

THE DUMMY LOAD

Official Bulletin of The Cambridge A.R.C. (Sware Inc)
-serving the community since 1964

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Meetings

Meetings held at 8:00pm on the second Monday of each month, Board Room Preston Arena (Bishop St at Hamilton St) No meetings in July or August. Visitors always welcome.

Club Net

on the
VE3SWR repeater 146.790 Mhz
every Wednesday
at 2100R

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**VE3SWA
DXCC HONOR ROLL
(332/332)
WAZ, WAC, WAS.**

Next Meetings

Mon Jan 10th 2011

Mon Feb 14th 2011

Mon Mar 14th 2011

Mon Apr 11th 2011

usual location and time

CLUB NEWS

Good attendance for our December meeting with eleven smiling faces at the tables after surviving a trek through the spectators section of the Preston Arena. Unfortunately I was unable to attend, being otherwise engaged in Cambridge Memorial Hospital. Scott VE3ANT as vice pres handled the meeting with no problem.

In attendance were VA3CBE Calvin, VA3CF Clarence, VA3MP Mike, VA3QF Keith, VE3ANT Scott, VE3FC Fraser, VE3IHM Hugh, VE3KVZ Steve, VE3MAH Tom, VE3NXV Gerry and VE3USP Steve.. Gerry. read the minutes which were accepted as read and Fraser reported we were well in the black financially. Calvin CBE and Mike MP volunteered to fill in for Robin who had to resign as ARES coordinator. Tom MAH handed out some nice connectors to anyone who could use them, Steve USP offered to build foxes for future fox hunts. Calvin supplied some Christmas cheer in the form of tasty fruit cake. Clarence CF won the donation of \$8.50 and generously returned it to the club. The RAC Winter contest was handled by VA3CBE, VA3MP and VE3USP between them they managed to rack up a very decent score making 476 QSOs for 3,060 QSO points with 57 multipliers giving a grand total of 174,420 which included QSOs with all Provinces except Yukon and Nunavut. Congratulations and thanks for the effort on behalf of the club. Our entry has been submitted in good time this year, no problems encountered joining the logs Hi. Happy New Year to all.

It's winter in Canada!
And the gentle breezes blow
Seventy miles an hour
At thirty-five below.
Oh, how I love Canada
When the snow's up to your butt
You take a breath of winter
And your nose gets frozen shut.
Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave Canada
I'm frozen to the friggin' ground!

NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD TOOL

No, this is not an ad for those little pills you see advertised on television. What I am talking about is giving a new life to that venerable old flashlight by retrofitting it with today's technology.

I use flashlights a lot at work, a quality light will last for years unless one drives over it or perhaps drops it into a piece of moving machinery. But there is a drawback to being durable and that is the fact in which it cannot compete with new LED technology. A typical three volt "D" cell bulb has about 20 lumens output, which is quite useable for most jobs but only has about three to four hours of useable light when "run of the mill" carbon zinc batteries are installed. How about that hand lantern? Oh yes very bright but one needs a big budget to feed its appetite with those expensive square batteries. That's where LED's shine (no pun intended) they are bright and efficient. Today there are small handheld lights with over 80 lumens available on store shelves which are very "battery friendly" I often was tempted to take an old blown bulb and put a LED in place of the old filament until one day at the hardware store low and behold a company already has done just that. It was a pleasant surprise to see that little gem hanging there on the hook, and the price was right so what the heck, what have I got to loose.

Here is the product review end of things. There are two models available, a 2 cell 30 lumens and a 3-4 cell 40 lumens. I installed the two cell model in the light we keep by the back door and was quite impressed with the output, wee bit brighter than the old incandescent filament, but how efficient? So down to the bench to take an amperage reading. The old bulb was stamped 0.47A and measured out at just under 500ma right on the mark for its advertised draw. The led measured under 75ma, quite a difference considering it was a brighter light. So your thinking that if the current is 1/5 that if the old bulb that the batteries should last five times longer right? Wrong, due to the chemical composition of the battery the discharge curve is not linear with current draw. "Google" "energizer technical data" and in their website they have everything you need to know about their products, including discharge curves. For my test purposes I used cheap blue batteries from the dollar store and to be fair I used one battery from each of the two packages as to ensure both tests are equal. And for each test ran down the batteries to 0.8v per cell, that was the point at which I felt the light output was to the point where I would not be able to do a job, walk through a dark campsite, etc. Ok now how much longer do you think? Twenty maybe thirty hours, try for over one hun-

dred, yes that is correct, over 100 hours of continuous decent useable light on two fifty cent batteries from the dollar store! Now if you were in a situation where you needed to depend on battery longevity which bulb would you want, I know my choice. And at a cost of only four dollars Canadian it is a lot cheaper than buying a complete flashlight.

Available at many hardware stores and one major retailer they are to my opinion worth the while. If interested I can inform of locations and part numbers however for publication purposes they can not be listed in this article, besides feedback to the editor lets him know people are reading the bulletin HI!

73 de VA3CBE

COUNTRIES CONTEST RULES CAMBRIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

November 2000

The object of this club contest is to stimulate DX'ing activity by club members.

Award

A plaque suitably engraved with the name of the award and bearing separate name plates will be awarded to the winner. A name plate will be engraved with the year and call sign of said winner and he/she will retain the plaque for the year. The "3 times and it's mine" rule does not apply. In addition a certificate will be awarded as a permanent reminder of the accomplishment.

