

# marcOgram

Official Publication of The Montreal Amateur Radio Club Inc.  
Box 53047 - RPO Dorval, Dorval, Quebec H9S 5W4



Volume 44, Number 4

January 1999

## “THE JOYS OF DXPEDITIONS”

Wednesday 27 January 1999

Ragchew and Fleamarket: 19:30

Club meeting: 20:00

St. Thomas Anglican Church, Corner Somerled and Rosedale  
(Please use side entrance off Rosedale)

Ever wondered what it was like to go on a DXpedition? What was involved in packing up all of the radio equipment and everything else needed to set up a station in some distant place? Fred Archibald, VE2SEI, who has been a driving force behind many of the West Island Amateur Radio Club DXpeditions in the past few years will give a take on this most interesting aspect of the hobby. His talk will be illustrated with pictures of recent trips. This promises to be a fascinating talk about what must be a most enjoyable aspect of our hobby.

### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello,

Well, its cold out there as I write this. Winter has set in with a vengeance. We've made it through another year and are starting 1999. It is my hope that this year will offer each of you, and your family, all the best in health, happiness and prosperity.

At our December meeting of the Board of Directors Vernon was re-elected as Treasurer and his report on our revenues and expenses for last year is included with this MarcOgram. Craig Brander was elected Secretary which will spare the Board having to

wait while the chairman also took the minutes!

At the meeting I expect to have confirmed the location of the hamfest and the various details such as the cost of admissions and tables. The location will be in the Cote des Neiges area and the date will be April 17, 1999.

The Field Day results were released and VE2ARC slipped somewhat in the standings. This was

#### Notice - change of address

The club's mailing address is now:

Montreal Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 53047 - RPO Dorval  
Dorval, Quebec  
H9S 5W4

## Directors

President: James R. Hay, VE2VE.....514-697-7205  
jrhay@HayA.qc.ca  
Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary: Craig Brander.....514-488-5109  
Treasurer: Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS.....514-684-7944  
vern@hamgate.concordia.ca

Directors: Don Dashney, VE3RM/VE2SH.....613-675-4715  
dash@hawk.igs.net  
Earl Paris, VE2ESP.....524-4633  
Andre Sipos, VA2ASS..... 482-5903  
Sheldon Werner, VA2SW  
Edward Wielgus, VE3VMF

Club Callsign: VE2ARC

Club Website: <http://www.marc.qc.ca>

## Repeaters

VE2BG 147.06 MHz (+)

Owned by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club and operated on the Club's behalf by the Amateur Radio Club of McGill University. Located on the McGill University Campus.

VE2RED 147.27 MHz (+)

Owned and operated by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Located near Decarie and Cote St. Luc Road.

The repeaters are open to all amateurs and VE2RED also offers a phone patch available to all amateurs during the day and evening.

## Meetings of the Board of Directors

Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to any member to attend. Board meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (Sept. to June) at 7:30 PM at the Montreal Association for the Blind, 7000 Sherbrooke St West. Should you wish to attend one of the meetings you are welcome. Just speak to one of the directors before-hand to make certain that the meeting has neither been cancelled, nor the location changed.

The MarcOgram is published nine times per year on the second to last Wednesday of September through June, excepting December by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club. Advertising and copy deadline is one week prior to publication.

### Editor:

Craig Brander, VE2YGK craigyul@total.net 514-488-5109

### Annual fees are:

General Members	...	...	\$23.00
Associate Members	...	...	\$23.00
White Cane Members...	...	...	\$10.00
Family Members (per family)	...	...	\$28.00

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Memberships received on or after June 1 commence immediately and extend through the subsequent membership year - covering a period of up to fifteen months.

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The opinions expressed herein are, unless otherwise stated, solely those of the authors concerned, and not those of the Club, the Directors or members and do not represent the policy of the Club.

# AAA Electronics and Communications

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George, VE2GW

due to several factors. Equipment problems contributed somewhat to our standing as did our change to the 2A category. While I am not a strong proponent of over-planning Field Day there are some things which we can do better. Some logistical problems will need to be worked out after last year and we need to decide what you, the members, feel is the philosophy with which we should approach Field Day.

