



Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club



Thunder Bay, Ontario

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Season's Greetings from the Prez

Have you ever heard the comment "hind sight is 2020"? Whoever coined that line probably never dreamed that we would look back at the year 2020 with all the problems that have been associated with it.

If there is one thing that this year will be remembered for, it is Covid 19. It reared its ugly head around the world in late 2019 and invaded Canada in the early part of the year. It attacked with a vengeance and wasn't particular about age, color, gender or location. It sickened and killed people all over the world. As the death toll rose, it was pretty obvious that we would all be affected by Covid in one way or another. From toilet paper hoarding to social distancing, and isolation from the families and friends, to the soon to be coming vaccine, it has touched us all in some degree. Our country as a whole did pretty good for the first little while. We became complacent and let our guard down and now we must claw our way back. Everyone wants to get back to normal asap but for those still fighting the bug and the families that have lost loved ones to it, there will never be an old normal.

So it my Christmas wish this year to have everybody do their best to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Think about those that have lost loved ones and the families that will have to deal with those losses at this time of year. Call a friend or an elderly member of your family or circle just to let them know they are not forgotten. Be kind to each other and help if you can. Many of us donate to charities and they are looking for help with those less fortunate. It is in your heart to care and it is probably the best medicine that can be kept at 37 degrees Celsius.

From my family to all of people of the world, be safe, be healthy and most of all, take care of each other. Season's Greetings from the QTH of VA3OJ.

Thanks to all and 73's

Randy Gottfred

President

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

New "Rookie" Subcategory and Sponsors for the RAC Contests

Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce the creation of a new "Rookie" subcategory for both the RAC Canada Day Contest and the RAC Canada Winter Contest.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC December 19, 2020. Amateurs worldwide are invited to participate.

The RAC Contest Committee is asking all participants to follow the guidelines provided by government and health officials in your respective area for any of the multi-op categories within the contest.

If you do carry out an operation in any of the multi-op categories, please advise as part of your log submission that you have followed locally applicable guidelines for group sizes and physical distancing.

New "Rookie Plaque" sponsored by RadioSport Manitoba and the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club.

"Rookie" is defined as a single operator who was first licensed as a Radio Amateur less than 36 calendar months before the date of the contest being entered in this subcategory. Any level of Amateur Radio licence available from the licensing jurisdiction qualifies for the subcategory.

-- RAC website

LIFE IS SIMPLE



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

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.html>

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

Covid 19 Strikes VE3TBR Repeater

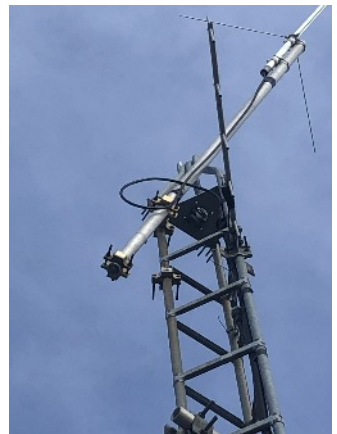
Well, it was bound to happen. Just when you think that we will survive these crazy times, the repeater has caught the bug and started to self isolate from the tower.



Thanks goes out to the older but still keen eyes of ve3nhx Lindo, for noticing that something was amiss at TBR repeater site and quickly contacting me with the sad prognosis. I took a trip up to the site and entered the Martha St. entrance and pulled out the set of binoculars. Here is where it got interesting. Lindo had sent me a picture of the antenna and it showed a definite lean to the side. As I gazed at the antenna, the optical angle that I was at looked like there was nothing wrong with the antenna. I began to wonder about Lindo’s eye and mine also. Many of the residents that were outside on that nice day were also wondering who the peeping tom was checking out. I got back in truck and pulled into the parking lot a little farther and lost sight of the antenna and then pulled onto Carrie St. for a look from a different angle. A quick look to the roof and then the problem became very obvious. The antenna was leaning at about 45 degrees to the east.

A call to St Joe Heritage to check out the Covid protocols so a work party could access the site. Once we got the clearance, a work party was put together and off to the site we go with a new bracket. Terry VA3LU and Randy VA3OJ dressed in our

PPE and tools accessed the roof and took the initial pictures of the broken bracket. Randy, with climbing harness on, accessed the tower and Terry opened the repeater cabinets to test the repeater. After the old bracket was removed, a new bracket was installed and the antenna straightened. Terry was finished with testing on repeater and then we turned our attention to the APRS radio that had been notably absent as of late. After a quick check on the antenna and cable, we turned our attention to the radio and tnc. A reset of both and a quick check found that the radio had a glitch and reset to channel one and the APRS freq was on channel 2. A couple of phone calls to the APRS guys and with a little prodding, APRS came to life. It was at that moment, we packed up tools, closed doors and a quick look at each other, it was “let’s get out of here”. Not a bad day’s work, 3 for 3 fixes.



