

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

Speech as presented to the 31st Annual Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club January 16th, 1965 by retiring Club President Charlie Lawrence - VE3EEK.

1964 was a very active year for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. To refresh your memory I would like to review some of the more notable events of the last year's activity.

February was a month of organization as a new executive moved in to tackle the job of providing an interesting round of activities for the Club membership. This made the February meeting a rather busy one and, I might say, a rather awarding one. Fort William Emergency Measures Coordinator, Art Widnall graciously agreed to take over the printing of our monthly HI-Q magazine. His cooperation with Editor Dave Kimpton - VE3AVS has turned HI-Q into one of the most presentable club bulletins in amateur radio. In this respect Art, we, the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club would like to single you out and direct our personal appreciation to you, sir. Thank you very much.

"Ham" classes were set up during the February meeting. Dave Kimpton - VE3AVS took over the task of instructing new members toward obtaining Amateur Radio Operator Licenses. May I report that as a result, we have three new amateurs in our midst today! I'm referring to Chris Bailey - VE3EDV, Barrie Walker - VE3EES and Jack Clarke - VE3EED. Certainly these classes have proved their value and we trust the new executive for 1965 will continue the licensing programme. Special recognition of course goes to Dave Kimpton - VE3AVS and his assistants for devoting so much time and effort to this task. The Club membership unanimously agreed at the February meeting to work closely with the Emergency Measures Organization. Several members enrolled in a Radiation Monitoring Course and graduated with very satisfactory results. In fact, several of these amateurs were approached to undertake instructor courses. This they are doing now. We feel many contributions to the aims and purposes of the Club were made during that initial month.

The month of March began with a series of examinations for Restricted Radio-telephone Operators Certificates. There was complete success in these examinations conducted by the Department of Transport. The purpose of the certificates was to qualify the Radio Club membership to operate EMO radio units on commercial frequencies. The March meeting was highlighted by an extremely interesting talk by Claude (~~Bouchard~~ Boucher) (Boo-shay) of Lakehead Videon. Mr. (~~Bouchard~~ Boucher) explained the complexities of a coaxial cable distribution system.

Club activity reached a peak during the month of April. April marked the 30th Anniversary of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. We marked the occasion by an all-out effort at the North-Western Ontario Sportsman's Show in Fort William. Thousands viewed ham radio in operation at a display booth in the Sportsman's Show. Many interested visitors asked questions and learned how they too could become "hams". It was a successful effort. Several visitors turned up the following month at our regular Club meeting. Again we would like to thank Art Widnall and the Area EMO for without them, our venture at the Sportsman's Show would have flopped. To further publicize the Club's 30th birthday, window displays were set up in downtown stores. We extend thanks to Eaton's of Canada and Walkers Department Store for their cooperation in allowing us the use of their display space. Guest speaker at the April meeting was the Chief Engineer of Lakehead Radio Station CJLX-800. Mr. Kurt Meyer gave us a comprehensive insight into the technical aspects of commercial transmitters. APRIL WAS CERTAINLY THE BUSIEST MONTH.

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club received a distinctive honour during the month of May. The American Radio Relay League awarded the Club station VE3ZCD with a public service award, presented for the Club's efforts in locating a lost hunter during 1963. The award now hangs in a place of honour in our Club rooms. Radiation Monitoring Certificates were presented to the successful amateurs who completed the EMO course. Art Widnall again was on hand for the occasion. The month of May was also the month of the Annual Auction Sale! And as usual, it was a great success. People again went home with things they didn't need. We expect to see many of those items back at this year's coming auction sale!!!

June was the month for Field Day. The Club's site was on VE3AJ's property in McIntyre Township. Here we must again single out an individual who has assisted our organization consistently. I'm sure that if Frank Start - VE3AJ were here tonight we would all give him the honour he deserves.

The Field Day was a successful one in some respects and not so in other respects. We were very successful in setting up the site and getting on the air. Equipment, tents and generators were courtesy of Fort William's EMO. Once again Art Widnall came through with more valuable assistance.

Our only problem at this year's Field Day was the lack of operators. We had two transmitter units set up. We could have used more hams to keep both units operating continuously. All in all, though, the Club did manage to score a good tally in the contest.

The ham picnic took place August 30th at Trowbridge Park in Port Arthur. It was exceptionally well attended. I'm sure all who attended enjoyed themselves...especially the kiddies. We had a lot of laughs...particularly those water filled balloons...but that's another story. Thanks should be directed to Don Brown - VE3EDJ for splendid job of emceeing the various sports events.

With the arrival of September, the Club went back into full swing. Bob Milne, EMO Coordinator for Port Arthur, was our guest speaker. He explained the Port Arthur communications set-up and outlined the role to be played by the Lakehead amateur radio operators. Earlier in the month, a delegation of two members of the L.A.R.C. attended the Mid-Canada Ham Fest at Winnipeg. Jack Clarke - VE3EED and Jim Symonik - VE3EDA made a good showing for themselves and the Club. Both left a good impression with the western Canada amateurs. Both reported the trip was well worth the while.

In October, the L.A.R.C. attempted its first transmitter hunt. It was exciting even though there were few participants. More transmitter hunts should be planned by the incoming executive. The transmitter search combines radio skills with the fun and excitement of the hunt.

During the month, the Club assisted local Boy Scouts in their 7th Annual Jamboree of the Air. It was the first time that local scouts ever took part in the international event. VE3ZCD, the Club station put the lads in direct contact with Scouts in British Columbia the moment they walked into the Club rooms. The boys were greatly enthused with our hobby.

Also during October, Club members led by Jack Clarke - VE3EED conducted a simulated EMO Communications Test and relayed messages across the country. The highlight of October Club meeting was a tour of the CKPR-TV Transmitter Site. It proved to be a fascinating visit.

The November meeting was largely dedicated to the planning of tonight's banquet and dance. Port Arthur's EMO Coordinator, Bob Milne was our featured speaker. He presented films pertaining to Civil Defence in time of disaster.

The December meeting was snowed under by several inches of that fluffy precipitation. Those who did manage to make the meeting had an active rag chew.

Tonight's meeting again brings together a number of new faces and a lot of familiar faces, as well as past and present members of our 31 year old Club. Many individuals have done much for our organization. I've mentioned some of those people tonight. But I must draw your attention to an individual who has contributed unstintingly of time and effort especially during the early years of our Club magazine. I'm referring to Bert Tamblin - VE3ANP.

Earlier in the past year, it was the unanimous decision of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club to honour this radio amateur with the highest recognition our Club could give. To Bert Tamblin - VE3ANP, we the members of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club bestow to you "Life Membership" in our organization.

And so may I now bring my term as president to an end by doing the most pleasant task of presenting Bert with this certificate of appreciation. Thank you.