



The Monitor

Official Newsletter of the Brantford Amateur Radio Club

November 2003

Edited by Ken Dobson VA3DDB and Deborah Jackson

Hamfest 2003 Success

The Brantford Amateur Radio Clubs' 2003 Hamfest rescheduled for Saturday October 4th, 2003 was a success according to the membership.



Bob VE3BDB RAC with Hamfest attendee

"Attendance was good despite the cold weather & rescheduled date." said Ken Dobson VA3DDB this year's Hamfest chairperson.

The clubs membership put forth a great effort to make sure this year's event was successful. New members Debroah Jackson and Debra Watson VE3DBW are credited with providing valuable assistance during the event.

Ken VA3DDB held an APRS for beginner's seminar and awarded a Tiny Trak3 from Byonics.com to one attendee of the seminar.

Kim VE3KMW operated the clubs Echolink call VE3BA on the club laptop with a few contacts and Pete VE3NIX handled the Talk-In.

The club's 6kVA Honda generator was on hand and prepared to run incase of a hydro interruption. Additionally the manager of the Burford fairgrounds, Howard Snodgrass, was prepared to assist if needed.

When speaking with attendee's, vendors and club

members afterwards it became apparent that each enjoyed the opportunity to see old faces and share a moment again. "Many times I have been told that the Hamfest is as much a social event as it is a opportunity purchase something.", Ken said.

Our thanks to all who attended this year's Hamfest, especially the vendors whom were inconvenienced because of the rescheduling. We hope you will join us again next year. Please visit our website at: <http://comdir.bfree.on.ca> for more information.

BARC Hamfest Committee



Club Responds during Blackout



Unaltered NOAA Satellite Image

The NOAA satellite image shown was taken on Aug. 14, 2003, at 9:03 p.m. EDT. Notice Detroit, Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa absent of night time city lights.

Visit <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/s2015.htm> for more information on the NOAA satellite imagery.

Shortly after the big blackout of 2003 occurred, Pete VE3NIX realized the clubs VHF repeater was out of service and established simplex radio service on the output frequency. As people tried to use the repeater, Pete ensured they were notified of the repeater failure and requested a switch to simplex to continue communications.

I had just repaired the clubs 6kVA Honda generator and it was in the clubs trailer parked in the driveway with a full tank of gas. This was to be ready for the weekends BARC Hamfest. Moments after the blackout I heard it was a wide spread event on the radios. I uncovered and started the generator as this would be a great test. After running a few extension cords for the fridge and freezer, I grabbed my ARES checklist and begun to load up my truck.



BARC club members with 6kVA Generator

By this time many club members had communicated with Pete and information began to come forward regarding the wide spread nature of this blackout event. Simplex communications were going well for the Club.

I had communicated with Brantford Fire Dispatch at the EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) and was informed ARES would be required. I also requested information as to where I may obtain fuel for my truck as I was very low and made my way to the EOC.

Dave VE3ZVR attended the repeater site to find the backup battery for the VHF repeater was dead. I made arrangements to attend with the clubs generator to bring it back to life. After picking up the generator and running the long extension cord required to connect, both the VHF and UHF were back on the air, ready to serve our community. Gas was now available at the City Yards where the repeater is located, and I was able to fill my truck as I was part of the EOAG (Emergency Operations Advisory Group). Additionally the generator could be refueled if needed as it had an estimated run time of only 8 hours.

Once settled back at the EOC, I began an emergency Net and accepted check-ins from the BARC members. I received 16 check-ins and allowed information to pass between members regarding the blackout event as it became available.

Ebe VE3EBH responded to my request for a club member to make contact with Betsy at the Brantford Red Cross branch as I was unable to contact her by phone. Ebe spoke with Betsy and was informed we were not needed at this time.

Later in the evening a Provincial and Municipal emergency was declared, this would heighten the awareness for back-up radio communications from the Club.

In the following days, the BARC club members participated in a few city events related to the blackout.

Club members were on hand during a quickly, however well organized, picnic at Mohawk park for the community seeking relief from the rising temperatures. Additionally club members were rotating shifts at the local Heat Relief Centre, setup by the city and Red Cross. The successful effort of our club members was measured by the number of positive comments and "thank-you"s received from community officials.

Though-out the week, until the state of emergency was lifted, BARC club members were available to assist if required. The event provided some challenges to the BARC, in which all were met with great people providing great efforts to overcome them. With any such event there are lessons learned. One big one for the BARC club is our relationship with the Red Cross. This has further tightened our connection with the local branch, and paves a path for steps to be taken to provide an increase in community involvement during such events.

Information obtained from the BARC emergency net and the ARES nets were passed to city officials with their appreciation. Accurate and timely information during emergencies is essential to making decisions. The experience of radio operators on the aforementioned nets clearly provided a tool to complement others used by emergency officials.

Ken Dobson VA3DDB
ARES - Brantford and County
Emergency Coordinator



BARC Ham of the YEAR

My first honor of this new year as club president was doubled as we had a tie for BARC Member of the Year.

Ebe Habing VE3EBH and Ken Dobson VA3DDB have been very busy this past year, and the awards have been well placed by the members.

