

marcOgram



Official Publication of The Montreal Amateur Radio Club Inc. Box 53047 - RPO Dorval, Dorval Quebec H9S 5W4

A MARC Monthly Newsletter

Volume 57, Number 02 October 2011

Next meeting - October 26, 2011

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30, Club meeting: 20:00

Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

4455 West Broadway (corner of Terrebonne) in N.D.G. - Montreal

(Please enter by the back door)



To be followed by: Leo VE2SI giving Near-Fest 2011 news

The Christmas dinner is tentatively booked for Saturday Dec. 3 at Antico Martini with details to follow once we speak to George who is on holiday this week

A Word from The President.

Hello,

October 2012 will see the club celebrate its 80th. anniversary and this is the reason why the club has offered to host the 2012 RAC annual general meeting sometime in the latter half of 2012. The directors are presently looking at what events we can hold in conjunction with the RAC AGM to help mark our anniversary. If you have any ideas please let the directors know.

As always I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

The Christmas dinner is tentatively booked for Saturday Dec. 3 at Antico Martini with details to follow once we speak to George who is on holiday this week. Another club season has started and our Annual General Meeting is this month. This is your opportunity to offer guidance to the board of directors whom you will also be electing for the coming year.

While we may see some changes in positions on the board, all of the present directors have agreed to stand for re-election. John Lang retired from the board in June owing to having to attend to family business in Sweden for a protracted period and I am optimistic that we will have a full board as we have received word from at least one member of his willingness to join the board.

It is said that there is a time for everything and I believe that after fifteen years of serving the club as president it is time for a change. It is my intention to retire as president at this meeting and I am confident that my successor will bring some much needed enthusiasm to the position and new ideas to the club. I will be remaining on the board as a director and will continue to do some of the things

which I have enjoyed doing for the past number of years.

Vernon will also be retiring as treasurer after twelve years of stewardship of the club's finances. I cannot thank him enough for the help and support which he has given to the club and to the board during that time in ensuring that the club's funds have been spent wisely. He too will be remaining on the board and, like me, will continue to assist with various activities. Thank you Vernon. Your successor will have big shoes to fill.

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As always I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting

.
73 de Jim.

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Club Website: <http://www.marc.qc.ca>

Club Email: ve2arc@rac.ca

Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located on the Point Claire water tower.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur radio Club.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to any member to attend. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month (Sept. to June) at 7:30 PM at the Montreal Association for the Blind, 7000 Sherbrooke St. West.

Should you wish to attend one of the meetings you are welcome. Just speak to one of the directors before-hand to make certain that the meeting has neither been cancelled, nor the location changed.

The MarcOgram is published nine times per year on the second to last Wednesday of September through June, excepting December, by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Advertising and copy deadline is one week prior to publication.

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Annual Fees are:

General Members...	\$25.00
Associate Members	\$25.00
White cane members	\$15.00
Family members (per family)	\$30.00

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Membership received on or after June 1 commences immediately and extends through the subsequent membership year - covering a period of up to fifteen months.

Articles published in the MarcOgram may be reproduced provided credit is given to the original author and the Montreal Amateur radio club.

The opinions expressed herein are, unless otherwise stated, solely those of the authors concerned, and not those of the Club, the Directors or members and do not represent the policy of the Club.

Club Activities - Monthly Meetings

Club meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month. The meetings will be held in the Lounge which is the rearmost door on the South side of the building unless we have reason to hold it in the Parish Hall which is the first door on the South side of the building. An informal flea-market and ragchew session starts at 19:30 with the formal meeting starting at 20:00. STM buses 51, 162, and 105 stops at or near the door!

From the Editor's Desk

As I promised a couple of issues back, I planned to run an article re social networking and the amateur radio community, so it's caught up with me, twittering is here in this issue.