Duration

This contest shall run each year from 0001 local time Jan 1st to 2359 local time Dec 31st.

Countries

For the purpose of this contest a country is defined as being one of those countries on the current list of entities acceptable for the ARRL DXCC Award. At the present time there are 335 of them.

Alaska and Hawaii, although part of the U.S.A., count as separate countries, similarly, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey & Guernsey although part of the UK are also considered to be separate countries for DXCC purposes.

Scoring

Count each country only once regardless of the number of times worked or the number of bands and modes used.

Field Day & other contests.

Members using the club call from the Field Day site or during the Ont QSO Party, RAC Canada Day or Winter contests, shall, when such activity is authorized and organized by the club, count in their personal score any countries contacted during those contests.

Submissions

Entries should be submitted in writing to the Club President on or before the January club meeting. QSL cards or log extracts are not required, just make a list of all the countries worked during the year.

CAMBRIDGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OPERATOR'S CONTEST RULES

November 2000

The object of this annual contest is to stimulate activity on the Amateur radio bands by members of the Cambridge ARC.

Award

A plaque suitably engraved with the name of the award and bearing separate name plates will be awarded to the winner. A name plate will be engraved with the year and callsign of said winner and he/she will retain the plaque for the year. The "3 times and it's mine" rule does not apply. In addition a certificate will be awarded as a permanent reminder of the accomplishment.

Duration:

This contest shall be conducted from 0001 local time January 1st to 2359 local time Dec 31st of each year commencing Jan 1st 2001.

Scoring:

Members shall count 1 point for each QSO made on any band any mode including cross band and cross mode and including repeater contacts (not packet BBS log-ins or telnet chats).

Nets

Checking in to our Wednesday evening club or daily morning net counts as 1 QSO regardless of the number of people on the net. This rule applies to QSOs made on any other net except that if you act as a Net Controller on a net other than our club net you can count each check-in as a QSO.

Field Day & other contests.

Members using the club call from the Field Day site or during the Ontario QSO Party, RAC Winter and Canada Day Contests shall, when such activity is authorized and organized by the club, include those QSOs and any multipliers in their personal score.

Multipliers

DXCC countries, Canadian Provinces & Territories, U.S States (Hawaii & Alaska are DXCC Countries) & Wed evening club net.

Count multipliers only once regardless of band or mode, e.g. if you work England 20 times on various bands using different modes it is still only 1 multiplier.

Maximum multipliers attainable DXCC 335, Cdn Prov & Terr 14, Continental US States 48, Club Net 52, for a total of 447.

DON'T MESS WITH SENIORS

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "seniors' special" was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$1.99.
"Sounds good," my wife said. "But I don't want the eggs."
Then I'll have to charge you two dollars and forty-nine cents because you're ordering a la carte," the waitress warned her.
"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" My wife asked incredulously.
"YES!!"
"I'll take the special."
"How do you want your eggs?"
"Raw and in the shell," my wife replied.
She took the two eggs home.

ANNOUNCED DX

Jan 1 to Mar 15
South Shetland Islands
LU1ZS
Mainly 20m some 40m SSB
QSL LU4DXU

Jan 4 to Jan 19
Maldives
8Q7AC
Single op by DH1IAC
QSL DH1IAC

Jan 6 to Jan 16
Solomon Islands
H44DA
Focus on 6m with some HF
QSL VK4KHZ

Jan 6 to Feb 1
Spratley Islands
DX0DX
Large op all bands & modes
QSL N200

RECHARGING HT BATTERIES

K6AER

Many hams often wonder why their batteries last only a few years awhile other hams are using their rechargeable batteries 6 years after buying their HT with long use cycles. Your charging and discharge habits have more to do with your battery life cycles.

These tips will optimize performance and obtain longer life cycles from your rechargeable batteries.

Initialize your new battery by charging overnight before using it.

Nickel Cadmium or Nickel Metal Hydride: 14-16 hours

Lithium Ion: 1 to 2 additional hours after charger light turns green

New, non-initialized batteries must be stored in well ventilated, cool and dry locations. Batteries stored in these conditions may be stored:

Nickel Cadmium - up to 2 years

Nickel Metal Hydride - up to 18 months

Lithium Ion/Polymer - up to 18 months

If used batteries are removed from service for periods longer than 30 days, they should be discharged to about 50% of their capacity before storage.

Batteries which have been stored for more than two months should be fully discharged and recharged.

Do not leave your radio and fully-charged battery in the charger when not charging. Continuous charging will shorten battery life.

Only charge a battery when it needs it. If it is not fully discharged, do not recharge it. Carry a spare.

Stabilize batteries to room temperature (72 F) before charging.

Do not return fully charged non-impres batteries to the charger for an "extra boost". Repeated short cycle charging will shorten battery life.

Batteries will not store indefinitely. Do not buy a spare battery to use in a few years after your present one dies. The battery will last longer with careful use than sitting on the shelf indefinitely waiting for initial use. Buy your replacement battery when you need it.

Store batteries at room temperature. Batteries exposed to low or freezing temperatures will have a shortened life.

Do not quick charge batteries from a high current source. It will separate the internal acid gell and you risk explosion from heat build up.

Not all batteries packs are built the same or have the same quality. Buy cheep and buy often is the caveat in the two way radio world.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL