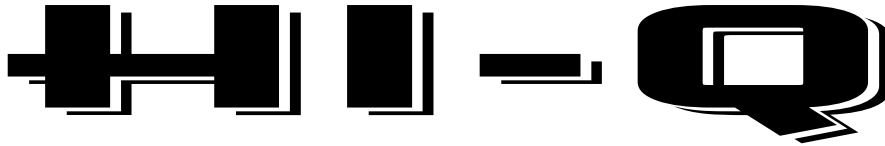




Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club



Thunder Bay, On-

Volume 89

March 2023

Issue 03

A Note from the Hansen's (VE3RVA - SK)

To membership's executive of the LARC,
 Thank you for the lovely gift basket and note that was delivered to the house when Bob was ill. At this time he was able to enjoy some of the goodies. It helped to lift our spirits at a very difficult time. Being a member of the LARC and talking on the radio was something Bob loved.
 Thank you again
 Gail Hansen

The Executive Says

Greetings to everyone and some updates to report to the membership from your Executive. The new TBR Repeater has arrived Dealer tuned and ready to go. It has been interfaced to the Arcom RC210 Contoller and finishing touches are being carried out. The Repeater is a Brand New MTR3000 VHF 100-watt Repeater / Base Station that was acquired through the Motorola Dealer Network. This was made possible by contacts your Executive have in the radio field. It was voted on at the February Technical Committee and sent to Executive for feedback and approval. The decision to upgrade to this new equipment was unanimous and was made possible by several Club members and non-club members alike. The monetary contributors were VA3WJX (the new sponsor of VE3TBR), VE3XET, VE3JSC, VE3OTV and VE3RH. The non monetary sponsors that have donated time to this project include VE3WRL (Wayne), VE3BV (Bruce PSARC), VE4CT (Tim Winnipeg), and aspiring ham and retired Motorola Tech Wolfgang Gedanitz. Not to be forgotten are the members of your Technical Committee. This acquisition was made possible by members and non members alike that are happy to work with the LARC membership and bring new equipment online that will hopefully provide years of trouble-free service. The Repeater itself will be on permanent loan to the LARC for the exclusive benefit of the membership and shall remain at the TBR site free of charge. The only request of the contributors is that the LARC continue to foster new hams and old alike in these projects and continue to update and innovate where possible. If the LARC should win a lottery than the gracious contributors could be paid back. There is no expectation to be paid back but if it happens so be it. Also, if any other members want to make a monetary contribution to the Repeater Network fund it would be greatly appreciated. As things stand now with our financial situation and pending YQT expenses, there will be no money in the budget for major equipment expenses. Your Executive and Technical Committee jumped at the chance to purchase this Brand-New Repeater for a fraction of its retail value. It is but one part of the equation in what is required to run and maintain our repeaters in good working order. Unfortunately, our \$35 in Membership fees will never sustain all the repeaters

maintained by the LARC. It will likely take more contributions from interested members and donations of equipment as it leaves commercial service. Your Executive has feelers out in the communications industry with an eye on equipment that is due to leave the Provincial Radio System in the next 3 to 5 years. We are canvassing parties involved in the change over and may have to approach the Ministry of Public Safety directly. Hopefully RAC can assist us with this. So, as you can see, your Executive is very active in pursuing all avenues that will update our Repeater equipment. TBR will now have a Brand-New Repeater, Contoller, Feedline and Antenna. Early reports from the temporary TBR Repeater are that the new antenna and feedline are working very well with handheld coverage from most parts of the city. This confirms the findings of the Technical Committee that the old TBR antenna and feedline was in dire need of replacement with water intrusion to both. On the matter of YQT several new items are in the works. VE3JTB will be the new sponsor of the YQT repeater and your Executive is looking at all options that may enhance the operation of this awesome tower site. In the meantime, the old TBR Motorola MSR2000 along with the MSR2000 from Upsala will act as spare parts for both VE3YQT and VE3BGA. We also have another club offering spare parts as they retire their MSR2000s due to age and reliability issues. Hopefully we will be in a position to keep both YQT and BGA going for the foreseeable future. VA3OJ is in the process of obtaining quotes from West Tower and Tower Lite for the VE3YQT feedline and antenna replacement. At present, only West Tower has replied to our request for quote. The VE3YQT tower has recently been re-certified and given a clean bill of health. We are looking at a June replacement date and will require volunteers to assist as a ground crew. Proper Personal Safety Equipment will be required for anyone onsite which includes Safety Footwear, Hard Hat and Eye Protection. This is the requirement for both the Ministry of Labour and our Tower Contractor. Our volunteer crew will be assisting with roll out of the new feedline, removal of old feedline from the building and exterior cable tray as well as site clean up and removal. Our volunteer contribution will significantly reduce the supplied labour of our contractor and subsequent cost to the membership. The contractor will be able to quote on the job with a 3-man professional crew consisting of two persons on the tower and one on the ground. Last item for discussion is LARC outstanding Corporate Tax filing. The Executive has again been in contact with CRA and it appears that our filings should be quite simple and that we fall under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act. Accordingly, a T2 Short Tax Return and Schedules should suffice and we should have no tax payable with our exemption under Section 149(1). To simplify things our most recent tax years will be filed first. We will be able to Electronically File once we are set up with My Business Account and supporting Authorizations. Our Treasurer VE3SJB is working on these authorizations. Volunteers have come forward to assist with these filings and CRA advises that we may call in with any questions and they will assist with completion. Unfortunately, we no longer have CRA Counter Service in Thunder Bay, therefore assistance from CRA will be via telephone to a CRA call centre. So, as you can see your Executive has been very busy tending to the aforementioned matters. Any members out there with extra time to spare are more than welcome to lend a hand with any of the outstanding club items on the "To Do List".

