

marc0gram



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

A MARC Monthly Newsletter

Volume 54, Number 1 September 2008

Next meeting - Wednesday 24 September 2008

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

Presentation by John Grow, VE2EQL referring to his recent trip to Guinea (Africa)

and his operating from KanKan, 3XYOD

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church

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

(Please enter by the back door)

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

***Your BODs are
preparing for our usual end-of-year
celebration dinner.***

***So, start preparing yourselves
so that you can attend this event.***

We'll advise date and location

OUR NEW SEASON

SEPTEMBER 2008 - JUNE 2009

A Word from The President

Hello,

It looks like fall has arrived. There will still be some good days this fall but it does seem to be getting cooler. I hope that you all had a good summer and that you got done those things which you had planned. John Grow spent some time in Guinea this summer and it will be interesting to hear about his experience operating as 3XY0D. Also Matthew Biederman, VE2XBX, was operating in Cabot Square and trying to raise the public profile of amateur radio. We hope to have him share his experience later this year.

Some of you may have noticed a change. VE2RJS has moved north and is now on the same site as VE2RMP and appears to be enjoying good coverage. When the club bought VE2RJS the Cote St. Luc Amateur Radio Association continued to maintain and operate it and they retained an option to repurchase the repeater. As many of you know the repeater was moved to the building in which Harry Glanz, VE2GJ lived however with his passing the repeater had to move. The Cote St. Luc ARA made arrangements with the VE2RMP club to move the repeater and thus a new chapter has begun for the VE2RJS repeater. I am sure that the repeater will enjoy good coverage and use in its new home.

With September comes a new club season and that means its dues time again. Please return the membership form along with your dues or bring them to the meeting. The club needs your support without which it is difficult for us to support and promote amateur radio.

73 de Jim.

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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.

Editor

Ron Campbell, VA2RJC
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Annual Fees are:

GeneralMembers...	\$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.

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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

MARC Fundraiser WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

In order for MARC to reach some of its goals, the BOD have decided to increase the 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 May, which is eight issues. This year we added June, which becomes a free month. So we actually publish nine issues. We have a list distribution of about 200 persons. A business card placed for 8 issues would only be \$ 40.00. We are asking for all members to try and contribute either via a donation, or asking a friend or family who has a business to place an ad.

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 stop-

From the Editor's Desk

We're in a new season of MARC's activities, yeh, the 76th. So I wonder what's the most important for each of us? For some I assume greater participation in various operational aspects of being a radio amateur (ham). For others is the comradeship that is gained from attending meetings and various functions, and, I guess for many of us to enhance our knowledge and capabilities of the different operational functions associated with the ham community. For me I've taken a kind of new season resolution - get my CW endorsement, I know I already have some type of "*" against my license but that's not enough, I need to have the confidence to use CW and passing the tests will help.

As for us as a group, i.e. MARC, for my point of view, I believe we have two areas that we need to concentrate on.

- Of prime importance is the lifeline of our hobby. There are a number of 'ol geezers' like me and lets be honest, we aren't the future. We need to get into top gear to encourage and assist in bringing new blood into our groups. We succeed or we fold.
- A second priority is for us to receive training, theoretical but definitely practical in the field of emergency

support communication, i.e., ARES. I believe that our future may not be as calm as we would like it to be. Refer to the piece on page 7 regarding Tropical Storm Hanna.

As I stated before who said life was simple!!!

That's it -
Your editor..
Rjcam the Video-n-Podcast Ham,
VA2RJC

From the ARRL

REUNION ISLAND, SOUTH AFRICA CONNECT ON 2 METERS

On Thursday, August 14, Phil Mondon, FR5DN, on Reunion Island had a successful QSO with Glen Kraut, ZS2GK, in South Africa on 2 meters <http://www.astrorun.com/%7Efr5dn/radio/tropo/14aout2008/zs2gk_14august2008.html>. According to Dave Pedersen, N7BHC, this contact is "very likely the longest 2 meter QSO via tropospheric propagation for either country."

