

MARCH/APRIL
1991

Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

HI-O

REGULAR MEETINGS 2ND
THURSDAY EACH MONTH
PM 2:45 MCINTYRE BLDG
CONFEDERATION COLLEGE
EVERYONE WELCOME

ONE MORE REASON...Val Cheppenko

I have discovered one of the best reasons for having mobile radio in the car and studying for my amateur licence.

While driving to work I came across a motor vehicle accident on Highway 11/17 at the top of the second overpass. I stopped to help and noted that the O.P.P. nor Ambulances had not arrived. People approached me and asked for blankets and told me that three ambulances were needed but no phone was available, however the OM's 2 meter rig was in the car and I had been told to use it in a life or death situation. Using the OM's call (VE3SPK) I explained the situation to VE3ILV who relayed the information to the O.P.P. and ambulance. I was later told that without the prompt call the three victims would have died.

A point to ponder for all the XYL's, YL's and future ops who are still just thinking about getting their licence. This may give you a little more reason to get at it. Someday you will be able to help.
73's Val

Val is currently in the Club's licencing course and should be licenced soon....ed

Sibley Ski Tour 1991

It was a nippy March 2nd when 9 operators from the LARC met for breakfast. -20 C and 35 - 50 KmH winds forced the cancellation of the 50 k portion of the race and postponed the start from 9:30 to 11:30. Despite the cold, 650 skiers took in this years Sibley Ski Tour. One medical evacuation was needed and was ably handled by Gary VE3FLM with St. John's, and Terry VE3TKA. Net control was guest operators VE3OTC and VE4MEG, from Sioux Lookout. Check point 1 was "Mad" Mark VE3VUK. Glen VE3ICY ohilled out at point 2, Terry VE3TKA kept an eye on checkpoint 3, and Eric VE3EBL oscillated between 3 and 4. Point 5 was beamed in by Bill VE3LMV. Many thanks to the operators for coming out and adding to the club's radio "activity". The tour organizers and myself are greatly appreciative.
Best 73's.....Skip VE3BBS

SOME ADVICE...

Welcome to the Thunder Bay repeater community! The numbers of local hams has certainly swollen over the last couple of weeks, and new calls have graced the frequencies. Like any "society" certain norms have evolved over the years of the repeater usage in this city, and some of these you may not be aware of. In order to correct this I hereby present "**ED'S BIBLE OF REPEATER ETIQUETTE AND THE PROPER USAGE THEROF**"

1) LISTEN FIRST! This will accomplish many things. You will pick up on our quirks and learn a few things about us, and you won't bust up somebody elses QSO or emergency in progress.

2) Push the PTT FIRST, THEN speak. The first couple of QSO's are pretty exciting but if you don't hit the clench to talk switch first we won't hear you, or worse, only catch half of what you said.

3) PAUSE between groups of speech, or wait for the courtesy beep. When you "tail end" your buddy, ops who need to break in with emergency or urgent traffic can't. If you've been talking for a long time ask if anyone requires the repeater. NOTE: Skip VE3BBS is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service Co-ordinator (ARES) and is the one to contact if you run across a major disaster (Oh Look Dear, that nice tanker of Tetra Ethyl Lead just blew up) or conversely he will announce an emergency in which case go to rule one. Contact Skip for details of ARES.

4) IDENTIFY with your whole call sign. This is the law (check RIC-25 if you don't believe me). It's also a bad habit to get into and really irritates DX stations on HF.

5) Ye Olde Phone Patch and other Esoteric Functions: Listen first, Identify before calling, during calling, and on completion. This also goes for leaving messages in the mail boxes, checking mail and so on. If you are testing or just learning how to use the various toys on the repeater, say so. If you are playing with the functions, listen and make sure the repeater is not in use, identify and pause often and say that you are playing (testing), and pick an off time for repeater usage. Ten minutes before lunch is not a good time to see how the dtmf tones sound. If the person you are speaking to on the patch says "oh you are on the radio/cellular/mobile/portable phone"- make it clear that you are using Amateur Radio and that many others are listening. Don't use the patch if there is regular phone handy. BUSINESS CALLS ARE NOT PERMITTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Don't be shy about dumping the patch if the person you are speaking with becomes rude and abusive. If

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club meetings are the 2nd Thursday of every month - Room 245
 McIntyre Building, Confederation College - 7:30 P.M..
 April 11 - May 9 - June 13 - July 11 - August 8

Classes are every Thursday except Club meeting nights - 7:00 P.M.

Get Ready For Field Day 91

REPEATERS CONT'D...

you anticipate that someone may call you on the reverse patch explain to them that this is a privilege and that you are under no obligation to answer when they call if they are going to be silly.

6) The use of the word "Break" to interrupt a QSO in progress is RESERVED FOR EMERGENCY OR URGENT situations, and its use as a general interrupt is inappropriate. This, and other carry overs from 11 meter operation will label you as a LID by the older operators. They are the ones that paid for and assembled the equipment so humour them.

7) Be courteous and helpful. If someone needs the repeater briefly, relinquish it. If somebody needs help or information do your best to help. If you hear help in progress stay quiet unless you can add something truly useful. If you are called and can't help do your best to hand off the caller to someone that can, or direct them to where they can find help.

