

NORTH SHORE ARC

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Camp X

Camp X

May 6, 7, and 8, 2000, will go down as a special day in history. On these days, Camp X was officially put back on the air 55 years after VE Day. This sounds like a simple task but on closer examination you will find that it took monumental effort on behalf of Amateur Radio operators on both sides of the Atlantic to make this event the huge success that it was.

The Inception

This special event originated when three local Hams, Les Burgess- VA3LTB, Roy Stokes - VE3ESS, and Winston Seeney - VE3WFS, were discussing possible events that the North Shore ARC would be interested in taking on. Originally, the idea of working the various ghost towns of Ontario was kicked around. However, Les came up with the brilliant idea of reactivating Camp X, the site of Canada's top secret spy training and radio communication centre during WWII. They immediately knew that they were on to something and when the club excitedly endorsed the event the ball really started rolling.

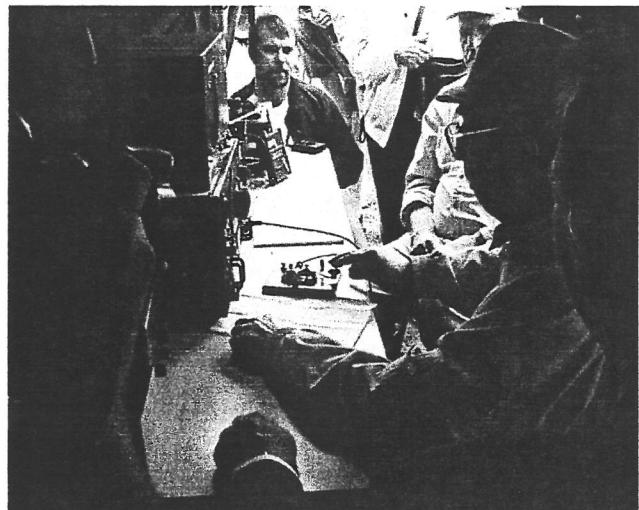
The NSARC Responds Favourably

Immediately, about 15 members jumped into action to assist the three founders. The military was called to assist with tents and generators, local governments were contacted to secure the use of Intrepid Park - Camp X, media outlets were informed of the event and updated on a regular basis, an internet site was created to provide further info, packet messages were sent world wide, signs and advertising were produced, and the list goes on and on. A special e-mail group was set up at eGroups.com so that everyone participating could get immediate updates as to what was transpiring and was used to summon help when needed.

The Human Side

Many special event stations plan for unnumbered contacts to be made during the life of the event. However, with this event the anticipation of numerous contacts soon took a seat at the back of the bus. Yes, we were still hoping for lots of contacts but it just didn't seem as important as other aspects of the event.

We were able to arrange to have Bill Hardcastle, a Camp X morse code operator during WWII, make a ceremonial call to Bletchley Park, Station X, England, on Monday, May 8. Bill used an era transmitter to make the contact and the receiver was one that was actually used at Camp X during the war. It was a very nostalgic moment when Bill calmly sat down at the key and basically picked up right where he left off 55 years ago, pounding out a message in code to Station X.



Bill Hardcastle making contact

Bletchley Park, Station X, was another part of the human side of this event. Station X and Camp X were in constant contact during WWII relaying messages back and forth between the two continents. When a call went forth from Winston to the members of the Milton Keynes ARS to become involved with this event on the other side of the Atlantic they did not hesitate one second to jump in. Now two STS and Hydra sites were involved in this special event. Even though we were separated geographically by many miles and the Atlantic Ocean, our two clubs melded together to the point where both clubs have voted to become sister stations. More on that later in this issue.

But, that is not all for the human side of things, but only one of the many. We asked the Camp X Historical Society if they were interested in working with us on this event. They

quickly agreed and took on the task of arranging a public ceremony at the Camp X Memorial on Monday, May 8. Also, a Victory Bonds Dance was held Saturday night to help raise funds for the existing Camp X Museum located at the Oshawa Airport. Lynn-Phillip Hodgson, author of "Inside Camp X", graciously took time out of his schedule to be our guest speaker at one of our monthly club meetings. Lynn was also present during the special event weekend and had a display of artifacts from the Camp X Museum as well as copies of his book to sell. All proceeds went to the Camp X Historical Society to help them establish a permanent museum at the Camp X site. There is only one remaining building left from the Camp X days and it was moved to the north end of Whitby many years ago. Plans are being made to have it returned to the original site.

