



# The Monitor

Official Newsletter of the Brantford Amateur Radio Club

## January/February 2003

Edited by Ken Dobson VA3DDB

### AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS OF COLUMBIA ASTRONAUTS

The flags of the United States, the ARRL and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) are flying at half staff at ARRL Headquarters as the Amateur Radio community has joined the rest of the world in mourning the loss of the seven shuttle Columbia astronauts. Through the Space Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) and, more recently, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) programs, amateurs have enjoyed a special relationship with the astronaut corps, many of whom are licensees.



Three of the Columbia astronauts were Amateur Radio operators, and the ARISS program is a joint effort of ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

"The ultimate in public service was just given by these astronauts," said ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP. "It's a sad thing that's occurred, and our thoughts are with the families of the astronauts who ded doing what they loved. They were part of us."

Haynie, who was in Florida last weekend for the Miami Tropical Hamboree, said the news of the Columbia incident cast a pall over the festivities. "You could feel it in the crowd," he said. Haynie led those attending the ARRL forum in a moment of silence in remembrance of the lost crew members.

The STS-107 crew, headed by Commander Rick Husband, included Pilot Willie McCool, Mission Specialists Kalpana "KC" Chawla, KD5ESI; David Brown, KC5ZTC; Laurel Clark, KC5ZSU, Michael Anderson, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut.

"The world has lost seven great heroes," said ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, a NASA employee, in extending condolences to the families and friends of the STS-107 crew. Bauer said the Columbia catastrophe "clearly demonstrated the challenging and sometimes sobering aspects" of human spaceflight.

"Our quest for space must continue despite these tragic losses," he said.

ARRL and the ARISS Team received condolences from all over the globe. AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH--one of two Canadian ARISS representatives--expressed his great sadness at learning of the Columbia disaster. "AMSAT has always been a strong supporter of the shuttle program and of ARISS," he said "Their understanding of the risks taken on this and other missions did not prevent them from performing at the highest level and, unfortunately, paying the ultimate price," he said of the lost crew.

Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, the other Canadian delegate to the ARISS International Team, said he was overwhelmed by the tragedy, both in sympathy for his US friends and because he had met so many of the astronauts himself. It was Pulfer who convinced the Canadian government to establish an astronaut corps of its own. "My condolences go out to all Americans at this time." he said, calling February 1 "a sad, sad day indeed."

#### Source:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 06 February 7, 2003



### GOTA 2003 - Guides On The Air!

Saturday 15th February & Sunday 16th February 2003

GOTA is an opportunity for Guides, from Sparks to Guiders, to talk to other members of Girl Guides and Girl

Scouts all over the world via Amateur radio. Outside Canada, GOTA is known as Thinking Day on the Air - TDOTA. GOTA and TDOTA are held every year on the weekend closest to Thinking Day - the day when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world remember the founders of Guiding and Scouting as well as their sisters in WAGGGS - the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. GOTA/TDOTA is a fun way to reach out to some WAGGGS sisters during Guide-Scout week!

The Brantford Amateur Radio Club is preparing to host two groups of guides from the local area at the Red Cross building on the Saturday. Our club station VE3BA will be



Girl Guides of Canada  
Guides du Canada

operating on 20 and 40 meters. Additional activities will include APRS, Code oscillators, Echolink, IRLP and static

displays.

Source:

[www.guidezone.skl.com](http://www.guidezone.skl.com)

## Prompt action by Amateur Radio operators helps save lives

As ARRL member Joe Giraudo, N7JEH, was on his long, daily commute to his office at a mining corporation outside Elko, Nevada, he came upon a car that had skidded on "black ice" and rolled over a number of times in isolated valley north of Carlin. A bus carrying emergency medical technicians to the mine had already arrived, and the EMTs were mobilizing to treat the three accident victims. Giraudo immediately called up the autopatch on the W7LKO 146.85 repeater to notify the Nevada Highway Patrol and the Carlin police and fire departments. He again used the autopatch so EMTs could relay situation reports to the responding emergency units. When the emergency units started arriving, they found they were unable to communicate using their own radios because of the local terrain. Again, the autopatch under Giraudo's control allowed them to communicate with their central dispatcher to coordinate other responding units, warn them of the black ice and request helicopter support. At one point the W7LKO autopatch went down, but Gene D'Asto, WA7BWF, immediately came up on the repeater and began relaying information via landline. After a 30 minute extraction effort, all three victims were taken by ambulance to the Elko Regional Medical Center.

