



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.



DECEMBER, 2008

SEASONS GREETINGS!

NOVEMBER SET

The Oakville A.R.E.S. Group held another SET on Sunday, November 30th. Starting around 9 a.m. and finishing up near noon, this exercise was well attended. We followed up with a debriefing and a general A.R.E.S. meeting in the afternoon.

A number of different things were tried this time around. They included a mobile H.F. test on various bands and different locations. Thanks go to Judy, VA3JDA, Dave, VA3DDA, and Derek, VE3DDL for their work on this. Tests showed that we could use 10-mts. and 40-mts. ground wave if needed. They also played on 20 with more limited success, which was to be expected.

The Milton AEC, Peter, VA3PRE, helped out with our packet systems test. The packet set up in the Red Cross only used a ¼ wave mag-mount antenna attached to the fridge and easily accessed the Oakville LAN.

Net control was done using only handhelds through the repeaters, another test that we had never done. This was propagated by the fact that we could not access the onsite radio that day.

Hal, VE3HFB, checked out some new sites in Oakville for us as well.

Thanks to all that participated or responded to the Call Out tree, which was completed by Russ, VE3JUZ.

OPERATION “LONGHORN” REPORT

On November 13, 2008 our A.R.E.S. Group members participated in the Halton Region’s Operation “LONGHORN”. This was a multiple agency operation with the intent of assessing and revising the various plans and processes involved in a community evacuation.

Rick, VA3NV (E.C.) and Russ, VE3JUZ (A.E.C.) were stationed at the Regions E.O.C. while Bob, VE3RJS and George, VE3OGP (A.E.C.) were located at the shelter site in Burlington. Bob is an A.E.C. for Halton A.R.E.S.

The area provided for us in the high school was perfect and the staff was extremely helpful through out the exercise. We had little difficulty in setting up the two stations and quickly established radio links to the E.O.C. Check out the picture page.

Unfortunately our services were under utilized as most of the shelter team leaders relied on their cell phones to conduct their work. This point was brought up in the shelter debriefing, and the group was advised that they would not likely be able to use cells if this was a real incident.

“GAS-AHOL”

As A.R.E.S. members many of us adopt a “Be Prepared” attitude by having various sources of power available. These include spare battery packs, small AAA or AA batteries and larger gel-cells or deep discharge 12-volt batteries. Most clubs or A.R.E.S. groups, and some individuals, also have gasoline-powered generators.

With the wide spread introduction of ethanol-blended gasoline a new problem has arisen for those of us that store the fuel in the tanks over the winter months. The ethanol attracts moisture and if there is enough headroom in a tank, (i.e.- only partially full), the water added to the gas mixture from the condensation invites a condition known as “phase separation”. Once the gasoline and ethanol/water separates there is very little that can be done short of draining and cleaning the tank. Failure to do that could lead to a damaged engine. Additives, stabilizers or water separators cannot help nor can adding fresh fuel to the tank.

The preventative measure is to either drain the tank/fuel system or to top off the tank prior to storing. Fuel stored in plastic gas cans, which have a vent that can be seal closed are less likely to have this problem.

ANTENNA PROJECT

A few meetings back there was some discussion about a small antenna project for the group. It was decided that Rick would investigate a kit for building a roll up antenna for your Go-Kit. If you are interested please contact VA3NV as soon as possible.

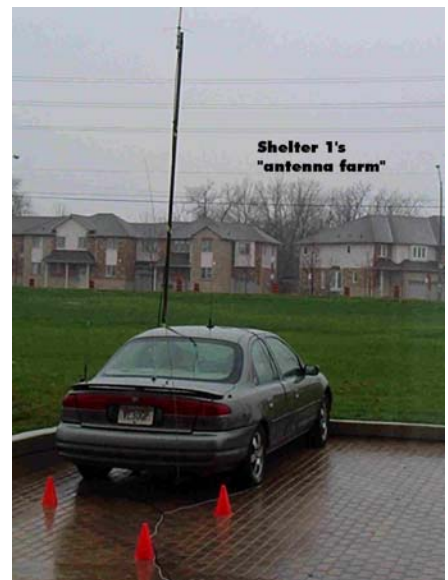
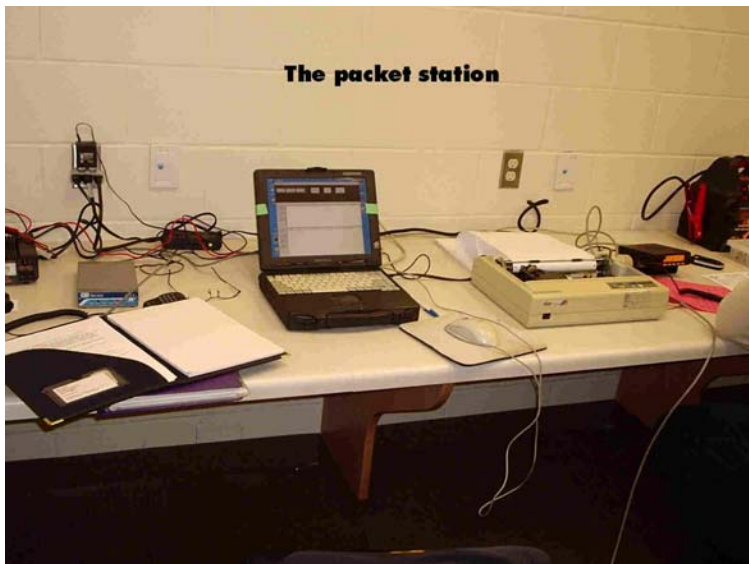
VESTS

The RAC has introduced a new A.R.E.S. vest for members. The vest meets the colour requirements for the Incident Command System protocols and is fitted with pockets for your handheld radio. The cost is around \$30 depending on where you purchase it (this is a subsidized price). Oakville A.R.E.S. Group recommends that our members look into adding this vest to your Go-Kit.

Field Services had a table at the last hamfest in York and were selling many of the items from the RAC web site. If you buy these items off the RAC web page you must pay shipping and handling etc.

PICTURES

PROJECT "LONGHORN"



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT....?

Oakville A.R.E.S. is looking to redesign the standard NTS incoming form that we use so that we can make a copy for our records at the same time we are writing the original.

A 2- part non-carbon type is envisioned. If you know someone in the printing or business forms area that might be able to help with the design and/or cost discount please contact us at:

oarc.ares@interhop.net

FINALLY

As this is the last newsletter of 2008, I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing commitment to our A.R.E.S. work and to take this time to wish you and your families all the best this holiday season. See you in 2009!

George Davis, VE3OGP

*****REMINDERS*****

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

Sunday, January 25, 2009

Oakville Red Cross

1400 Cornwall Road

Unit 15

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

**SUPPORT YOU'RE A.R.E.S. GROUP, YOUR CLUB AND THE RAC.
GET INVOLVED, PARTICIPATE AND HAVE FUN!**

"Success is the maximum utilization of the ability that you have." - ZIG ZIGLAR

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