My personal view of Field Day is that the contest is not the most important aspect. We are trying to demonstrate that we can set up and keep operational an emergency station under field conditions for a 24 hour period. This we have done. We have also shown that this can be done on fairly short notice. What do you folks think? I'd like to discuss this, at least briefly, at the meeting. Ile Tekakwitha is a good location and we enjoy excellent co-operation from the authorities there. In fact the Fire Brigade supplied us with several items which we turned out not to have on the site.

For some time now Vernon Ikeda, VE2MBS, has been taking care of making the coffee and putting out the drinks and cookies/muffins/doughnuts at our meetings. Since he is also treasurer he is quite busy at the beginning of the meetings and at times I get caught having to wait while we sort things out. I will be making an effort to start our meetings on time but I know that Vernon would like some help making the coffee. Rather than being a hermit in the kitchen as we start the meeting he could be more available to the members if someone could help with the coffee. If you can help please offer him your assistance.

That's about all for now. This month's meeting promises to be a most interesting one and I look forward to seeing you all there.

73 de Jim, VE2VE

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Just a reminder that the Marcogram can now be sent to you via email. Just send an email to Jim Hay at [jrhay@haya.qc.ca](mailto:jrhay@haya.qc.ca) A pdf file ( for the Adobe Acrobat Reader which is available for free off the Web) will be sent to you. These two issues are currently available at the club web site, if you would like to check what the product looks like at <http://www.marc.qc.ca/mgram.html> The October issue is about 35Kb in size and the November

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

Montreal 911 Centre	...	...	280-2121
Laval 911 Centre	...	...	662-4240
Longueuil 911 Centre	...	...	646-8570
Surete du Quebec	...	...	598-4242
Kahnawake Peace Keepers			632-6505

These numbers are for emergencies ONLY

issue 65Kb. Comments have been favourable. By getting the Marcogram via email the club can save on postage. The experience of one club member follows:

This is great! Just received the October 1998 MarcOgram as an attachment to an e-mail.

I use Netscape Communicator 4.06 for my e-mail on my Pentium. When I clicked on the attached 98oct.pdf file Netscape automatically took me to this web site: <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html> It took half an hour to download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.01. It took just a second to copy the .pdf file to my hard disk. In Windows Explorer I double clicked the 98oct.pdf file and had the option of reading the October 1998 MarcOgram on my screen and / or printing it so that I could add this hard copy to our pile of former "snail mail" editions!

Bob VE2WRE and I look forward to continuing to receive our marcOgrams by e-mail.

73 de Shirley VE2SLO

That all for this month.

73 de Craig, VE2YGK

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**CONTEST CALENDAR**

Here are reminders of many of the contests coming up. Rules for these can be found in QST or CQ magazines or on the internet. If you need rules ore more info on a contest please get in touch with me by telephone or e-mail.

If you are on VHF only try the January VHF Sweepstakes. It will give you another chance to work "dx" on 2M simplex. Use the 2M simplex frequencies (but not

146.52)

It is not necessary to be "in the contest" to work a contest station and it is not necessary to submit a log unless you want to see your results in QST, CQ or The Canadian Amateur, etc.

January, 1999

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z Jan 23 - 0400Z Jan 25
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z Jan 29 - 1600Z Jan 31
REF Contest, CW	0600Z Jan 30 - 1800Z Jan 31
UBA Contest, Phone	1300Z Jan 30 - 1300Z Jan 31

February, 1999

New Hampshire QSO Party	0000Z Feb 6 - 2400Z Feb 7
Delaware QSO Party	1700Z Feb 6 - 0500Z Feb 7
and	1300Z Feb 7 - 0100Z Feb 8
Dutch PACC Contest	1200Z Feb 13 - 1200Z Feb 14
YL-OM Contest, Phone	1400Z Feb 13 - 0200Z Feb 15
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z Feb 13 - 0100Z Feb 14
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW	0000Z Feb 20 - 2400Z Feb 21
YL-OM Contest, CW	1400Z Feb 20 - 0200Z Feb 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, Phone	2200Z Feb 26 - 1600Z Feb 28
REF Contest, Phone	0600Z Feb 27 - 1800Z Feb 28
UBA Contest, CW	1300Z Feb 27 - 1300Z Feb 28
RSGB 7 MHz DX Contest, CW	1500Z Feb 27 - 0900Z Feb 28