I would like to comment on the inputs to our September 2011 issue. That MARC newsletter was an issue that we enjoy to produce and publish. It contained "Emergency Power"

by John Grow VE2EQL, "Cross-Band Repeater Project" by Frank Torontour VE2TOR, plus some Ham items for sale, and of course all the usual administrative pieces. This is what our aim is, a news letter by the members for the members. Keep it up people.

The article on page 6 "Telesat Canada satellite glitch" is proof that emergencies are not restricted to specific conditions, they can happen anywhere and anytime. We hams should always be ready.

With those few words that it from me, summer is over, enjoy the fall.

from you 1/2 editor.

Ron, VA2RJC

Social Networking and Amateur Radio

How to Twitter for Ham Radio Operators

Twitter? Everyone has heard about it but few ham's actually use it for real.

Twitter is a microblogging platform, that allows you to broadcast a tweet, (a short message of 140 characters) to share information.

The platform has proved useful for example during major events, such as Haiti or Tunisia. For ham radio operators, the tool can also help to develop new practices and uses. Some twitter example of uses are:

- Follow in real time amateur radio news;
- Subscribe to alert services from DX Cluster;
- Share photos, videos and live impressions during a contest, an activation;
- Tell your friends (followers) your geographical position and send a signal online to indicate his activity on air, in real time;
- Relaying weather alerts, emergency messages, support;
- Etc.

Which equipment is required for a twitter amateur radio?

In terms of equipment, a computer of course, but also a smartphone, a phone with a camera and an internet connection and for the ultimate equipment, equipped with a GPS for better accuracy for geolocation. During portable radio activity, Twitter takes a special interest. Equipment for amateur radio, transceiver with antennas of course .

How to register on Twitter?

Visit the registration page at:

<http://twitter.com/signup>

Choose your username, use your CALLSIGN in capital letters for easy identification, this will also allow you to have a URL like <http://twitter.com/CALLSIGN>

The first steps on Twitter is

MARC Fundraiser WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

In order for MARC to reach some of its goals, we have decided to re-introduce advertising in the marcOgram newsletter. The rates are as follows:

Business card	\$ 5.00 per issue	Quarter page	\$ 7.00 per issue
Half page	\$12.00 per issue	Full page	\$20.00 per issue

The "Marcogram" from September to June, which is nine issues. We also publish a summer edition during the months of August/September, which becomes a free month. So we actually publish ten issues. We have a list distribution of about 200 persons. A business card placed for 9 issues would only be \$ 40.00. We are asking for all members to family or friends who have a business to place an ad. You could also advertise a special function.

a little bit like for radio communication, with the Q code, there is a code on Twitter with a new language, culture, hashtags, behavior, ...

To become familiar with Twitter way of life, you should start by LISTENING , just like in amateur radio.

You will have initially to add people to follow. It will then appear on your wall in real time, all messages sent by people you followed.

To quickly find ham radio, go on my list of amateur radio on Twitter

[:http://twitter.com/F1JXQ/following](http://twitter.com/F1JXQ/following)

There are also directories of profiles such as We Follow and <http://wefollow.com/twitter/hamradio>

How to write a message?

A tweet is a message up to 140 characters which requires to be concise.

It may contain a link, however, given the small size of a tweet, it is recommended to use a URL shortened such as <http://bit.ly/>.

You paste the long url to share and get a short link to copy in a tweet. Some software automatically includes this feature.

It's also recommended, during events or to indicate topic of conversation, to use hashtag #keyword, that allows you to specify the name of a former event, ex. : #vhf-contest or #hamradio.

A tweet can be forward by you or a follower in Twitter, we call this action ReTweet a message and add RT to mention it.

The RT code is very similar to QSP radio code in fact !

Software for Twitter and Tweeter?

Besides using Twitter from the website, it's often more convenient to use it with a software on your PC or mobile phone (iPhone, Smartphone).

TweetDeck : both web and mobile can manage multiple accounts simultaneously, categorize tweets, shortener URL includes and Tweetdeck is multi-platform: Facebook, LinkedIn, Myspace, Foursquare, and Buzz twitter.