Sincerely
 LARC Executive

LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
 Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
 Lindo Scalese VE3NHX
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU
 Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President Eric Todd VE3XET
 Vice-President James St Cyr VE3OPD
 Secretary Stephan Burns VE3SJB
 Treasure Stephan Burns VE3SJB
 Director Axel Rehfuhs VE3OPF
 Director Wayne Letang VE3WRL
 Director John Grandell VA3WJX
 Director To be elected at next meeting

TBay Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ

ACS Amethyst District Emergency Coordinator

Warren Paulson, VE3FYN

CANWARN

VA3JMS John 767-3631

Public Service Events

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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

**Amethyst District Auxiliary Communications Service
 Providing emergency communications
 for Northwestern Ontario**

This is a list of the ACS frequencies in order of preference, number 1 being the first choice, if that frequency is in use or not working as in a repeater, then number 2 is the next choice, and so on,,,,,,,,,

VHF

1. 147.060- VE3YQT (MT.BALDY)
2. 147.390+ VE3BGA PL107.2 (LOCH LOMOND)
3. 146.820- VE3TBR PL107.2 (ST.JOSEPH HERITAGE)
4. SIMPLEX 146.520 > 146.580 > 146.550

HF

RAC ACS Canadian National Emergency Frequencies

1. 80M 3.675MHz LSB designated as ALPHA
2. 40M 7.135MHz LSB designated as BRAVO
3. 20M 14.135MHz USB designated as CHARLIE

Nets and Exercises

Wednesdays at 8 PM ET (2000hrs) 0000UTC on frequency 3.675MHz LSB (80 Metres)

We have four different net control operators across NWO. At the end of check in's we try and do some sort of exercise, winlink P2P, JS8 CALL, passing messages. Everyone is encouraged to check in, even if you are not an ACS or LARC member.

Registration Open for the 2023 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

The 2023 QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will be held on March 25 - 26, and registration is now open. The event is a fully interactive virtual ham radio convention offering new content, networking opportunities, and more than 50 amateur radio presentations on a wide variety of subjects. There is still time to participate in the event as a presenter. You can submit an application to present a video on a topic of your choice. The deadline for submission is February 15, 2023. Tickets are \$15, and registration information can be found at the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo website.

-- <http://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>

Changes to the RAC Email Alias/Forwarding System

As previously reported, in January many RAC members whose email addresses used the format "callsign@rac.ca" experienced problems sending and receiving emails. Thankfully, our IT volunteers were able to resolve the issue, but we had to make significant changes to the system to be compatible with internet, web hosting and cloud service providers in order to prevent future outages. The result is that we need to be able to separate the email addresses of RAC officials, staff and volunteers from those of our members. In order to achieve this: RAC members will switch to "callsign@myrac.ca" RAC officials and volunteers ("corporate users") will use "position@rac.ca" Both the "callsign@rac.ca" and the "callsign@myrac.ca" email addresses will work simultaneously until Sunday, May 15 to give RAC members time to update their user information on any websites and subscriptions. We understand that this is a big change and it is definitely not one we take lightly, but it is a necessary step to ensure that we continue the important work in support of Amateur Radio in Canada and internationally. We appreciate your understanding and continued support. A Q&A which provides more information on the reasons for this change can be found on our website

at: <https://www.rac.ca/cybersecurity/>

-- RAC website.

The US Airforce may have shot down an Amateur Radio "Pico Balloon" over Canada

Since the famous takedown of a suspected Chinese spy balloon, US jets have shot down a total of three more unidentified balloon objects, now confirmed to have been 'commercial or benign'. There is speculation that at least one these three objects may have been an amateur radio 'pico' balloon.

One part of the amateur radio hobby is launching high altitude balloons with various radio and other payloads. Larger amateur radio balloons launched in the USA require FAA clearance, need a radar reflector attached, and usually continually transmit APRS telemetry before naturally popping and falling back to earth after a few hours, just like a weather balloon. However there is also the simpler 'pico' ballooning hobby, which involves the use of mylar helium party balloons to launch small solar powered payloads that are only a few grams in weight. They typically transmit low power WSPR at HF frequencies and can only transmit whenever there is sufficient solar power available. Amateur radio or SDR hobbyist stations around the world can pick up these transmissions, and report them on amateur.sondehub.org and/or wsprnet.org. Well built balloons can totally circumnavigate the globe several times over several months before degrading.