The 2008 ARRL Handbook <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1018>> defines tropospheric propagation as "radio waves [that] are refracted by natural gradients in the index of refraction of air with altitude, due to changes in temperature, humidity and pressure. Refraction under standard atmospheric conditions extends the radio horizon somewhat beyond the visual line of sight. Favorable weather conditions further enhance normal tropospheric refraction, lengthening the useful VHF and UHF range by several hundred kilometers and increasing signal strength. Higher frequencies are more sensitive to refraction, so its effects may be observed in the microwave bands before they are apparent at lower frequencies."

"Ducting takes place when refraction is so great that radio waves are bent back to the surface of the Earth. When tropospheric ducting conditions exist over a wide geographic area, signals may remain very strong over distances of 1500 km (930 miles) or more. Ducting results from the gradient created

dvcam-ham productions



Ronald J Campbell, VA2RJC

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Submissions for entry into marcOgram

For submissions of text only it is preferable that you send as a ".txt" file, however, MS Word is acceptable.

For pictures please use "jpg" format with maximum size 400 x 240. Where possible use at least 240 dpi.

For clip art if possible use "gif". Maximum size 480 x 340 pix. This will give a picture size of approximately 8 Kb.

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by a sharp increase in temperature with altitude, quite the opposite of normal atmospheric conditions. A simultaneous drop in humidity contributes to increased refractivity. Useful temperature inversions form between 250 and 2000 meters (800-6500 feet) above ground. The elevated inversion and the Earth's surface act something like the boundaries of a natural open-ended waveguide. Radio waves of the right frequency range caught inside the duct will be propagated for long distances with relatively low losses. Several common weather conditions can create temperature inversions.

Amateur Radio Exams, Licensing Return to Bangladesh

Amateur Radio Exams, Licensing Return to Bangladesh: Since 2004, Amateur Radio operators in Bangladesh have not been able to get an Amateur Radio license or sit for an examination. But thanks to the efforts of the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League (BARL)

<http://www.barl.org/> -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- the Bangladeshi government will once again issue ham licenses; exams will

also be given on a monthly basis beginning August 13, 2008. On July 21, representatives from BARL -- Belayet Robin, S21RB; Zahid Shipon, S21VA, and Saiful Huda, S21SH -- met with members of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in what Robin called "a very fruitful meeting" <http://www.btrc.gov.bd/>. BARL had finally been able to make the concerned authorities understand the significance of ham operators in a country with frequent natural disasters like floods and cyclones." The Bangladeshi government has only allowed ham radio operations since 1991, though amateurs have received special permission on a case-by-case basis to set up Emergency Communications infrastructures during natural disasters such as cyclones, tidal waves and flooding. BARL was formed in 1979 as a way to promote Amateur Radio, but on-air operations were banned due to the political climate of the region. BARL will offer a class to prepare for the exam. Exams will be computer based with 35 multiple choice questions. In order to receive an Amateur Radio license, examinees must achieve 18 correct answers. Examinees are given one hour to complete the test.

ARU REGION 2 EC: "ACTIVE MEMBER-SOCIETIES ARE VITAL TO ENSURE AMATEUR RADIO'S FUTURE"

Late last month in Panama, the Executive Committee of IARU Region 2 <http://www.iaru-r2.org/> held its annual meeting. According to IARU Region 2 President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH, the importance of having active and inclusive IARU Member-Societies is the "only way to ensure the future of Amateur Radio." Leandro said this theme was "underlined" throughout the meeting. The United States and Canada are members of Region 2.

At the meeting, the Executive Committee called on the Region 2 Area Directors to establish links at the area and country level to work with an

Emergency Communications and Monitoring System. Once those links are established, the Area Directors will work with recently designated Coordinators in the Region <http://www.iaru-r2.org/coordinators/>

The Committee heard reports regarding the IARU's participation in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU). The CTU is aware of the importance of radio amateurs in emergency situations and has requested the IARU's support to have active Member-Societies in its region. CTU countries include Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Turks and Caicos, and Trinidad and Tobago; the IARU is an Associate Member of CTU.

Other actions by the Executive Committee included:

- * The Executive Committee initiated preparations to participate in Telecom Americas 2010, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2010 <http://www.itu.int/americas2010/>.