So after that, TBR was checked over the next couple of days and was found to be working just fine. APRS is doing its thing and showing up on the APRS.SI site. A return trip to the site will be done in the spring and new batteries will be put in.

Thanks go out to all that helped at the site and behind the scenes to get this problem fixed before it turned into something much more serious.

If you notice something odd with the repeaters or at the sites, please let someone know. We owe it to ourselves to be vigilant with our equipment and keep it running.

Thanks to all.
Randy VA3OJ



Merry Christmas
and
have a
Happy (and safe) New Year

HURRICANE WATCH NET Record-Breaking Year

submitted by Brad Harris VE3MXJ

The 2020 Eastern Pacific and Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season has come to an “official” close. Saying it was a very busy season is a huge understatement! Thankfully, the tropics seem to be quieting down.

Many records were either tied or broken in 2020. We ended the year with a record 30 named storms and 1 depression. The previous was set in 2005 with 27 named storms and one unnamed storm. Over half of the storms in 2020, 18, made landfall.

In 2020, 13 storms developed into hurricanes, and six further intensified into major hurricanes (Cat 3 or stronger), with Hurricane Iota the only storm of 2020 to become a Category 5 Hurricane. It was the second season to use the Greek letter storm naming system, the first being 2005.

Other records include the following:

- Of the 30 named storms, 12 made landfall in the contiguous United States, breaking the record of nine set in 1916.
 - 2020 was the fifth consecutive season in which at least one Category 5 hurricane formed.
 - During the season, 27 tropical storms broke the record for the earliest formation by storm number.
- “Rapid Intensification” was a term heard quite a bit this year. The criteria for the rapid intensification of a tropical cyclone is an increase in maximum sustained winds of at least 35 mph in 24 hours or less. This season featured a record 10 tropical cyclones to undergo rapid intensification, tying it with 1995. This unprecedented activity was fueled by an ongoing La Niña.

We broke the record for the number of storm activations in a year with 9. That number would have been 10 had we activated for Hurricane Eta, which I do regret not activating for! The previous record was set in 2005 with 8 storm activations.

If there is any good news to such a busy and damaging season is the low number of fatalities and cost in damage, especially when compared to the 2005 season. However, we have not heard the final reports for Nicaragua and Honduras after Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

During the hyperactive season of 2005, four Category 5 Hurricanes developed: Emily, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. In contrast, only 1 Category 5 Hurricane formed in 2020: Iota.

All totaled, we amassed a total of “about” 550 “On-Air” man-hours this season. I say “about” because not everyone summited there required After Action Reports. This is where I’m able to total up our overall times and much more.

Special thanks go out to the following:

- Mike – KCØYHM for being our Assistant Manager and member of our Elmer Team as well as managing our net at the beginning of the season while my wife and I made a major move.
- Freddie – KP4GBF and Brad – VE3MXJ were active and working on-air for every net activation in 2020.
- Our bilingual members of who did an outstanding job during!
- Steve – NN2NN who serves as our backup Webmaster and creator, developer, and manager of our Weather Data Logger.

Of course, we could not do anything without all of our volunteer operators.



Randy McAllister VE3WBW is looking for the following items:

- *Antenna Tuner
- *Antenna tester

- *Antenna switch
- *Coax Cable (long and short)
- *Coax patch cords
- *2m portable radio
- *2m mobile radio
- *12v power supply

contact him at mcallister@tbaytel.net



**Ham Radio
ROCKS!**

Revitalization Needs Help

As part of the Revitalization efforts, the LARC will be looking at updating its public facing on-line presence. This would include its web site, its Facebook page and potentially other locations where we interact with the public on the internet.

We are looking for a small group of volunteers who want to share ideas and contribute to the effort to modernize our web presence. Over the coming months this group will meet a few times over ZOOM with a focused effort of how we can improve.

If your interested please email me at mcallister@tbaytel.net and let me know your interest so I can add your name to the meeting invite list.

Tentatively I'm looking at scheduling meetings the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Please indicate if this would work for you.

73

Randy

RadioShack to be Reborn

The good news is that RadioShack has officially been purchased by Retail Ecommerce Ventures (REV), giving the troubled company a new lease on life. The downside, at least for folks like us, is that there are no immediate plans to return the iconic electronics retailer to its brick-and-mortar roots.

As the name implies, REV specializes in online retail, having previously revamped the Internet presence of other bankrupt businesses such as Pier 1 Imports and Dressbarn.

There will be millions of bored kids and adults looking for something to do during the long winter nights, and an electronic kit or two shipped to their door might be just the thing.

Read the full story

<https://hackaday.com/2020/11/19/radioshack-to-be-reborn-as-online-first-retailer/>

Huge new sunspot

A sunspot several times wider than Earth is rotating over the sun's eastern limb on Nov 23rd. This brings the sunspot count to its highest level in years, and more sunspots appear to be in the offing. The face of the sun is now peppered with sunspots--a sign that Solar Cycle 25 is gaining steam.

