



### **Sleeping Giant Loppet 2020**

The Loppet has come and gone and by all accounts was a great success. Once again, the LARC, provided operators for all the checkpoints and kept the over 800 participants safe.

Checkpoint 1 Glen Wallace VE3ICY and Denise McGill VA3NST

Checkpoint 2 Rob Van Wyck VE3FLB and Bettina Siebenman

Checkpoint 3 Bob Hansen VE3RVA and Mark Vaillant VA3MVR

Checkpoint 4 Phil Cook VA3PCX and Chelsea Cook

Checkpoint 5 Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Checkpoint 6 Chris Chadwick VA3ZU

20/50 Split Wayne Letang VA3WRL, Bernadette Letang and Barry Irwin VE3BJI

Supply Truck Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

Net Control Brad Harris VE3MXJ and Ed Baumann VE3SNW

Also lending a hand while engaged in other roles were Mark Vukovich VE3VUK and Eric Lehtinen VE3EBL.

From the perspective of net control, all the amateurs were absolutely awesome. Your proficiency and professionalism did not go unnoticed by race officials. There were two "incidents" on the trails. One male "ran out of gas" and his progress was monitored around the course to ensure his safety and another male fell and injured a shoulder. VE3BJI provided first aid while VA3WRL handled communications and he was assisted off the trails and to assistance.

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers.

Links to Our Past

Douglas McCormack VE3EFC

LARC 25 Years ago:

<http://ve3efc.ca/larc/larc19950301.pdf>

LARC 50 Years ago

<http://ve3efc.ca/larc/larc19700201.pdf>

### **Review of the BaoJie BJ-218 Mobile Radio**

Lindo Scalese VE3NHX

Bands VHF UHF 136-174 400-470MHz

Power 25W

Price CA\$80.37+\$8.50 shipping([www.banggood.com](http://www.banggood.com))

I was looking at my collection of antique Icom and Kenwood mobile vhf radios that were short on modern features like supporting sub tones and being small enough to fit in a recent model vehicle. I decided to abandon the idea of adding a home brew subtone board to the kenwood TR7730 and look for a better answer.

I found the BaoJie BJ-218 radio from Banggood.com, at a rock bottom price, so I decided to bite.

A few weeks later it arrived. I found the radio neatly packaged in a very small cardboard box. Included was a multilingual and almost unreadable manual, a microphone with clip and a power cable with a cigarette adapter plug, mounting hardware and spare fuse. The radio is very small at 105x30x106 mm.

After power up, I looked at the printed instructions and was at best, confused. YouTube came to my rescue I found a video titled, "Manually Programming Baojie BJ-218" with a link to a pdf that gave me better instructions. I was then able to program 10 memories with the frequency, offset, sub tone and alphabetic description using the microphone buttons and found it very easy.

I looked into using Chirp for programming and was very happy that the BJ-218 was supported. I did recently order a programming cable. The Baojie website at first looked impressive but none of the download links worked with any browser that I tried. I did find the Baojie software for programming the radio at a Russian website.

Test results: Power output at 146mhz is 21watts, Power output at 450mhz is 18watts. On the spectrum analyzer, along with the main carrier were small carriers at 292,436 and 583 mhz about 55db down from the main signal at 146 mhz were observed. Receive sensitivity, I did not measure, but was adequate.

I would give the Baojie BJ-218 a rating of 6 out of 10 as it met most of my expectations. My complaints about the radio are the power up beep is very loud and the display is a bit small. On the plus, the received audio is very clear and crisp, the small size is impressive, the ease of operation is good and the low price is unbeatable.

