

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Volume 86

**November 2020**

Issue 09

## The Prez Sez

Well, here we are in November and we just went through a week of decent summer weather. As most will remember that October was a little cool and the occasional snow fall, I thought we were in for an early winter. The old comment still hangs true, “hang around 15 minutes if you don’t like the weather.”

November is normally considered the start of antenna season. I was given the honour of being keeper of the infamous antenna season horn. It was passed on to me by our old friend Bill Unger VE3XT(sk) before his passing in November of last year. I was excited by the opportunity of continuing a LARC tradition. So when I got it home, I pulled out the brass polish and made it shine. I am also in the process of having a wooden plaque made to hang the horn on when not in use. So if you decide to attend the zoom meeting on Thursday, the horn will make its annual debut and will make a resounding toot to officially open antenna season.

It was a busy summer here at the homestead. The covid situation kind of kept everyone at bay for the longest while. But as the time passed, many of the projects that needed to be done got done and some new items were added. Because travel plans were limited, my vacation money got turned into a new deck on the house and we made good use of it this summer. As you know, the toilet paper hoarding and the sanitizing shortage slowly found its way into everyday things. It was great fun trying to get deck wood or many of the building materials for construction as supply was way down and demand was really high. I am sure everyone was affected in some way or another. We having been playing in the sandbox very well here and I hope we can continue to keep this virus at bay and hope to regain our independence and sanity again.

I would like to thank the members of the executive for staying on in the capacity of their positions for another year. As the year started, we were without a meeting place as the school board had to close down the schools to non school meeting due to covid protocols. We found it difficult to bring everyone together to hold proper elections. So under the circumstances that were present-

ed, the executives were in agreement to stand to provide leadership in these unusual times. Thanks again to the members for taking on these jobs. We couldn’t do this without your help.

That should do it for now. Thank you for looking after yourself and for keeping your family safe and looking out for others. Please stay healthy and safe. Let’s all do our part for our community and keep up the good work. Catch you down the log.

73’s

Randy OJ

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## FCC withdraw US privileges in the 9 cm Band

The FCC has ruled that it will withdraw US Amateur privileges at 3300-3500 MHz (the 9 cm Microwave band) in order to make the band available to 5G Mobile and Internet Service Providers. The dates when this is to take final effect have not yet been decided. Canadian Amateurs continue to have a secondary allocation on this band.

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## New Zealand Radio Amateurs Lose Access to 60 Meters

Radio amateurs in New Zealand no longer have access to 60 meters, effective October 24. Use of the band by radio amateurs in New Zealand is provisional, allowing hams there to use two frequencies in the band as part of a “trial.”

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) advised it was not willing to approve another renewal of the 5 MHz trial allocation. As in the US, the federal government and military are primary on the 5 MHz band. According to NZART, the decision was not made lightly by NZDF, but access to that part of the HF spectrum is very important to support NZDF’s new platforms, tactical radio equipment, and updated HF site equipment in the delivery chain.

— Thanks to Paul Gaskell, G4MWO/The 5 MHz Newsletter



**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

**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**

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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 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 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**



## ARES is Gearing up

Brad Harris VE3MXJ CEC  
E.C. for the City of Thunder Bay  
in the Amethyst District

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.  
CELL: 807-474-6246  
EMAIL: bradmharris@shaw.ca

ARES in Thunder Bay is getting busy. We are involved in exercises that involve not only our local group, but also other ARES groups in North Western Ontario. We have been learning new skills, such as WINLINK, JS8, just to name a few. Also the NORTHWESTERN ARES HF NET is doing well, every Wednesday at 1700 5:00pm on 80m 3.675MHz. This past weekend the ARES team participated in a regional emergency scenario. Attendance in the event was good both locally and in the Amethyst district. During the post exercise debrief meeting the ARES team decided to build on the success and continue to meet and practice various scenarios over the coming months.

Over the past year or so, we have set up an EOC at the North Central Fire Hall on Water St., which is now our permanent home. In the event of any declared EMERGENCY issued by the CITY of THUNDER BAY, the fire hall is their EOC location. Presently both our organizations are under the same roof. We are set up for HF SSB, digital modes, WINLINK, VARA, JS8, VHF/UHF, as well as our own P.C. in the room. FYI VE3SAO at the 55plus is our secondary and back up EOC. Just prior to COVID-19 I was just setting up at the hospital getting that station up and running again.

Starting this month, ARES will be hosting a monthly ZOOM meeting. These regular meetings will be an excellent time to discuss the previous month's scenario, to bring up new technologies and news from other ARES regions. The primary focus will be on continuing to find ways to improve our emergency response preparedness, various roles and responsibilities and building the ARES team.

Please go to this website for more information about us <http://www.ve3rib.ca/nwoares.html>

For those already ARES members, if you have not already filled in the registration form please do so and send it back to me. Also the same if you would like to get involved in ARES.

Here is the link for that [http://www.ve3rib.ca/ARES\\_Application\\_Form\\_Fillable.pdf](http://www.ve3rib.ca/ARES_Application_Form_Fillable.pdf)

Regular ZOOM meetings will be held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1900 hours 7:00pm. A ZOOM meeting invite will be sent out prior to the meeting.

