



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.



OCTOBER, 2009

ANNUAL SET

The annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was held on October 3rd. The North American wide event is jointly run by ARRL and RAC EC's and Net Managers.

In previous years the Oakville A.R.E.S. Group had run our own SET due to conflicts with the Thanksgiving holiday, but this year we joined Milton, Burlington and Peel. The scenario was local in nature.

In Oakville the group set up downstairs in the Red Cross office space. Our stations included 2 VHF stations, a packet station and for the first time at this location a full HF band station.

In Milton, Peter, VA3PRE (AEC Milton), and Bob, VE3RJS (AEC Georgetown), set up a station with VHF/UHF voice and packet at that Red Cross branch.

BILL 118

Unless you're a hermit living under the sea, by now you've learnt that Bill 118 and its associated regulations do not exempt Amateur radio, although we have a 3 year grace period to find a solution to using hand held microphones on our 2-way radios.

It should be noted that we are but a small portion of 2-way radio users affected by this and I hope that in the up coming 3 year period that the larger lobbyist groups start hammering away at this flawed law.

I have been monitoring reaction throughout North America and frankly the consensus seems to be that the politicians in Ontario, while correct on the cell phone/text messaging issue, are embarrassingly way off base on the radio issue.

If you read the public consultation meeting transcripts even one of the committee members indicated that the bill was never intended to apply to "CB radios" (which it does now).

Clearly those in charge chose to ignore the statistical information and expert testimonies and instead opted to beat their own chests to prove to everyone that they were doing something. Unfortunately we got caught in the spin-doctors' storm.

Keep watching:

<http://www.racblog.wordpress.com>

Got a comment on this or any other topic you think our group would be interested in reading? E-mail it to: oarcs.ares@interhop.net

FROM THE ARRL CLUB NEWS

The Thumb
Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

Let's consider the thumb for a moment. The thumb's ability to work with all the fingers on the hand makes it very important to humans. The opposable thumb separates humans (and primates) from other animals and is responsible for most human accomplishments. Because thumbs give us dexterity and allow us to use tools, we have been able to build many wondrous things. Some of these things are as small and intricate as a Swiss watch and as grandiose as skyscrapers and vehicles that allow us to explore beyond our planet. It is absolutely amazing that if not for the opposable thumb and the human brain that controls it, pretty much everything in our world would not be possible.

There is a lot of power in the thumb. Pointed downward a thumb could send a gladiator to his death. Hung out along a roadway the thumb can stop a car. Authorities keep subordinates under their thumb to maintain control. The thumb lets us know when we've done a good job, calls out baseball players, gives an artist perspective, counts money and can pacify a crying baby. The thumb also has a sinister side. We can thumb our nose at people, card cheats use the thumb to deal from the bottom of the deck or mark cards with a thumbnail, and the dishonest butcher has been known to place his heavy thumb on the scale.

For as much as the thumb has done to enhance our lives it seems that the index finger has been getting a lot of exercise recently. The index finger is very good at pointing, however a pointing finger has not really accomplished as many positive things as the thumb has. Sure the index finger may dial a telephone, but without the thumb the telephone would never have been built. Pointing fingers send people away, poke-out eyes and blame others for our condition. In every aspect of our lives we see people pointing the finger of blame rather than accepting responsibility. A kid fails in school not because the teacher taught the lesson poorly, but because he failed to study. A lady scalds herself with hot coffee not because the restaurant did not label the cup--she was scalded because she put hot coffee in her lap. People find it easier to point a finger instead of planting their thumb in their chest and saying "I am the one who will make a difference." If you ever feel the need to point a finger remember the thumb and all that is possible because of it. Let's metaphorically use our opposable thumbs to grip the rope and pull in the same direction.

EQUIPMENT STILL NEEDED

Do you have equipment hanging around the house that you don't want? Before you throw it out please contact Oakville A.R.E.S. to see if we could use it.

At the moment we are still looking for a cabinet to store our equipment at the Red Cross office. It should be about 26-28 inches wide, 20-26 inches deep and 4 to 5 feet high. We want to put it on casters so that we can wheel it out of the storage room when the station is activated. We intend to store the Packet monitor, computer, printer and radios. Hopefully we can make the radio operation position semi permanent so it can make set up time considerable less then it is presently. Something like this would have been very handy at this recent SET.

*****REMINDERS*****

*****33rd YORK REGION AMATEUR RADIO HAMFEST*****

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Markham Fairgrounds

www.yrarc.com/yrarc/hamfest.shtml

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

Sunday, November 15, 2009

Oakville Red Cross

1400 Cornwall Road

Unit 15

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

“The less their ability, the more their conceit.” – Ahad HaAm

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

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