**LARC SENATE**

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

**LARC EXECUTIVE**

**President:** Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

**VP:** Bob Hansen VE3RVA

**Treasurer:** Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

**Secretary:** Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

**Board Member:** Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**Board Member:** Mark Vaillant VA3MVR

**Board Member:** Mike Skillen VE3EDX

**Board Member:** John Plumridge  
 VE3FMT

**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 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 [hqnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hqnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Amethyst District ARES**

**Providing emergency communications for Northwestern Ontario**

**Emergency Coordinators**

Atikokan: Warren Paulson, VE3FYN (ARES DEC, Amethyst District)

Sioux Narrows: Woody Linton, VE3JJA

Fort Frances: Rod Davis, VE3RYD (ARES EC, Fort Frances & area)

Kenora: Chris Bigelow, VA3ECO (ARES EC, Kenora & area)

Dryden: Bob Ernewein,, VE3YDN

Thunder Bay: Brad Harris, VE3MXJ (ARES EC, Thunder Bay & area)

**Nets and Exercises**

We conduct an open weekly HF net on 80 and 40 metres. The purpose of this net is to monitor regional propagation conditions, share information, and practice net procedures.

Time: Wednesdays at 21:30 UTC (4:30 pm EST, 3:30 pm CST)

Frequency: Primary 3.675 MHz LSB, Secondary 7.135 MHz LSB

<http://www.ve3rib.ca/nwoares>

**LARC Emergency Coordinator**

**Brad Harris VE3MXJ**

**ARES Amethyst District****Emergency Coordinator**

**Warren Paulson, VE3FYN**

**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 (807) 630-7688**  
**ve3vai@tbaytel.net**

**LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**

**VE3YQT (Mount Baldy) 147.060 (-600)**

**VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2**

**VE3BGA (Loch Lomond) 147.390, PL Tone 107**

**442.075 (+5 MHz) pl 100**

**144.390 APRS**

# Minutes for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

**Date: February 13, 2019**

**President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.**

**Guest Speaker:** Bob Hansen VE3RVA Topic: Awards given to LARC over the years

**Social Break:**

**Treasurer's Report: by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP**

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Bob Hansen VE3RVA. Passed Unanimously. Membership list has been mailed to paid members. Terry Stewardson VA3LU has bought and generously donated the UHF crystals for Loch Lomond repeater.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moves to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by John Plumridge VE3FMT. Passed.

**Old Business:**

**Public Service Chris Chadwick VA3ZU public events coordinator**

**Past Events:**

none

**Upcoming Events**

**Sleeping Giant Loppet** March 7, 2020: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

**10 Mile Road Race:** May 25, 2020, John Sacek VA3JMS

**CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS**

**No news**

**ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ, Thunder Bay EC**

Weekly ARES HF nets on Wednesdays still ongoing.

Monthly EOC net still ongoing. Firehall station being activated monthly.

A VHF/UHF station is set up at hospital. Getting internet for VA3ETB

**Repeater News Randy Gottfred VA3OJ, Terry Stewardson VA3LU**

Loch Lomond UHF repeater is being prepared for 442.825 PL 107.2. New MI, USA repeater on 52.870/52.170.

**ClubTrailer: Bob Hansen VE3RVA** No news

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

Due to labour conflicts with the province a March Break activity for St Martin's is not feasible this year.

**Thunder Bay 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A letter has been sent to the city explaining who we are and what we do, and expressing our interest in participating in the Thunder Bay's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Club interest is high. We could use trailer, Alexander Henry, special prefix for city residents. Need to present a digital station. Committee started. Brad Harris VE3MXJ moved to buy a new pc for the club. Seconded by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP. Passed. Randy McAllister VE3WBW will look into it.

**Alexander Henry** Closed for Season The callsign VA3ICE will be used for the icebreaker.

**Hams From the Past**

Phil VE3AXL talking with Leo VE3ATC about website implementation of ideas.

**April 9<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting 6 PM Chicago Joe's**

Speaker: Warren Paulson VE3FYN from Souris Canoes of Atikokan will talk about Kevlar canoe manufacturing.

**Field Day, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Pot Luck, a main meat dish will be supplied by the club. Randy McAllister has a large tent if needed.

**Donations to RAC Scholarship Fund in memory of Bill Unger VE3XT**

Still taking personal donations at club meetings.

**New Business**

**Club T-shirts: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP**

Karl will consult with Mallon's to confirm colour, fabric and design, and get a quote.

**Thunder Bay Seniors Paper**

Randy McAllister VE3WBW will put submit an article about LARC.

**Walleye Article**

Submitting an article to the Walleye was suggested.