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## The ARES SET

Brad VE3MXJ CEC  
ARES EC for the City of Thunder Bay  
Saturday October 31, 2020 was our annual ARES S.E.T. A 2M net was on our local repeater, with Karl VE3RRP being N.C.S. He had 7 local check in's that passed traffic on 146.520 simplex. I was at my house (acting EOC) receiving and passing traffic on SSB 80M, as well as on digital, winlink VARA. We passed a total of 15 messages, formal and informal. The SET was 3 hours in total. A huge thanks goes out to Warren VE3FYN who was the NCS for the whole NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO S.E.T which included cities from Kenora to Thunder Bay. Also a huge thanks goes to our own Woody VE3JJA for putting together and managing this year's S.E.T. Of course everyone worked from home, because of COVID-19. It was truly a team effort. Well done to all.

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## ARES Update

The Thunder Bay ARES team is ramping up. This past weekend the ARES team participated in a regional emergency scenario. Attendance in the event was good both locally and in the Amethyst district. During the post exercise debrief meeting the ARES team decided to build on the success and continue to meet and practice various scenarios over the coming months.

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If you are currently a ARES member please feel free to join in on the discussions. If you would like to be, please contact me so we can get you set up. Regular ZOOM meetings will be held the third Thursday of the month at 1900 hours. The next meeting is Thursday November 19, 2020 at 7:00pm. If you are an ARES member you will get a ZOOM meeting invitation a few days before.

Thank you  
Brad Harris VE3MXJ CEC E.C. for the City of  
Thunder Bay - Amethyst District



**Minutes for the  
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club  
Date: October 8, 2020 on Zoom  
President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ  
Presiding.**

**LARC Revitalization: 20/20**

(Randy Gottfred, VA3OJ, Randy McAllister VE3WBW)

A small group of 5 or 6 was created to look at rejuvenation of website and Facebook participation, to be followed by press releases and community outreach efforts. It will source ideas from other clubs/groups' websites. Classes should be part of the mix, Eric VE3XET, Rob Van Wyk VE3FLB, Wayne Letang VA3WRL, Ed Baumann VE3SNW, and Randy McAllister VE3WBW will comprise the group.

**Treasurer's Report:** by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP  
Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q.  
Secound by Wayne Letang VA3WRL. Passed Unanimously.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**  
Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Doug McCormick VE3EFC. Passed.

**Old Business:** No Events due to Covid19

**Public Service**

Chris Chadwick VA3TBA public events coordinator  
Past Events:  
none  
Upcoming Events  
November 6-8 Special events station W0JH – remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald.

**CANWARN**

John Sacek VA3JMS  
No news- John or Karl

**ARES**

Brad Harris VE3MXJ, Thunder Bay EC This year's annual SET is Saturday October 31, Woody VE3JJA spearheading and running this year's SET  
Weekly HF net 3675 KHz  
Amethyst District Zoom meetings of ECs and AECs

**Repeater News**

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,  
Terry Stewardson VA3LU  
10 metre repeater is running. Loch Lomond UHF equipment is on site. Not hooked up yet.

**Club Trailer:**

Bob Hansen VE3RVA  
No news

**T-Shirts and Caps**

Most of the T-shirts and caps have been delivered. 5 volunteers are working to distribute the rest. If you receive a t-shirt that is damaged or the wrong size contact Karl VE3RRP, and it will be corrected.

**New Business**

none

Adjournment moved by Brad Harris VE3MXJ

**Next Executive Meeting: November 5, 2020, 7 PM, Zoom**

**Next LARC Meeting: November 12, 2020, 7 PM, Zoom**





### Sister Clubs - A Good or Bad Idea?

Randy McAllister VE3WBW

The idea of engaging in “sister clubs” was entertained at a recent meeting. What is Sister Clubs?

Connecting distant Amateur Radio Clubs – “Brothers in Airs” Program, so to speak.

#### Guiding Principals

- Promote Amateur Radio Hobby
- Education and Learning opportunities for operators
- Sharing of information, e.g. best practices, club operations, events

Specific Activities that our two clubs could participate in

- Building and testing of antennas and related ham equipment
- Testing of propagation and transmission quality
- Trouble shooting various Ham issues (e.g. Noise, equipment, Digital Models..etc)
- Testing Implementation of new technology (e.g. Digital Modes)
- Low wattage transmission experiments
- Shared education sessions, teach each other new technology
- Ham Shack Tours – virtual tours on Zoom
- Equipment reviews, feedback, purchasing recommendations
- Video conferencing, Zoom attendance local meetings – Sharing of club activities
- Presentations to each others clubs, learning from each other
- Regularly scheduled Nets (e.g. first Sunday of month)
- And more...

Weigh in and let the executive know your thoughts.

### RADIO SIGNALS FROM MARS

How close is Mars? Close enough for radio reception. On Oct. 4th, amateur radio operator Scott Tilley (VE7TIL) picked up a carrier wave from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) circling the Red Planet. Tilley is a leader in the field of satellite radio. Dead satellites, zombie satellites, spy satellites: He routinely finds and tracks them. "But this was a first for me," he says. "A satellite around Mars!"

