



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.



MARCH, 2008

PACKET UPDATE

Mid February the Regional Packet Group meet to discuss the future of a working packet network for A.R.E.S. use. A test was planned to stress the existing Halton BBS using the Outpost program and dummy test messages. The results will be published when available.

The VE3OAK KA-Node is now operational on the repeater site. It provides good coverage for Oakville, Burlington and Milton.

FEBRUARY MEETING

On February 10, 2008 the group held it's by-monthly meeting at the Red Cross office in Oakville. The Red Cross has moved its offices downstairs and the meeting room is now upstairs. Where we will be meeting in the future remains to be seen.

Items covered:

- Rick, VA3NV, reported on the Jan., 2008 HRECT meeting.
- **Membership:** The A.R.E.S. Group now has a new A.E.C., Mike, VE3QSK, is now in charge of the A.R.E.S. Membership.
- **Request for donations of equipment:** Please see the list in the Feb. issue.
- **Nets:** The changes to times and Freq. of the A.R.E.S. net were announced. The net is now Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on VE3OAK VHF Rpt. The need for NCS operators and a Net Manager were discussed. Members were encouraged to check into this net and the Tuesday net on VE3ADT at 8:30 p.m., (VE3HR as the alternate repeater).
- **Future Meetings:** Alternate locations are still being considered for
 - April 13, 2008 – Possible presentation on the NTS form
 - June 8, 2008
- **Operating practices, Codes of Conduct** (to be in line with our sponsoring agency).
- Rick reported that the Red Cross will be having their Shelter Management exercise sometime in May, (May 3rd is tentative). This will probably require communication support by us between at least 2 or 3 locations. More information will follow.
- The Regional Communication Plan was discussed and will be made available on the web site for downloading by members.
- Future training seminars are being set up by our EC. Dates for the Introduction, Basic and Intermediate courses will soon be announced.
- There was a discussion about raising public awareness of A.R.E.S. in general and our group specifically. Business type cards will be designed for this, then uploaded to the web site. Some venues, such as Fall Fairs, were mentioned as possible high profile areas.

- On a similar topic high profile vests, like the type they use on the west coast, were considered. It was pointed out that the Province of Ontario would soon be adopting an ICS type emergency management plan that defines colours and ID vests for the groups involved during an incident. More research on cost and availability will be needed.
- Pictures of all those at the meeting were taken for the I.D. badges. Thanks to Dave, VA3DDA for bringing his camera and photographic "eye". Mike, VE3QSK and myself will adjust the photos and backgrounds prior to making them available for the I.D.'s.

BURLINGTON MARATHON

The Burlington Chili Marathon was held on March 2nd and communication support was run by the Burlington A.R.E.S. group. Oakville A.R.E.S. assisted and the event was well attended by our members.

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. A.R.E.S. members are encouraged to come out and participate in this hands-on event. More information will be available on the web site.

REMINDERS

Oakville A.R.E.S. Meeting

Sunday, April 13, 2008
 Oakville Red Cross
 1400 Cornwall road
 Unit 15
 1 – 4- p.m.

*** HAM-EX 2008 HAMFEST***

Saturday, March 29, 2008
 Brampton Fall Fairgrounds,
 Heart Lake Road
www.ham-ex.ca

*** 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!**

"Sweat is the cologne of accomplishment." Heywood Hale Broun