

# WEST SIDE SIGNAL

## Official Bulletin of Toronto's Oldest Amateur Radio Club

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#### Club Historian

Position vacant

#### Meetings

Meetings held at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month, at the home of David VE3SB 1043 Royal York Rd between Bloor and Dundas at Kingsgrove Ave. No meetings in July or August. Visitors always welcome.

#### Club Nets

##### FM Net

Wednesday 8:00pm  
VE3SKY repeater 146.985 Mhz

##### CW Net

Sunday 10:00am 3.567 Mhz

##### SSB Net

Sunday 11:00am 7.075 Mhz

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#### Next Meeting

The Karecki Residence  
1043 Royal York Rd at Kingsgrove  
Etobicoke

**Tue Dec 18th 2012**

**Tue Jan 15th 2013**

**Tue Feb 19th 2013**

**Tue Mar 19th 2013**

#### CLUB NEWS

I have no idea what happened at or who attended the November meeting so nothing to report in that regard. However, we had good attendance last Tuesday for lunch at the Muddy Duck restaurant in Mississauga. In attendance were Phil(VE3FZL) and Sandra, Bill(VE3PA) and Felicia ?, Bert(VE3NR) and Saline, David(VE3SB), Ron (VE3DBY), Chris(VE3EQF) and Tony(VE3TK). The setting was very pleasant in an eastern facing sunroom. Chris is retiring

from amateur radio and has a tower and TH-6 beam he would like to send to a new home. None of us had seen Chris in a long time and he looked great. Who says there is no free lunch. There will be no meeting in December.

David VE3SB put a balun and loading coil on his inverted L antenna and worked the ARRL 160M CW Contest with it, doing a little better than previous efforts. Only Bert VE3NR and David VE3SB were on the 80M CW net. They were both louder than usual. We decided that maybe it is the new 160M rated balun.

Unfortunately I have been under the weather for the past few weeks, consequently this edition of SIGNAL is late and shorter than usual. Hopefully things will improve and I will be back to normal soon.

## CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO HALL OF FAME

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame is pleased to appoint Robert Nash VE3KZ of Milton, ON to the Hall of Fame. Bob will be presented with this award at a meeting to be arranged in Toronto in early 2013, at which time a more detailed summary of his contributions to amateur radio will be published in The Canadian Amateur magazine.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame must be submitted by Sept. 30th annually. The appointment is to recognize an amateur for outstanding achievement for sustained service to amateur radio in Canada, or amateur radio at large. The Board of Trustees consists of an amateur radio representative from each province of Canada.

Radio Amateurs of Canada congratulates Bob Nash on this award.

## INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS ON THE WAY OUT ?

*ARRL Letter*

If the US Postal Service (USPS) gets it's way, it will no longer sell International Reply Coupons (IRCs) after January 27th 2013. According to the October 23rd edition of the Federal Register, there is not sufficient demand for USPS to offer this service to customers; however, per the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the USPS must continue to exchange and redeem IRCs that have been purchased in foreign countries and presented at USPS facilities. Comments on this proposed change will be accepted through November 23rd 2012. IRCs provide foreign addressees with a prepaid means of responding to inquiries, solicitations or other types of communications—such as QSL cards—that are initiated by US senders. IRCs are exchangeable for postage stamps by postal administrations in member countries of the UPU. Each IRC is equivalent in value to the destination country's minimum postage price for an unregistered airmail letter. The purchase price in the USA is currently \$2.20 per IRC.

*Ed note: In Canada it costs \$5.00 for 1 IRC, US \$2.00 much cheaper*

## Many Ham versions of The Night Before Christmas exist, this is my favourite

T'was the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HTs to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Re-soldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...

(Never worked right before --  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV,  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box,  
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom? A Yaesu, for me?!"  
(If he thought I'd been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent,  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.

Seventy-Three."

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
"Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX."

### **Then we have the Politically Correct version**

Twas the month before Christmas\*

\*When all through our land,\*

\*Not a Christian was praying\*

\*Nor taking a stand.\*

\*See the PC Police had taken away,\*

\*The reason for Christmas - no one could say.\*

\*The children were told by their schools not to sing,\*

\*About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things.\*

\*It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers would say\*

\* December 25th is just a ' Holiday '.\*

\*Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit\*

\*Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it!\*

\*CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-pod\*

\*Something was changing, something quite odd! \*

\*Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa\*

\*In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda..\*

\*As Targets were hanging their trees upside down\*

\* At Lowe's the word Christmas - was no where to be found.\*

\*At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears\*

\*You won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears.\*

\*Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-is-ty\*

\*Are words that were used to intimidate me.\*

\*Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen\*

\*On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton !\*

\*At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter\*

\*To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter.\*

\*And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith\*

\* Forbidden to speak of salvation and grace\*

\*The true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded\*

\*The reason for the season, stopped before it started.\*

\*So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your 'Dream Tree'\*

\*Sipping your Starbucks, listen to me.\*

\*Choose your words carefully, choose what you say\*

\*Shout MERRY CHRISTMAS ,

Not Happy Holiday !\*

Please, all Christians join together and

Wish everyone you meet during the

Holidays a

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



