

marc0gram



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

A MARC Monthly Newsletter

Volume 56, Number 08 May 2011

Next meeting - May 25, 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)

Show and Tell



A Word from The President.

Hello,

The weather is warming up even if it doesn't seem to be drying up. Amateur radio is providing communications in Alberta around the Slave Lake fire as well as in the flooded areas out west. Doubtless there are other activation's as well.

The April meeting topic proved to be an interesting one which led right into the first Solder Spot project and meeting which was quite successful. This month is our annual Show and Tell so perhaps we'll see some of the antennas built and I hope that next year's Show and Tell will show off more of folks handiwork from Solder Spot projects.

Planning for Field Day and Canada Day are underway and I hope to see the club well represented at both as well as seeing you all at the meeting.

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.

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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.

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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 your Editor's

This has been quite a month, activities followed by more activities, at least the planning.

First was the Montreal Solder Spot Group who held their initial project construction meeting on Saturday April 30th. The results are highlighted elsewhere in this issue. I was in attendance as picture and video guy and from my view a great success. Yes it got a little messy but wow all that equipment and hot soldering irons on the go. I think some of the pictures confirm the eager enthusiasm demonstrated by the participants.

George Hedrei, VE2NGH has been planning along with others this year's ARRL Field Day. **This is hot new's**, George has just received the OK for the Dorval site, so it's a GO. Some details to resolve but we'll make it.

OK, this is from us in print, hard copy and electronic until the mid-summer edition. Enjoy the good weather to come, keep hamming.

Ron, VA2RJC and Sheldon, VA2SH.

Two transistor transceiver kit

A USA Four State QRP Group is offering the new "HamCan" transceiver kit for sale at just \$30. It is a 2 transistor crystal-controlled CW transceiver, delivering 0.5-1W TX

power with enough sensitivity and selectivity to receive plenty of signals. They claim it is a minimalist yet good performance transceiver. The kit features a high quality PCB, low parts count and fast and easy building. It is claimed to be an excellent kit for first time builders. It has been selected as one of the ARRL Midwest Convention's Buildathon kits.

More information at



<http://www.wa0itp.com/hamcan.html>
<https://mail.google.com/m ail/>

As I hope to start using CW in the future, I thought this might be a useful project for me to get my hands on. I'll order a kit shortly and then start work. I'll keep the solder - spot group apprised of my efforts and comments.

Ron, VA2RJC

From Las Vegas, Saturday, May 14, 2011

A warning for night drivers: If your GPS navigator gives out on you this week, don't despair.

Field Day 2011!

It is time once again for us Hams to start thinking and planning for this year's ARRL Field Day which will be held on the weekend of June 25th and 26th. This year the MARC, WIARC (West Island Amateur Radio Club), and CUARC (Concordia Amateur Radio Club) will be jointly hosting this Field Day event and it promises to be a good one!

We are actively looking for volunteers for setup and tear-down as well as operators, especially experienced "CW operators". Please get in touch with me at VE2NGH@rac.ca if you would like to participate in any way.

What you're experiencing is only a test of the emerging broadband system.

Starting Monday, broadband developer LightSquared will start testing its planned 4G speed wireless network in the area. The test will run after midnight for several hours for 10 days, and if it works, Las Vegas could become one of the first U.S. cities to get on a super-high speed Internet grid that's

independent of any particular service provider.

But if it fails, government agencies warn that it could compromise or even black out the GPS systems in the area, rendering temporarily useless everything from your car's navigator to the systems that allow airplanes to come in for a safe landing. LightSquared's plans have caused some consternation in Washington, D.C., since January, when the company received conditional authorization from the Federal Communications Commission to build a system of tens of thousands of ground transmitters from which to run this broadband network.

The problem is one of bandwidth. The frequency

LightSquared plans to send ground-based wireless signals through directly bumps up against the one satellites use to transmit the much weaker Global Positioning System, or GPS, signals — and lab tests have shown there's a pretty good chance that in the vicinity of those transmitters, those signals are going to get crossed.

"There are definitely interference effects," Tony Russo, director of the National Coordination Office of Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing told a meeting of the GPS Partnership Council in Los Angeles last week, according to a report in the trade magazine InsideGNSS. "The question is how much and for what kinds of receivers."

That's exactly the question that Nevada's air traffic, emergency services, and military outfits are trying to answer.

Late last week, the Federal Aviation Administration alerted pilots that "the GPS signal may be unreliable or unavailable" within a nearly 300-mile radius of Boulder City, where the test transmitter will be located, from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. local time daily from Monday to May 27.

Nellis Air Force Base has plans for two military exercises during the period in which the testing is to take place involving air support units that rely on the use of GPS technology.

"Anything that affects operations is of concern," said Nellis spokesman Charles Ramey. "We rely heavily on GPS to accomplish our mission."

But Las Vegas public safety personnel are shrugging off suggestions that the test is cause for concern.

"GPS is really nice, but we've got a backup," said Las Vegas Fire & Rescue spokesman Tim Szymanski. "We might be a little bit inconvenienced, but we're not going to lose anything on the call." Fire trucks and police cars are hooked with GPS units to help officers respond to distress calls, but it's really just an added level of insurance that's mostly for convenience, officials said.

"All of our officers know how to read a map," said Metro Police spokesman Bill Cassell. "They know how to look up an ad-

dress, find that address on a map, and then drive to it ... and we even still know how to triangulate off of mountaintops and give aircraft cardinal bearings to help land search-and-rescue mission flights."

Potential GPS outages may pose the greatest risk, it seems, to noncommercial pilots.

"The traveling public has nothing to worry about with these tests," said Chris Dancy, spokesman for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. "But this is something that non-commercial pilots need to be aware of...They'll need alternative means of communication." The difference exists because commercial pilots are able to rely on navigational beacons and other radio communications equipment predating GPS that they use regularly; recreational pilots aren't usually geared up with as much finely calibrated backup equipment. Thus in February, the association wrote to the FCC in a legal complaint to say the threat LightSquared's project posed to the general aviation industry was "unconscionable."

"IS THIS FOR REAL ???"

APRS-Alert

Just in time for the road trips to Dayton, I'm pleased to announce the activation of APRS-Alert.

APRS-Alert (formerly named Wedjat, renamed by popular demand of the APRS community) is a APRS->SMS notification gateway that allows users to register callsigns of interest, set up zones of interest, and create triggers which send them SMS messages or emails when the monitored stations trigger a rule. For example, Jerry, W5TDY is travelling to Dayton. I'm curious about when he gets there, but I don't want to have to sit in front of my APRS client and watch his slow progress from Georgia to Ohio. Using APRS-Alert, I tag Jerry's D710 as a monitored station (W5TDY-9), enter my cell phone number @tmomail.net as a notification address, and use the Google Maps interface to draw a 1000 meter-radius zone around the boneyard at Dayton. On the RULES tab, I create an INCURSION rule for W5TDY-9 into the BONEYARD zone I just created, and then create a notification valid between 8 am and 10 pm for Jerry's incursion into the boneyard.

I'd like to thank Wes Johnston, AI4PX for his bug hunting, as well Steve Hanis and Tom McGrath for being early beta testers.

The site is

<http://www.aprs-alert.net>

John Gorkos

The Montreal Solder Spot

Roll up J-pole project

The Montreal Solder Spot held their first project construction meeting on Saturday April 30th, 2011. About 16 participants and observers were on hand at the Knox Crescent Kensington and First Presbyterian Church to take part in the construction of a 2 meter roll up J-pole antenna.

George Hedrei, VE2NGH gave us an informative talk on the basic tool set required for the construction of radio related projects as well as soldering. Eamon Egan, VE2EGN was also there to provide us with an explanation of what a J-pole is and how it works and Marc-André Gingras, VE2EVN was also on hand to help provide technical support and advise to those who required it. As an added bonus, Ken Fraser, VE2KLF also came by and he showed us his home brew steel J-pole as another example of this antenna design.



Paul, VE2OFH with student demonstrating the Fold-up J-Pole.

It was extremely gratifying to see everyone working together in small groups, comparing results and building their antennas. Tables were set out with solder mats for each person but really, people were all over the room. Slings antennas up from the rafters to take a measurement with the analyzer, snipping and sometimes even putting back on, pieces of already snipped antenna. We ended up leaving later than expected and not everyone was able to finish their antenna, but if the smiles to be found on everyone's faces is any kind of a measure, the event was a rousing success. The response from the local amateur radio community to the creation of the Montreal Solder Spot, has been tremendous. Participating members both experienced and neophyte, are enthusiastic and excited about this new outlet to explore, tinker with and gain a deeper understanding, of the underlying principles which govern this wonderful hobby of ours. Which is after all, the very essence of amateur radio.

Paul Iarrera, VE2OFH

Hamfest Listings!

May 29, 2011 Sorel-Tracy, Québec

Central Ontario Hamfest & Fleamarket
Guelph ARC & Kitchener-Waterloo ARC
Sunday, June 5, 2011
Cambridge, Ontario
<http://www.hamfest.on.ca/>

HAMFEST 2011

Sponsored by the Brantford Amateur
Radio Club
Saturday August 20, 2011
Information: ve3sxb@rac.ca
Website: <http://www.ve3ba.com>

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club 15th Annual Hamfest

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Saturday, September 10, 2011
Ottawa (Carp), ON VE2 CBS Hamfest
du Québec



George demonstrating the soldering of coaxial cable.



Two students working on their project.

*All photos in this issue by Ron Campbell,
VA2RJC.*

*Copies may be obtained, contact
va2rjc@marc.ca*



Students engrossed in Georges' demonstration

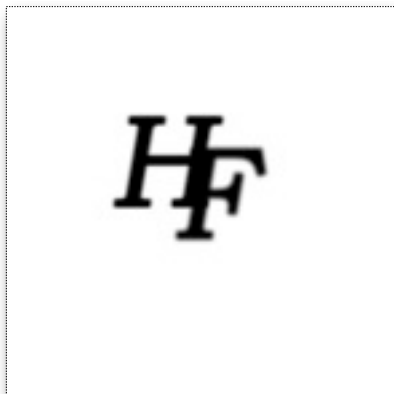


George demonstrating a delicate soldering operation



Your BODs being entertained at their May 2011 meeting. They were watching a video taken at the Solderspot session on April 29, 2011

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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

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