

HI-Q

THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

VE3FW - LARC call sign - honours the memory of the Founding President - P. J. "Pat" O'Shea

LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske	VE3JQ
Ray Forslund	VE3EDZ
Pat Doherty	VE3PD
Dave Kimpton	VE3AVS
Bill Klemacki	VE3AJ
Bill Roberts	VE3ARN

LARC EXECUTIVE 2003-2004

President:	Bill Unger	VE3XT 344-1848
Vice-Pres:	Mark Vaillant	VA3MVR 935-2205
Secretary:	Bill Klemacki	VE3AJ 344-1866
Treasurer:	Ed Baumann	VE3SNW 622-1216
Directors:	Terry Stewardson	VA3LU 577-9439
	Fred Lesnick	VE3FAL 577-0789
	Brad Harris	VE3MXJ 767-0628
	Leo Wehrstedt	VE3ATC 939-1020
Past Pres:	Bob Hansen	VE3RVA
Editor:	Glen Wallace	VE3ICY 623-0135

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT	MOUNT BALDY	147.060 (-600) FP
VE3TBR	ST. JOSEPH'S	146.820 (-600) FP
		442.075 (+5 MHz)
VE3BGA	HILLCREST H.S.	145.450 (-600)
		(IRLP NODE VA3LU 123.0 Hz)

The Prez Sez

Well it's the end of the year and this will be the last HI-Q for 2003. I would like to thank Glen VE3ICY for making HI-Q the best in a long time. Most of us don't realize how much work he puts into this mag, so thanks Glen.

In the later part of January we will be starting the Ham Radio course again on Thursday nights at the College. This may be a good time to chat up the fun of Ham radio with colleagues or friends who may have an interest in Ham Radio. Would be good to get some new faces at the meetings and have them enjoy our hobby as well.

Also over the Christmas holidays Rita and I will be heading out west to see our kids. I was contemplating taking HF but then thought of the IRLP. I will be operating from Red Deer and Edmonton over the holidays so give a listen for me on the IRLP repeater here in Thunder Bay. Also why not take a little time to spark up your HF rig and make a QSO or two. Or connect it to the computer and try one of the new digital modes.

And last but not least I would like to thank all the members who have made the job of President a pleasant task so far. And of course I hope each one of you finds a brand new QRP rig under your tree on Christmas morning so we can have a little more HF operating here in Thunder Bay. You didn't think I'd let the year go bye without at least one reference to QRP did you?

On behalf of all the directors and people who make the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club run I'd like to take this chance to wish each of you Happy and Safe Christmas season. See you in 2004, the 70th Anniversary of the LARC.

Bill VE3XT

wunger@confederationc.on.ca

*Minutes of a meeting
of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
November 13, 2003*

Held in Room 191, Confederation College, 7:30 PM

The meeting called to order by the President. **Bill Unger, VE3XT**

Thirty-seven members in attendance.

Following a roundtable to find out what was happening with the local activity, **John Sacek, VA3JMS**, Canwarn committee, gave a presentation on the latest request from Environment Canada for providing snow fall amounts and rates. Volunteers were requested to come forth to learn more about this process, and three actually came forward, **Terry, VA3LU, Dave, VE3WRZ**, and **Ken, VE3EFZ**. A brief explanation on the measurement processes and hardware was provided by John.

Following this, **Vlad Kruzik, VE3KRV**, gave a presentation on loop antennas. Vlad's experiments on HF has resulted in a compact system that works quite well, on all bands on 80-meters through 10- meters, although results on ten left something to be desired. Software for dimensioning the loop and impedance measurements were available from "the Internet". Tuning of the single capacitor was critical, but once achieved, provided good results, especially in reducing the receive noise level. Although not outperforming a good beam, the experimental aspects of this antenna are definitely food for thought.

Following this presentation, **Bill VE3XT** handed out sheets with equipment for sale from **Bill VA3AY**, and also a sheet for those in attendance to express their thoughts anonymously on how the meetings might be improved.

