

Toronto FM Communications Society

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Committee News

At the Annual General Meeting in September, four positions were up for election. Anne Jones VE3KWI, Ralph Muecke VE3VXY completed their two-year terms, and Lambert Philadelphia VE3LYP and Luc Seguin VA3LMS filled the two vacant positions. As there were no other nominations, all four were acclaimed to a new two-year term, expiring in 2014. Ralph continues as President. Anne continues as Treasurer, and Ray Chow VE3ZXC as Secretary.

Website Updates

We continue to add features to our website. If you are a paid-up member you should now have access to the members-only section. Suggestions for new services are always welcome.

New Nets

Name: GTA Regional Clubs & ARES/EmComm Net

Day/Time: Sunday, 5:30 p.m. local time

Repeater: VE3TWR 444.400

More info: Website: ares.meskes.ca

Name: Toronto ARES D-Star Net

Day/Time: Tuesday 2030hr EST 01:30:00UTC

Repeater: VE3RPTC 145.250-

Purpose: The purpose of this net is to promote and exercise the Mutual Aid Program between the ARES and EmComm Groups in the Greater Toronto Area and to distribute club activity news of interest to all Amateur Radio operators participating in the net. We are using the XRF005B reflector on VE3RPT 145.250MHz – offset, VA3PMO 444.250MHz + offset and VE3YYZ 1287.500MHz – offset (repeaters in the Toronto area) and link to many other repeaters across Canada and the USA. Please visit ares.meskes.ca for more info.

How to join: Everyone is welcome to join in but you will have to have a D-Star radio

More info: ares.meskes.ca

In Memoriam VE3TIJ

David S. Faul

Nov. 13, 1951 – Dec. 9, 2012

SK VE3TIJ, N2ZVK(USA), M1FBS(UK)

David was born in Port Hope, Ontario and after several moves the family arrived in Pickering in the mid-1960's.

An exceptionally gifted student, David graduated from Pickering High as an Ontario Scholar, and then received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in English Literature. Eventually, he joined Ontario Hydro (now OPG) in the late 70's where he remained until his retirement a few years ago.

It has to be said that David Faul was a unique and exceptionally well-read individual, with many diverse interests. He excelled in English studies and displayed a voracious appetite for the written word, news etc. In fact, David received and read 5 newspapers delivered to his home daily and watched many news reports that he taped the previous day. Add to this other newspapers he regularly purchased at the newsstand in the Pickering Town Center, the technical magazines received from Amateur Radio Societies here, in the USA and in Europe, and one wonders how he ever found time for anything else! He was a very busy and well-organized man.

In addition, with his wife Diane, he belonged to two book clubs and the Toronto Jane Austen Society. He was rarely found without a book in his hands and deliberately read challenging texts, analyzing and debating the content.

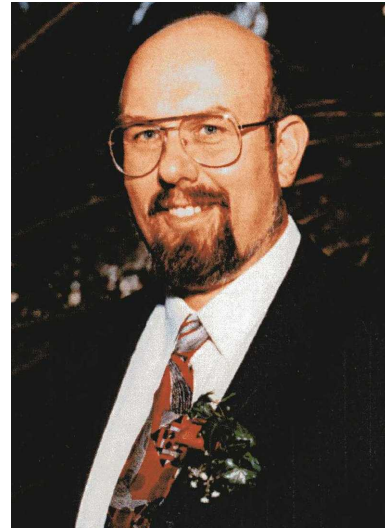
Still with all that activity, David's other great love was of course Ham Radio. He had displayed an early interest in electronics, tinkering and experimenting with small radios and gadgets. With diligent study, David was licensed as VE3TIJ in 1991 and later received full amateur radio privileges by 1996.

Between then and now he belonged to many Amateur Radio Clubs both in the Toronto GTA area and in New York State. He often contributed well-written and researched articles to club newsletters and was net-control with the South Pickering club for a number of years. He also held the USA call-sign N2ZVK and the UK call M1FBS.

At one time or another, David worked most all HF bands. Never discouraged by the antenna limitations of high-rise living, David was a local pioneer of QRP operation on the HF bands, often operating with 5 watts and a hamstick antenna with great success from his parked vehicle. He was instrumental in encouraging his friends to enjoy QRP operation years later.

David was very active as well on 2m, 1.25m, 70cm, and 23cm. He had a go at Amateur TV ("..it's a little lonely on 439.250 Mhz", he would say), Packet Radio, Echolink, D-Star and more. In the last few years he loved to get into the New York State nets on 220, as he was on the 11th floor in his building. (BARRA, LARA, ORLEANS COUNTY). The apartment was festooned with stealth antennas taped to windows and hidden in drapes.

David often liked to comment that he was computer-illiterate and would tell you that he had little use for computers and the like. In spite of his self-effacing humour, his friends knew David to always be on the leading edge. He was an early scanner buff and produced an easy-to-understand scanner manual of his own which can still be found online; he was into D-Star



years before most of his friends; he was a pioneer and ardent supporter of the 220 MHz band in the Greater Toronto Area and a familiar voice on the TFMCS repeater 224.860 MHz; and he was one of the first to purchase an Alinco 900 MHz transceiver, determined to encourage new activity on that band. David never stopped learning or sat still: recently he had even qualified for his commercial Marine operator's license and marine radio so that he could render assistance to Lake Ontario boaters from his home!

