

A Chance Encounter

by Bill VE3XT

A few weeks ago on a Saturday Rita and I were driving home from a shopping expedition and we were less than a block from home. I was also chattering on 2 with a local.

I noticed an OPP van beside me and we were looking at each other eye to eye and he obviously saw the microphone in my hand... then his lights went on.

He approached my vehicle and informed me I was breaking the law by using a radio while driving. I then explained that I was an Amateur Radio operator and had an exemption under the Highway Traffic Act. It appeared he was unaware of the exemption and after a little too and fro'ing we agreed to disagree and I was not charged. He suggested that if I wanted to use my radio I should pull over.

I knew Amateurs have an exemption until January 1, 2018 and that the two Ontario RAC Directors are actively seeking a permanent exemption.

I was a little concerned that some officers were unaware of the exemption and the following Monday was going to talk to the traffic division at the OPP detachment.

The happy ending to this story is that on Sunday morning I received a call from the officer and he said he did some research and yes I was correct and I was perfectly legal in using my radio while driving.

As an Amateur Radio Operator you are allowed to operate a radio because we have an Exemption under the Highway Traffic Act, Ontario Regulation 366/09, Section 13, until January 1, 2018.

As part of my follow up, I talked to Traffic Sergeant Dave Bel of the OPP. Who also happens to be VE3UY. Dave also confirmed that as Amateurs we have an exemption. He also advised if stopped by police officer tell them you are an Amateur, and if you don't have callsign plates carrying a copy of your licence would be a good idea. You can tell them that we do have an exemption under the aforementioned regulation.

I can also tell you getting smart or belligerent with a police officer will get you a "failed roadside attitude test". Once in talking to the city traffic sergeant he told

me the Highway Traffic Act consists of 4 thick volumes and at if you fail this attitude test you best be sure all your tail lights are working.

Remember the officer has the right to stop you, but you also have the right to inform him of the exemption in a civil and courteous manner.

And finally if you are driving and operating a radio please be aware of what's happening around you. Have a safe summer!

the "failed roadside attitude test" is a sad commentary on the state of modern policing but Bill is spot on, the place to argue is in the courtroom...ed

Join the LARC for FIELD DAY 2016

June 25 and 26

Field Day operates from 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday.

Field Day will be at Randy's VA3OJ,
2174 ROSSLYN RD., THUNDER BAY, ON,
P7K1H6

The saturday meal will be pot luck and the club will supply the main dish (and porta potty). Let Randy know if you plan on bringing a trailer or camper.

Brad Harris VE3MXJ, and Karl Hamilton VE3RRP will try to organize paperwork and logs.

LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
 Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
 Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU
 Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

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Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

Vice President

Robert Hansen VE3RVA

Treasurer

Bill Unger VE3XT

Secretary

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Board Members

Mike Skillen VE3EDX

Andy Malcom VE3INI

Terry Stewardson VA3LU

Mark Vaillant VA3MVR

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

ARES District Emergency

Coordinator

vacant

CANWARN

VA3JMS John 767-3631

VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

Public Service Events

VA3JMS John 767-3631

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ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to hiqnewsletter@gmail.com

Nets in the Thunder Bay Area

Sunday AMETHYST ARES VHF NET, on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9031 @ 0045Z (7:45 pm), also Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS 151.4

Monday SATERN NET on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9032

SATERN DIGITAL NETS on **Monday & Wednesday** nights

8 pm- 14.065

9 pm- 7.065

10 pm- 3.5835

Mode :Olivia 8/500 1000Hz waterfall centre

Every Day The NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ARES NET , every evening at 8:15PM (local) on 80m 3.750Mhz (note the time does not change with daylight savings time.)

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz)pl 100

144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

Breadboarding the Picaxe Microcontroller:

The PICaxe microcontroller is available in a number of different DIP configurations from 8 to 40 pins. I have a kit that accommodates the 8 pin version but I wanted to experiment with the larger packages too. In order to program the PIC one needs to interface between a male audio stereo plug, and the breadboard, and I wanted something better than a jack flopping around on the end of hook-up wires.