The minutes of the October 09 meeting were accepted as published on a motion by **Bob, VE3BHN**, and seconded by **Terry, VA3LU**, Carried.

The financial report was moved for acceptance as published by **Charlene, VA3AAH**, seconded by **Jonathon, VA3NNT**. Carried.

A mix up in the insurance billing, caused by the change in our management, was rectified and has been paid. There was a question on whether or not we could get it auto-debited or by post-dated cheque in June. This will be investigated.

Equipment: **Terry, VA3LU**, mentioned that the **YQT** patch is down due to a problem on Mount Baldy. **TBR** is working OK on the same shared line. The **Upsala, VA3UPP** repeater is ready for installation on November 15.

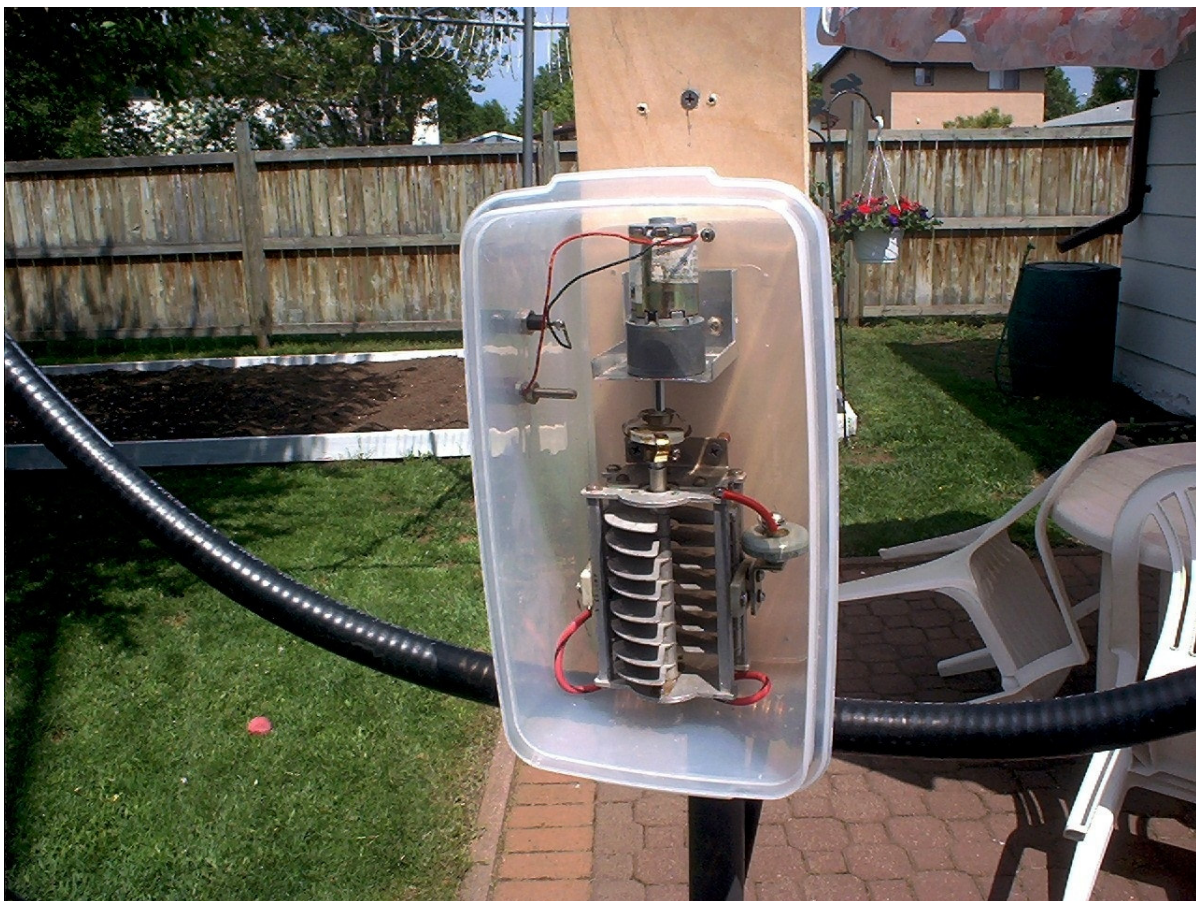
Hi-Q: **Glen, VE3ICY** was complimented on the issues he is putting out, and he always looking for articles. There were still some problems with members not getting their copies by mail. An updated mailing list will have to be assembled.

