

NORTH SHORE ARC



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The Hamfest Issue:

Here's how this year's Hamfest tallied up. Overall I'm told the numbers were down a bit from last year, 470 or so public visitors. For the Vendors we had 92 tables. With the exception of one Vendor, all indicated that it had been a good day for them. The folks from Durham Radio and RadioWorld said they were pleased with the day.

Results were down a bit but this may be due to general shrinkage in the Hamfest fancier population or perhaps to confusion with another event held close to ours and which is planning the same tactic next year. We'll have to find a way to distinguish Our Hamfest from the other. Time for all Club Members to be boosters of Our Hamfest.

Now for some interesting Hamfest related news. Pete VA3PWH sent this in.

Hi all,

I'm hoping that this will be relayed **to all members of NSARC and SPARC** with internet and that they **will pass the word.**

Since we had no takers for some of the door prizes and Elkel's prize arrived after the hamfest, we'll have a raffle (with their permission of course) of the remaining prizes. The proceeds will go to the hamfest fund and may make up the shortfall from last year. **Prizes** range from an **Icom IC-T7H from Elkel** to **\$50 gift certificates from Radio world** and

Callbook CD's from Radioworld. Super prizes so prices are a little high, \$5 and 3 for \$10.

This is **restricted to members only** and tickets are **only available at the May 13 meeting of SPARC and the May 17 meeting of NSARC. Drawing at the NSARC meeting May 17.**

Get frenzied guys, only 200 tickets will be sold unless the demand is huge.

73 de Pete

From our Club Secretary:

As you may be aware, Environment Canada operates a network of Weatheradio transmitters, broadcasting continuous weather information to listeners across Canada on the VHF-FM radio band. This service is available to 90% of Canadians, who use it plan their daily weather-sensitive activities. Emergency responders, school boards, road maintenance crews, and many others rely on Weatheradio for notification when severe weather is approaching.

Presently we are establishing a nationwide monitoring program to enable us to respond more quickly to disruptions in this valuable service. Our new monitoring program will target the actual broadcast signal, with listeners in each transmitter location to report transmission irregularities.

As an existing volunteer with Environment Canada, we're asking for your help in monitoring these Weatheradio broadcasts. If you are within the broadcast range of one

or more of our transmitters. If you're willing to assist us, you could contribute to our monitoring program in three ways:

* by monitoring the broadcast in your area on a daily basis

* by calling a toll-free number to report problems with the signal or message content; and

* by allowing our staff to telephone you a few times a year to confirm broadcast problems and their resolution.

If you are willing to participate in this program and wish to be considered as a candidate in your area, please forward your name, mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address to me. The information you supply will be entered into our database, so that our staff can easily identify the appropriate repair procedure for the Weatheradio system in your area. Volunteers selected will receive an alert-capable Weatheradio, together with specific guidelines for monitoring and reporting. We require one monitor per transmit site location. Should we receive consideration from several candidates in the same area, we will draw one name and that person will be the recipient of the Weatheradio.

Thanks again for your continued support of the CANWARN program. As part of our volunteer network, you make an important contribution to Canada's weather service. If you have any questions or comments about this new initiative, please feel free to contact me.

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AND.....

Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know about ARES, I learned from Noah's Ark...

1. If there's an emergency, don't miss the boat.
2. Despite club loyalties, we are all in the same boat
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground. Have your emergency kits prepared, and tested.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
8. You can't help others, if you don't take care of yourself and your family.
9. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

AMATEUR RADIO - PROFESSIONAL BY NATURE,
AMATEUR BY CHOICE!
Original from "Gordon Hewit"
<ghewit@sympatico.ca>

From The Chair in the Shack.

Excitement looms as May begins. The new uhf repeater is on its way to completion and may be active before June (fingers crossed). The Trillium application is close to completion. We have established a way to access VE3NAA although we ran out of time to get the audio up to proper levels. Next time maybe.

Camp X is coming up June 5 and 6 and we will need as many operators as possible. In the past we have hoped and waited for bodies to materialize. This year we'll be asking for commitments from as many members as possible in the form of signatures. Please consider what time

slots you can fill on each of the days and let us know that too.

We'd like to see other rigs brought out by members. Try your rig against others and see how well it competes. If you would like to operate code, bring your key and we'll try to have adapters ready for it. Want to try an antenna? Bring it along as well. This could be a lot of fun if members were experimenting as well as just operating. Of course some extra co-ax would be handy too if you are bringing an antenna as would a mast setup. I'll have at least three types of antenna support on display so you can pick up some ideas for portable operation.

ARES this year has been going through some reorganization and we may not see exercises until the fall. We now fall under the District Emergency Coordinator for Scugog District (set up to match Ontario EMO districts). At present we are studying something known as Incident Management System and you can find it under Incident Command System on the internet. Essentially, this breaks the response down into a model which can grow for serious incidents and shrink again as the need subsides. Bob Leek, VE3TFD is a Toronto Fire Services Captain and very well qualified to coach us on the implications of adopting this approach. Our planning committee is composed of Assistant EC's from all three clubs and numbers about 12 members. While two are professional fire fighters and will not be part of a working roster, they have made huge contributions in terms of advice. The goal here is to have a larger number of AEC's, each of whom can take on an emergency as acting EC and each of whom is familiar with our resources and roster. The coordinator's job is really just that. No single coordinator can run the show and pull off a success.

We'll be asking for committment to ARES in writing as well. Our roster as of a couple of years ago was 35 members and we need as many as 180 for a full-blown emergency. Training is not tough, messaging and

setting up your own emergency station with, hopefully, emergency power source. We found that simplex for a region as large as ours is not very successful so our repeaters with emergency power will be very valuable.

Got the internet? Check out some of the ARES documents on the RAC site. You will find that, after jargon is familiar, the whole job is simple. We know you'll want to help in an emergency. Let us know that you'll be there. Otherwise nobody will call you if there is an emergency, leaving us high and dry.

73 de Pete

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I had a good time working "security" at the back door to the Hamfest. On my one and only tour around Hamfest I saw stuff I could use at GREAT prices, but I forgot Hamfest rule #1: "If you need it, and you see it, buy it". Oh well there's always next year. Let's spread the word as to when Our Hamfest is.

The Weatheradio concept sounds intriguing, but alas I'm at work during the day. When I was in the Coast Guard, the MAYFOR broadcasts were really important and one of the duties of our station was to report the weather conditions each morning to Warton Coast Guard Radio who relayed the information to RCC Trenton. Consider this supporting this if you have the time.

I'm looking forward to the Camp X weekend. I hope to have a tuner and QRP rig built and tested by then. I'm just trying to figure out what kind of mast arrangement I'd need to hoist an antenna.....

Your humble scribe.
Ken
VE3RMK