Other web / mobile Echofon
<http://www.echofon.com/>

Applications for Twitter

Many tools and apps are being developed around twitter, that has changed its policy for managing passwords and now more security applications from third party tools shown here.

Selection of tools and apps for Twitter

- TwitterFeed To synchronize RSS feed from our blog to your Twitter account.
- Social oomph A comprehensive suite of tools to optimize management of its Twitter.
- Hootsuite comprehensive dashboards to manage multiple accounts with multiple people.
- Trends map / Interactive map to see keywords by geographic area.
- Twitpic To share photos and TwitVid for video on Twitter.
- Paper.li To create a daily newspaper based on the activity of your account and your friends. F1JXQ example:
<http://paper.li/F1JXQ>

- Tweetbeep to create email alerts for keywords and topics, hashtag.
- TwitterCounter / Provides a set of graphs and statistics of one or more accounts twitter.
- Ustream.tv / To live stream live video from the web and an iPhone or smartphone
- Bulk: Tweetmeme , Twitoaster Follow me @F1JXQ

This entry was posted in HAM Radio 2.0, Ham radio operator and tagged twitter, Twitter Ham Radio. Bookmark the permalink.

Twitter Weekly Updates for 2010-10-29

Clublog : Statistics of amateur radio traffic log online →
6 Responses to How to Twitter for hamradio operator

If you enjoyed this article and think it is useful, please let me know, maybe I can continue in this trend. - We need to understand how the young people of this world communicate.

Ron Va2rjc.

Email: podcam@gmail.com

DC Emergency Go Kit

By John Grow VE2EQL

At the September 2011 Montreal Amateur Radio meeting, I had the chance to show off my latest project. Many versions of a emergency portable power pack have been shown / constructed over the years by various hams over the world. So in other

words, I'm just assembling something that works for me. Please feel free to design and add whatever features that you might find useful in your project.

My goals were to have a portable box with a handle to make carrying a 25 Lbs battery easier. And have all the accessories mounted inside. I was able to find some sport / hunting boxes that came in Olive Green and had a removable top with sturdy handle. These can be found at any major camping / hunting store. The design goal was to have a sealed battery, charged by a small wall wart plug in charger or an automotive lighter plug. I had made various cables to supply a Rig Runner # 4005 Power pole distribution box mounted outside the box. Since I use power poles for all of my amateur radio and portable electronics, I wanted all the possible combinations to power or charge the battery. One of my adapter cables have power poles on one end, and a terminal block on the other end, so If I come across any wires that need power, I just screw it on the terminals. The Go kit also has "LED's" mounted inside the top cover controlled by small switches. So if I'm in a location where there is no lighting, due to a power failure, I will have some lights.

So, as long as I have a running car or AC power, the battery will always (hopefully) be charged. The battery is a sealed lead acid. **Please note, I highly recommend that only a sealed lead acid battery is suit-**

able. The chance of an Acid spill and potential injury to the user is great. The box allows me to use a 25 to 33 Amp / Hour size. The input and output to the battery are protected by a 35 Amp fuse. I can power portable lights, and radio's for a few hours. If you require more information, please contact me at jgrow@sympatico.ca. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Suppliers & Sources:

Anderson Power Pole Dealer
<http://www.qsradio.com/>

Anderson Power Pole Info
<http://www.andersonpower.com/products/standard-powerpole.html>

LED Lighting Assemblies
<http://www.unclecytheledguy.com/>

Rig Runner 4005 & Rig Runner 4012
<http://www.westmountainradio.com/index.php>

PWRGuard

Super PWRGate PG40S

LED Strips
Mastervox, 2500 Taschereau, Longueuil, Qc, J4R 1T7
Tel: 450-670-1550

Battery Information "GEL"
http://www.mkbattery.com/images/VRLA_TechManual.pdf

Battery Monitor 2020

<http://www.bogartengineering.com/products/TriMetric>

Battery Monitor BMV 600
www.victronenergy.com

The above article was submitted as a handout by John Grow, VE2EQL during his excellent presentation at the last MARC General Meeting.

