

What's Happening at LARC Meetings

At the February meeting multidisciplinary artist and educator Riaz Mehmood gave a demonstration on the Arduino μ Controller. He showed how easy it is to get the Arduino up and running using a simple programming language. "The Arduino makes it easy for people to do some quick programming and prototyping" says Mehmood. This was a particularly interesting presentation and we had a good turnout.

The second speaker was Scott, VA3EXT from Dryden. He gave an incredibly detailed description on the Yaesu digital Fusion repeater system deployed in the western part of NWO. Fusion is Yaesu's Analog and or Digital VHF/UHF repeater. It can also be connected to the web for worldwide communications. Quoting from the Yaesu brochure "Providing total integration and compatibility of both digital and conventional FM communications". Mr Google can tell you a lot more and it's worth a look. Thanks Scott.

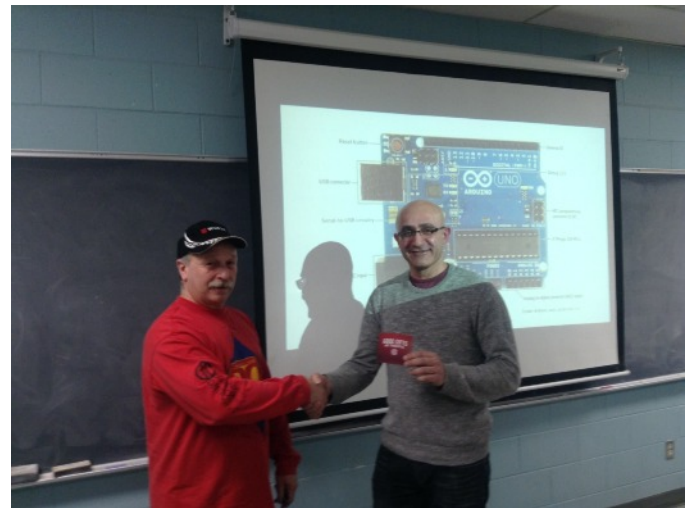
Finally three young men from Lakehead Electrical Engineering talked very briefly on one of their project to receive information for a weather satellite and display it around Lakehead University.

For the March meeting we will be having an impromptu "Show and Tell" session. If you have something to show or made an interesting QSO in the recent past why not tell us about it.

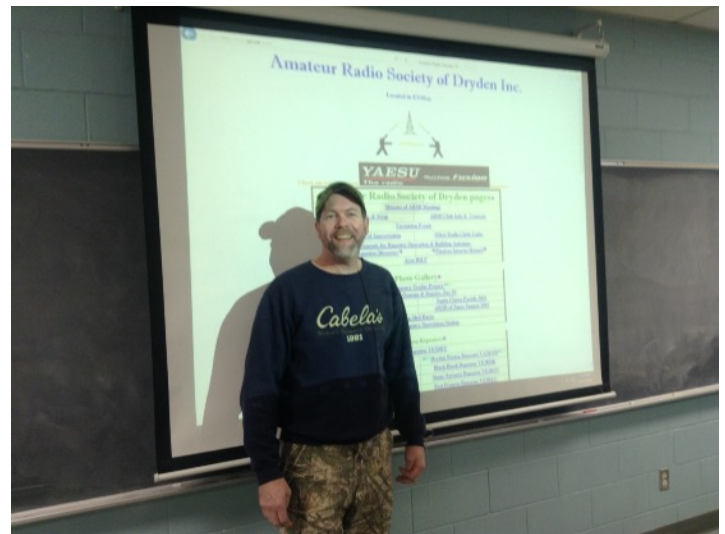
The March meeting will be at the McIntyre building at Confederation College on Thursday, March 8 at 7:30. Hope to see you there.

As mentioned earlier if you are doing something interesting please contact a member of the executive and we can schedule you into a meeting for a demo.