Ebe is no stranger to this award as his ability to organize and delegate has proved a great success at the many public events we as a club have provided communication for. These include the famous Snowbirds, our annual marathon run, formerly the Boston Run, and the bicycle marathons, plus any other event that we are asked to do.

I asked Ebe to look after the Guides on the Air last year, and with the help of many others it was done. Thanks again EBE. Many will never know the numbers of meetings he had to sit through, or people he had to confer with.



BARC Ham of the Year Award

Ken Dobson is well another member who has done a great number of things to move our club along and help to keep us in touch with the community. His alliance with ARES and CANWARN plus computer smarts have been a benefit to all. We now have the Internet Radio Linking Project IRLP and other computer ham related goodies.

Ken took on the huge task of looking after the Hamfest two years in a row and came out on top despite the foul balls thrown his way. Last year a power crew showed up at the Burford Fair Grounds at the same time as the work crews for the Hamfest. This was our first notice we would not have power for a while. Maybe for the whole event. What a disaster. We were lucky the power crew were understanding and did the transformers right away so we were only slightly inconvenienced.

This year as you know the power outage was on a grander scale. Ken was faced with a bigger problem than last year and when the executive decided it was wiser to postpone the Hamfest, it was VA3DDB who was on the air into the wee hours in the morning, making announcements of the cancellation, and reaching all the vendors he could via email. On Saturday morning he was at the Site when I arrived at 7:00 am. We had only a handful of people show at the gate so he got the word out. Oh yes, in the spare time he has he was doing the Monitor by himself until Deborah came in to take some of the load if not most.

I may have missed some of the credits for both HAMS but the point is they did not WIN the award, I believe the members feel they EARNED it.

Well done fellas and our sincere THANKS.

Bill Cunliffe VA3WRC
2003/2004 BARC President



Did you know ? ...

The thoughtful Radio Amateur is:

Responsible - using courteous operating practice, complying with regulations and accepted technical standards;

Progressive - striving to develop and improve operating and technical skills;

Helpful - offering assistance, support and encouragement to other Amateurs, especially beginners; and

Public Spirited - offering use of station, knowledge and skills as a public service whenever possible.

Source: Bill Wilson, VE3NR
RAC Website: www.rac.ca



QRZ.com - Ham Radio Trivia!

What MHz band is 23cm?

1. 222-225
2. 420-450
3. 1240-1300
4. 902-928

Answer: 3 1240-1300MHz is the 23cm band.

What is IR compensation?

1. Amplifier circuit used to boost Infra-Red diode output.
2. Device that compensates for voltage drop due to current flow.
3. A red lens designed to filter emitted IR light.
4. Night vision sensitivity control.

Answer: 2 It is a control device that compensates for voltage drop due to current flow in a circuit.



Ham Radio Humor

HOW TO COOK A HAM

INGREDIENTS:

1 HAM - FULLY SEASONED (NOVICE, BASIC or ADVANCED)

1 PARABOLIC REFLECTOR (50M DIAMETER)

1 MEGAWATT TRANSMITTER

1 IC (EXPERIMENTAL PERMIT)

1 KILOGRAM BROWN SUGAR

PROCEDURE:

PLACE HAM INTO MAIN LOBE OF DISH & COVER WITH BROWN SUGAR...STAND BACK AND TUNE TRANSMITTER TO 100GHZ CW & APPLY FULL POWER UNTIL EYES OF HAM START GLOWING GREEN.....OR ANY OTHER COLOR FOR THAT MATTER.....

CONTINUE ROASTING UNTIL HE YELLS...

I'M QRT!

Source: <http://www.dxzone.com>



Coming Events

KWARC Breakfast and Fox Hunt

Angel's Diner
Highland Rd W & Lawrence Ave, Kitchener
Saturday, November 8, 2003 at 8:00am

CAMP-X Talk and Video

by Kerry Bushell VE3KGE
Red Cross Branch Brantford
Tuesday, November 18th, 2003 at 19:30

NPARC 26th Annual Big Event

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
Canadian Auto Workers Hall
St. Catharines, Ontario
Saturday, February 7, 2004



ESSENTIAL CLUB INFORMATION

President: Bill Cunliffe, VA3WRC

Vice-President: Bob Moore, VE3AVU

Secretary: Ken Dobson, VA3DDB

Treasurer: Paul Tourangeau, VE3IUA

Past President: Marven Ford VE3MWF

Directors:

- Pete Byerlay VE3NIX
- William Thorpe VE3WXT
- George Howarth VA3GLH
- Kim Watson VE3KMW
- Dave Amies VE3ZVR
- Deborah Jackson (Novice)

MEETINGS: Every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.
Business meeting, second Tuesday of the month

LOCATION: Canadian Red Cross Society, 25
William St. 1st Floor, Brantford.

MAILING: Brantford Amateur Radio Club, P.O.
Box 25036, Brantford, ON, N3T 6K5

REPEATERS: VE3TCR 147.150 MHz+600
KHz & 443.025+5 MHz

IRLP NODE: 1590

INTERNET WEB SITE: <http://comdir.bfree.on.ca/ve3ba/>

EMAIL: ve3ba@bfree.on.ca

