

WEST SIDE SIGNAL

Official Bulletin of Toronto's Oldest Amateur Radio Club

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Meetings

Meetings held at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month, Etobicoke. Municipal Offices (Burnhamthorpe & The West Mall) No meetings in July or August. Visitors always welcome.

Club Nets

FM Net

Wednesday 8:00pm
VE3SKY repeater 146.985 Mhz

CW Net

Sunday 10:00am 7.029.5 Mhz

SSB Net

Sunday 11:00am 7.075 Mhz

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Next Meeting

Tuesday Apr 20th 2010

7:30pm

Etobicoke Municipal Building
Burnhamthorpe Rd & West Mall
Etobicoke

CLUB NEWS

Our March meeting was attended by only 4 members, President Dave VE3RER, V.President Phil VE3FZL, Treasurer Michael VE3PNX and Tony VE3TK. There being no business to discuss a general gab fest was held. As could be expected much of the talk surrounded the recent sad events involving two of our older members. Bill VE3AR passed away at the Trillium Health Centre on Sat March 20th after suffering an apparent stroke at home on Thur the 18th. Al VE3UT suffered a fall in his home also on Sat which resulted in a broken hip. Rhea informed me he underwent surgery to replace the hip joint and is recovering satisfactorily I'm sure you all join me in

wishing Al a successful and speedy recovery. Broken large bones at his time of life are not good at all and often lead to complications resulting from extended times in hospital. He is a tough old bird at 90 years of age so let's hope he can see this through.

No doubt you have all seen the Obituary for Bill which appeared in the Globe and Mail on Wed Mar 24th. Another one appears in this news letter on page 6.

After speaking with his son Roy who phoned to tell the sad news, I have contacted RAC, ARRL, and Industry Canada and included a copy of the obit so that they will include VE3AR in Silent Key lists. West Side was well represented at the memorial service held for Bill on Friday Mar 26th, RER, FZL, EQF, PNX, ILE, OBU and BHZ were in attendance. Personally I was disappointed not to see any official representation from RAC, or CNIB especially after all the work Bill did for those organizations over the years. With only a few days gone since the service for Bill we had more sad news, Al VE3UT passed away on Sat Mar 27th at Toronto Western Hospital where he was recovering from hip replacement surgery which was made necessary after he suffered a broken hip during a fall at home. He has already been cremated and the family will be holding a Wake at the home of his son David on Sat April 17th at noon. Attendance by invitation.

BAWDSEY RESEARCH STATION COMMEMORATIONS 2010

Special Event Stations

In recognition of the historic events that took place in 1935 and 1940 which played a significant part in Britain's war effort, Bawdsey Manor will be activated on three separate occasions during 2010. During its time as the radar research centre and as an operational station for Chain Home radar, it was known by the acronym BRS – Bawdsey Research Station. Special event callsigns with BRS as the suffix have been applied for to recognise this.

Over the weekend of 26 to 28 Feb 2010, we were on the air on HF, 6m and VHF, operating CW, SSB and some digital modes too. The callsign was GB75BRS, since this operation was to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Daventry Experiment, which resulted in radar development in the UK being based first at Orfordness, then at Bawdsey.

Later in the year we will operate on two weekends to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start and end of the Battle of Britain in 1940. The callsign will be GB70BRS. These weekends will be **5/6 June**, and **18/19 Sept**. Operating bands and modes will be similar to those used at the February event.

Members of the public, and students from the school now based at the Manor, will be welcomed at any of the events, where there will also be display materials relating to Bawdsey's history during this period. There will be a booking form for the June and September events nearer the time.