Tnx 'XT



Riaz Mehmood explaining the Arduino



Scott, VA3EXT from Dryden. ARC.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

at
Chicago Joe's
3rd Thursday in April.
April 19th at 1800



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

LARC EXECUTIVE
 President: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ
 Vice-President: Bob Hansen VE3RVA
 Treasurer: Bill Unger VE3XT
 Board Member: Mike Skillen VE3EDX
 Board Member: Mark Vaillant VA3MVR
 Board Member: Brad Harris VE3MXJ

LARC Emergency Coordinator
 Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

ARES District Emergency Coordinator
 vacant

CANWARN
 VA3JMS John 767-3631
 VE3RRP Karl

Public Service Events
 VA3TBA Chris Chadwick

Accredited Examiners
 VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
 flesnick@tbaytel.net
 VE3VAI Lori Bedford 622 – 6386

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 214 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

Last Monday of every Month - ARES net on VE3YQT - 7 pm (you do not have to be an ARES member to check in)

Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS

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)

VE3FAL 10 ONN Winter Field Day 2018

Once again I braved the elements and spent the weekend out in the woods for Winter Field Day 2018 (January 27-28). I never logged a load of QSL's but I did brave the elements for the weekend, spent the night in the bush, did some ice fishin' and ate some good food and kept the woodstove in the tent going as best one could. I used my Xiegu X5105 and my Elecraft KX2 with a 40-meter dipole for most of my activities. Fully battery powered while out in the woods and managed some super QSL's. The highlight was working my friend Tony K9ARV in North Florida using the X5105 at 5 watts SSB (yes no amp, no beam) and the MFJ 1820T antenna with NO, yes NO counterpoise, unreal qso, the qso was recorded on Tony's end and is on his YouTube Channel here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIWVIPxq0ew>

I worked P4/DL4MM in Aruba on 40 meters cw early Sunday morning and that was my best cw qso out in the woods portable. So all in all with my qso with Tony K9ARV and P4/DL4MM and others it was a great success once again.



WFD Home



supper!



Freddy VE3FAL and the X-5105



Should I throw another log on?

**Minutes for the
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**

Date: February 8, 2018

President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding

Guest Speaker:

Riaz Mehmood: The Arduino Family of Microprocessors

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.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Chris Chadwick VA3TBA. Passed.

Old Business:

Public Service (Chris Chadwick, VA3TBA, public events coordinator)

Past Events:

Bear Grease Dog Race January 28-31 south of the border.

Upcoming Events

Sleeping Giant Loppet Saturday March 3, 2018, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Coordinator
10 Mile Road Race May 2018, Norm Bell VE3XRC Co-ordinator

CANWARN (John Sacek, VA3JMS, Karl Hamilton, VE3RRP)

No news

ARES (Brad Harris, VE3MXJ, Thunder Bay EC)

Monthly Net on the last Monday of the month 7 pm ET on VE3YQT
Other news: Communication continues to coordinate with the Regional Health Services.

Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Repeater behaving nominally.

Club Trailer: (Bob Hansen, VE3RVA)

No news.

LARC Revitalization: 20/20 (Randy Gottfred, VA3OJ)

No news

New Business

April Dinner Meeting is being planned for the same venue as previous years:

Chicago Joe's. This year's meeting will be the **3rd Thursday in April**. April 19th at 6pm.

Scott Moody VE3EXT spoke on Fusion Repeaters, the Amateur Radio Society of Dryden, and linking the systems of the Pinetree Linking Network

50/50 Draw: none

Adjournment moved by: randy Gottfred VA3OJ

Next Executive Meeting: March 1, 2018, 7:30 PM, RM 213

Next LARC Meeting: March 8, 2018, 7:30 PM, RM 214

RAC Canada Winter Contest Update

List of logs received now available

A listing of the logs received for the RAC Canada Winter Contest 2017 is now available at:
<http://wp.rac.ca/contesting-results/>

Please note that log categories are based on the contents of logs submitted in accordance with the contest rules. Many logging programs do not correctly assign the appropriate log categories.

Please direct any questions to: canadawinter@rac.ca

Thanks,

Sam Ferris, VE5SF
RAC Canada Winter Contest Manager

and from Jan

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/imageo/2018/02/06/the-sun-is-naked-where-did-its-spots-go/#.Wnr35rjaSVp>

Thanks Jan!

