketed in Canada so wait for the noise. R.A.C. might be the group who can help remove this potential interference and we need to finance that activity.

On a more cheerful note, Camp X appears to be gathering steam for a fine show. My sincere thanks to the geniuses who saw the potential and who are now working so hard to make it work. If you can help, you can join the group and follow blow-by-blow as they develop the station and the attending ceremonies, displays, V.I.P. attendance and all the rest of the event.

Field day might just be more popular with the public this year due to the publicity for Camp X. We need a committee who can each handle preparation and the running of the event. I'll be asking for the field and providing a certificate of insurance. I'll also be able to provide some equipment. What can you each do to make this a success?

We begin the millenium with both hopes and despair. Both need to be addressed by each member in the best way he/she can manage. "No Foolin!"

73 de Pete

## Bringing in the Bacon

QSL's are getting harder and harder to get. For years, I cast out reception reports, US green stamps, IRC's and self addressed envelopes and filled my basket with exotic catches. But, ever so slowly the river of cards began to dry up.

This is no game for the faint of heart. The trick is to develop successful strategies. Like the time I finally managed to tweak Radio Lposoto out of the night. A trophy catch! International reports told of Lposoto operating from a small bamboo building hard by the great Ikoosopo jungle.

I fleshed the radio station with its exotic address out of a Swedish internet site. Using the Station Address, I wrote a casual, friendly, buddy buddy, letter to the station manager.

*My Dear Arturo:*

*Ahh sir, what a pleasure it is to learn that you are operating from Lposoto nowadays. I will be sure to look you up on the airwaves.*

*I hope that this letter finds you, your usual cheerful self. Maisy and I recently mentioned your name over breakfast the other day - and we both agreed, that you were one of the most generous and obliging chaps we had ever met. A man of integrity - and not given to stuffing your pockets with the benefits of your unique job. The station made a wise choice in selecting you, my dear longtime friend as manager.*

*With many cheerful wishes*  
Winston.

ps

*Do you still enjoy wearing fine Italian leather gloves?*

I refrained of course, from sending out a signal report with this letter. Two weeks later, I wrote my second letter.

*Hello Again, long time friend, Arturo:*

*Strange, I thought of you today, as I was stringing a length of copper wire from the roof of my home across to the nearby tree. I wondered, if you had gotten my letter.*

*Did I by chance, remember to include my picture with an inserted \$10 bill with the letter? (Of course not) I realize that postage is getting terribly high abroad.*

*Remembering with kindness, the old days.*

Winston.

Letter three - took the matter one step further.

*Arturo.*

*Guess what! I heard your station last night. The fine Italian gloves I mentioned just happened to be sitting nearby the radio, and they were an excellent reminder that your station was on the air.*

*And, of course - your technical skills manifested themselves, magnificently, old man! Wonderful signal and great audio.*

*had been thinking of sending you a small note, to let you know that I am a REGULAR listener.*

*Eagerly yours, Winston.*

Letter four culminated my thrust. It contained the reception report, and my request.

*Arturo Old Man...*

*My Friend.*

*My longtime acquaintance.*

*Special radio enthusiast.*

*Here is your long awaited reception report. I knew you would like it...I am sure that you would love to confirm with a little treat???*

Winston

My fifth letter included a duplicate reception report along with the SASE.

*Arturo...good and special friend?*

*Did I forget these silly little, mundane things? How could I have been so thoughtless? I am rubbing my hands together (they get cold at the very thought of calf leather gloves), in anticipation of your eagerly awaited QSL CARD!*

*In much anticipation. Your special friend.*

Winston.

Letter six contained a cut out picture from a mail order catalogue, of a pair of gloves.

*Dear Arturo?  
I forgot - what is your hand size?  
Winston*

As the weeks passed I found myself rushing to the mailbox like a child running to the family Christmas tree.

No response. What an ingrate! It was time to upscale the pressure.

*Arturo!  
Have you still forgotten to reply to my request for your station card? Did I tell you how I used to golf with the owner of the station, over on the links of Kalabarajee. A most decent chap! We used to share radio stories at the clubhouse. As I recall, he was VERY loyal to his friends, and would have no truck or trade with incompetence.*

*Winston.*

A month later:

*Arturo.  
I'm still waiting you know? What is holding you up? Have you forgotten something?  
Winston*

Strange, how it is, but as time passed I found myself thinking less and less of Arturo and Loposoto. I even found myself a year later, puzzling over a brown envelope, covered with huge stamps of ferns and strange looking creatures.

Inside the envelope was a letter.