8) Be polite and don't criticize over the air. Snide comments label you as a jerk. Speaking of jerks, every one of them has a scanner and your life is their major interest because they don't have one of their own.

9) We do have more than one repeater. VE3TBR in on 146.82 (-) and is usually very quiet and in town coverage is pretty good even with handhelds.

10) Try simplex. There is no law that says you must use a repeater to communicate on vhf.

11) Expand your horizons. Discover a new mode (EME, Meteor Scatter, Packet, rty, telegraphy). Amateur Radio has much to offer, don't deprive yourself by just sitting on the repeaters.

12) If your radio soans, make sure it is locked on to the right frequency before you speak. If you use your radio as a scanner, DO NOT PROGRAM IN THE OFFSETS AND PL TONES for non ham frequencies, just in case you do key up on the wrong memory channel. Businesses and Police agencies pay a lot of money for their licences and take them very seriously. Your presence will not be a source of amusement to them or the D.O.C.

13) Use the amateur frequencies to report emergencies. With the phone patches there should be no reason to use unlawfully use a business or police/ambulance channel. If extremely dire circumstances dictate the unlawful use of a frequency the thought in the back of your mind should be "how can I explain this to the judge?"

14) Ask. We weren't born as rocket scientists. We all learned just like you are now. A simple question is a lot better than an expensive mistake.

15) The club repeaters are open to all amateurs. They are, however, expensive, and complex. If you use them I think there is a moral obligation to support their development by paying your club dues, donating to the repeater funds, volunteering for club and ARES sponsored events, and helping with their maintenance. With freedom comes responsibility.

16) To some Amateur Radio is a hobby, to others it's a calling, and others a vocation. Be tolerant and forgiving, not everyone on the repeater is as well behaved and intelliger as you and I.

FOR SALE ERIC VE3EBL has a large number of items for sale, to finance his higher learning, including antennas, hf and vhf rigs. Give him a call for a list.

JOHN VE3GTX (683-5258) is selling a EG-211 Emergency meter with power supply and code book \$50, a RACAL RA-17C receiver, coverage 1 - 30 Mhz, operators and maintenance manuals \$500.. a National NFS receiver. coverage 27 - 250 Mhz with manual and power

APRIL IS COMPUTERS IN THE SHACK

The April 11th meeting will present Computers in the Shack, presented by VE3DOM, VE3HFS, and VE3EFC with a supporting cast. A special projection room has been arranged at the College, the room number and directions will be posted in the regular room. All programs and applications will be directly concerned with amateur radio, and a great deal of effort is being put into this one so don't miss it!

A NEW NET!

A new net has been announced. The All Nude Net will follow the Swap 'n Shop on Mondays. Check ins will only be accepted by operators who are buck naked and the exchange should include current ambient temperature of the shack. Unannounced shack visits may be made to verify the state of operator undress.

73's Lirpa Loof

A CLASS ACT!

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Classes are going well, but the end is in sight! Theory and regs are over, and students are starting to write with good results! Some of the new calls from the class are VE3TEI, VE3WSL, VE3UDY and others (I gotta start writing this stuff down!). Code starts next class (March 28) and many have expressed a desire to to continue with the code. For those not interested in code we have some demonstrations and perhaps some shack visits. I'd like to take a minute and thank the students for bearing with me throughout the course, I've probably learned as much as they did. For those of you who are still shaky on a few topics, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me and I'll be glad to get together with you and perhaps shed some light. Pending some disaster, at the conclusion of this course, the next will start up in the fall. Start now bugging your friends and neighbours.
73's ...Ed VE3SNW

FOR SALE

Gravity wave modulator ... contact Lirpa Loof
Used Air Defence System ... contact S. Hussein
Used Boats ... VE3HFS
New Repeater ... VE3BCD
Used Mexican Microwave network ... Taco Bell
Used sneakers ... VE3AVS
Used gravel ... VE3XRC
Diesel locomotive ... VE3SPK
used teeth ... VE3VUK

COME ON YOU GUYS!

Yes, there was no March HI-Q. There were not enough submissions to warrant the cost of postage and printing so I decided to hold off until we had enough stuff to justify the costs. The articles that I am getting are also coming in very late and that holds up the whole process. Unfortunately, I don't have enough time to write and edit articles so I have to rely on you to write them. This newsletter is representative of our organization and it would be unfair to fill it with my opinions only. So, put your pencil to paper and see your name in print. Some have argued that they don't have the technical expertise to do an article. We aren't interested in tech specs, any modern piece of equipment exceeds the basic requirements. What people want to read about is your opinion of it. Was it easy to set up and use, do the controls make sense, how is the audio, etc. Simple construction articles are also wanted, nothing fancy required, just straight forward instructions. The following issues will be a reflection of your effort. Thank you.

prepare now for field day 1991

SPACE FOR RENT
CALL ED VE3SNW WITH YOUR ITEMS FOR SALE

Notice to all prospective amateurs! The D.O.C. now allows me to conduct testing. If you can't get down to their office, or want to save five bucks, give me a call at 622-1216 (home) or 625-5648 (work) and we can work out a more convenient time and location for you to write the examination. Please don't call past 2300 hours. Thanks..Ed VE3SNW