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

February 2018 Treasurers Report

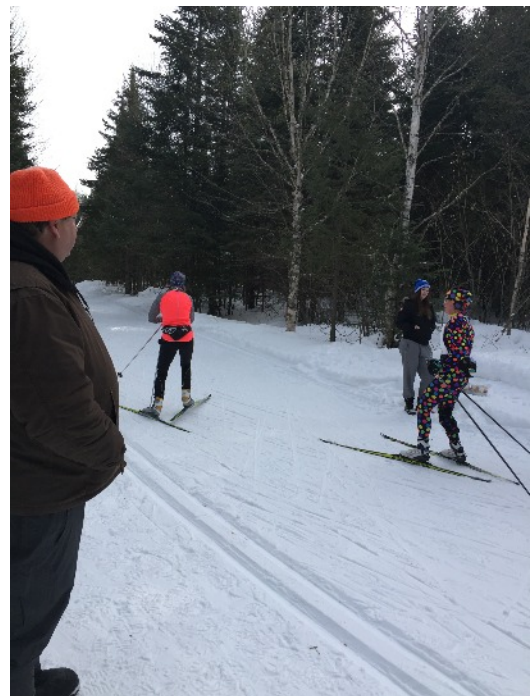
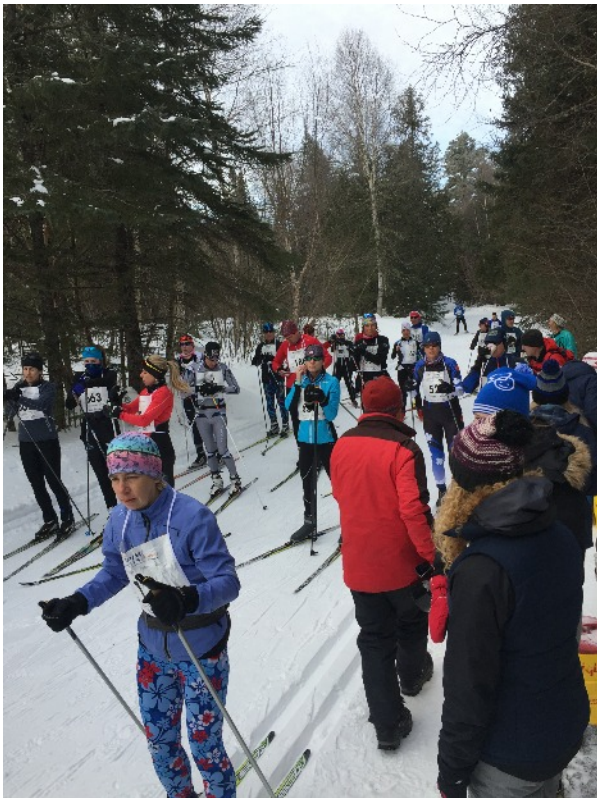
Opening Balance February 1, 2018	<u>\$552.56</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Transfer from Trailer account to cover insurance	\$136.08
Total Income	<u>\$136.08</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Gift card to Boston Pizza for \$25.00 for Riaz Mehmood paid by cheque # 189 to Bill, VE3XT	\$25.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$25.00</u>
Closing Balance February 28, 2018	<u>\$663.64</u>

<u>Trailer Account</u>	
	Previous Balance
	\$438.94
<u>Income</u>	
Interest	\$0.03
Total	\$438.97
<u>Expenses</u>	
Transfer to chequing to cover trailer insurance	\$136.08
Total Expenses:	\$136.08
	Balance in Trailer Account
	<u>\$302.89</u>

Term Account

Opening Balance February 01,2018	\$2,059.90
February Interest	\$0.25
Closing Balance February 28, 2018	\$2,060.15

Bill Unger VE3XT
Treasurer



2018 Sleeping Giant Loppet

Once again the LARC provided point to point communications for the Loppet. Here is some of the action from Checkpoint 2 - courtesy of Brandon Rehfuhs VE3OTV

World Thinking Day on the Air
The following information is courtesy of the Radio Society of Great Britain:

<http://rsgb.org/main/operating/licensing-novs-visitors/special-event-stations/world-thinking-day-on-the-air/>

World Thinking Day on the Air is organized by The Guide Association on the third full weekend in February. The founder of the Guide movement, Lord Baden-Powell, and his wife, Lady Baden-Powell, the World Chief Guide both celebrated their birthday on **February 22**, which is now known to all Guides as Thinking Day.

On Thinking Day members all over the world think about the international nature of Guiding.

The aim of World Thinking Day on the Air (TDOTA) is to encourage Guides to make friendships with members of other units, using Amateur Radio as the means of communication.

TDOTA stations are mostly set up by experienced Radio Amateurs who voluntarily work to support TDOTA. The positive effects of the event are shown in the increasing numbers of Guiders, Rangers, and the Guides themselves, with Amateur Radio certifications..