**50/50 Draw:** None

**Adjournment** moved by: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

**Next Executive Meeting: March 5, 2019, 7 PM, 55+**

**Next LARC Meeting: March 12, 2020, 7 PM, St. Martin's**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting 6 PM  
Chicago Joe's**

# Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

## February 2020 Treasurers Report

Opening Balance February 1, 2020 \$3,085.66

Income

Total Income \$0.00

Expenses

Total Expenses \$0.00

Closing Balance February 31, 2019 \$3,085.66

<u>Trailer Account</u>		
	Previous Balance	1228.37
<u>Income</u>		
Interest		\$0.05
Total		<u>\$1,228.42</u>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Total Expenses:		<u>\$0.00</u>
	<b>Balance in Trailer Account</b>	<b><u>\$1,228.42</u></b>

Term Account

Opening Balance February 01, 2019 \$2,069.50

Interest \$0.43

Closing Balance February 31, 2019 \$2,069.93

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP  
Treasurer



**Coronavirus Outbreak Postpones Swains Island DXpedition****Coronavirus Fears Postpone Another DXpedition**

The W8S DXpedition to Swains Island in the Pacific, set to take place in mid-March, has been postponed until fall as a result of travel restrictions imposed on individuals entering American Samoa, stemming from the recent coronavirus outbreak. The Department of Health allows non-residents to enter American Samoa only via Hawaii after a 14-day mandatory quarantine in Hawaii, and the DXpedition was unable to accommodate that requirement.

“Everything is prepared for our DXpedition, and we are eager to go, but unfortunately the coronavirus outbreak is out of our control,” the DXpedition team said in announcing the delay. “Although this is a disappointment for everyone, the W8S DXpedition is not cancelled, but just postponed for later this year.”

The DXpedition said it would update amateurs as soon as it has new firm dates for the trip.

--arrrl news

**Down Under Special Event Will Use Former Radio Australia Antennas**

Over the March 14 – 15 weekend, members of the Shepparton and District Amateur Radio Club will be on the air as VI3RA, connecting their transceivers to the curtain array and rhombic antennas at the former Radio Australia site in Shepparton. Radio Australia ceased transmitting from the site in 2017. VI3RA will operate on 40, 30, 20, 17, and 15 meters.

“This is a rare opportunity for amateur radio operators, who are only allowed a peak output power of 400 W in Australia to hopefully achieve some remarkable communication outcomes. We expect to get a gain of 15 dB on the lower frequencies and at least 20 dB on 21 MHz.”

The special event is being conducted in cooperation with BAI Communications (Broadcast Australia).

More information at: <http://www.sadarc.org/>



Alex Gromme, 5B4ALX, has postponed his March 18 – April 2 T30ET DXpedition to Tarawa (West Kiribati) because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The Kiribati Ministry of Health told Gromme that he would need to be quarantined for 14 days in Honiara, Solomon Islands, before getting medical approval to continue on to Kiribati. “T30ET is currently postponed, not cancelled,” Gromme said on his website. He’s now looking at October 2020, assuming the COVID-19 situation is resolved by then.

-- arrrl news

**Go Green For St Patricks Day**

With a couple weeks to go and Stations from across the world signed up to take part, we will once again be on air to turn the bands green as part of the St Patrick Award. This fun 48hr annual award will follow the celebrations across the world, from the 16th March, 12:00 UTC until the 18th March, 12:00 UTC. Once again this year we have an award covering any digital mode requiring software or a computer, as well as radio. To find out more or to register as a station go to <https://stpatrickaward.webs.com/> and help us go green for St Patricks Day.

-- southgate news

**LARC**

**Dinner Meeting**

**April 9<sup>th</sup>**

**6 PM**

**Chicago Joe's**

Guest Speaker:  
Warren Paulson VE3FYN from  
Souris Canoes of Atikokan

# March 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 LARC Meeting 1900 hrs St. Martins School	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Spring Equi- nox 11:49 pm EDT	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31		Coffee Meet Every Thurs- day at Boston on Arthur 2100 hrs.			LARC Dinner Meeting April 9 Chicago Joes 1800