TRAILER: Mark, VE3MVR indicated that a new Corporate sponsor had been acquired through his efforts. **Intercity Shopping Centre** has provided funds of \$500 for equipment for the trailer, and another sponsor was being courted. A weather-proof sign was on display that will be attached to the trailer. The trailer is in storage at Mark's family property on Oliver Road, and will be used as a communications headquarters for the OPP Christmas Parade.

The annual banquet is scheduled for February 21, 2004 at the Slovak Legion. Tickets are \$24 per person and will be available from **Bob Hansen, VE3RVA** at the Christmas party, December 11.

A letter was received from the **CNIB Amateur Radio Program** soliciting donations. On a motion by **Norm, VE3XRC**, seconded by **Terry, VA3LU**, it was decided that we send \$100 to the CNIB.

A question on the operating status of the Northwestern Seniors Amateur Radio Club at the 55-Plus Centre was brought up. It was not known if they have disbanded or not, but the equipment is apparently still there, and the antennas are still in place. However, there is no apparent activity.



Vlad's Loops



Vlad's Loops VE3KRV
pictures by Andy Malcolm VE3INI

Christmas Parade (Public Service) Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG

The day dawned cloudy, foggy and a bit cool on November 15th for the 13th annual O.P.P. Santa Claus parade in Thunder Bay. Thanks to our new command post, with the heater working, and more elbow room, the working conditions for getting the parade organized was much improved. As well, it was a place to warm up when it got a bit chilly. With Bob Hansen VE3RVA, Mark Vaillant VA3MVR and Nathan Vaillant working the yard, Marion Nawrocki, VE3MJN and Mike Nawrocki, VE3ZG organized the lists to pass on to Norm and Linda Bell, VE3XLB AND VE3XRC for Gary Cooper and his partner at the announcers stand. Approximately 70 entries were in the parade this year, and there were some great ones. Most of the entries spent considerable time in preparing the floats for this event. Our Amateur Club entry was again Clarence Contin VE3WCW on his dressed up three wheeler, with Theresa Rahmer, VA3TLL, and Fred Lesnick, VA3FAL, helping decorate the bike and accompany Clarence in the parade. Through the contribution by Pat Pugh VA3PP, Dan Darling VE3DWP, Clarence VE3WCW, Fred Lesnick VA3FAL, Theresa Rahmer

VA3TLL and Marion Nawrocki VE3MJN, candy canes were purchased to hand out to the youngsters lining the parade route. Many thanks to all who participated, and hope to see you doing it again next year. Since this is our Christmas issue, it's Boston Pizza for the next meeting. And if we do not see you between now and the big day, Merry Christmas to all, and all the best for 2004.

VE3ZG

LARC Treasurer's Report
November 2003

Account	Start Balance	Debit	Credit	End Balance
Current Assets	4587.62	504.53	1263.81	3828.34
Cash-in-hand		329.50	232.45	97.05
Royal Bank	4587.62	175.03	1031.36	3731.29
Other Revenues			0.03	0.03
Deposit Interest			0.03	0.03
Income (Direct)	828.00		329.50	1157.50
Membership Dues	815.00		315.00	1130.00
50/50 aw	13.00		14.50	27.50
Expenses (Direct)	44.82	1088.81		1133.63
T.Bay Telephone	44.32	44.32		88.64
Secretary Supplies		57.45		57.45
Room Rentals		135.00		135.00
Club Insurance		851.04		851.04
Bank Service Fee	0.50	1.00		1.50