David was a true Renaissance Man, at ease in practically any discussion, whether it be the politics of the day, a cultural debate, or the latest ham gear. But above all, David was a true and loyal friend to those who knew him: a man with a generous intellect and an even more generous heart. We will all miss that unmistakable booming voice with the clearly enunciated call letters VE3TIJ!

(submitted by his good friends Don Dorward, VA3DDN & Joseph Verdirame, VE3LNU)

From the Archives

Jim McCullough VE3CSO sent in this article from 1969 about the opening of the Ontario Science Centre and its amateur radio station VE3OSC.

ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTER OPENS VE3OSC NOW ON THE AIR

September 27, 1969, was the opening day for about 20,000 invited guests at the Ontario Science Centre. This is not a fair or exposition, but a permanent building similar to our National Science Academy, or the like. After the official opening at 16 minutes and 16 seconds past 11:00 a.m. E.D.T., amateur radio station VE3OSC went on-the-air. Note the call letters are very appropriate, too. VE3DWG/M and VE3FBH were the first official contacts on 2-meter FM with VE3CSO operating VE3OSC. The station is running a Collins kilowatt on the low frequencies and the 2-meter rig is a 4-channel Motorola Dispatcher, with crystals for channel "A", and repeaters VE3RPT, VE3OSH, and VE3MOT. The antenna is a fifteen element circular polarized Telrex near the top of the 120-foot sky needle, and is fed with 3-inch Heliax.!

6-meter activity is centered around 52.525 MHz which is the international calling channel. So far, there is activity in Detroit, Windsor, Toronto, Buffalo, Rochester, Cornwall, and Montreal, with more people getting on all the time. During the summer months, there are quite a few good openings and W4's, W5's and W7's are worked by Canadian stations. Plans are now being made for the installation of a repeater in the Toronto area with an input of 52.76 MHz and a 52.525 MHz output. These are the same channels being used by the Columbia, South Carolina repeater, which can be worked during band openings. Anyone interested in 6-meter FM rigs should check with Chuck Sonstenes, VE3KQ.

With increased QRM on channel "A", base stations are switching to channel "I" - 146.76 MHz -- for ragchewing. This channel is being kept clear of repeaters for this specific purpose.

About the 112 foot Telrex rotating tower - the whole tower is rotated by a chain drive from a large motor in the base, and carries with it full size beams for 2, 6, 10, 15, 20, and 40 meters. That's right--a full size three element forty meter beam! The mast and antenna system alone is estimated to be worth in the neighborhood of \$8,000. For high frequency bands the station consists of a Collins 5151 receiver, 3253 transmitter, and 3051 Linear amplifier for daily operation. Visiting amateurs may operate this equipment, with proper clearance and identification required by Canadian Government.

Monday, January 25, 1971, was another significant occasion for amateur radio in the Metro Toronto area. Over 250 amateurs and friends attended the opening meeting of the Ontario Science Centre Amateur Radio Club. The guest list included hams from XE1, W5 and VE7 as well as my fb friends VE3ASZ-Betty and OM VE3AST-Cliff. CROSSTALK is fortunate to have these Canadian friends share the above information with us. Thank you very much.

de WA2FGS

We must support DARF

Submitted by Ann, VE3HAI, Oct. 2012

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Do you know what DARF is or what it does? DARF is short for the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund. While the DARF fund is administered by RAC, it is a wholly-independent trust incorporated under the laws of Alberta and managed by three appointed trustees. DARF provides funds to cover the expenses of one or more delegates who attend the World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) held every few years at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva. The RAC delegate(s) may also attend periodic planning meetings in Geneva when required.

I recently had my perception of DARF clarified when I was privileged to listen to a presentation by Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN. Bryan's talk on A Century of Regulating Radio, subtitled: Amateur Radio: A survival Story was held at Radio Talk 2012 in Montreal on September 22.

I had missed the point of DARF entirely. In case you have too, here's what I think you should know. DARF can make the difference between us keeping our frequencies or losing them. Fortunately for us, RAC has a place on the Industry Canada team. Bryan is the RAC delegate on that team. He has the background and knowledge as well as the amateur radio experience to represent our interests well. In fact, on one occasion during WRC-12 in Geneva, he was asked to lead the Canadian delegation during a decisive meeting when the Industry Canada leader was called away early.

The ITU is the United Nations agency based in Geneva which manages the international treaty by which all U.N. member states abide governing the uses made of radio frequencies and – more recently – orbital positions of communication satellites. While member countries don't have to fully implement the decisions made at WRC's, they must respect them.

I won't go into the details of how the recommendations are made and adopted other than to say it's a long process including years of preparatory meetings prior to each conference. The WRC meetings themselves involve some 3000 delegates and the proceedings are simultaneously translated into six languages. These conferences are held every few years. The next will be in November 2015.

If you're thinking "So what?" Think again. Money is needed to ensure that our interests are kept in the forefront and protected. It will be too late to act if any of our frequencies are reassigned. With the growing number of transmitting devices including smart meters, it's all too easy to lose. We need to protect our interests. If you love our hobby, you will help us by sending money specifically to the DARF fund, care of RAC. Again, our representatives work pro bono; they are not paid for their time. DARF provides them only their travel to and expenses while in Geneva.

I propose that CLARA help by donating \$2.00 per member to DARF and I challenge other clubs to do it as well. As a CLARA member, if you have any reservations about this donation, contact me at clarionylnews@gmail.com. If there are no objections, we will send the money on November 15, 2012. This is just a start, but let's have our members lead the way. Please spread the word by challenging your local ham clubs too. We must support DARF.

Our thanks go to Bryan for editing this article.