For the full story, visit the Nov 23rd edition of Spaceweather.com. via RAC

Tidbits from Tom VE3CX

Sad news of the Arecibo dish collapse

Gerry - W1VE commented that after the dish was built, they ran 10 watts on 432 doing EME.

They were able to hear their fourth bounce off the moon!. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/arecibo-telescope-collapse-1.5823391>

and a video regarding the upcoming solar cycle https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRNJPKQPo_g&author=0

And some 10 meter news: Cycle 25 has started, and 10 meters is starting to show signs of life.

In the CQWW CW, I worked quite a few South America (this has been the case for years). The surprise was - I was finally able to work U.S., Canada, Africa and a few European stations. Thought I was hearing things at first - this was not expected!

186 Q's and 31 countries worked this weekend. Time for the 10 meter happy dance!!

ARRL 10 meter contest is in two weeks - good time to check out 10 meters!

Thanks Tom!

Dayton Hamvention Announces its 2021 Theme — “The Gathering”

“The Gathering” will be the theme for the 2021 Dayton Hamvention®. Hamvention General Chair Rick Allnutt, WS8G, said the theme reflects what has been missing from our lives most of 2020.

Allnutt, a medical doctor with a master’s degree in public health, said Hamvention management is closely following the coronavirus situation and believes it will improve enough by May that government restrictions on travel and large groups will be relaxed. The Hamvention team will continue to follow developments.

“We hope we will all be able to get together, talk about ham radio, and share the interaction we have missed,” Allnutt said. “The Gathering” theme acknowledges the role that Hamvention plays in amateur radio.

Hamvention 2021 will be held May 21 – 23 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

November 2020 Treasurers Report

Opening Balance November 1, 2020	<u>\$3,698.24</u>	3698.24
<u>Income</u>		
November 17	\$255.00	
Total Income	<u>\$255.00</u>	
<u>Expenses</u>		
November 25 Club Insurance	\$595.08	
November 26 Website Hosting 3 years	\$111.93	
November 30 Service Charge	\$1.80	
Total Expenses	<u>\$708.81</u>	
Closing Balance November 30, 2020	<u>\$3,244.43</u>	

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

Term Account

Opening Balance November 01, 2020	\$2,073.17
Interest	\$0.26
Closing Balance November 30, 2020	\$2,073.43

**Karl Hamilton VE3RRP
Treasurer**

**Minutes for the
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**

Date: November 12, 2020 on Zoom

President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.

Treasurer’s Report: by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

1.Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moves to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q.

Second: Eric ToddVE3XT. Passed Unanimously.

2.Karl Hamilton moves to pay LARC insurance of 595.08 (\$7 cheaper then last year) second: Ed Baumann VE3SNW, passed Unanimously.

3.Karl Hamilton moves to pay website renewal for 3 years \$88.20USD Second: Leo Wehrstedt VE3ATC

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moves to accept the previous meeting’s minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Brad Harris VE3MXJ. Passed.

Old Business:

No Events due to Covid19Public Service Chris Chadwick VA3TBA public events coordinator

Past Events:

none

Upcoming Events

none

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS no news

ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ, Thunder Bay EC

Annual SETwas Saturday October 31

2020 SET was successful with participants across NW Ontario.

Weekly NW ON HF net is on Wednesdays, 3675 KHz, 5 pm local time.

Amethyst District Zoom meetings of ECs and AECs happening every month.

Check out the NW ON ARES website at www.ve3rib.ca/nwoares.html

Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,

Terry Stewardson VA3LU

The antenna at VE3TBR is at an angle, investigating logistics of getting to it with Covid19. The Pinetree network of repeaters across NW ON is back and running.

Club Trailer Bob Hansen VE3RVA :

no new business

LARC Revitalization: 20/20

(Randy Gottfred, VA3OJ, Randy McAllister VE3WBW)

Revitalization Committee will meet via zoom in 2 weeks

Membership dues:

Karl will be following up on a few members yet to re-new.

T-Shirts and Caps (Karl Hamilton VE3RRP)

Once the dust settles on the current t-shirt distribution, I will open up what is left for orders; \$20 each.

New Business

Sister Club

A BC club in Cranbrook, BC, is a possibility. Stillwater Amateur Radio Club a possibility.

The club decided to try the BC club first, and then see if we could add the Stillwater club later.

Randy McAllister VE3WBW moved to appoint Randy Gottfred VA3OJ as ambassador to the BC club to pursue the possibility of being sister clubs. Seconded by Eric Todd VE3XET. Passed.

The Traditional Toot

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ declared antenna season open with a toot of the traditional (antique brass) horn.

Adjournment moved by Brad Harris VE3MXJ

Next Executive Meeting: December 3, 2020, 7 PM, Zoom

Next LARC Meeting: December 10, 2020, 7 PM, Zoom

December 2020



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3 Exec Meeting	4	5	6 cutoff for HI-Q articles 1800
7	8	9	10 LARC Club Meeting 1900 Zoom	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 RAC Winter Contest 0000Z to 2359Z	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 			