



OAKVILLE A.R.E.S. GROUP

Newsletter

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



APRIL, 2008

EARTH DAY

March 29 was Earth Day and one of the planned events was the 1-hour “lights out” Saturday night. Did you participate? Here at VE3OGP the whole family did and what I found was it was a great opportunity to check out all the battery driven items that I had set aside for my A.R.E.S. operations. Like our annual S.E.T. and Field Day, Earth Day can be used as a challenge to A.R.E.S. members to see if we are really ready for that disaster to come.

According to the news reports the power consumption was reduced by about 5% from the normal level.

MEMBERSHIP

Mike Cauterman, VE3QSK, A.E.C.

ARES Fox Hunt on May 4th

Greetings folks. It has been a while since I have put fingers to keys for a bulletin. My purpose is simple. To generate some interest and activity specifically in the area of ARES.

Question for you: How prepared are you (as a Ham) in the event of an emergency? What equipment can you grab in 3 minutes and do you know what to do with it? I think you will be surprised. You won't really know until you try it.

August 4th 2003 Blackout. This was an eye opener to me. The power went out and it took relatively little time for major services to come to a grinding halt. Gas stopped pumping instantly. As a kid I always loved blackouts. Candles and flashlight were fun. Don't we have an obligation as HAMs to come to the call of service in a real emergency? Where some people's health or lives could depend on power, shelter, communications, etc? If you answered “no” to the last questions move on to the next article.

One thing I have always believed in about this organization is that we have some special talents and some very smart people in our group. Once presented with a worthy challenge this group is capable of great things. My challenge to you today is to be ready to be called into action. The list of things you need to do is short and relatively simple.

Read the manual from the RAC ARES Web site. Start with page 39 on Personal Readiness
<http://www.rac.ca/downloads/aresman2.pdf>

Then prep your gear and come out to train and have some fun at the ARES Fox Hunt on May 4th. You will also gain some skills in message handling, and possibly win the prize! RDF equipment will help your chances of finding the fox. Bring the message forms from the A.R.E.S. Tools page of the www.oakvilleamateurs.net/ with you.

The starting location will be announced prior to the event and on the OAK repeaters on that day. The fox will be hidden in a place with public access and within the boundaries of Oakville.

“Ultimately you can become an "ACTIVE" ARES member”

- have a genuine desire to assist
- read all the literature about ARES
- attend ARES meetings
- participate in public service events and simulated exercises
- check into nets
- get involved in training others
- take on some specific role

MIKE, VE3QSK

FORMAL NET

The Oakville A.R.E.S. Groups’ formal net that runs on Mondays has started to have more activity. I am currently trying to put together a record of check-ins and would appreciate if the NCS of the day would send me the info via e-mail, (gdavis@interhop.net) so that I may report it in the this news letter. Indicate NET in the subject line.

FIELD DAY

The Oakville Amateur Radio Club will once again be operating a Field Day station. Field Day this year is on the weekend of June 28th and 29th and the event will once again be located at the Halton Region Building upper north parking lot. A.R.E.S. members are encouraged to come out and participate in this hands-on event. More information is available on the O.A.R.C. web site, www.oakvilleamateurs.net/ .

*****REMINDERS*****

*****Oakville A.R.E.S. Meeting*****

Sunday, April 13, 2008

Oakville Red Cross

1400 Cornwall road

Unit 15

1 – 4- p.m.

***** DURHAM REGION AMATEUR RADIO HAMFEST*****

Saturday, April 19, 2008
Iroquois Park Recreation Centre
Whitby, Ontario
<http://drhamfest.tripod.com>

***** CNIB HAMFEST *****

Saturday, May 24, 2008
CNIB Centre, 1929 Bayview Ave., Toronto, Ontario
www.cnib.ca/amateurradio/hamfest

SUPPORT YOUR A.R.E.S. GROUP, YOUR CLUB and the RAC.
GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE!

"We don't know who we are until we see what we can do." - Martha Grimes