Welcome to Radio Talk 2011

Radio Talk 2011 is NOT A HAMFEST!

Radio Talk 2011 is a new innovative event being sponsored by the [West Island Radio Club](#). Is ham or amateur radio a hobby or a service? It is many things to the many individuals whom make up the Amateur Radio Community. Radio of all types is being reinvented in these modern times from a tool for communications as well as a means of entertainment and information. Radio Talk 2011 will hopefully address these issues and challenges facing us in the community with a serious of lively and informative discussions as well as demonstrations and presentations. Come join us on this exciting journey on Saturday November 26th, 2011.

Northern telecom service restored after 16-hour Telesat Canada satellite glitch

(Nunatsiaq News)

Vital telecommunication services used by tens of thousands of northern Canadians vanished

for most of the day Oct. 6, due to a major glitch that put Telesat Canada's Anik F2 satellite out of service for more than 16 hours.

Service went down at 6:36 a.m. eastern time Oct. 6, and was restored at around 10:00 p.m. eastern. Some Nunavut residents said that as of the early morning hours of Oct. 7, long distance service had yet to be restored.

Every community in Nunavut and off-road communities in the Northwest Territories and Yukon lost long distance telephone, cellular, internet, and automated banking services. Long distance phone service in Nunavik was also knocked out. Other affected regions include northern Ontario and Newfoundland-Labrador. In a press release issued Oct. 6, Telesat Canada said only that its Anik F2 satellite experienced a "technical anomaly." With all connections severed between their northern branches and their internal corporate networks, many chartered bank branches shut their doors.

The RBC bank in Iqaluit shut down for the day at 8:30 a.m., saying they wouldn't open until after communications were restored.

Retail store debit and credit card devices, along with ATMs, were rendered useless. Meanwhile, airlines grounded most commercial flights departing Nunavut, because of the loss of radar and weather service, and only a few incoming flights managed to arrive at destinations inside the territory.

NEWTON (MyFoxBoston.com)

A worker has been killed in a fall from a communications tower west of Boston.

Matt Peterson, spokesman for American Tower Corporation, which owns the thousand-foot structure, said Wednesday the man was part of a subcontractor's crew placing a new antenna pole and safety ladder. He said he did not know how high the man was working when he fell at about 1 p.m.

The tower, used by both radio and television stations, is located on Chesnut Street in Newton, near Interstate 95.

Tommy Joyce didn't witness the fall, but the aftermath shocked him. "I was sick to my stomach. There were body parts everywhere."

Kurt Jackson is an experienced climber. He says in this instance one of two things happened; either equipment failure or operator error.

The victim has not been identified but it is believed he is from Iowa.

I think all hams can relate to this tragic incident and send our condolences to the family.

First Air cancelled 48 flights, stranding about 1,000 passengers, the Globe and Mail reported.

Unlike NWT and Yukon, where large towns like Yellowknife and Whitehorse are connected to the outside world by fibre-optic landlines, every community in

Nunavut is entirely dependent on satellite.

First Air and Canadian North delayed dozens of flights, stranding hundreds of passengers. One Canadian North aircraft did land in Iqaluit at around 3:00 p.m., then depart for Ottawa later that afternoon. All this prompted the Government of Nunavut to move into emergency mode, as they sought to establish alternate channels of communication based on Iridium satellite telephones. To that end, Premier Eva Aariak, speaking on CBC radio Oct. 6, issued the following requests:

- all health centres and wildlife offices should turn on their Iridium satellite phones;
- satellite phones should be used only in emergencies;
- hamlet governments should convene their emergency committees;
- medevac flights continue to be available;
- the government retains the ability to respond to health emergencies and search and rescue situations.

“Certainly it is huge challenge and I believe we responded effectively,” said Emily Woods, press secretary to the premier.