*My dear Winston,  
I was delight to learn that you still remember my, and that you are still generous man of days gone by. Mail costs high, and I am paid pittance for hard labour. And everyone wants me to stop in my labours and make out stupid qsl cards. But, every once in a while, very special friend writes.*

*Picture of wonderful gloves look very very good. How nice it must be in Canada this time of year. Maybe Winston send me visa form from consulate - to help remind me to make up qsl card.*

*Your special long time friend...Arturo.*

Someone mentioned Arturo's name the other day. I think it had been five years since I had last thought of him. I think I had heard, that he passed away.

## Swap Shop

**Peter, VA3PWH (905) 436-9236**

For Sale Palstar 300 Watt Antenna Tuner with 48 position inductor switch \$190.

**Josef, VE3FVH (905) 655-3009**

COM IC 471 70 cm all mode transceiver with power supply \$490. Microwave module 432 Mhz 100 watt linear \$190. TE systems 70 cm. 100 watt linear with Preamp \$210. Landwehr 2 m. Preamp. mast mount \$130. MFJ Electronic Keyer paddle, model MFJ-422C \$40. Larsen 2 m. 5/8 Magmount Ant. \$15. Larsen 2 m. 5/8 Glass mount Ant. \$40. Cushcraft 2 m. 5/8 Mag mount Ant. \$15. Hustler Mobile Resonators, RM-20, RM-40 RM-10S, RM15-S, RM-40S, Spring, Ball mount. \$110. Kenwood Deluxe Headphones HS-5 \$40. Cushcraft R-7 Vertical \$270. Sony C/D Player CDP-50 \$40. Radio Shack 5" Portable Colour TV. \$50. Alaron 40 Channel CB. \$25.

**Peter, VE3ETR (905) 655-5180**

Htx 100 10 meter mobile, 25 watts ssb & cw. 10 memories, mint. \$100. 24 dot Star Matrix Printer, model NC 101, Multi Font \$50.

**Rick, VE3ZTP (905) 404-0084**

For Sale, Motorola Commercial Two Meter Transceivers, 40 Watt output, Dash mount remotes \$50. OR TRADE for Ham radio gear.

**Jack, VA3JFW (905) 571-5334**

TRC-47 CB radio converted to 10 meters \$20.

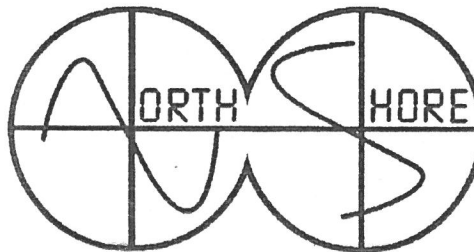
**Rick, VE3ZTP (905) 404 0084**

WANTS a HF Antenna Tuner with a SWR meter to handle 500 Watts.

**Mike, VE3DKW (905) 723-7674**

Wanted - COMMAND transmitters Model BC-458 & BC-459.... or any other command transmitters or receivers....

Send all listings to **VE3FJC, Walter** at (905) 263-2338, by packet at VA3BBS, or by phone at VE3OSH 2 meter repeater.





# Who's Who in amateur radio in Canada

by Peter, VA3PWH

Canada has three separate organizations which deal with amateur issues. There seems to be some confusion about what they are and their functions. This article lays out some broad definitions to help you sort it out in your mind.

## **Radio Amateurs of Canada**

This organization provides some 85 services to amateurs and does so by using money from membership fees. Most services are for all amateurs but some are for members only. As time passes, more services may fall into the members-only category in order to save money, which is scarce. Fewer than one in five amateurs belong to this, our only legal voice in Canada. To find the list of services, write to R.A.C. or look on its internet site.

## **Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF)**

DARF was established in the early 90's with the purpose of funding research and expense funds for our representatives especially the representative to the World Radio Conference. Its sole aim is to defend amateur frequencies from loss. This issue is one which is not yet evident to most of us mainly because those who want them are preparing their cases very carefully and because we have shown that we will not lose spectrum happily.

DARF is separate from RAC so that donations do not end up covering the costs of the magazine or other expenses of RAC on an ongoing basis. RAC may not use the fund for everyday operations. At present DARF is in the position where it cannot provide the funds to send a Canadian representative to the World Radio Conference. Not only is this an international embarrassment for us amateurs but it means that one more effective voice defending our frequencies will not be at the table. Make no mistake, our frequencies will be hungrily chased. Low Earth Orbit satellites will seek our 2 metre band and the 70 cm. band. Space borne radar wants our 70 cm band. Telephone services will try to grab our higher frequency bands which many of us have not yet explored but which will be important areas for hams for things like television experiments, local or wide area computer links, moon bounce experiments and other uses. Our hf bands may appear to be untouched and unwanted by the big fellows but increasing use of low power devices like remote controls, computer networks using house wiring and a host of other gadgets may easily make hf too noisy to use. already there are many users and many devices. Interference has been noted as much as several city blocks from these sources. If they become as omnipresent as computers have become, there is likely to be a great reduction in our ability to use these bands except miles in the country.

## **R.A.C. Foundation**

The Foundation exists to provide funding for a variety of uses which have impact on the attractiveness of amateur radio. Uses from Educational grants to community services are among those activities funded. The Foundation exists in order that contributors can receive tax deductions for their donations. As might be imagined, the Foundation is less directly related to the survival of amateur radio although most of its grants have that ultimate effect. Its funds, like those of DARF are not available for use in day-to-day operations of R.A.C. In fact, funds are not intended for use by R.A.C. directly.

That, in a nutshell is who is who in Canada. Please write to R.A.C. or look at its website for further information and to show me where I may have made mistakes. Are these players worth our support? You Betcha. Each is one part of a well organized effort to help amateurs. From spectrum issues to operating practice to QSL bureau's to technical information to promotion of the hobby, each has its own special place.

Should you support this? Unless you have a very cheap radio or you are rich enough to throw it out, you need help to keep on the air. Is it expensive? Sure, but so is gas and food. How many meals can you prepare with \$40? Are they enjoyable enough to satisfy you between meals? Do you like having an activity that is different than just meals and sleep? Lose the bands and see what your radio will fetch used. Remember IBM XT computers? We don't have to lose our bands unless we allow it to happen.

## **Camp X Internet Communications Group**

Did you know that some 14 club members have now signed up on our closed circuit, Camp X egroup posting group. Post a message and 13 other members get your message.

Send Winston wseeney@home.com your e mail address, and he will send you an invite to join the group.

This could be kept alive after the event in a different form as a club announcement system for those on internet.

## **Viagra Ingredients**

Pfizer finally released the ingredients in Viagra:

- 2% Aspirin
- 2% Ibuprofen
- 1% Vitamin C
- 95% Fix-A-Flat

## DX Corner

HF dx'ers will have noticed the exciting rise in propagation during the past few months.

Winston VE3WFS, reported having worked EX0Y, Alex in Bishtek. Kryrgyzstan. Kryrgyzstan, lies along the old Silk Highway, on the western edge of China. Winston reports having received Alex with a 10 over signal, on March 22.

Winston also reports having worked A4!KZ, Siddeq, in Muscat Omen on the same evening. Siddeq was working a large pile up with his solid 5x9 signal.

Look for Chesterfield Island. TX0DX has been active recently on this new DXCC island entity.

Ray Zambonelli VE3OUB, worked YB0JIV, John in Djakarta, Indonesia. on March 17, 2000, on 17meters at 18.128. Ray also worked YC0ROY, 5/9, on 21 m. on March 17 on the 15 m band.

Ray also worked the Amazon Queen on 10 m, on March 2nd. 5K9AQ. 5/9 on 10 m. Jim has been travelling on the 2000 expedition as he travels some 2000 miles from the headwaters in Peru across the Continent to the Atlantic. The boat is a 47 foot long boat.

Boyd Christensen OZ7C, reports that the updated version of the OZ2DXC DX cluster software packages is now available for downloading at <http://www.muurkrant.com/pi4com/QSLDatabase/indexhtml>. It contains 259 758 unique records since December 1999.

10 Meters is smoking now. There is the ever abundance of J's to be heard in the evenings.

Has anyone managed to catch DS4BBL, Hong Jongmyung, from Kwangyang S. Korea? He's been ripping up a storm on his dx pileups during his active times in our evenings, during the past few months.

Did you Hear?

Jose de Saca CT1EEB4W6EB has been active from East Timor during the last week of March.

Is DX your bag? Interested club members are welcome to send in any personal contacts or interesting reports of recent qso's.

## Camp X

The Camp X special event station project continues to roll along - as the pieces fall into place.

### COMING SOON:

A preliminary set up day, in which we go through our inventory of equipment, and put our extended towers up - in advance of the May 6th. We will keep you informed.

### SPECIAL THANKS

For the following members who have offered their services to put Camp X on the air.

Larry Goucher - Community information

Fred Bengel - QSL Manager, Sarah Collins asst. Margaret Jeffery, asst.

Ray Zambonelli, 2m special event net co-ordinator, telephone relay.

Sarah Collins, telephone relay.

Ilean Paul Taillebois, Mike Sherba: vintage equipment display

Nick Vandenhoeck, Netherlands information relay

Packet Station - Bob Elston

APRS - Bob Jones

### Help Needed:

1. Tour Guide at the event to take students or visitors
2. Sponsorship Co-ordinator, and committee members to visit businesses surrounding the site, to see if they are willing to provide us with certain needs

## From the RAC President

Dear Fellow Radio Amateurs:

As President of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), I am making a special appeal to all radio amateurs, clubs, and organizations in joining with me to support Bill Wilson, VE3NR's appeal to raise funds to further the work of preserving the amateur radio spectrum.

Bill is spokesperson for the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) and is actively soliciting donations to DARF, a trust fund to help defray the expenses to send a Canadian representative to future World Radio Conferences (WRCs).

World Radio Conferences are now held every two years. Less than twenty years ago, these conferences were held once every twenty years. For this reason it costs more than ever to keep abreast of commercial enterprises that are at the spectrum table asking for more frequencies to carry out their business mandates. Missing just one WRC meeting could cost amateur radio dearly. The LEO Satellite threat is still real. Big businesses are lurking in the shadows for now, but will raise their voices again to request spectrum in the future. Canada has a powerful



voice when it comes to spectrum issues and hold respect at discussion tables around the world.

The next WRC will be held in May 2000. The costs for sending a delegate are \$6000 to \$7000 Canadian, depending on the location and duration of the meeting. Without a Canadian delegate in attendance at WRCs, Canadian Amateurs will lack a voice to lobby for the privileges we enjoy today. This is important for we do not know what tomorrow will bring without being at these meetings. It is this reason that RAC believes in and supports the DARF objectives, and suggests that everyone seriously consider contributing to this fund now and in the future. Supporting this fund does not require a significant sacrifice. If all Amateurs would donate a \$1.00 or more, the DARF would be healthy. However, getting 100% to buy into this program is unrealistic. If all active amateur radio clubs and organizations were to donate \$1.00 or more per membership within their respective organizations, this would amply help meet the ongoing campaign goals of DARF.

Thank you for bringing this up with your members. We all need to keep our lines of communication open when it comes to defending the very thread we all share to enjoy our avocation. The use of the amateur radio spectrum is a special privilege and not a given right for continuing our amateur radio operations. Frequencies can be usurped at anytime and further allocated to commercial enterprises so they can carry out their mandates to connect the world.

For further background or information on DARF or WRCs, please refer to the DARF web site at URL <http://www.igs.net/~darf>, or send an e-mail to Tim Ellam, VE6SH at [ve6sh@rac.ca](mailto:ve6sh@rac.ca), who is the Principal Trustee to the DARF. Your DARF donations can be sent and accepted through RAC. Make all funds payable to the "Defence of Amateur Radio Fund".

Thank you!  
Ken Oelke, VE6AFO  
President, Radio Amateurs of Canada

## 12 WPM and RAC

Just to clarify the bulletin...the BOARD of DIRECTORS voted unanimously to open discussions on this issue with IC, given the developments in Britain, South Africa, the United States, Sweden and other countries.

We will NOT be making any decisions without consultation with all amateurs members of RAC or not, ... and certainly IC will not pursue this is the overall reaction is negative from the amateur community....

Having said that, I would welcome comments back regarding the elimination of the 12 wpm requirement for HF access..and the concept of "beefing up" the technical part of the exam.

73 Dana Shtun, VE3DSS Director Ontario South, RAC

## Space News

Posted on the ODXA Egroup, by Phil Gebhardt.  
**NASA Science News for March 24, 2000**

NASA's IMAGE satellite, scheduled for launch on March 25, will revolutionize our understanding of Earth's magnetosphere. Space weather data from the innovative spacecraft will be freely available to the public on the web. NASA scientists are also developing plans for down-to-earth listening stations that HAM radio operators and others can build to capture the data themselves.

FULL STORY at

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2000/ast24mar\\_1m.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2000/ast24mar_1m.htm)

## Contest Fun on 10m!

**Laird, VE3LKS**

Sunday, March 26, was much too nice a day to let pass without checking out my G5RV that required some much needed attention. After fixing the connection at the centre feed point it was then time to see how it would perform. Unfortunately, the only rig that I had that worked was my Realistic HTX-100. Never the less, I attached it to my antenna tuner and fired it up.

I was totally shocked to hear the 10m band just hopping with activity from all corners of the globe. I quickly tuned up the rig and listened to the contest that was going on. I figured out from listening in that I had to supply an incremental serial number, RST, and callsign. I immediately jumped into the fray of things going up against stations that were giving me serial numbers in the thousands while I was dishing out 0001, 0002, etc. In hind site, they must have thought that I was totally wacked out as the contest was only an hour from completion but I was oblivious to the fact. All I knew was that I was making contacts with countries that I had only dreamed of previously on 10m. When all was said and done I had made 14 contacts with nine different countries. Japan won out with three contacts...it was like I had a direct line to the island in the Pacific.

Now all I have to do is figure out what contest it was I was working, fill in the contact sheet, figure out the multipliers, and mail it in to CQ. Who knows, maybe my 14 contacts will be worth 100 points! Hey, someone has to come in last! Who wants to be one of the guys in the middle of the pack that may have come in 548<sup>th</sup> out of 1247 entries...very boring if you ask me. Dead last gives you bragging rights that only a very select few ever get. I can't wait to see the certificate they issue!