- * The Committee requested the support of the Region 2 Member-Societies in order get more countries in the region to sign on to the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/>. Countries that currently accept the IARP are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

- * The Committee announced that an introductory study guide for all those interested in becoming new radio amateurs will be made available in Spanish within the next few months. This guide will be published in a

digital format, allowing for easy distribution.

* Emergency Communications Coordinator Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, advised the Executive Committee that he is compiling an inventory of emergency networks in Region 2. The Committee decided that the listing should be completed "as soon as possible" and underlined its importance to the region.

The next Region 2 Executive Committee meeting will be in September 2009 in Lima, Peru.

The meeting was attended by President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH; Vice President Dario Jurado, HP1DJ; Secretary Ramon Santoyo V., XE1KK; Treasurer and Area E Director Noel E. Donawa, 9Y4NED; Area A Director Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA; Area B Director Rod Stafford, W6ROD; Area C Director Pedro Rodriguez, CO2RP; Area D Director Marco Tulio Gudiel, TG9AGD, and Area G Director Reinaldo Szama, LU2AH. IARU President Larry Price, W4RA was also present, representing the IARU International Secretariat.

ARRL, TAPR PREPARE FOR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

Aficionados of digital communications are gearing up for the 27th annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) September 26-28 in Chicago, Illinois <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>>. The ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques.

Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications. The DCC is for all levels of technical experience -- not just for the expert. Not only is the conference technically stimulating, it is a weekend of fun for all who have more than a casual inter-

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est in any aspect of amateur digital electronics and communications; introductory sessions are scheduled throughout the conference to introduce new technical topics for both beginners and experts.

Topics at the DCC include, but are not limited to: Software defined radio (SDR); digital voice (D-STAR, P25, WinDRM, FDMDV, G4GUO); digital satellite communications; Global Position System (GPS); precision timing; Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS); short messaging (a mode of APRS); Digital Signal Processing (DSP); HF digital modes; Internet interoperability with Amateur Radio networks; spread spectrum; IEEE 802.11 and other Part 15 license-exempt systems adaptable for Amateur Radio; using TCP/IP networking over Amateur Radio; mesh and peer-to-peer wireless networking; emergency and Homeland Defense backup digital communications; using Linux in Amateur Radio; updates on AX.25, and other wireless networking protocols.

D-STAR digital voice and data will be the focus of the DCC Friday evening session. Pioneers and leaders in D-STAR digital voice and data technology will be presenting the technical innovations in D-STAR and how it is being used worldwide. In addition to the Friday evening session, ICOM will be at the DCC demonstrating D-STAR radios in the demonstration room, and TAPR's 70 cm and 23 cm D-STAR digital voice and data repeaters (KT7APR) with Internet gateway will be on the air.

WINMOR, an HF digital protocol designed for use with the Winlink 2000 network, is set to be unveiled at the DCC. According to developer Rick Muething, KN6KB, WINMOR will effectively eliminate the need for external PACTOR hardware. "This new protocol is implemented through a Windows application that uses a computer sound card for all the analog-to-digital conversion. It provides error-free ARQ transfers within 200, 500 or 2000 Hz bandwidths," Muething said. In terms of

throughput, Muething said that the 200-Hz WINMOR mode appears to equal the performance of PACTOR I. In WINMOR's 2000 Hz mode, its performance rivals PACTOR III. "WINMOR is a work in progress," Muething said. "We won't be pulling the wraps off a finished application at the conference. We're close, though. I'd like to see on-air testing in 3 to 6 months."

ITU Leadership Visits Asian Amateur Radio Exhibit

ITU Leadership Visits Asian Amateur Radio Exhibit: For four days earlier this month, members of Asia's information and communications technology (ICT) sector convened at ITU Telecom Asia <<http://www.itu.int/ASIA2008/>>, focusing on core issues relating to ICT expansion across the region. The event featured the latest technologies and innovations -- including Amateur Radio -- as well as an extensive forum that explored key technologies, policies and applications. The IARU <<http://www.iaru.org/>>, in an effort to promote the benefits of the Amateur Radio Service throughout the region, participated in the event. The IARU booth was organized by IARU Region <<http://www.iaru-r3.org/>> with assistance from the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) <<http://www.qsl.net/rast/>>, the IARU Member-Society in that country. IARU Region 3 Director Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN, said that while at ITU Telecom Asia, ITU Secretary General Dr Hamadoun Toure, HB9EHT, and Dr Eun-Ju Kim, Head of the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, visited the IARU booth, staying and talking with hams and visitors for more than half an hour.