Ed Bauman VE3SNW

Club Christmas Meeting
7:30
Boston Pizza (Arthur Street)
December 11,2003

CW Hate / Love Affair**Leo Wehrstedt VE3ATC**

There I was, a bushy tailed young 'smart' (well, with a better memory anyway) fella taking Aircraft Avionics at Blackhawk Technical Institute in Janesville, Wis. and learning Morse code on my own!

No, I am not a US subject, but was a misplaced Canuk finally getting some education!

To digress somewhat (about 40 years.. hmmm.. better add a small plus) ...I was 'cruising' on the streets of Dryden (yes, Ontario) when suddenly my AM car radio started sending a bunch of very clear bits and blats, drowning out my macho music... this was intriguing to me and having time on my hands (was in between girlfriends), I started digging around to find the source.

Eventually, this led me to an older (to me) ham who was bedridden but apparently very active on the bands. (I am ashamed to admit, but his name has gone the way of my memory). We did spend some time together over the next several weeks and I did learn the code to the point of maybe 1 WPM without too many mistakes, before moving on back to more exciting things like cruising and my 60's macho music. So much for that!

Back to Wisconsin 15 years later.. – President Ford just opened the doors for non citizens to obtain their US ham licenses. Being in school taking electronics, I saw my chance to legally play with transmitters, etc. without getting busted in another country.

First, that damn code had to be out of the way! Need 5 wpm... jeeze seems like I was going to have to learn Chinese, only harder!

I got a hold of a Realistic DX160 receiver.. (took every cent I had!). Picked up an old tape recorder which someone donated.. Then found W1AW that eventually became and old friend!

It took a few months of evenings to plow through this code stuff by myself, but I eventually made the 5 wpm!!!! Took a local test and low and behold BECAME A HAM !!! WN9TXK was the call, and I was off and running!

I added an old Hallicrafters HT37 transmitter to my station that I had to fix before it would fire up.

I soon got tired of the slow CW speed (I learned it, and by gum, was going to use it after all that work!). I also did not like the restricted Novice bands. I had no choice if I was to make 13 wpm, the next level requirements, but to keep on testing my patience and tolerance to abuse by more W1AW and DX160 CW listening to get my speed up.

By the way, I lost more contacts on the DX160 due to QSB which I blamed on rotten signal conditions... then one day it hit me.. The DX160 would very slowly drift off frequency and was causing me to close almost every contact with 'losing you' before one day when I retuned it by chance a few times and they came back as a '9' !!!!! So much for 'modern' technology!

I listened to the tapes I had made earlier off of W1AW when driving back and forth to school and or work. I hated the time spent on listening to this stuff - Gone was the macho music! **VE3ATC**

When I read Bill Unger's article in the October edition of Hi-Q regarding Radio Beacons and 'Silence Periods' (15 and 45 minutes past the hour for 3 minutes) on 500 Kcs I thought of the 7 and a half years I spent at sea and the 3 years on Marine Coast Stations and how many times I logged "Silence Period Observed". Interesting years !!!

Of course silence periods were very important in order to detect weak SOS and urgent signals. 500 Kcs was a very busy frequency in certain areas eg. North Sea, English Channel, St. Lawrence, US Coasts, weak signals could go undetected. There were also 'Silence Periods' on the Radio Telephony distress frequency, 2182 Kcs, every hour, 00 to 03 and 30 to 33 minutes.

Before the advent of Radar, Decca Navigators and other electronic navigational systems the Radio Beacon and Direction Finders were very important navigational devices. It was part of the Radio Officers (R/O) Job to operate the Ships Direction Finder especially when making a landfall in poor weather conditions if the ship's navigating Officers had failed to obtain an accurate position for days. At Marine Coast Stations of course, silence periods were observed and Direction Finders fitted in order to take bearings of passing ships if requested. The Adcock system of direction finding was usually used at Coast Stations.

I started to think about going to sea in 1944 when I left Secondary School in Edinburgh, Scotland, at the age of 15 and a half. This entailed spending about six months at Radio College to acquire a wartime "special licence". Most Merchant ships at that time carried 3 Radio officers so there was no problem in getting employment after passing the find exam. However before I could finish the course WW2 ended and ships went to Peacetime-Staffing- most Ships carrying only one R/O. Passenger ships 3 to 14 R/O's depending on the number of passengers. RMS Queen Mary radio staff consisted of 12 to 14 Radio Officers. I continued at College taking night classes until I passed the Second class Licence, issued by the British Postmaster General, in late 1946, (I obtained the First Class Licence in 1951). With all the 'Q' codes, Morse and technical knowledge I joined my first ship, the MV 'Tamaroa' in London, England in January 1947. My employer was Marconi Marine. This company employed around 3000 R/OS. AS a rookie R/O I was number four in the Radio Staff- the ship carried four R/Os.

On that voyage the 'Tamaroa' sailed to the Argentine via Cape Verde Islands, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Buenos Aires. We returned to Glasgow, Scotland calling at the same ports. After a short leave I signed on a Prince Line Ship 'Eastern Prince' a Troopship sailing between Leith, the port of Edinburgh, and Danzig, Poland, returning Polish army personnel to their country after WW2. After about 8 trips to Danzig, Marconi Company figured I was experienced enough to take over as R/O on a one operator ship. Ships over 1600 Gross tons- the first one being the 'Corfoss' - a Coaster traversing the east coast of UK. The main transmitter on this ship was tubeless (not transistorized) a spark transmitter!!! and the receiver, a TRF type. (some of the older amateur radio operators will know about the 'spark' TX's although I don't think they were ever used in amateur operations). Even on my first cross Atlantic ship, the 'Baron Napier' the main TX was a spark set !!! The old 'spark' did pretty good at times on 500 kcs - often it made 1200 or so miles.

On ships with one operator a daytime watch was kept 0800-1000, 1200-1400, 1600-1800 and 2000-2200, while at sea. When the operator was off watch or out of the radio room taking DF bearings or repairing equipment, the 500Kcs watch was taken over by an Automatic Alarm system. This alarm equipment was actuated by a signal of 4 second dashes with spaces of one second. The signal was sent before the SOS message (if possible). An enormous bell, situated in the Radio Operator's Cabin, would jolt the operator into action. During my time at sea I served on 15

vessels of various types ie. Passenger ships, Oil tankers, Colliers, European coasters and tramp ships taking me to countries such as Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Gibraltar, Malta, Italy, Algeria, Tunisia, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Yemen, India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Australia, Mozambique, South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde Islands, Caracas, Iran, Panama, El Salvador, US. and Canada.. Some of these countries more than once. A great way to see the world. Unfortunately I did not get to Japan or China.. However, on board ship, the food was good and the pay not too bad either.

On Board ship I never had to use an SOS signal (gratefully but had to use the urgency signal a couple of times). Once aboard an Oil Tanker when we broke our mooring at Port Said harbour, and required tugs urgently, and once when medical aid was required - the Chief Steward had severe stomach pains. At that time we obtained assistance from a passenger ship in the vicinity.

I obtained shore employment in 1953. First of all I did sortie training at Portishead Radio GKL and then transferred to Wick Radio GKR in Northeast Scotland. At GKR all SOS and XXX incidents received in the area from Cape Farewell, Greenland, the Arctic, White Sea and Baltic Sea were reported to British Authorities. As you can guess many cases of an urgent nature were handled, especially from Trawlers fishing in Northern waters.

1957, my Radio Operating career ended - no more silence periods to listen to. Perhaps Radio Operators and Morse will be required again at sea, someday
As Bill Unger says "You never know".