A special QSL card will be issued to those making contact with either of the stations, and a parchment certificate will be available on request to stations who make contact with both callsigns – information about the stations, operation and QSL arrangements will be found on this web site.

www.bawdseyresearchstation.org.uk/

FIELD CHECKERS

Just a reminder that in addition to DXCC, as a Field Checker I can also check applications for the following programs:

Worked All States – WAS (including 5 band WAS)

Worked All Continents – WAC (Including 5 band)

VHF/UHF Century Club – VUCC

IARU Region 2 award

de VE3BHZ

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS (IRCs):

Out with the Old, In with the New

It is now well past time to dump your old International Reply Coupons (IRCs). The "Beijing Model No 2" expired December 31, 2009 so if you have any of those types you're stuck with them. The new IRC -- the Nairobi Model IRC -- has been available in the US since September 10 and elsewhere since July; the price is \$2.10 each in the US, \$4.00 in Canada and only £1.10 in the U.K. The Nairobi Model is due to expire in 2013. Actually it is not worth while to use them in Canada and I think most Canadians stick to using US dollars (Green stamps). There are still many countries that only require 1 US dollar for postage and many more require 2, only 4 countries need at least 3\$ US dollars (Colombia, Germany, Norway and Peru). and even for those 4 countries it is still cheaper to send green stamps rather than IRCs at \$4.00 Canadian



New Nairobi Model



Old Beijing Model #2

Some good information on world wide postal rates can be found at <http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html>

SOME ANNOUNCED DX OPERATIONS

SOLOMON ISLES

H44MS

Jan to Apr 30

By DL2GAC

AI bands and modes

QSL DL2GAC

UGANDA

5X7JD

Feb to Apr 30

By NP2OR

40/20 SSB only

QSL direct Jack Dunigan Box 100 Masaka Uganda

KENYA

5Z4/LA9PF

Feb to May 11

All bands/modes

QSL LA9PF

MALAWI

7Q7PF

Feb to May 11

By LA9PF

All bands/modes

QSL LA9PF

ANNOBON

3C0

Apr 1 to Apr 30

All bands mostly CW

QSL EA7FTR

IRAQ

YI9PSE

Apr 3 to Apr 11

Large op (11 ops) All bands/modes

High power and gain ants

QSL N6NKT

CQWW 160m BAND SEGMENT VIOLATIONS

IARU Region 1 President **Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T**, draws attention to the problem of some amateur radio operators in the CQWW 160-Meter SSB contest operating outside the Amateur band.

On the IARU Region 1 website he writes:

It was disappointing to notice that numerous contest stations from Region 1 violated their national regulations by transmitting out of band during last weekend's CQ World Wide 160-Meter SSB Contest. While I can have some understanding that the IARU bandplan for top band is not followed during this major contest, I totally disagree that contest stations transmit outside bands allocated to the amateur service. For a station transmitting in LSB on 160 meters this is below 1813 kHz (for transceivers with carrier read-out).

The amateur service has always been known as a self regulating service, which has helped us in our negotiations with administrations.

A behaviour as shown last weekend will certainly not help us in the future. I call upon all contesters to reinstate our values.

Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T

IARU Region 1 President

WIA national Incoming QSL Bureau changes

Following a review of the current incoming Bureau operation, the **Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA)** Board agreed to change the arrangements for **Incoming QSL Bureau** operation.

A new national incoming QSL Bureau service is being introduced to expedite the availability of incoming cards from overseas bureaus for WIA members.

The Incoming Bureau has established a central P.O Box 2040 Bayswater Vic 3153, Australia for the new service.

WIA National Audio News suggests it is now reasonable to expect more regular deliveries of cards from smaller overseas bureaus, as it will be more cost effective to make one postal despatch of VK cards to the central box.

The QSL cards will be despatched regularly to the existing State QSL Bureau, who will continue to distribute cards through existing processes.

Bulk quantities of incoming cards will be sent in more regular consignments.

WIA believe this change will be of positive benefit to members.

SUN WORSHIPERS WANTED

If you are keen on spending a few moments of your day defending the Earth from an imminent solar attack, the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London would like to hear from you.

Its Solar Stormwatch website highlights the danger of radiation bursts from the Sun - and gives users the chance to help scientists spot Sun storms - known as coronal mass ejections - before they cause damage on Earth.

The site was built in partnership with the Science and Technology Facilities Council's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and citizen science site Zooniverse.

"When you look up at the Sun obviously it's too bright to look at properly," said Dr Marek Kukula from the Royal Observatory.

"These coronal mass ejections are enormous explosions on the Sun which hurl billions of tonnes of material out into space.

"If that hits the Earth, that's when these problems are caused."

The bursts of radiation from the Sun can knock out telecoms systems, causing millions of pounds of damage and even endangering life.

Nasa already monitors the Sun using two spacecraft called 'Stereo'. The craft produce 3D images of the star which can show the trajectory of these explosions.

However, the sheer amount of data means Nasa's scientists are unable to analyse the data as closely as they need - which is where the world's internet population comes in.

After a brief - and painless, the makers assure - tutorial, users get access to the actual 3-D images taken by the Stereo spacecraft.

Then, if a user believes they have spotted the beginnings of a solar storm, they can bring it to the attention of scientists.

"Every little bit counts," said Dr Kukula.

"I've spoken to the scientists involved and they all agree that even if you log-on and just do it for a few hours, get bored and never touch it again it's all really useful - and helps them to do their work."

More details are on the website:

<http://solarstormwatch.com/>

'You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen. It said, 'Parking Fine.' So that was nice.'

Tommy Cooper

VE3AR
Willam Wentworth Loucks
“BILL”
Silent Key



On Saturday March 20th 2010 at the Trillium Health Centre in Mississauga Bill passed away after suffering a stroke at home at his computer on Thursday March 18th. He was a long time member of West Side having joined the club in the 1950's, he served in various positions on the executive including President in 1965 and 1968 and was the custodian of the club call VE3JJ. Born in Regina in 1921 he became licensed as an Amateur Radio Operator at the age of 14 with the callsign VE4ABR. He received a Bachelors degree in Engineering Physics from the University of Saskatchewan in 1943 and moved to Toronto in 1946 where he obtained the call VE3BFP which he changed to VE3AR in 1947. He served in the RCN during world war II as an Electrical Lieutenant (Radar) both ashore, and afloat on Atlantic convoy escorts. Bill joined Ontario Hydro in 1947 retiring in 1982 as Computer Centre Manager. He was a member of The Radio Advisory Board of Canada from the late 70s till 1993 advising the Government on issues affecting the radio spectrum. From Jan 1987 to Nov 1994 he represented CRRL and RAC on the Canadian Standards Committee on Electro Magnetic Interference. Bill was Secretary of CRRL in 1986 then Secretary Treasurer from 1987 until RAC was founded in May 1993. It was his skill and determination that ensured the financial integrity of CRRL and it was as a result of this that upon formation of RAC and his appointment as Treasurer a large start up fund was available. In the late 60s early 70s Bill served as Vice Director Canadian Division of ARRL. During this time period he was also very actively involved in the Radio Society of Ontario being at various times Director, Vice President and President and was the Ontario delegate to CARF. Bill became a member of the board of the CNIB Amateur Radio Program in 1973 eventually Chairman in 1990 this organisation has funded in excess of \$500,000 worth of transceivers which have been provided to blind hams across Canada either by direct purchase, leases or free loan. In 1995 Bill was deservedly honoured for his many contributions to Amateur Radio by being inducted into the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. He was dedicated to WSRC and was rewarded for his many efforts with Honorary Membership, his weekly nets on 2m and HF kept the club going at times when failure looked imminent. He will be missed by his many friends

“FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS OLD FRIEND”

VU2RBI HONOURED

QRZ.COM

The Royal Commonwealth Society recently invited **Mrs Bharathi VU2RBI**, Chief Coordinator of the National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) to present a testimony on the eve of Commonwealth Observance Day.

At the event, which took place on the 8th March 2010 in Westminster Abbey, London in the presence of Her Majesty Queen of England, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, High Commissioners of Commonwealth Countries and a group of school children etc, Mrs. Bharathi narrated her experiences in the field of Amateur Radio Communication and contribution to the society for promoting Science & Technology. It was indeed a rare honor and privilege for an Indian women amateur radio operator to receive this invitation from among the 54 Commonwealth countries.