To find out more visit the World Thinking Day website at <http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/home>

March 2018

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 LARC Meeting	9	10 RSGB Commonwealth Contest	11 Idaho QSO Party
12	13	14 CW OPS Mini Test	15	16	17 Russian DX Contest	18
19	20	21	22 World Thinking Day	23	24	25 CQ WW WPX Contest
26	27	28 Phone Fray	29	30 Good Friday QRP Fox Hunt	31 Russian WW Multimode Contest	April 1 Easter Sunday RSGB RoLo SSB (No Fooling!)

Real Disasters Happen to Real Hams: The Great Tubbs Fire of 2017

submitted by Brad VE3MXJ

At 11:02 PM, October 8, 2017, I answered my land line and heard:

"THIS IS SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION -EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY - THIS IS AN EVACUATION CALL - THIS IS NOT A DRILL -EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY - THERE IS A WILDFIRE AND MARK WEST SPRINGS ROAD MUST EVACUATE"

I don't remember the exact wording, but that robot call really wanted me to wake up and pay attention. I had already been patrolling my driveway for an hour. There was too much smoke -- thick, choking smoke -- although I could not see fire anywhere. I have chronic asthma and I am always alert to such pollutants. My husband and son were traveling out of state, so this was a solo evacuation; I was on my own.

October 7 was the date of the annual California QSO Party. My friend, Carole Whitteberry, W6TTF, had travelled up from Fresno to join me for a much-needed, laid-back contest. We weren't trying to run up the numbers this year - the goal was to just have fun. Her husband, Jan, WA6WTF, had become a Silent Key in July. We made just 90 QSO's in 24 hours. No rush, no worry, no sweep. At the end of the contest, for the first time in my ham life, I submitted our log before shutting down the computer. Good move. Several hours later, my house was vaporized.

I earned my Technician license in 2006, with the call sign KI6TII. I earned my Extra class license in 2009, and was granted my Dad's call, KU6F. I quickly developed new interests - contesting and net controlling. I joined the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), got my Sheriff's volunteer ham radio operator ID, trained in traffic control and emergency services, and learned how to stay safe in an emergency - training that ended up saving my life and the lives of my immediate neighbors. Who would have known?

After I submitted our log for CQP 2017 and sent Carole on her way back to Fresno, I settled into my evening routine. After nightfall, however, I began to smell wood burning smoke, too much of it. I had feeds from the Sheriff's office and City of Santa Rosa Police forwarded to my cell phone. At approximately 10:45 PM, I received a feed that Porter Creek had received evacuation orders, at which point I put both cats into their carriers and "staged" them with my briefcase, purse, phone, Rx bag, and power cords at the front door. My dog was passed out on the bed.

I walked to the top of the driveway and watched the full moon go from crimson red to completely blacked out - not good. At 11:02 PM, I received the emergency evacuation call on my landline and raced to the closest neighbors and woke them up. I phoned the more distant neighbors, rousing them - FIRE, GET OUT NOW, EVACUATE NOW!!!

After loading both cats, my luggage, and my very old, slow walking dog into my car, I went back into the house for food. But, I heard in my head "NO!" so I immediately moved towards the front door. I asked "what do I need before I leave?" and heard the answer in my head "YOU NEED TO GET OUT NOW! LEAVE NOW!" I grabbed my flashlight and sleeping bag, locked the front door, got into my car, and drove away.

At 11:26 PM, I drove down Mark West Springs Road, which was surreal. I knew there were fires at Riebli and Sky Farm, visible from the road, but all I could see was dark smoke, like an inverse valley fog. There was no one else on the road until I got to Old Redwood Highway where the sheriff had set up a roadblock. I drove south on route 101, again finding no one on the road with me heading southbound. I was in a between-evacuations bubble, for which I was grateful. Emergency vehicles sped north on 101. I drove to our shop in Roseland where I spent the night watching the emergency feeds, talking with various friends "yes, I am safe," and helping others with what was going on. What a crazy night it was. I was thankful I had my office in Roseland with both cats and the dog.

Fast forward to November 18: Alan, K6SRZ and his wife, Carole, have put my family and pets up in their home in Penngrove while we search for our new home. We are safe, and Alan and I are working single station multi-op for November Sweepstakes - a perfect ending of ham radio, how it keeps me happy as a hobby, how it prepared me for this emergency. -- Saraj Cory, KU6F, Santa Rosa, California, ARRL Life Member