Dick Flanagan W6OLD/Carson Valley Radio Club Carson Currents.

### Source:

The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 05 January 31, 2003

## Did you know...

Any licensed Canadian amateur radio operator can have an e-mail address of the form **callsign@rac.ca**. This means that you no longer have to advise all your contacts of any new e-mail address if you change your internet service provider. Canadian amateurs will not have to keep track of dozens or hundreds of e-mail addresses. Just remembering the callsign is all they will need.



The service is another tangible membership benefit provided for the members by Radio Amateurs of Canada. You need not be a member to register for the service, but we hope that this is another reason to support your national amateur radio membership association.

Instructions for setting up this free service can be found here:

<http://www.rac.ca/alias.htm>

## QRZ.com - Ham Radio Trivia!

**Which antenna has the most gain, over a 1/2wave dipole, on 10 meters?**

1. A quarterwavelength Ground Plane
2. A Windom
3. A longwire, 6 wavelengths long
4. An 8' whip

Answer: 3 A longwire! It has a Gain over a dipole of 4.8 dBd.

**Who built the first "beam" antenna?**

1. Morse
2. Marconi
3. Maxwell
4. Hertz

Answer: 2 In 1916 the first directional (beam) station was built by Marconi.

## BARC Ham of the Year

Message from Ebe Habing VE3EBH

At the yearly breakfast meeting in October 2002, I was presented for the second time, the BARC HAM OF THE YEAR AWARD. During the past year I have carried out various assignments such as:

- Heart and Stroke run in Paris
- HPV Week (Human Power Vehicle)
- The Canadian Snowbirds Show at the Brantford Municipal Airport
- Classic run 2002 for the Rotary Club

The above activities require some time to attend meetings with the organizers, and then prepare a schedule for the club members for their assignments.

I enjoy this type of work, which keeps me busy and also active in my hobby as an amateur radio operator. With participation in these events, the club is gaining recognition as an active local amateur radio club. The "thanks" and "a job well done" from the organizers, make me feel proud that I can participate in the activity in our city and represent club on their behalf.

Thanks to all the members and the 2000/2001 executive for there vote for the HAM OF THE YEAR.

The BARC HAM of the YEAR  
73 de Ebe

## BARC Annual Christmas Dinner

The 2002 annual Christmas Dinner was held on Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the Knights of Columbus hall. The turnout was good with many members bringing a signifiant other along to enjoy the terrific dinner and entertainment.



Please visit our Website for additional information and pictures of this and other events.

## Ham Radio Humor

**Top signs that you may need an elmer..**

By Jeffrey S. King, N1DJS, [jeff.king@cbis.com](mailto:jeff.king@cbis.com)

- Your friend tells you he has a new two meter radio and you figure one of the meters must be for swr and the other for power out.
- You hear a conversation on the low bands about CW and you think they're refering to the cold war.
- You hear someone sign this is N8XXX mobile 4 and you think it's because he has three other radios
- You hear that someone won a 40 meter radio at a hamfest and you wonder how they're going to get something that large in their house.
- You build a morse code key out of plexiglass and can't figure out why it won't key your radio.
- You think the difference between short wave and long wave is the speed at which you move your wrist back and forth.
- You're thinking about joining your other ham frineds in the local ATV group because you own a four wheel drive vehicle that will go just about anywhere.
- You won't use a repeater because you've heard that using a repeater could be dangerous. You've heard an alligator could get you.
- You think a colinear antenna can only be used with two amplifiers.
- You think fm is the modulation type that came after em, dm, cm, bm and am.
- You wouldn't mind getting into packet radio but no matter how much you practice you can't get the hang of sending those beeps and braps with your keyer.
- You wonder what sound a short wave makes and why anyone would want to listen to one.
- You think the repeater owner would be a lot happier if instead of talking about his cavities he just went to the dentist and got them filled.