So I found a surface-mount female receptacle on Digikey (CP-3523SJCT-ND, \$2 CAD), bent the contacts down, and soldered it to female SIP connectors. A dab of hot glue under each end adds “structural stability”. Then I wanted to be able to breadboard a 4 channel DIP switch so I can manually program 4 bit bytes, and also have a visual confirmation of the binary number. I followed the same procedure to adapt the DIP Switch to the breadboard.

Construction tip: Use an old piece of breadboard to hold the SIP connectors vertical and at the right spacing for soldering.

Karl VE3RRP



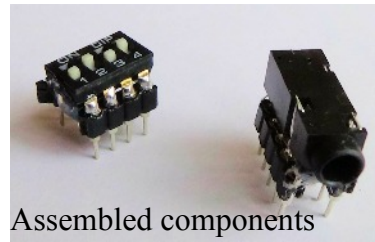
SIPP Socket



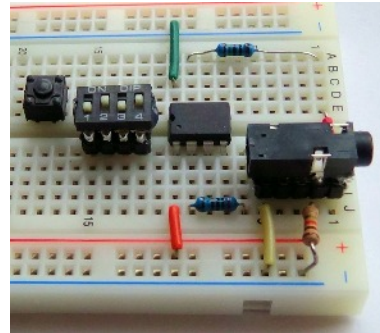
stereo audio jacks



DIP Switches



Assembled components



PICAXE ready for programming

THERE IS A NEW ARES NET IN THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

Starting in June there will be a new net on VE3YQT.

This ARES MONTHLY NET will be held on the last Monday of every month at 1900hrs (7:00pm) local time. The purpose of this net will be to test ARES equipment, and read any ARES news and or announcements. We will operate from our various stations, VE3SAO, North Central Fire Hall, communications trailer, my home station, and mobile as well.

We will be rotating between these station every month. This net will not only be for ARES members but also for any amateur who would like to check in. I would encourage any ARES members or non members to take a turn at being a Net Control Station.

The first net will be Monday June 27, 2016 at 1900 hrs (7:00pm) local on the VE3YQT repeater 147.060 –

Thank You Brad Harris VE3MXJ CEC
E.C. for the Thunder Bay ARES Group in the
Amethyst District for Ontario North

TCA – The Thunder Bay Edition

Bill Unger VE3XT

One of the comments I received when I was a Director was there was never enough local content in The Canadian Amateur (TCA). Well in the May / June 2016 issue Thunder Bay was exceptionally well represented.

The first Thunder Bay'er to pop up is Robert, **VA3ROM** who writes a regular column titled "All Things Digital" which is about the digital aspects of our hobby in the broadest sense. One of the great parts of his column is a listing of links at the end of his column so you can further explore the subject. Robert has been doing this for several years now and it's always a go to first column. Good stuff.

The newest columnist in TCA is Tom, **VE3CX** who with this issue has taken over as the "Sports Page" columnist. Now technically Tom lives in Kaministiquia, but for the purposes of this article that's close enough to be considered the 'burbs of Thunder Bay. I hope he doesn't try to spell Kaministiquia out in CW, even at 30+ WPM it would be a bear. Tom's call is also listed prominently in the results section; I wonder if there are any contests he doesn't enter and place well?

Tom was also mentioned in the news section about his participation at the ARRL booth in Dayton as part of the "Discover the HF Experience". This is an attempt to get Amateurs who for whatever reason have not operated HF. Through the use of remote control HF stations these folks were able to operate a well equipped HF station from Dayton. Being asked to be part of the official ARRL team at Dayton is quite an honour, being a VE3 makes it even more special.

In the ARES Section news there is mention of the participation of the Thunder Bay ARES group participating in the Cook County, Grand Marais Emergency Services Conference.

Mike, **VE3HZW** received an honourable mention for working special events station KL7RST/YV1.

Another Mike, **VE3EDX** was noted as submitting a very, very respectable score in the ARRL 2015 Field Day. His was the Regional High Score in ONN. Impressive!

Fred, **VE3FAL** has a very informative and interesting article on his participation in the Winter Field Day. He described how he dragged a sleigh full of gear 1 km into the bush and set up his station. And the best part according to Fred was there no mosquitoes or ticks to contend with.