John Hastie VE3WF October 2003

VE3UPP Repeater Upsala ON. TERRY VA3LU

145.470 Mhz. -600 offset

After having to take phase one down about a year ago because the original tower was to be dismantled and moved to Dryden. We have move across the highway to Environment Canada remote weather site. With the help and support of Canwarn a new 70 foot tower was installed with a Sinclair 2-10-C4 on the top.

On Sat. Nov. 15 2003 a crew of volunteers headed for Upsala to install the repeater. The team consisting of left to right **Bill VE3AJ**, **Terry VA3LU**, **Leo VE3ATC**, **Andy VE3INI**, and **Laurie VE3BCD**. The first order of business was for **Bill VE3AJ** to verify that there was actual snow on the ground before we begin, [see picture, small patches] the old saying it won't work unless there is snow on the ground. The second order of business was to route the heliax into the building and put the connector on the end of it. The antenna had been put up about 2 months ago and no testing had been done so far on the system. We connected a



mobile radio with a bird wattmeter inline and key on the radio, wow 30 watts forward and 1 watt reflected. No one had to climb the tower and try to find any problems today.

Next the repeater equipment was installed consisting of a VHF Micor repeater with a 100-watt PA though a set of Sinclair hybrid Duplexers. The controller is a Link-com RLC-2, although we are using only one port for now the plan is to add a link back to Thunder Bay as soon as we test and decide on a course of action. After a few hours of getting things installed and connected together I called out on it and was immediately surprised that **Randy VA3OJ** replied back from Thunder Bay, hey its works. **Mike VE3EDX** who has a camp nearby hearing all the chatter on the air and drop by to offer any help and was able to talk to us on the repeater as we traveled back to Thunder Bay.

The first order of business is to install a preamp on the receiver and see if we can pick up the receive signal a bit more. That's is were we are at for now and I update this as soon as preamp and a linking solution is installed. Are you looking for something to do in the New Year that's on the new edge of technology and fun to boot? The American QRP club is offering a free course online describing PIC microcontrollers. A microcontroller is a computer on a chip and really neat to mess with and even easier to use. Check out their website at www.amqrp.org/elmer160/. I plan to take this course online and would be nice to have some company as well.

IMPORTANT!!!

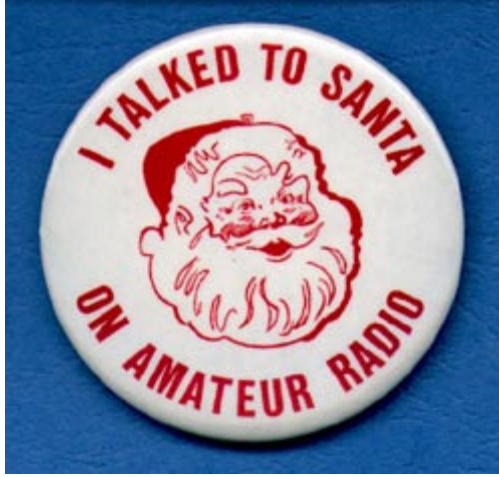
The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Web page has moved. We have a domain name now which is www.larclub.net to access the pages. For time being it is being run out of my house. It is in process of being updated and will be a ongoing project.

Terry
VA3LU



Are you looking for [something to do in the New Year](http://www.amqrp.org/elmer160/) that's on the new edge of technology and fun to boot? The American QRP club is offering a free course online describing PIC microcontrollers. A microcontroller is a computer on a chip and really neat to mess with and even easier to use. Check out their website at www.amqrp.org/elmer160/. I plan to take this course online and would be nice to have some company as well.

Bill Unger VE3XT



*Editor Says: Thanks to all for the great articles ,Merry Christmas to all
See you at the Christmas Meeting at Boston Pizza (Arthur St.) on
Thursday December 11,at 7:30*

Glen Wallace VE3ICY