---

**AMATEUR RADIO**


---

## Coming Events

### IRLP Demonstration

Brantford Amateur Radio Club  
Tuesday, February 4, 2003 at 7:30pm  
Canadian Red Cross Society - Brantford

### Burlington Spring Fleamarket

Burlington Amateur Radio Club  
Saturday, March 1, 2003  
Burlington ON

### Ham-Ex 03

Peel and Mississauga Amateur Radio Clubs  
Saturday, March 22, 2003  
Brampton ON

### Hamfest

Whitby Amateur Radio Club  
Saturday, April 12, 2003  
Oshawa ON

## ESSENTIAL CLUB INFORMATION

**President:** Bill Cunliffe, VA3WRC

**Vice-President:** Bob Moore, VE3AVU

**Secretary:** Ken Dobson, VA3DDB

**Treasurer:** Paul Tourangeau, VE3IUA

**MEETINGS:** Every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.  
Business meeting, second Tuesday of the month

**LOCATION:** Canadian Red Cross Society, 25  
William St. 1st Floor, Brantford.

**MAILING:** Brantford Amateur Radio Club, P.O.  
Box 25036, Brantford, ON, N3T 6K5

**REPEATERS:** VE3TCR 147.150 MHz+600  
KHz & 443.025+5 MHz

### INTERNET WEB SITE:

[www.bfree.on.ca/comdir/alh/bramaradio/ve3ba.htm](http://www.bfree.on.ca/comdir/alh/bramaradio/ve3ba.htm)

e-mail: [ve3ba@bfree.on.ca](mailto:ve3ba@bfree.on.ca)




---

## BARC 2002/2003 Membership List

Bill Fuller	NOVICE
Harold Anderson	VA3BEA
Ken Dobson	VA3DDB
Mark Cunliffe	VA3DNC
George Howarth	VA3GLH
Ron Singer	VA3HRS
Sheila Baker	VA3MIS
Terri Ellison	VA3TDE
Bill Cunliffe	VA3WRC
Jim Thomson	VE3AOV
Bob Moore	VE3AVU
Michael Barnett	VE3BSE
Ken Newton	VE3BUA
Grant Barker	VE3BVV
Doreen Newton	VE3BXL
Jim Maloney	VE3CQM
Birty Williams	VE3DMX
Eric Levison	VE3DSL
Paul Bushell	VE3DXY
Ebe Habing	VE3EBH
Ed Slater	VE3ELS
Gerry Caven	VE3EYR
Bill Hoag	VE3HPH
Paul Tourangeau	VE3IUA
Janice Buckley	VE3JRS
Kerry Bushell	VE3KGE
Kim Watson	VE3KMW
Elaine Bushell	VE3LTK
Marven Ford	VE3MWF
Gary Wood	VE3MWL
Gary Buckley	VE3NCZ
Peter Byerlay	VE3NIX
Les Webster	VE3OCL
Peter Baker	VE3OCN
Les Sutch	VE3OJT
Keith Williams	VE3PRL
Richard LaRose	VE3RLX
Gary Stonehouse	VE3TDI
Roger Landry	VE3UTK
Bert VanHarten	VE3VHL
Mario Marques	VE3VML
Bill Gilchrist	VE3WRG
Bill Thorpe	VE3WXT
Andy Ryder	VE3ZAR
Amanda Ryder	VE3ZGY
Jared Ryder	VE3ZJR
David Amies	VE3ZVR