Supt. Howard Eaton of the Nunavut RCMP used CBC radio to issue instructions to RCMP detachments outside Iqaluit, ordering members to contact headquarters in Iqaluit by way of a satellite telephone number. During the outage, CBC radio was transformed into Nunavut’s communications lifeline, when it provided the only cross-

territorial communication service available to most regular people.

Workers at the station issued regular updates on the service outage and made air time available to government officials and police.

The problem arose when Telesat Canada lost control of the Anik F2, which lost its orientation and ended up turned in the wrong direction.

To fix the problem, technicians rebooted the satellite, a lengthy process that took between 12 and 18 hours.

Northwestel, northern Canada’s biggest telecommunications retailer uses the Anik F2 satellite to serve all off-road communities in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and Old Crow, Yukon.

The Anik F2, launched in July 2004, is designed to offer higher speed satellite internet to customers living in remote or northern communities, and other services. It’s expected retirement date is 2019.

The F2 is one of only three satellites upon which northern Canada is utterly dependent for all forms of electronic communication. The others are the Anik F1R and the Anik F3.

2011-10-06 [EMCOMM]: CFARS/ARES Activation - Loss of communications in Iqaluit, Nunavut and area - 2011-10-06

RCMP NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTRE (NOC) OTTAWA HAS REQUESTED THE ACTIVATION OF THE CFARS NETWORK IN SUPPORT OF A LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS IN IQALUIT,

NUNAVUT AND ELSEWHERE IN NORTHERN CANADA.

**CFARS NET ACTIVATION:
MONITOR CFARS FREQUENCIES:
JULIET AND MIKENON
CFARS MEMBERS MONITOR
MONITOR AMATEUR FREQUENCIES;
14.140 MHZ AND 7080 MHZ
HEALTH AND WELFARE MESSAGE TRAFFIC
SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY
TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

*National Operations NOCJ. T. (Mitch) Mitchell
Amateur Radio VE6OH RAC Director - Alberta, NWT, Nunavut*

WANTED

SUPPORT FOR THE MARGOGRAM

The editorial staff of this illustrious monthly newsletter request the support of our hams. It’s getting increasingly difficult to obtain material that’s of interest to our membership and therefore provide something that you all look forward to read. We need activity news of our local radio amateurs, I’m sure we’d all like to know what your doing.

Please contact one of the following with your news items and don’t forget to include pictures.

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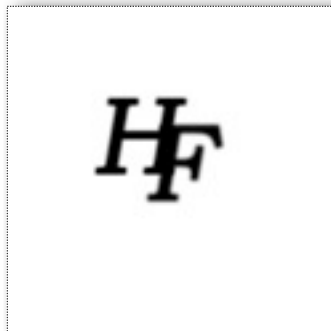
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A.O.R., ALINCO, GRUNDIG/ETON, ICOM, JRC, S.G.C., YAESU

SCANNERS / BALAYEURS D'ONDES

A.O.R., ALINCO, ICOM, UNIDEN/BEARCAT, WINRADIO

AMATEUR RADIO / RADIO-AMATEUR

ALINCO, ICOM, KENWOOD, RANGER, S.G.C., YAESU

CITIZENS BAND (CB) / BANDE PUBLIQUE (CB)

ASTATIC, COBRA, GALAXY, K40, MACO, PARADYNAMICS, RANGER, ROAD NOISE, SHAKE-SPEARE, SOLARCON/ANTRON, UNIDEN, VALOR/PRO-AM, WILSON, WORKMAN

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PUBLICATIONS / PUBLICATIONS

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL), ARTSCI, BAYLIN PUBLICATIONS, BILLBOARD (WRTH), CQ, CRB, HIGHTEXT, IBS (PASSPORT), KLINGENFUSS, KRAUSE, LOOMPANICS, NATIONAL RADIO CLUB, RADIO SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK, RADIO AMATEURS DU QUEBEC, SCHIFFER BOOKS, SONORAN, TAB, TIARE

NATURE BOOKS / LIVRES DE LA NATURE

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