Read more – RTL-SDR Blog: <http://bit.ly/3xAeGMl>

-- This week in Amateur Radio



March

2023

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Minutes for the General Meeting

And many thanks to

Date: February 2023 on Zoom & Confederation College ACE building

President, Eric Todd VE3XET Presiding.

Zoom – Meet and greet! Starts at 6:30 pm EST

Meeting Start - 7:00pm EST

Round Table

Guest Speaker - Stephan VE3SJB - Xiegu X6100

Treasurer's Report:

Printed in Hi-Q

Accepted as printed

Chris Chadwick motion seconded by Wayne Letang

All in favor

Secretary's Report:

January 2023 - As reported at meeting & email

Executive & General Meeting Minutes to be looked at in March

Public Service

Past Events: none

Upcoming Events: Sleeping Giant Loppet - No news but some have signed up to help and we could still have a few more people help out.

Thunder Bay ARES: Brad Harris VE3MXJ, T. Bay EC

Weekly HF net Wednesdays 8 PM ET 3675KHz &

Sunday net on VA3OJ's repeater

Repeater News: Technical Committee

Report printed in Hi-Q

Old Business

Taxes - Stephan is to work with John Plumbridge

VE3FMT to get taxes figured out this month.

New Business

IT Crowd - Website is to be started on getting updated

Door Prize Draw - Drawn by Teagan \$50 of donations were sold.

Wayne VA3WRL has won the door prize!

Adjournment Motioned By Brad Harris Seconded by Chris Chadwick

VA3OJ Randy Gottfred

VE3MXJ Brad Harris

VE3SNW Ed Baumann

VA3BJI Barrie Irwin

VE3XET Eric Todd

VE3FLB Rob VanWyck

VA3WRL Wayne Letang

VA3MVR Mark Vaillant

VA3SID Kevin Sidjar

VA3ZU Chris Chadwick

**For their excellent operating skills during the
44th running of the Sleeping Giant Loppet
on Saturday March 4th**

**The high quality of our volunteers does not go
unnoticed by the race organizers.**

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club - Feburary 2023 Treasurer Report			
<i>as of Feburary 28, 2023</i>			
Chequing Account			
Opening Balance		\$5,994.14	
Incoming			
	Membership Dues	\$35.00	
Expenses			
	Credit Union Service Fee		\$0.90
	Cheque #32 - Feb 2023 Door Prize		\$44.06
Closing Balance		\$5,984.18	
Not Deposited			
Jan 2023 Door Prize Donations		\$65.00	
Feb 2023 Door Prize Donations		\$50.00	
Trailer Account			
Opening Balance		\$1,115.46	
Closing Balance		\$1,115.46	
Short Term Deposit			
Opening Balance		\$2,091.65	
Interest		\$1.89	
Closing Balance		\$2,093.54	

Stephan Burns VE3SJB
Treasurer



Former FEMA Execs Push To Save AM Radio in EV's

A Linux Distro For All Your Ham Needs

Former FEMA Head Craig Fugate, who's always been a proponent of local radio, has signed a letter, along with other former FEMA officials, asking the federal government for help making sure all automakers include AM radio in Electric Vehicles. The Wall Street Journal was the first to report the letter Monday. In it Fugate says "When all else fails, radio stations are often the last line of communications that communities have." Some automakers are dropping AM radio from their newer Electric vehicles because they say the vehicles generate electromagnetic frequencies on the same wavelength as AM radio signals, creating buzzing and signal fading from the interference. The letter sent to members of Congress included signatures from 7 former FEMA administrators. The letter was also sent to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. Read more – Radio Ink: <http://bit.ly/3kE7PyH>
-- This Week in Amateur Radio News

For anyone new to the world of ham radio, one of the things that takes a little getting used to is visiting the websites of authoritative experts in various fields and feeling like you've traveled back to the Internet of 1999. As a hobby that lends itself to extremely utilitarian amateurs, the software side can feel a little left behind like that. Andy, KB1OIQ, on the other hand, is also a Linux enthusiast and has been putting together a complete Linux distribution to operate your station. <https://sourceforge.net/projects/kb1oiq-andysham/> While most ham radio soft is a lot available for Linux. It just takes a bit of tinkering and experimentation to get everything configured just right. Andy's Ham Radio Linux, or AHRL, takes a lot of the guesswork out of this. The distribution includes everything from contact logging software to antenna modeling, propagation forecasting, and electronic design. While tools like this are largely optional for operating radios themselves, there are also tools included to allow the user to operate various digital modes as well, which require some sort of computer interface to use.
--- Hackaday
<https://hackaday.com/2023/02/23/a-linux-distro-for-all-your-ham-needs/>



The Sokoloski's are looking for a mike for a Alinco DR 150. If you can help them out, contact Al or Jan at va3jrs@tbaytel.net