We had anywhere from 800 to 1,000 visitors to the Camp X event over the course of the weekend. Of special interest were four other surviving members who heard of the event from the media and could not keep away. One gentleman had trained as a spy at Camp X and the three ladies had worked as receiver operators copying down coded messages as they arrived. Two of them had not seen each other since VE Day, 55 years before.



Leslie Davis (1942-1945, spy), Bill Hardcastle (radio op) Evelyn Davis, (seargeant in CWAC in communcations), Chris Rattan (teletype op with BFC in New York, Washington, and Camp X), Sybil McLure (1943 - 1945, driver)

These instances mark but just a few of the human elements that really made this weekend a resounding success.

Military Communication and Electronics Museum

As implied earlier, this event was more than just an amateur radio showcase. Many others played a vital role in making this event one that members of the community would be interested in. One such partner was the Military Communication and Electronics Museum of Kingston, ON.

Dave Lawrence - VE3ORP packed up a few treasures from the museum and set up a fine display of WWII communication equipment. Both Dave and his wife were in era military uniforms throughout the weekend. Dave even set up his 19 Set in his bell tent and made many AM contacts as far away as Boston...and as near as one of our Camp X stations a few yards away. Also on display were spy



Dave Lawrence - VE3ORP with 19 Set inside his bell tent

transceivers and various other communications that the signal corps used. A very impressive display to say the least.

NSARC Members

Even some of our own NSARC members got in on the action. Jean Paul - VE3JPT and Mike Sherba - VE3DKW brought out some of their vintage gear and set up a display of era amateur and military radios. In fact, it was one of Mike's radios and receivers that was used by Bill Hardcastle to make the call to Station X. Bob Jones - VE3ADJ set up an APRS station and Bob Elston - VE3LLE set up a packet station which were fine examples of just how far times have changed.

The Media

To our knowledge, this is the first time that amateur radio has been demonstrated on a national level here in Canada. The CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corp) was on-site on Saturday taking video and doing interviews and they had a nice piece about the event on the evening news seen clear across Canada. Also, Doug Ibbotson - VE3WTI, a journalist for the Toronto Star newspaper which is read across Canada,

had an excellent article published in his paper days before the event that we are sure helped to draw this event into the public's eye. Other local media outlets were also on site for both television and newspaper.

Fallout From this Special Event

Many things have been happening since this special event station aired. As mentioned earlier, the Camp X Historical Society has been trying to get approval to move the last remaining building from Camp X back to its original site. Having to jump through hoops and cut through lots of red tape has caused this process to stall. However, with all the media attention that was drawn to the site because of this special event, it now looks like Whitby council will probably approve the move and the ball will start rolling with the establishment of a permanent Camp X Museum at the original site. There are still lots of details to be worked out but the mayors of both locales which Camp X straddles, Oshawa and Whitby, made verbal commitments to working together to see this museum established. The North Shore ARC is proud to have been able to make this all a possibility.

June Meeting Invitation

You are invited to our club meeting at 420 Wing on June 19, 2000. This will be our time as a club to thank the members of our organization and the community who made the Camp X special event station successful.

We will be showing our videos of the event as recorded from the CBC national news and film footage taken onsite.

This will be a casual evening of refreshment, conversation and community tributes.

We hope you're in this date.

Wishing you well, Winston

GOTA Y2K

The first Guides On The Air of the new millennium was a huge success. I would not have been able to do it without the assistance of the operators who got involved. GOTA Y2K

happened on Saturday, February 29th, 2000 with startup occurring around 0900 EST and teardown starting around 1500 EST. We had three radio stations setup on 80/40 metres, 20 metres, and 2metres/440. We also had two activity centers as well. Packet was going to be running until we had one technical difficulty which could not easily be fixed.

Most of the contacts we made were throughout Ontario and some states that border on Ontario. Propagation wasn't the best which was the main reason for not making many long

distance QSO's not to mention very few contacts overall. We had about 4 to 5 contacts total on HF and many on 2m/440. Other than that, the girls enjoyed their day and were constantly drilling the operators questions about amateur radio. The activity centers that we had running were phonetic alphabet and CW stations. The girls had fun times here and enjoyed learning the Morse code and the phonetic alphabet. They were a bunch of sharp learners and immediately had down well their names in Morse code and also in phonetics. One of the Pathfinder leaders told me, personally, that nothing usually interests the Pathfinders, and in fact, finding activities they enjoy is limiting; however, when they learned the CW they were intrigued and didn't want to leave because they were having so much fun. The leader was amazed by this and just before they were going to go for a hike she congratulated me on such a good effort at teaching them a new language.

Overall, the girls had a good day and everything went smoothly. I would personally like to thank the people, whether they assisted with the stations or if they supplied equipment, for making GOTA Y2K a huge success. Without you it wouldn't have been possible.

Martha, VA3SBD

Amateur Radio Display at Cedarcroft Retirement Centre

Shortly before Christmas, I setup a display with the assistance of Peter, VA3PWH and Winston, VE3WFS at Cedarcroft Place in Oshawa to demonstrate our hobby to the residents of the home. We brought in some short-wave radios, Peter's mobile HF rig, a SSTV tape recording and images, Winston's and my QSL card collection. The turnout from the residents was a fairly good size and it was quite obvious that they enjoyed themselves.

We started off the talk by my telling them how I got involved in amateur radio and also by discussing some of the events and displays that the club has done. I eventually went into a

deeper discussion about Field Day then closed it off by telling them about my first contact on HF and my first American contact as well as showing them my QSL card collection. I then handed control over to Winston and Peter. They then went on to discuss SSTV and Short Wave Listening as well as some of the stations Winston has set up on his trips to the sunny south.

Close to the end of our talk we attempted to get one of the residents on the air but had no luck due to bad band conditions. Altogether, we got our message across to the residents of Cedarcroft Place and they in turn had a good time looking at the SSTV images, our QSL collections and listening to our talk about how much we enjoy this hobby.

In conclusion, I would personally like to thank Peter, VA3PWH, and Winston, VE3WFS for assisting me with this display. It is greatly appreciated and I wouldn't have been able to do it without your assistance.

Martha, VA3SBD

Elliot Lake Radio Amateur Charged

On Tuesday March 28, 2000, Inspector Charles Rochon of the Northern Ontario Spectrum District Office accompanied constables from the Elliot Lake Police Department in serving a search warrant on a person suspected on causing malicious interference to the Elliot Lake Police Department radio system.

For several months the Elliot Lake Police Department experienced intermittent interference which obstructed their communications system while in encryption mode. The interference did not occur while in operating in non-encrypted mode. Equipment problems were suspected as the cause and apparently over \$7K of technician's time was spent trying to isolate and resolve the matter.

The Police Chief apparently received an email from a local amateur radio operator claiming responsibility for the interference. Our inspectors investigated and traced the source of the interfering signal to the suspected amateur radio operator's apartment.

During the search the suspect, Roger William Bolwig, a licensed amateur radio operator, was found with modified amateur radio equipment that was capable of operating outside of the amateur radio bands, and specifically, on the frequencies assigned to the Elliot Lake Police Department. He was charged with mischief and arrested immediately.

Mr. Bolwig was released on bail on the condition that he not possess radio or computer equipment and not to associate with another local amateur whom he implicated as also being involved in the malicious interference. The equipment seized from Mr. Bolwig during the search was a modified Kenwood model TH-27A two-metre Amateur hand-held transceiver, a PC and a scanner.

(Courtesy Elliot Lake Police Department Press release)

DX Corner

by Microphone Bill

Please send interesting DX items to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter alongside Microphone Bill's items.

Bhutan

From: RE: [OPDX] Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin #455

A5, BHUTAN (DXPEDITION ANNOUNCEMENT). Excerpts from a press release by Carl, N4AA, editor of "QRZ DX", report the following exciting news: "The Kingdom of Bhutan has completed the long awaited Telecommunications Act of 2000 which authorizes amateur radio. An international team has been invited by the Ministry of Communications for the initial introduction of amateur radio in Bhutan, May 1-12, 2000. The goal will be to give as many DXers as possible the opportunity for this #2 most wanted country. Initial emphasis will be on the primary bands..... All bands and modes will be active, but after the initial demand has been met, more emphasis will be placed on the low bands. RTTY and WARC bands will be emphasized from the beginning. Later in the operation there will be simplex operation on the higher bands for those without dual VFO capabilities. Three CW, three SSB and one RTTY station will be active around the clock..... Operators include: 9V1YC, JA3IG, JA3USA, JF1IST, K3VN, K4UEE, NOMJ, N1DG, OH2BU, ON4WW, RA3AUU, UA3AB, W0GJ and W3WL. QSL CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Where to send QSL?

Have you ever sweated it out to try to find where to send your QSL card after working a dxpedition? If you are online, you will find this an exciting innovation.

Write an e mail letter to the following address: qsl-info@datasync.com Put the callsign of the station you worked in the body of the letter - nothing more. Send it on its way, and sit back and watch what happens.

Your letter will be robotically received, and about ten minutes later you will receive your response.

I gave it a test run, and typed in TX0DX, to see what would happen. Its response read:

TX0DX
TX0DX VIA OH2BN
TX0DX VIA JA1BK (6 METER QSOS ONLY)
UPDATED BY DL1SBF: 16-FEB-2000 1749Z

Early Morning Dxing

Sometimes it pays to check out the early morning bands. Winston reports that their hungry cat awakened him at 6 am on April 4th. Her poured a coffee, and turned on his hf set, in time to catch 2D3AG Tony on the Fiji Islands.

Don't Answer the Phone!

Funny isn't it how our human nature's conflict. Take for instance the evening that FK8HC, from New Caledonia was making his presence known in the Oshawa area at 8pm, local time April 8th. His pile up was coming fast and furious when he gave the abrupt message - ::"Sorry gentlemen - landline.

QRX". It always happened when your call was guaranteed to be the next one received. Right?

Frustration!

It was fun to listen to the French operator FK8HW, working his pile up from New Caledonia on 11.4.2000, at 7:30 local time. He was a pro. QRZ, Callsign. RST exchanged. Thank you. QRZ. His pile up was immense. Then the Voice of Texas drawled into our day.

"Good morning from east Texas. You've got a real nice signal this morning." "My name is Ted. Ahhm barefoot. Ahhv got a 4 element beam, which is 50 feet high. My radio is a Kenwood TS 5873 (or something). You've got a v nice signal into Texas this morning. (Yawwwwwwwwn) What is you;re name and what is your radio and your operating conditions? Ahh want to thank you so much for your (yawwwwwwn) kindness in responding to my signal sir. Ahh wish you a very good day from Texas."

Which is fine for Ted - but when the New Caledonian ended his session, there were at least ten stations that failed to work him. That was the time taken by Ted, to describe, at slow speed, the fretwork on his cowboy boots - or was it the knobs on his radio?

Operating Conditions

FK8FW, had a 59 signal from Caledonia. It was quite an attention grabber when he announced that he was transmitting with 100 watts and a dipole.

BQ9P, Chinese Dxpediton to Prattas Island

They were booming into North America at 8 am local time, on 10.4.2000. As goes the ways of life - this ham was called out to work, and had to leave his radio behind.

The next morning I returned at the same time and frequency to try to work them. This route and time has provided the best success for this dxpediton into this part of NA.

Bad news - the team changed its operating practice and were working ten meters at this time. Tough luck for me this time.

Ten meters was not open at this time of day here.

Is there any solution to such problems other then a sudden sick leave cold, or premature retirement?

DXing Personified

VU3SIO, Sanil Deep (his name - not a rare country) personifies what DXing is all about. Sanil set Sunday afternoon on April 16th aside to DX. He turned his 2 element beam away from his home in India, and directed it longpath to North America.

With that, Sanil began his call. Unlike most hams around the world - that forget that Canada exists when they begin their

"CQ Stateside" Sanil's call was a delightful, "CQ VEs, CQ North America. CQ VE's - CQ North America."

Give full credit to Sanil for perseverance. I struggled to read his call. It was very weak. I listened for almost an hour before I could hear him clearly enough to identify his callsign.

The good news for me was - he wasn't posted on the DX Summitt message board. Obviously - Canada and the States was still sleeping.

My tentative response to his call, was immediately answered. Sanil initially gave me a weak 4.2, which he changed to a 5.2, when I threw a little more lungpower into the microphone. His 5.2 pretty well reflected his signal strength at this end.

Sanil's pride in his station was evident, when he explained that he was working with 40 watts and a homebrew beam.

Moments such as this make ham radio such a great hobby.

Satellite

submitted by Howard, VE3TYQ

I have worked stations off this satellite. You can even listen to the simulcast on some repeaters like 145.320 Toronto, Raglan 444.525, Aurora 444.100 with a tone of 103.5, Creemore 443.275, VE3NUS 442.750, Toronto 443.900 with a tone of 127.3, Terra Cotta 444.800 with a tone of 103.5, and Buckhorn 443.150 with a tone of 103.5. Try it you all may find it another mode of operation on 2 meters & 440. Good luck in chasing the bird in the sky..Hi.Hi. Howard VE3TYQ.

Old Satellite Retooled for New Use

UO-14 is proving that you can teach an old bird new tricks. The venerable British satellite recently was switched to FM repeater mode, and reports already are coming in from hams who've worked it using pretty modest equipment.

The satellite's controller Chris Jackson, G7UPN/ZL2TPO, says UO-14 was launched in January 1990 and spent its first 18 months in orbit operating as an amateur store-and-forward satellite, prior to the launch of UO-22. It was then switched for use by Volunteers In Technical Assistance, who used it for messaging into Africa.

"Since the computer which is used for store-and- forward communications is no longer able to perform that task, UO-14 is no longer usable in this mode," Jackson says. "It is, however, possible to use the satellite as a single-channel FM voice repeater, and I have just configured the satellite to do this."

The satellite works as an "FM bent pipe repeater satellite" in

full duplex. Operators with full-duplex transceivers will be able to hear their downlink signal as they transmit. Half-duplex operation also will work satisfactorily.

The uplink is 145.975 MHz, and the downlink is 435.070 MHz. Jackson says he plans to leave the satellite in FM mode for the next few weeks. "If it is useful, then I will probably leave it running," he said. "If it isn't used, it will be switched to transmitting telemetry."

Houston AMSAT Coordinator Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says no more than 5W is required to make a contact with UO-14, and some have made it with as little as 1.5 W. "It should be a very suitable bird for those with an H-T and a rubber duck," he said.

"Cool satellite!" was the reaction of W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, who worked 11 stations during a "very short" near-horizon pass this week. "Some of the stations sounded like they were next door!" (IARU region 2 News)

Hamfest Thanks

Here is a list of Hams who helped out with HamFest 2000.

HamFest 2000 Coordinators

Coordinator - Ian Smith - VE3ITG
Registrations - Peter Henry - VA3PWH
Treasurer - John Gregory - VE3PTD
Assistant Treasurer - Ralph Day - VE3CRK
Administrations - Kim Becker - VA3KIM
Advertising Layout and Design - Laird Solomon - VE3LKS
Advertising Distribution - Doug Boyd - VA3BGF
Security - Howard Mugford - VE3TYQ

Web Site: www.globalserve.net/~ismith

Event Security

From the NSARC. - Howard VE3TYQ, Mike VE3VCY, Martha VA3SBD, Bob VE3LLE, Les VA3LTB, Ray VE3OUB, Nick VE3VDH, Lyle VA3DXE, Palph VE3CRK.

From the SPARC. - Al VE3UIR, Gary VA3NGS, Gord VE3GDO, Paul VE3KPB, Don VE3UMA, Daryen VA3DGF, Alex Boyd SWL, Doug VA3BGF, Glenn VA3GAR, TED VA3ICJ, Mike VE3WZS, Bob VE3SRD, Bill VE3KCH, Steve Laidley SWL.

Thank you one and all for your help. If I have missed anyone I am sorry. I have told Ian VE3ITG that I won't be able to help with security next year if there is a Hamfest 2001 at a new location. 73 all. Have a great summer and catch you on the band(s) somewhere.

Howard, VE3TYQ

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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. Meetings are on the third Monday of the Month at 1930hrs. Camp X will be the topic for the June Meeting. See the invite from Winston elsewhere in the newsletter.

Swap Shop

Charlie, VE3IBO (905) 668-7481
WANTED

- schematic for Sonar Corporation frequency counter model FC845
- schematic for Dynasty digital clock model 1022
- manual for Texas Instruments TI30
- NE 58 Neon light

Peter, VA3PWH (905) 436-9236

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

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 Commerical 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.