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Computer viruses make it to orbit

FROM BBC NEWS

A computer virus is alive and well on the International Space Station (ISS).

Nasa has confirmed that laptops carried to the ISS in July were infected with a virus known as Gammima.AG.

The worm was first detected on Earth in August 2007 and lurks on infected machines waiting to steal login names for popular online games.

Nasa said it was not the first time computer viruses had travelled into space and it was investigating how the machines were infected.

Orbital outbreak

Space news website SpaceRef broke the story about the virus on the laptops that astronauts took to the ISS.

Nasa told SpaceRef that no command or control systems of the ISS were at risk from the malicious program.


The laptops infected with the virus were used to run nutritional programs and let the astronauts periodically send e-mail back to Earth.

The laptops carried by astronauts reportedly do not have any anti-virus software on them to prevent infection.

Once it has scooped up passwords and login names the Gammima.AG worm virus tries to send them back to a central server. It targets a total of 10 games most of which are popular in the Far East such as Maple Story, HuangYi Online and Talesweaver.

Nasa is working with partners on the ISS to find out how the virus got on to the laptop in the first place.

The ISS has no direct net connection and all data traffic travelling from the ground to the spacecraft is scanned before being transmitted.



STEPHEN PICKFORD --TRAVEL EXPERT

Host of The Travel Hour with Stephen Pickford and Friends (formerly CIQC's Travel World Radio Show)
--www.stephenpickford.com

It is thought that the virus might have travelled via a flash or USB drive owned by an astronaut and taken into space.

The space agency also plans to put in place security systems to stop such incidents happening in the future.

Nasa told Wired News that viruses had infected laptops taken to the ISS on several occasions but the outbreaks had always only been a "nuisance".
Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/technology/7583805.stm>

Published: 2008/08/27 10:00:44 GMT

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NEAR-FEST: Fall 2006 - October 10 to 11, 2008

Leo Nikkinen, VE2SI

As we move through the months from summer to autumn, many if not most of us are hoping for a long and warm fall season so that we can finish up some of those last minute tower and

antenna projects. While we might wish for a few extra days so that we can work outside, the autumn also brings us a number of hamfests and fleamarkets including the highly successful NEAR-Fest. Held in Deerfield, New Hampshire, the NEAR-Fest is the successor to the long running, twice yearly, Hosstraders 'fest.

Carrying on the tradition of Hosstraders, the NEAR-Fest is a two-day event that attracts visitors from both sides of the border. Everything from modern radios to venerable old Collins, Johnsons, Heathkits, and other receivers, transmitters and transceivers can be found along with their accessories. Large fleamarkets such as the NEAR-Fest are also a way for those of us who are interested in test equipment to obtain professional-grade equipment at a small fraction of its original price.

This autumn's event will be held Friday October 10th and Saturday October 11th. The gates open at 9:00 am on the 10th and stay open until the event closes. Check out the 'fest's Web site at

www.near-fest.com

and a reprint of a recent article that appeared in CQ magazine at

www.amfone.net/w1rc/docs/CQ_Magazine_April_2008_Article.pdf

Information on accommodations is available on the 'fest's forum at <http://near-fest.com/index.php?topic=270.0> or use the Web to check for motels in nearby Manchester.

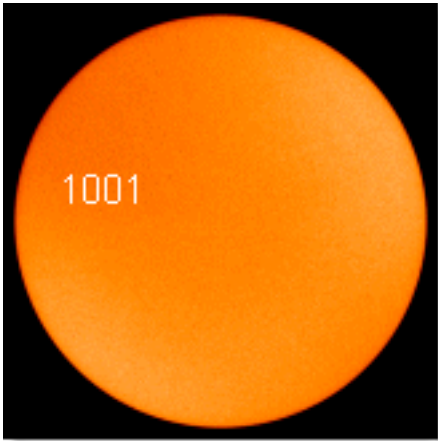
The company is friendly, the food is good and our money is finally worth something again, so make the trip down to this autumn's NEAR-Fest. If possible, travel down Friday morning so that you'll be there as the bargains appear. Directions are available on the NEAR-Fest Web site or you can just enter the 'fest's co-ordinates into Google maps for a satellite view of the hamfest grounds.

The long drought without a sunspot appears to be over.

In case you don't follow space weather conditions, August marked the first calendar month completed without a single sunspot since 1913. This long streak of days without a sunspot made for some poor HF propagation conditions. While it was certainly possible to work DX using HF radio without sunspots - your probability of a successful "QSO" was greatly reduced.

image - The HamLinks Ham Radio Toolbar updated its radio propagation data to show:

A:3 K:0 SF:67 SS:12



That "SS:12" means a "sunspot number" of 12... This sunspot number value is a calculated number that takes into account several variables - but it does indicate that there is at least one spot.

It's only one small spot - but it is an indication that cycle 24 is finally here. Some had argued that the cycle had already hit bottom, but it's nice to see this particular run of sunspot-free days come to an end

DAREDX project.

Last week we published an article regarding Matthew Biederman, (VA2XBX/P) operating a high fre-
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quency transceiver in the open air of Cabot Square. He's been attempting long-distance communication with as many different operators as possible over the period 29th of August until the 21st of September from 5PM to 9PM (21:00-01:00 UTC). Each complete communication was logged and mapped creating a diary of the air-waves for each night.

In addition to voice communications, DAREDX, he worked with digital communications on HF, in order to



send and receive SSTV (Slow-Scan Television), WEFAX (from NOAA Satellites), PSK31, Hellschreiber, and other modes. All of the actions' audio were played in Cabot Square, creating a sonic landscape of the electromagnetic spectrum in real time. The audio will be archived and made available under a creative commons license. The aggregate of these actions build into the overall DAREDX project.

For more information, please see www.radio.dare-dare.org
 <<http://www.radio.dare-dare.org>>

Advanced Course

MARC commenced it's first (for some years) Advanced Radio Amateur course on September 20, it will run through till December 13, 2008.

The location is:
 Knox Crescent Kensington and First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey, NDG, Montreal.

Training sessions are on Saturday mornings 09:30 - 12:30
 Cost for the course is 135.00\$

TROPICAL STORM HANNA

We've all seen much of the media coverage regarding Hurricane Ike and it's tremendous power. Aswell as Ike, was "Tropical Storm Hanna." The storm, which was blamed for disastrous flooding and more than 100 deaths in Haiti.

It made its way up the East Coast of the United States, making landfall on the North/South Carolina border at 3:15 AM (EDT) Saturday, September 6. The storm produced tropical storm-force winds gusts, with some locations experiencing sustained tropical storm-force winds. Amateur Radio operators in the Carolinas and northward were prepared for the storm.

ARRL Sections up the coast to Maine were notified on Friday on reporting protocols if ARES was activated in response to Hanna. From Friday evening throughout Saturday, status reports were received from the Eastern Massachusetts, Eastern New York, New York-Long Island, Northern New Jersey, Southern New Jersey and Virginia Sections.

RADIO H.F.



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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, SHAKESPEARE, SOLARCON/ANTRON, UNIDEN, VALOR/PRO-AM, WILSON, WORKMAN

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COBRA, GARMIN, ICOM, MOTOROLA

ANTENNAS / ANTENNES

ALPHA DELTA, ARROW, BUTTERNUT, COMET, COMPROD, CUBEX, CUSHCRAFT, DIAMOND, FIRESTICK, FORCE 12, HUSTLER, HYGAIN, ISOTRON, LARSEN, MALDOL, MFJ, MIRACLE ANTENNA, OUTBACKER, PRYME, RADIOWAVZ, TENNADYNE, VALOR/PRO-AM, 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

SIBLEY GUIDES, PETERSON FIELD GUIDES, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY