



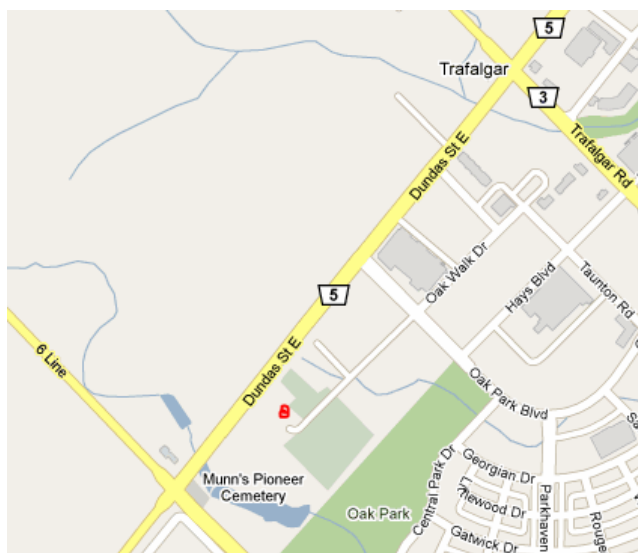
Communication between two parties only happens when the message is Sent, Received, Understood and Acknowledged. Everything else is just noise.

vol.5 issue 1

VE3OAK-VHF 147.015
VE3OAK-UHF 444.325
VE3PDX-VHF 147.345
ARES NET: Mondays @ 7:30 pm VE3OAK-VHF
HRECT NET: Tuesdays @ 7:30 VE3PDX-VHF
CANWARN NET: VE3PDX
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR: Rick Harrison VA3NV DEC/EC
ASSISTANT E.C.'s: Membership: Mike Cauterman VE3QSK
Milton Area: Peter Elliot VA3PRE
Region Liaison: Russ Schwandt VE3JUZ
Red Cross Operations: D. Hager VA3EGG
Digital/Technical Support: G. Davis VE3OGP
CANWARN COORDINATOR: John McKay, VA3BL
The A.R.E.S. Group Newsletter is published monthly for members of the Oakville A.R.C. and the Oakville ARES Group.
Editor: George Davis VE3OGP
Contributions related to A.R.E.S., Amateur Radio in general or emergency preparedness are welcome.
Please send articles to: oarc.ares@interhop.net
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NEXT MEETING: January 16, 2011
At the new Police Station near Dundas and Trafalgar
1 p.m.- 4 p.m. See map below.

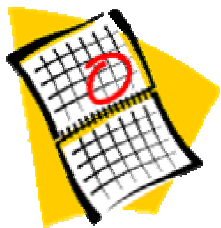
Map to meeting location:
Red dot is the parking lot



DECEMBER NET RESULTS

From Peter, VA3PRE

Table with 2 columns: ARES and HRECT, listing dates and counts for December.



Events & Links

- WINTER FIELD DAY! -January 29-30, 2011
N.P.A.R.C. Big Event-Feb. 5,2011
B.A.R.C. Spring Fleamarket-Feb. 26, 2011

Guestbook

News Letter PDF



A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER -

By Richard Webb, NF5B

From EMCOMM MONTHLY Winter 2011

We are becoming a culture of appliance operators. As our world becomes more complex, we can't possibly expect to know and understand all the underlying processes that support life as we're accustomed to living it. We've all heard the standard lamentations of technical professionals and other hams about it. I've commented on it in this space regularly. As we go forward in our endeavors to revitalize NTS, I've stumbled head on into something which should be perfectly obvious, but hasn't been. Maybe I'm a little dense, but if so, many of us are.

There is still a need for reliable long-haul services to handle emergency traffic of various types. Many in the professional emergency communications world do not emphasize this need, as they're accustomed to thinking in terms of infrastructure available nearby, even if it isn't available to the emergency services dispatcher and other agencies in the stricken area. After all, that tornado may take out all infrastructure in the county seat, but the next county over has the full range of tools available.

Amateur radio operators in much of the country have similar misconceptions. These misconceptions coupled with the ubiquity of cell phones and other communications devices have resulted in a de-emphasis of traditional radio skills training and preparedness among amateur radio operators. Just as the average homeowner might not understand all the intricacies of his climate control system or the plumbing, we use complex communications systems that many of us don't really understand. One can expect the manager of public safety dispatch services to not have a full understanding of the complex systems he relies on, but we amateur operators should know better. After all, we paved the way to many of those complex systems that public safety communication managers utilize. This should give us a higher level of understanding of these systems and the potential failure modes to which they're susceptible.

During a large-scale emergency such as a Hurricane Katrina or the potential quake on the New Madrid fault line that next county over isn't going to be any better situated than his neighbor. Amateur radio operators inside and outside of the disaster area need to be properly trained, both to utilize resources effectively and to be those resources when needed. Beyond that, we need to do a better job of education of those agencies and organizations we serve. We need to talk to them about why it's important to have that simple HF station available to them, the advantages in reliability. Yes, that may mean during the response to "the big one" that the relay handling their traffic to the state capital is 1200 miles away. But, if the relaying station is a competent operator, that's not a real

problem. It's a small problem if that relay station is properly trained, that is.

We need to emphasize the type of training NTS can provide for another reason as well. For the most part, that ham with the shack on his belt is going to be superfluous, after all cell sites and internet by radio are going to do the bulk of the heavy lifting. But, when the cell sites go down he's going to be pressed into service handling a lot of tactical traffic. Then good radio skills are his best asset.

In those earlier days those emergency communication professionals were accustomed to thinking in terms of relay stations from afar, because they were using frequencies which exhibit sky wave propagation characteristics or good long-distance tropo openings even. Cell phones weren't in every pocket. Landlines often ran overhead instead of buried, so could be knocked out by ice or high winds. The technicians who maintained and installed their equipment had to demonstrate a rudimentary understanding of these principles as well, or he/she didn't get the required credentials to install and maintain such systems.

As both professionals and volunteers look at the emergency communications tool kit of today we have a tendency to overlook or ignore those tried and true techniques and assumptions from yesterday, because we have so many tools that do so much for us. We pick up the little device, push a couple buttons, and instantly we're in touch. Daughter may be across the continent at the university, but she's a button push away. Grandma carries an emergency cell phone in the car, and has the number for emergency roadside assistance programmed in it. Uncle Joe bought a new car last year that will take all the pain and worry out of summoning assistance, or even report its location if stolen.

Is it any wonder that we take all this for granted? It's there, like the air we breathe. Call the wife when leaving the office and find out what dinner plans are and if anything is needed from the supermarket on your way home. Tune in a soccer match from Australia as you kick back with a cold beer after dinner. It's all good, it's everywhere, and it's reliable...

Until it isn't! Even then we tend to think that the guy up the road in the next village still has internet, cellular, fax, the whole range of tools available. I can reach him from the VHF rig in my car, or maybe even from my chair with the handheld transceiver, because, after all, that repeater in the next county's on quite a sky hook, and it has a big coverage footprint. It's battery backed up!

If the tower is still standing, and the antenna system intact, you're in great shape! Lose that repeater with the big mouth and big ears due to no antenna, though, and it doesn't matter how big its battery bank is, or how much generator fuel is available. Not just does the guy down the road in the next village have all those tools

you thought he had, but you don't even have reliable communications with him unless you've still got a vhf station with a good antenna system still intact. OR, you could easily string a wire between some surviving trees, fence posts and the like, and you've got communications with all sorts of places thanks to HF radio.

If we as amateur radio operators and those who maintain and provide the emergency services communication infrastructure ignore this little fact of life, then it's doubly true for the average person. If the cell phone was on the charger at the desk, then in the car they're good. The laptop batteries are charged, and the network server in the den at home is on a UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply. At least for about twenty minutes! - Editor). It's everywhere, and it just works. How or why it works doesn't enter Joe or Jane Six pack's mind. Push a button, talk to sissy at college, push another button and microwave your frozen dinner.

Then disaster strikes. The all electric kitchen just sits there, that broadband connection is gone and magic Jack isn't so magic. If the cell sites in the surrounding counties are down then Mr. Six-pack can't even dial 911.

With a century of learning and development behind us, we as amateur radio operators must be prepared to step in and fill this big gap when it opens. I would like to remind every radio amateur everywhere of that most important first couple paragraphs of FCC part 97. Right up front it tells us that the basis and purpose of the amateur radio service is to "provide a trained pool ..."

You get the idea. Notice it didn't say hobby, and that 97.1 says a "trained" pool of radio operators. Have another look at Part 97 of the FCC rules if you doubt me.

From here it looks like we've got a lot of work to do. I hope we're up to the challenge. If we're not, we lose, amateur radio loses, and our neighbors lose even more. They believe that amateur radio is a resource to step in when just this situation occurs, because that's what we tell them over and over again. This, colleagues, is a promise we make to them. We owe it to them, our neighbors and loved ones, to keep that promise. - Richard Webb, NF5B, Eads, Tennessee

(Editor comment: Richard is one who "walks the walk" and not just "talks the talk." Over the past few years Richard's name and stories have appeared in EM and EQ. During Katrina, Richard and his wife Kathleen, KCØHZU maintained an amateur emcomm station (the only link to the outside world) from LSU Medical Center in New Orleans for six days until they were evacuated from the flooded and darkened hospital. (Ref. QST Nov. 2005 page 46). Kathleen is wheelchair bound. Richard is blind.)

From Amateur Radio Newline Report 1741 – December 24 2010

RADIO LAW: BUTTE MONTANA TO EXEMPT HAMS FROM CELLPHONE BAN LAW

BUTTE, Montana, will have a driving while using a cellphone while driving law with a specific exemption for ham radio operators.

ACCORDING to an article in the December 17th edition of the Montana Standard, County attorney Eileen Joyce has been asked to write cellphone while driving ban. Joyce says she's modeling Butte's ordinance after one already adopted by the city of Billings.

That ordinance prohibits a driver from having a cell phone or other similar device in their hand while operating a bicycle, motorcycle, any four-wheeled vehicle and motor vehicles.

JOYCE says the soon to be Butte ordinance will not apply to people reporting a health, safety or a police emergency. Nor does it govern the activities of others including to emergency responders, drivers using two-way radios for work and citizens who are federally licensed amateur radio operators.

JOYCE says she plans to have the ordinance written in time for the next regular council meeting on January 5th. After it's introduced, the ordinance would be read twice with the final reading as soon as February 2nd. She adds that a public hearing is not planned, but residents can contact their commissioner about it. Those not exempt and found to be in violation would face a \$100 fine. You can read more on-line at tinyurl.com/26k9gc6 (Montana Standard, NITCB)

FEMA urges all Americans to prepare for earthquakes or other disasters

December 17, 2010

http://tristate-media.com/drr/news/local_news/article_3028d7a8-09ff...

CHICAGO - Thursday marked the 199th anniversary of one of the largest earthquakes to ever strike the United States. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign is encouraging all Americans to prepare for earthquakes and other disasters by making a new year's resolution to "Resolve to be Ready" in 2011.

"Today's anniversary should serve as an important reminder to all of us that disasters can strike anytime, anywhere," said Andrew Velasquez III, regional administrator for FEMA Region V.

"FEMA continues to work with the entire federal family, state and local governments, the private sector, and faith-based and non-profit organizations to prepare for the next disaster. Individuals, families, and businesses can resolve to be ready and take simple steps now to prepare for emergencies by visiting Ready.gov for free tips and ideas."

The earthquake took place in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ), which is the site of several of the largest historical earthquakes to ever strike the continental United States and remains a significant risk today.

On Dec. 16, 1811 the first of these quakes struck what is now the location of Memphis, Tenn., at a level nine intensity - and the impacts were felt as far away as Washington and Ohio. By the time the final quake occurred on Feb. 7, 1812 in New Madrid, Mo., the shaking had forced sand to erupt at the surface, triggered landslides and caused large areas to be uplifted or dropped down in elevation.

Since then, communities along the NMSZ have experienced explosive growth in both population and infrastructure.

Another series of earthquakes with the magnitude of the 1811 earthquakes could prove catastrophic to the region.

FEMA and its federal partners, non-governmental organizations, and state and local officials will collaborate on a series of outreach efforts, partnerships and events over the next year, including Earthquake Preparedness Month in February, the Great Central U.S. Shakeout in April, and the 2011 National Level Exercise. These events are designed to educate Americans on what they can do to be better prepared for earthquakes, as well as other catastrophic events.

Individuals and their families can take the following steps to prepare for earthquakes:

- Get an emergency supply kit;
- Make a family communications plan;
- Stay informed of the risks in your community;
- Check for hazards in the home;
- Identify safe places indoors and outdoors; and
- Educate yourself and family members.

For more information on preparing for an earthquake and other emergencies, please visit www.Ready.gov. For more information on Resolve to be Ready in 2011, visit www.Ready.gov/resolve2011.

E.C. / A.E.C. REPORT PAGE



D.E.C./E.C– RICK HARRISON, VA3NV

First, I'd like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. This month I have a few comments on nets and other forms of communication.

Local Nets



There are two local nets that I would encourage Oakville ARES members to check in to.

The first is our own Oakville ARES Net held each Monday evening at 7:30 pm. The net takes place on the Oakville 2 meter repeater VE3OAK - 147.015 MHz. (+) no tone. The second is the HRECT (Halton Region Emergency Communications Team) Net that takes place at 7:30 pm. Tuesday evenings on VE3PDX - 147.345 MHz. (+) no tone.

Checking into these nets serves multiple purposes. It allows you to make sure that your radios are functioning on a weekly basis. It also gives you the chance to interact on the air with people throughout Halton Region that you may work with during an actual emergency or disaster call out. As well, occasional pieces of formal traffic pass through these nets allowing participants to hone their traffic handling skills.

Regional Nets

I would also recommend that Oakville ARES members check into the recently instituted GTA Regional ARES Net. It can be found on Sunday evenings at 5:30 pm. on the VE3TWR 2 meter repeater – 145.410 MHz. (-) no tone. The purpose of this net is to give participants the chance to become familiar with radio operators in the GTA that we may end up working with during a wide scale disaster.

Although primarily aimed at ARES members in the GTA (Toronto, Peel Region, Halton Region, York Region and Durham Region) it is an open net and check ins are accepted from any interested station.

This net uses a roll call style of check in which may be unfamiliar to Oakville ARES members. Just follow the Net Control Station's directions and check in at the appropriate time.

Other Forms of Communication

The Internet offers some interesting tidbits as well. Oakville ARES has its own yahoo group mailing list. This list is a private, one way announce only resource that is available to current Oakville ARES members only. List traffic is light and usually consists of three or four messages per week. Messages relate to upcoming meetings, nets, public service events etc. As the list is private and the EC is the only one who can post to it, spam etc. is not a problem. Although not mandatory, I'd like to request that all Oakville ARES members subscribe. If you wish to do so, please drop me an email message (va3nv@rac.ca) and I will set things up.

Another interesting yahoo group is Emergcomm. This is a group that has been running for the past 10 years. Originally set up as a discussion forum for the use of all types of two way radio for emergency, disaster and public service events it has become more of an ARES type news service. Relevant bulletins from RAC, the ARRL, Amateur Radio Newslines, Raynet (UK), WICEN (Australia), SARL (South Africa), the Southgate ARC News Service (UK) and other sources are carried. List traffic is usually light (3 – 6 messages per week) unless a discussion crops up. Membership has to be approved by the group owner. This seems to eliminate any spam problems. To join, go to yahoogroups.com and put Emergcomm into the search engine. Once you find the group follow the subscription instructions.

One last yahoo group that has recently been set up and will be of interest to those involved with CAWARN is the Halton CANWARN group. This group is mainly to send out notifications to subscribers whenever a Halton CANWARN activation occurs. Subscriptions can also be arranged so that a text message is sent to subscribers' cellular telephone whenever an alert takes place. More details on this group will, hopefully, be forthcoming from our CANWARN coordinator (John, VA3BL) in the near future.

That's all for this month.

73- Rick, VA3NV

A.E.C.— PETER ELLIOT, VA3PRE, Milton



One never knows when disaster can strike. You may have heard that a fire and explosion occurred on December 15 in Milton when a gas employee pierced one of two natural gas pipelines fronting a person's home not far from a school. What originally appeared to be a response for a single family dwelling started to expand as the gas was shut off to a large number of homes in the subdivision and Red Cross opened a reception centre in a high school.

Following the Emergency Response Plan, staff from Halton Region called the ARES group in Halton Hills about 1830 to be on standby in case amateur radio operators were needed to provide communications. The call-up tree was followed to notify the AECs in Milton, Oakville, and Burlington about the situation.

VE3OAK VHF became the focal point for some on-air planning and updating amateurs about what was happening and what the needs could be. Fortunately, Halton Region notified us about 2115 that we could stand down.

We now have a real scenario for the Simulated Emergency Test coming up later this year. Check out the ARES section of the oakvilleamateurs.net web site to find a list of suggested items for a GO kit.

SIX METRE NET

Hi Folks, don't forget to join me on 6M during the winter months on 50.130 @ 20:00 hrs every night. If the band is open we operate an informal net and all are welcome even if you only check in, hope to hear you on the band ! 73 Darren, VA3EGG

BUY & SELL

FOR SALE

Bearcat BC245XLT trunktracker III ht scanner \$125
Standard GX3000 synth/prom VHF mobile \$50
Motorola Moxy UHF 1ch xtal mobile \$25
Several MOCOM 35's (mostly UHF) \$free to good home/as is

VA3BL
va3bl@rac.ca

GOT SOME OLD CT MONEY?

The Oakville A.R.E.S. Group needs your Canadian Tire money! It will be used to buy tools and materials to stock up the Red Cross stations in Oakville and Milton as well as topping up the shelter deployment boxes at both locations. Bring your donation to the next meeting!

Present Balance: \$2.00



NET CONTROLLER SCHEDULE

VA3CQC Jeff first Monday of month - January 3
VE3DDL Derek second Monday of month - January 10
VA3EGG Darren third Monday - January 17
VA3WXA Gord fourth Monday - January 24
VA3PRE Peter fifth Monday - January 31



Check out the page 6 and join or renew your membership in the Oakville Club. Help keep the repeaters running!

ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

In light of Ontario's Bill 118, the following article in a New Brunswick newspaper relating to their government's attempt to ban cellular telephone, amateur radio use etc. while driving to be an interesting approach. Might be worth keeping an eye on this:

<http://timestranscript.canadaeast.com/opinion/article/1365213>

Interesting story:

<http://www.odt.co.nz/regions/north-otago/142164/radio-manager-signs>

Harry Potter?

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/december2010/invisibilty_cloak.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AmateurRadioNews+%28Southgate+Amateur+Radio+News%29

Winter Field Day ?

<http://www.spar-hams.org/index.php>

Disaster reports:

<http://gdacs.org>

OAKVILLE A.R.E.S. GROUP APPLICATION

The ARES application is available on page 7. Please take the time to update your information to reflect your current equipment status. Print out page 7, complete it and give it to Rick, VA3NV, our EC.



To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
Questions or comments? E-mail us at oarc.ares@interhop.net

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OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2010/2011

NAME: _____

CALL SIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEE: \$20.00 Regular _____ \$25.00 Family _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND FEE TO:

OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 69615
109 Thomas St.
Oakville, ON L6J 7R4

Attn: Membership

For M/D use only: M # _____ D/B _____ M/L _____