Even yours truly, **VE3XT** had an article on the RAC Scholarship being awarded to Jean-Philippe, VA2PE.

Two former Fort Williamers were also mentioned, one being Bob, **VE3KZ** and Richard, **VE3KI**.

Finally and sadly 3 other Thunder Bay Amateurs were noted as Silent Keys, Don, **VA3DEF**, Bruce, **VE3GHB** and Annabelle, **VE3XAW**.

There were other articles of interest, including an antenna for 2m and 70cm using copper fittings, an article using 8 methods to weatherproofing PL-259 connectors. The photo of the 8 cables sitting in a water bath is classic. Finally there was a method to make a CW key using kitchen scissor tongs, plastic spoons and duct tape. Amazing.

Want to see more articles like this; here is a link to RAC to subscribe: <https://wp.rac.ca/home-2/membership-sign-up-renewal-area/?s2-ssl=yes>



Minutes for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Brad will be meeting with Oliver-Paipoonge on June 22 in Murillo.

Date: May 12, 2016

Repeater News

No news

President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.

Club Trailer:

Bob Hansen VE3RVA

No news

Guest Speaker:

Sandra Sutherland-Byers with a presentation about the Pan Am Police and Fire Games in July. Most events run July 18-24. A cycling event from Stanley July 20th 6pm.

Field Day

Field Day will be at Randy's VA3OJ, pot luck, club will supply main dish, porta potty.

Let Randy know if you plan on bringing a trailer or camper.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Unger VE3XT

Bill Unger VE3XT moved to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP. Passed Unanimously.

Moved by Bill Unger VE3XT to budget \$250.00 for Field Day expenses. Karl Hamilton VE3RRP seconded. Passed.

Brad Harris VE3MXJ, and Karl Hamilton VE3RRP will try to organize paperwork and logs.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Brad Harris VE3MXJ. Passed.

New Business

RAC Bulletin Highlights by VE3RRP
Mesh Networking... get hold of Corry Vickruck VE3ZCV

Old Business:

Public Service (John Sacek VA3JMS public events coordinator)

Past Events:

Upcoming Events

10 Mile Road Race Monday May 23
CAN-AM Police and Fire Games July 18-24

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS

CANWARN Meeting: Monday June 13 – Thunder Bay – 7 PM – Lakehead Conservation Authority, 130 Conservation Rd.

ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ Thunder Bay EC

Saturday April 30th Grand Marais Radio Club and Thunder Bay District ARES Report

Thunder Bay City EMC Denis Brescacin participated as did his counterpart in Cook County. The joint exercise worked all modes except CW on HF and VHF. A net was held, and the firehall radio activated and tested. ARES monthly net on last Sunday 1900 on VE3YQT. First net May 29th.

ARES email is being sent out to request info update. RSVP to continue your ARES membership.

50/50 Draw: no winner

Adjournment moved by: John Sacek VA3JMS

Next Executive Meeting: June 2, 2016, 7:30 PM, RM 213

Next LARC Meeting: June 9, 2016, 7:30 PM, RM 214

May 2016 Treasurers Report

Balance May 1, 2016 \$1,041.01

Income

Total Income \$0.00

Expenses

Total Expenses \$0.00

Balance May 31, 2016 \$1,041.01

<u>Trailer Account</u>	
Previous Balance	\$138.39
<u>Income</u>	
Total	\$138.39
<u>Expenses</u>	
Total Expenses:	\$0.00
Balance in Trailer Account	\$138.39

Term Account

May 01 2016 Balance \$2,051.22

Interest, May 23, 2016 \$0.67

May 31, 2016 Balance \$2,051.89

**Bill Unger VE3XT
Treasurer**



June 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 LARC MEETING at CON College 19:30 hrs	10	11 ARRL June VHF Contest	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 All Asia DX Contest CW	19 WAB 50 MHz Phone
20 Run For the Bacon QRP Contest	21	22	23	24	25 His Mag. King of Spain Contest, SSB	26
					Field Day 2016	
27	28	29	30 CWops Mini CWT Test			