



BARC
Newsletter



Issue # 2008-10
November 2008

Club call: VE3GCB

Club repeater: VE3RAG
147.000+

Barrie Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Editorial

There was a good turnout for the Barrie Amateur Radio Club pre-Christmas dinner and social held at the Market Buffet and Grill on November 7th. Alex VE3PKA held a 50-50 draw and handed out several door prizes.

The current Basic Amateur Radio Course which started on 23 October is going well with 7 students enrolled.

Ontario's Bill 118 (2008) is causing some concern among the Amateur Radio community. Bill 118 is part of Ontario's "Combating Distracted Drivers – eyes on the road, hands on the wheel" program, with fines of \$500 for offenders. It is listed as An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act to prohibit the use of devices with display screens and hand-held communication and entertainment devices. You can find a copy of Bill 118 at: http://www.ontla.on.ca/bills/bills-files/39_Parliament/Session1/b118.pdf

The City of Barrie and South Simcoe ARES Group (a sub-group of BARC) has been holding training and discussion sessions once per week. An SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) has been completed for the group. If you are interested in becoming a member of ARES, please contact the editor or other member of the CBSS ARES Group.

A comprehensive new document on ARES has been created by RAC and can be downloaded from: <http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/RACARESTrainingManual.htm>

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ARES, CANWARN, RAC, ARRL

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If you have any inquiries, you can contact the club via the following email address:

HamRadio@barriearc.com

Be sure to visit the Barrie Amateur Radio Club webpage at:

<http://www.barriearc.com/>

Next Club Meeting

The next general BARC meeting will be on Tuesday, 11 November 2008. Start time is 7 pm and the location is upstairs in the Zehrs Store community room at the corner of Big Bay Point Rd and Yonge Street.

You do not need to be a club member or a Ham to attend the BARC meetings. Everyone is welcome.

Minutes of all meetings back to November 2004 can be found by clicking on the BARC Minutes of Monthly Meetings link found on the club webpage.

Back issues of this newsletter for 2007, 2008 can also be downloaded from the BARC website.

If you would like to do a presentation or a “show and tell” at one of the BARC meetings, please contact someone on the executive or email the club. Come and show off your latest ham project.

Other Events

Don't forget the regular Monday evening ARES net at 7:30pm on the VE3LSR (146.850-) repeater (you must transmit a 156.7Hz tone). The latest RAC bulletins are also read over the air. Net control is Dave VE3ILA, EC for Barrie.

Morning Breakfast Groups

Currently there are two “Ham” breakfast gatherings in Barrie – everyone is welcome (talk-in is on VE3LSR 146.850-).

- Every Saturday morning at 8am at “Debb’s Place” restaurant located at 352 Huronia Road near the intersection with Big Bay Point road.
- Most Wednesday mornings at 9am at the Paradise Café restaurant in the Atrium building located at the corner of Cundles Rd. and St. Vincent Street (check on VE3LSR).

Basic Amateur Radio Course – Started Thursday, 23 October 2008

BARC Elections – 11 November 2008

Ontario QSO Contest – April 2009

Walk for Dog Guides – May 2009

Celebrate Barrie – June 2009

Field Day – June 2009

Ride for Literacy – July 2009

If you can help out with any of the above events, please contact the club executive.

Recent Events

JOTA – 18, 19 October

A number of BARC members were involved in this year's Scout JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) that took place at the Oro Fair Grounds. Scouts (both boys and girls) in the 11 to 14 age group enjoyed many interesting activities including HF communications with other JOTA groups, EchoLink, IRLP, and were able to send emails via Winlink 2000. Also included were "fox hunts" (hidden transmitter hunts), and metal detecting in an area that had been "seeded" with quarters and even a few loonies.



Echolink is always a big hit with young Scouts



Looking for buried coins, another big hit



The 14th Barrie Scout Troop camp and one of the HF antennas (the Bobbipole).



The Fox Hunt is always popular with the Scouts



This is confirming two-way communication with
 JOTA/JOTI Amateur Radio Station
VE3GCB
 Took Part / A participant: Barrie Scout Troops at Oro-Medonte, Ontario
 FN04fm
 Call: _____
 Band/Mode: _____
 Report: _____
 Time (UTC): _____
 Date: 18 - 19 October 2008

51st JOTA
12th JOTI
 World Scout JAMBOREE
 On the Air / Sur les Ondes
 World Scout JAMBOREE
 On the Internet / Sur Internet

SCOUTS
 Creating a Better World

Barrie Amateur Radio Club



At left, 14th Barrie Scout Troop Leader Tony VA3PAY presents Alex VE3PKA with a thank you plaque from the Scouts. At right are the Hams who participated and helped make JOTA happen: Left to right Darwin VA3DUC, Pat VE3RNH, Ian VA3QT, Jim VE3ANF, Jack VE3RDQ, Mary VA3MIZ, Alex VE3PKA, and Al VE3RRD (taking the picture).

SIT – Sharing Information Technology – 25 October

BARC set up a display for Sharing Information Technology held at Alladin's Banquet Hall on Essa Rd and organized by the Barrie Users Group (<http://www.barrieusersgroup.org/>).



Manning the display are Jack VE3RDQ, Ian VA3QT and Al VE3RRD. On display were APRS tracking, Winlink 2000, EchoLink, IRLP, videos, pictures, and information about Ham Radio, and other items about the Barrie Amateur Radio Club and its activities.

Ontario Bill 118 (2008)

Greetings to all ARES members;

I want to thank you all for your personal e-mails, phone calls and posts on these forums with your concerns expressing the new proposed legislation of Bill 118. I can assure you that you are not alone in this concern on the use of amateur equipment in motor vehicles. As Section Manager for Ontario I have been in touch with representatives of the Ministry of Transportation who are drafting the legislation for the Ontario Government. Please keep in mind that this law has only passed the first reading and the regulations have yet to be drafted.