March, 1999

ARRL Int. DX Contest, Phone	0000Z Mar 6 - 2400Z Mar 7
RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW	1200Z Mar 13 - 1200Z

Mar 14

Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z Mar 14 - 0100Z Mar 15
Alaska QSO Party	0000Z Mar 20 - 2400Z Mar 21
Bermuda Contest	0001Z Mar 20 - 2400Z Mar 21
BARTG WW RTTY Contest	0200Z Mar 20 - 0200Z Mar 22
Russian DX Contest	1200Z Mar 20 - 1200Z Mar 21
CQWW WPX Contest, Phone	0000Z Mar 27 - 2400Z Mar 28

73 de Don, VE3RM

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### EQUESTRIAN EVENTS COMMUNICATIONS

(Organized by: Ken VE2EXC)

The last two equestrian communication events for 1998 were held on 29 August and 3 October. Thanks go out to the following volunteers. Mike VE3AET, Jim VE2VE,

Mel VE2DC, Jim VE2PI, Croydon VA2CLS and Shirley VE2SMO, Rob VE2WRJ and Carole VA2MOO plus their two boys and one dog, Vern VE2MBS and his dad Howard, Frank VE2TOR and Steve, Jacques VE2CT, Dan VE2JMF, Ray VE2SJA and Steven VA2SMF, Margaret VE2DXA, Jim VE2KN, Dave VE2MPD and my XYL Gillian VE2EXX.

### MARATHON COURSE COMBINED DRIVING EVENT DICKSON'S SANDRIDGE FARM 29 AUGUST 1998

This event involved three phases of competition: Presentation and Dressage, Obstacle Drive - cones and Cross Country with hazards (maze-type setups, through which carriages have to be driven - precise driving required). The cross-country phase is where amateur radio comes into play; we provide the safety grid, and on a sprawling 8 kilometer course you need it.

The day began grey and damp. Rendez-vous time for the radio operators was 11:00 a.m. and by that time there had already been one accident (a broken wrist) in the obstacle driving phase. We were also informed upon arrival, that both the ambulance and canteen people had cancelled out at the last minute (so .... no first aid or food available on site - great start)! To say that Janet Mann (President St.Lazare Carriage Driving Club) was very, very happy to see the "communications" team, was an understatement. The added bonus for her was that one of our team was a Saint-John's Ambulance volunteer. Food wise, most of us had brought something to eat anyway, we had planned on having a picnic .... yeah right, in the rain!! ... but we did manage - we sat on hay bales under the stable eaves.

But things did improve and when the cross-country portion of this event began, it actually stopped raining and by the end of the day the sun was shining. It was an 8 kilometer course, through fields, down lanes with a driveway and a road crossing thrown in for good measure - Jacques, Vern, Dan, Ray and Frank did an excellent job of keeping horses and cars well separated.

The competitors started at three-minute intervals with there being up to 4 carriages on course at one time. There are various categories of carriages: single ponies and pairs; single and paired horses and, it is timed (penalties if you are either too slow or too fast). You also get penalized if you don't do the "hazards" correctly.

Anyway everything went very smoothly, and the competitors were happy we were there - as one of them said, "it was a relief to see a friendly face out in the middle of no where, at least you knew you were "on course and not lost"!

It's nice to be appreciated.

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**ST-LAZARE CARRIAGE DRIVING CLUB  
- PLEASURE DRIVING EVENT  
WINDEGE FARM**

3 OCTOBER 1998

This was a much more relaxed event for the competitors, it was just a "pleasure" carriage driving event - aimed at introducing new "drivers" to the finer points of the sport. As the event on the 29th, this involved three phases of competition with communications being provided for the final phase - cross-country.