It's not easy picking up radio signals from distant planets. NASA does it using the giant antennas of the Deep Space Network. Tilley uses a modest 60 cm dish in his backyard in Roberts Creek, BC. This week's close encounter with Mars set the stage for his detection.

### New IARU-R2 Band Plan released

The band plan includes the change approved at the General Assembly meetings in Lima in October 2019 to add an Amateur Satellite uplink sub-band from 21125 to 21450 kHz on a non-exclusive basis, which matches similar changes in the Region 1 and Region 3 band plans. The band plan itself has not been modified.

At its May 2020 meeting, the IARU R2 Executive Committee added text to the Standard Operating Procedures regarding band planning. Prior to this change, Band Plan changes could only be approved at a General Assembly, held once every three years. This procedural change provides a process for the band plan to be updated to respond to changes in operating practice in a more timely manner while continuing full consultation with Member Societies.

-- George Gorsline VE3YV, IARU R2 Secretary





# Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

## October 2020 Treasurers Report

Opening Balance October 1, 2020 \$2,818.24

### Income

October 1 deposit \$630.00

October 13 Deposit \$250.00

**Total Income** **\$880.00**

### Expenses

**Total Expenses** **\$0.00**

**Closing Balance October 31, 2020** **\$3,698.24**

<u>Trailer Account</u>		
	Previous Balance	1228.46
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Interest		\$0.00
Total		<b>\$1,228.46</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Total Expenses:		<b>\$0.00</b>
	<b>Balance in Trailer Account</b>	<b><u>\$1,228.46</u></b>

### Term Account

Opening Balance October 01, 2020 \$2,072.83

Interest \$0.34

Closing Balance October 31, 2020 \$2,073.17

**Karl Hamilton VE3RRP**  
**Treasurer**



### Tower Day at VE3WBW

After two years I finally got around to installing my 60 foot free standing tower (previously VA3LU's tower). Initially I planned to do most of the work myself. Dig the hole, build the forms, pour the foundation, and assemble the tower on the ground. At which time I would hire someone with a crane to come and lift the tower onto the foundation. My backhoe has been at my camp property for the last two years working on the 5km road into the only property on the lake. This has been the delay in getting the tower up, the cost to float the backhoe back and forth is about \$500 each way.

Over Thursday evening pizza, Brad (VE3MXJ) suggested getting Tower Light to do it all and that the price was reasonable. He was correct. By the time I would have paid for float costs, paid for forms, concrete, rebar and then for a crane I would have had weeks of work and also almost the same expense. So I reached out to Jeff at Tower Light and the plan was made.

Jeff was a man of few words. "I will be there Wednesday at 9am." I had no idea if he would pour the concrete on that day and come back a week later to lift and install tower. Either way I was going to be ready.



First I needed to assemble the tower pieces except for the base unit. This went quick and smoothly. Next was installing any hardware on the tower as I hate heights and wanted to minimize any climbing. I welded up three strong 10" L brackets and installed them on each leg of the tower near the top. I tied off 120 feet of 550lb Paracord on each, as to later pull up an antenna. Because my G5RV has the ladder line feed cable, I needed to have one additional pulley extend out much further to give it distance from the tower (pipe on ground by tower in picture). I also need to install the 2m antenna thanks to Randy VA3OJ & Terry VA3LU for providing.



Wednesday 9:01 am Jeff and two helpers pull in. Jeff was in a flatbed truck with a large crane, and the helpers in a work truck hauling a backhoe on a trailer. I guess the tower is going up today was the first thing I thought after seeing the crane and other equipment

I showed Jeff the site and tower, and within 5 minutes they unloaded equipment and got started. I realized they came prepared to get the job done in one day. They brought a small backhoe and dug the hole. Next they dumped some gravel and used a tamping machine to prepare the site. The crane then was used to drop a 10 ton pre-made foundation. The foundation was pre-constructed with the tower mounts welded to rebar and the rebar welded to the inside of the galvanized culvert. The base was lowered in and out until level and oriented in the direction I requested. To minimize any future shifting of the tower they also backfilled and tamped at various stages to compress the surrounding fill. After landscaping the area, it was time to install the base unit and lift and install the remaining tower.



I was worried all my hardware would get in the way of the crane. However it was no problem for them. Within minutes the tower was vertical and hovering over the base. A few nudges back and forth and it was bolted to the base unit. The only thing left was to unhook the

crane. When the tower was lying on the ground it was not intimidating. A different story when it was erected. Watching the helper climb to the top to unhook the crane was enough to give this Acrophobe stomach turns.

Just as the helper unhooked the crane and climbed down the rain started and didn't stop for 2 days. Perfect timing! By 12:01, Jeff and company were loaded up and pulling out of the driveway. Other than a lack of communications prior to the install, the entire process was smooth and trouble free. I hope this helps anyone else thinking of installing a tower on what they can expect.

I will try and write an article for a future issue to detail how I have configured the tower, which antenna's I am using and what differences I have notices as well as future plans.


73, Randy VE3WBW







# November 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Remembrance Day 	12 LARC Club meeting on ZOOM at 1900	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						