RAC has sent a letter as a stakeholder and have voiced our concerns and needs in regards to amateur radio. The Ministry has advised they will be speaking with many stakeholders before the final regulations are put in stone. There are many interpretations of the law at this venture from both amateurs and police. Why I say police you might or might not be aware, is that I am a 28 year veteran with the Ontario Provincial Police as a senior police officer. In my opinion from my discussions with the MTO and reading all the material about this law is that they are trying to address the concern with the lack of attention using primary cell phones and devices like blackberries.

Many people are totally engulfed with these devices whether talking in full duplex or trying to read and respond by text messaging while driving down the highway. I am sure many of you have seen this while driving. I can talk from experience in that I have pulled up beside someone on the cell phone in a fully marked police cruiser black & white and they have no clue I am beside them as vehicles proceed down the road. I purposely stay beside them and have paced for 2 or 3 kilometers before they all of a sudden realize I am there. This is what we as police are concerned about. The MTO is also aware of all the stake holders that have two way radio equipment in vehicles both commercial and non. Radios used for Taxi, busses, tow trucks, courier services and construction companies the list goes on plus all the truckers with CB's and even hams with amateur equipment.

Whether or not we as amateurs are going to get a specific exemption for amateur equipment is yet to be seen. We may fall under an exemption for two way radio equipment which the ministry is looking at under the regulations (which is yet to be drafted). The bottom line my concerns as a police officer with this new legislation is to use it when I see someone trying to text message while driving with their elbows as they are typing on a blackberry. Or the fellow who was actually caught last week from a fellow officer with his laptop set up on the dash of the car, typing a letter before he arrived at work while doing 120 kms down the 401. Or the person who is talking on the cell phone and never looks in the rear view mirror or side windows. A person talking on a radio using simplex communication is not a concern for me unless that person is totally distracted in the operation of the vehicle in which I can lay a charge of careless driving (without due care and attention of others using the road). This law is another tool we can use to make our roads safer which is the bottom line. If an over zealous officer sees an Amateur operator ARES or not using the radio and decides to lay a charge without specific evidence to show the operator was distracted from driving. I can almost be sure that with my experience no Justice of the Peace or Judge will ever convict once it is know what the equipment and purpose of it in the vehicle is for.

We are working for all amateurs on behalf RAC and your concerns are ours too. The government is aware of the importance of Amateur Radio thus allowing us a reduction in the cost of call sign licence plates because of our public service. There are the concerns with new equipment being invented that they have to cover all devices and with new amateur radio technology like D-Star, with the ability to read text on the radio's display may fall into this however they are still

allowing AM/FM radio's CD players and even GPS devices on the windshield and dash so I personally speaking as an police officer don't see this as a problem either.

Bottom line is that if the communication you need to do is of great importance that you need to be distracted then pull off the road and do it which is permitted under this new proposed law. If it is just a rag chew conversation on the way to and from work or out for a drive depending on how the law play out with the final royal assent this may be or not be the issue as we have been doing this since radio's were first installed in vehicles over 30 years ago. Common sense is what is needed here.

I hope this helps and you can be assured from Section Management we are on top of this issue. We will inform the ranks once we hear more information.

Thank you

Al

VE3AJB

Allan Boyd

Section Manager

Ontario

Radio Amateurs of Canada

Greetings all,

SM Boyd's calm advice is worth heeding.

For the record, Radio Amateurs of Canada has been and is continuing to address this issue, including through contact with the Minister of Transportation.

It should be remembered that there is similar existing legislation in three other provinces -- NL, NS and QC -- and in each case Amateur radio is explicitly or implicitly excluded from being subject to those laws. This may well end up being a tempest in a teapot and it's important not to run around like the proverbial chicken yelling that the sky is falling.

At the same time, there is reason to be aware of what may be happening, to exercise caution and discretion, and to be vigilant, but at this point nothing has been finalized in Ontario. Any contact by individual Radio Amateurs with provincial officials in regard to this matter must be cordial and non-confrontational, or it could do more harm than good. It might also undermine the efforts being made by RAC.

RAC is the national advocate for all Radio Amateurs and your support of RAC's efforts is greatly appreciated. Further information regarding those efforts will be provided by RAC in due course.

73,

Bob

VE3BDB

R.D. (Bob) Cooke VE3BDB

Vice President Field Services

Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

Random News

BARC should soon have a local repeater in service again. A Motorola MSR2000 has been tuned-up and interfaced to the club's repeater controller by Ron VA3NLS. Bob VE3BFM is currently retuning the club's duplexer to prepare it for installation.

The club repeater VE3RAG on 147.000+ is being moved to a location that will provide improved coverage to all of the City of Barrie. This is an important requirement if this repeater is to be used by the ARES group for emergency communications within the City limits. Wide-area Simcoe County coverage is provided by the VE3LSR repeater.

An official RAC ARES EMCOMM vest is now available to members of the RAC ARES. The vest includes a sewn-on ARES crest, an epaulette for a speaker-mic clip, pocket to hold most modern hand-helds and a pen pocket. You can see a picture here: <http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/aresvests.htm>

Bob VE3ODR has been collecting orders for a radio chest harness / gear organizer that can be seen at: http://www.niftyaccessories.com/Radio_Harness.htm. Price depends on the number ordered, if you are interested, contact Bob: email rces@sympatico.ca



<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/canwarn/home-e.html>

<http://racaresontario.ca/public/index.php>