The weather couldn't have been better - a beautiful sunny, cool, fall day. We all got together around noon for a picnic and debriefing and then proceeded to our positions for a 2:00 p.m. start. The course was 6 kilometers long and was again through "hill and dale" this time with a pond crossing. Everything went smoothly, there wasn't even a refusal at the pond. At the end of the event, food (all home made) and refreshments were offered to all the volunteers - a gesture much appreciated by all.

So ..... that is it for this season, we look forward to seeing you all in 1999.

**PARTICIPATION**

If anyone else would like to join the team, please contact Ken VE2EXC via: the Covey Hill swap net (VE2REX 146.685) on Friday evenings at 8:00, by phone (450) 458-7447, or by e-mail: kmagee@hudson.net. You don't have to know anything about horses - we are there solely for communication purposes. We work with both mobile and portable units. Come have fun meet other hams from the various clubs, and practice your hobby. This is what amateur radio is all about - communications!

**1999 EVENTS**

**23 May 1999** Canadian Classic Carriage Driving  
Windedge Farm, Ste. Justine de Newton, QC  
16-18 km cross country event

**Note:** minimum of 22 amateur radio operators required

**30 May 1999** St. Lazare Cyclo-Tour St. Lazare, QC

**Note:** from 1,000 to 1,500 or more cyclists (30-km course)

There are at least 3 more equestrian event dates to be confirmed: the Harmony Horse trails (mid-June), plus the two carriage driving events.

73 to all

Ken and Gillian Magee (VE2EXC and VE2EXX)

**SCANNERS HEAR IT FIRST**

BY FREDERICK HART

Ho! Ho! Ho! So what if it is past the Xmas season.

There was no December issue as the powers to be that publish the MarcOgram double as Santa's Elves at that time of year and couldn't make toys and publish at the same time. So I would like to take this time to wish you and yours the best of season's greetings and a prosperous 1999 to all. The holiday period was low key for me and the cats but I got to monitor all the goings on with the various Emergency Services and the ongoing labour dispute that the Montreal Fire Department is experiencing. Tactics have spread to the radio end of their shenanigans (412.7625) which caught a lot of listeners by surprise. Although when there is an working incident all seriousness takes precedence. None the less having a unit report en-route or arriving on scene with a barbershop quartet singing in the background, dogs barking or birds chirping does put a little extra into our listening hobby.

Xmas Eve gave a earful around 16:00 on 412.5125 LaSalle/Verdun Fire battled major blaze in a three storey row housing on the Avenue's. WI Mutual Aid (159.450) responded from all nine West island Mutual Aid cities and was quite an active listen for a few hours. The Montreal Fire Department ended the year with simultaneous working fires on News Year's Eve with a five alarm plus fire at Bourbonniere and Adam and a two alarm plus at Bourbonniere and Sherbrooke. At one time during the fire there were only 14 Pumpers and eight Ladders to cover the rest of the City because of extra calls for backup units at both incidents. Again quite a few a few good listening on the air. See you next month as I have to got to go and officiate the Cats as they have just begun the daily running of the "Fast and Furious Flying Fur 500" What can I say, they keep my sanity.

Frequency Note: Dorval - If you monitor 411.4875 City of Dorval Fire/Rescue and hear what sounds like a small yapping, that is the TeleCommand Door Opener device at the North and South stations.

\* Brand new find \* - IQC/Q-92 Traffic Plane 458.3675

Frequencies of the Month

Clinton County (New York) Fire/Rescue/EMS

**CLASSIFIED**

DEADLINE for classified ads is the second Wednesday before the monthly meeting.

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**A NOTE OF THANKS**

Herm Verblow, VE2HV has donated to the club, a National NCX-3 transceiver. It is older model tube rig from the 1960's and from all accounts was a pretty good radio in its heyday. Many thanks to Herm for the radio, service and operating manuals and as well his own notes on the operation of same.

Vernon, VE2MBS

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**WELCOME TO BASIC COURSE STUDENTS**

A warm welcome to Martin Barry, Jeff Reed, Frank Nagy, Linda O'Hara, and Mario Ciamamicoli who have started their basic amateur radio course on January 16. Good luck with your studies and exams. Thank-you for taking an interest and joining our hobby. We hope you will find amateur radio a challenging and rewarding pastime. We look forward to hearing you on the in the near future.

73 de Craig, VE2YGK

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

CANADIAN SKI MARATHON - Souly Loizos VE2FFS, still needs volunteers to provide communications for Canadian Ski Marathon.. The event takes place the weekend of February 13th and 14th, and help is needed for 3 days (Fri, Sat and Sun.) You could help out 1,2 or 3 days. To volunteer or for further information contact Souly Loizos at 273-4548.

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This active Emergency system is quite audible to scanner listeners in Montreal area. It is made up of 27 rural departments and it comes alive several times a day. Based out of the Clinton County Communications Centre in downtown Plattsburg, they page/tone alert all Fire/Rescue/EMS on the original call frequency of 153.875. From the you can monitor the follow-up on a mini-trunking system in the 800 MHz range (Most scanners these days have 800 MHz, so if yours doesn't, Get with the program).

Frequencies of the Clinton County System  
( /T = Trunked)

852.0125/T 852.3625/T 852.5625/T 852.8125/T  
853.8125/T 853.0125/T 853.0375 Direct-1  
853.9125 Direct-2

Note 1 You will hear a loud buzzing noise on one of the trunked channels each day on a different frequency, so just lock it out and scan the other four frequencies.

Note 2 You may hear local French transmissions depending on your location. EMS/Rescue calls can be monitored including Ambulance to Hospital en-route patient profiles (A Real System). The system runs from four different repeater sites and several incidents can occur at the same time with no interference to each incident.

**Quick Tip**

For those of us who own table top/mobile type scanners, don't you just love the fragile telescopic whips that comes the scanner?. When they break off, it usually means a trip to Radio Shack for a replacement (and a big hole in you wallet: Vernon) In the meantime however you can use a steel wire coat hanger from the closet and remove the jacket or coat that you will wear to the store to pick up the replacement antenna. You can do one of the following two ideas for a temporary/permanent antenna. The first involves cutting up the coat hanger 15 inches (39 cm) long and making a whip antenna or bending the hook end straight and bending the rest of the coat hanger into a diamond shape. Trust me it works as I have used this method and can still monitor all my usual frequencies with no problems.

73 de Fred

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## Montreal Amateur Radio Club

Income Statement September 1, 1997 to August 31, 1998

### \*\*Revenues\*\*

Memberships and other revenues:

Memberships	2290.00	
Classes	320.00	
Total Memberships+classes		2610.00\$
Interest (GIC's):		600.04
Advertising:		136.00
St Lazare Cyclo-Thon 1998 (Donation)		50.00
Total Revenue:		3396.04\$

### \*\* Expenses:

MarcOgram:	1500.56
Repeater:	437.04
Meetings:	630.60

Other Expenses:

Hamfest	24.44	
Field day	42.98	
Office Supplies	13.77	
Service Charges	44.85	
IGIF (1)	31.00	
Licences	72.00	
RAC	39.95	
RAQI (2)	160.00	
Cheque Printing	5.99	
Books Training dept.	230.99	
P.O. Box 500	200.14	
Other Total:		866.11
Total Expenses		3434.31
Profit (Loss)		(38.27)\$

(1) Annual Corporate filing fee

(2) Includes Liability (Group) Insurance Policy



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YUPITERU

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RAMSEY KITS, S.G.C., TIMEWAVE, UNADILLA, UNIVERSAL, VECTRONICS,  
VIEROPLEX, WATSON

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A.R.R.L., ARROWHEAD, ARTSCI, BAYLIN PUBLICATIONS, BILLBOARD  
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IBS (PASSPORT), KLINGENFUSS, LOOMPANICS, NATIONAL RADIO CLUB,  
RSGB, RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK, RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA, RADIO  
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