After the ceremony, a tea party at Royal Commonwealth Society was organised, and followed by reception at Buckingham Palace, where she met Her Majesty the Queen of England.

Mrs. Bharathi told the Queen about her involvement in the promotion of Amateur Radio Communication in India and the activities of National Institute of Amateur Radio, Hyderabad in disaster management over the last three decades.

The Royal Commonwealth Foundation, London has shown great interest in promoting Amateur Radio Communication as a part of disaster management in the Commonwealth Nations.

Mrs Bharati Prasad was on a DXpedition to the Andaman Islands when the Tsunami struck in 2004 she was the main communications link with India during the breakdown of regular communication systems and has received awards for her efforts.

LITTLE JOHNNY STRIKES AGAIN

Author unknown

A grade school teacher in Kentucky asked her students to use the word "fascinate" in a sentence.

Molly put up her hand and said, "My family went to my granddad's farm, and we all saw his pet sheep it was fascinating."

The teacher said, "That was good, but I wanted you to use the word "fascinate, not fascinating".

Sally raised her hand. She said, "My family went to see Rock City and I was fascinated."

The teacher said, "Well, that was good Sally, but I wanted you to use the word "fascinate, not fascinated"

Little Johnny raised his hand. The teacher hesitated because she had been burned by Little Johnny before. She finally decided there was no way he could damage the word "fascinate", so she called on him.

Johnny said, "My aunt Gina has a sweater with ten buttons, but her tits are so big she can only fasten eight. The teacher sat down and cried.

Ireland 's worst air disaster occurred early this morning when a small two-seater Cessna plane crashed into a cemetery. Irish search and rescue workers have recovered 1826 bodies so far and expect that number to climb as digging continues into the night

A man walked into the doctors, he said, 'I've hurt my arm in several places'

The doctor said, 'Well don't go there anymore'

**VE3UT
ALBERT ERNEST WEST
“AL”
SILENT KEY**



On Saturday March 27th 2010 at Toronto Western Hospital as a result of complications arising from hip replacement surgery, long time and senior member of West Side Radio Club Al West VE3UT departed this world after a long run of 90 years. Al leaves behind a loving wife Rhea, sons David and John and grandchildren Michael and Andrew. Having joined the club in 1946 Al was our senior member with 64 years of service. He first belonged to The North Toronto A.R.C. until after WWII when he met up with Les Weir, one of the founding fathers of West Side who invited him to join WSRC, he did so and was a faithful member ever since. He held all the offices of the WSRC including being President in 1953. He took over the job of club historian in 1983 when Les Weir became a silent key and maintained the club's records since that time. Al was a great supporter of club functions especially Field Days and he was one of the stalwarts in the early years who helped win the Ever Ready Trophy as Canadian champions from 1946 to 1951 and again from 1955 to 1957. He was licensed in 1935 and was issued the call VE3UT at that time. In Dec 1940, like many other hams he answered his country's call and enlisted in the RCAF where he received training in Radar and was subsequently employed as a Radar Officer. In May 1941 he was shipped to the UK and attached to the RAF as a Flight Lieutenant where he served in airborne Radar, first with fighter command and later with bomber command under the command of the controversial Air Marshall Arthur "Bomber" Harris. While serving in England at RAF Church Fenton a fighter drome in Yorkshire he ran into two other hams whose paths had previously crossed in the inspectors office when taking their Amateur Radio License exams in 1935, Ev Brown and Art Blatchford who also were members of WSRC were also both Flight Lieutenants but in signals rather than radar. Al was a very reticent person and I'm sure there are interesting parts of his life we are not aware of. A gentle man and a gentleman he will be missed by his many friends.

“CLEAR SKIES AND TAIL WINDS ALL THE WAY OLD FRIEND”