



Niagara/GTA ARES

April 14, 2020

Volume 4 Issue 2

Special points of interest:

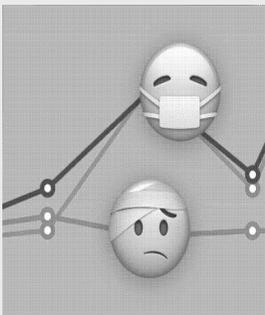
- Niagara ARES Newsletter will be published periodically and emailed to ARES members in the Niagara Region. / Website: <http://www.aresniagara.ca/>
- Niagara ARES CEC is Henry, VA3OV.
- Contact Henry at: va3ov@bell.net.
- Newsletter prepared by Geddie, VE3CJX.
- To unsubscribe from this newsletter, contact Geddie at ve3cjx@cogeco.ca
- **Niagara ARES Voice Net every Monday 8:00pm VE3RAF & Packet Net on Wednesdays.**

You are INVITED!

Round Robin Social Nets

Check In and Tell Us How

You are Doing...



Co-Operative, Collaborative, Collegial, Convivial....

Amateur Radio Nets connect individuals on a scheduled basis. We offer to take on additional roles such as helping isolated seniors, keep contact with friends and club members, and provide any assistance as requested. This month there there will be no Niagara ARES meeting.

Although the province of Ontario and various municipalities in the Niagara Region have already activated their Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to coordinate agencies working the front line. This does not mean that ARES is activated or will be activated for this event. So we still need to remain vigilant and ready to respond if and when called upon to provide assistance.

For the past month we have been asked and directed to stay home and limit contact with other people. We have cancelled club and group meetings. We have however continued to run regular weekly Nets on the **VE3NRS / 147.240 MHz** and **VE3RAF / 145.190 MHz** repeaters. We have added a **twice daily Round Robin Social Net on 145.190 / MHz at 09:00 AM and 09:00 PM** with some success. Topics of general interest are covered and we encourage this opportunity for members to practice net control functions by Hosting any of these informal Nets.

We conducted a **virtual Technite on Thursday March 26** using Zoom. It was well attended. We covered CW training progress, Various VHF and HF nets.

On **Thursday, April 16 at 07:00PM**, we will conduct another **virtual Technite, topic "WIRES-X, How to connect to"** using the various Yaesu C4FM radios. If you are interested contact John va3wm@outlook.com to receive an invitation for Cisco Webex Meetings.

Many of us are taking the opportunity to complete various task around the radio shack, inspect the antennas. Let's not forget our mobile radios and antennas. In the coming weeks we will conduct various training exercises on the air and via packet. Definitely, we will conduct a **Spring SET** also. Details will be made available by email, on the Niagara ARES web site and on the weekly NET.

Many of the public service activities this spring are cancelled for the time being. They are all following the Ontario Provincial Health guide lines.

The week end **April 18 and 19** is full of radio activities.:
First there is **World Amateur Radio Day**, for details go to:
<https://www.rac.ca/get-on-the-air-on-world-amateur-radio-day-event/>

Next there is the **Ontario QSO Party**
<http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/index.htm>

The HF bands are active presently. Many Hams around the world are in isolation. Many are taking this opportunity to warm up the ionosphere using all bands and all modes to pass their time. Try It you may like it.

For up to date information concerning Niagara ARES activities consult the web site aresniagara.ca.

73 Be prepared. Stay safe.

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Your preparedness is only as good as your information:

- [WHO Coronavirus updates](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Myth Busters](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Latest Updates](#)
- [U.S. Dept. of State Travel Advisories](#)
- [Government of Canada COVID-19 FAQs](#)

World Amateur Radio Day is April 18, 2020

Celebrating the 95th anniversary of the IARU's founding.

IARU has allowed that amateur radio “is the best way to practice social distancing.” While Dayton Hamvention has canceled its 2020 show, Europe’s largest amateur radio gathering, HAM RADIO in Friedrichshafen, Germany, is still scheduled for June 26 – 28. IARU plans to have a two-part booth, with one dedicated for youth. Whether the event will take place is unknown at this time.

IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications and Satellite Communications workshops set for May 30 – 31 in Trinidad and Tobago will now be held online. IARU reports that interest and registrations have surged since the announcement. These workshops will be held in English, but preparations are under way for workshops in Spanish to be held later.

From: <http://www.arrl.org/news/international-amateur-radio-union-adjusting-to-covid-19>

World Amateur Radio Day, Ailunce Amateur Radio

On April 18, 1925, the IARU was formed in Paris, with ARRL cofounder Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, in attendance. Radio amateurs were the first to discover that shortwave spectrum could support worldwide propagation, and in the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, amateur radio found itself "in grave danger of being pushed aside," as IARU history puts it. Two years later, at the International Radiotelegraph Conference, amateur radio gained allocations still recognized today — 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. From an initial 25 countries, the IARU has grown to include 160 member-societies in three regions.

How to Participate

- Get on the air. Create your own personal "event" to talk about amateur radio. (To list your World Amateur Radio Day event, **contact** IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ.)
- Check into the Echolink World Conference and IRLP 9251. The special event call sign will be W7W.
- Look for and contact stations using the W7W call sign.
- Create and hold a special net on World Amateur Radio Day to draw attention to the event and allow hams to start talking about our hobby.
- Spread the word. If you're responsible for club publicity, send a press release and do public relations outreach to highlight the event.
- Promote your personal World Amateur Radio Day activity on social media by using the hashtag **#WorldAmateurRadioDay** on Twitter and Facebook.
- Use the **poster** and **flyer** that IARU provides in publicizing the event, amateur radio, and your group or club.

World Amateur Radio Day is not a contest but an opportunity to talk about the value of amateur radio to the public and our fellow amateur colleagues. It is also a great opportunity to talk about your club and amateur radio in local media.

In this time of social isolation, amateur radio continues to remain relevant in bringing people together. "Social distancing" has long been a positive practice in the hobby by bringing people together culturally through radio while providing essential communication in the service of communities.

"My wish for this World Amateur Radio Day is for everyone to stay safe, follow the advice of medical professionals and use amateur radio and your skills to help us through this crisis," Ellam said.

Source: ARRL and <https://www.ailunce.com/blog/Tag/Ailunce%20Amateur%20Radio>

More on World Amateur Radio Day....

Saturday, April 18, is World Amateur Radio Day (WARD), this year marking the 95th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (**IARU**). Around the world, amateur radio special event stations — most sponsored by IARU member-societies — will mark the event on the air, starting on April 18 at 0000 UTC and continuing until April 19, at 0000, honing skills and capabilities while enjoying global friendship with other amateurs worldwide. The theme for WARD is "Celebrating Amateur Radio's Contribution to Society." IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, notes that the COVID-19 pandemic casts the event in a different light than in years past.

"A few short weeks ago, many of us could not imagine the levels of isolation that we are now dealing with and the sacrifices of many on the front lines of the pandemic," Ellam said. "As we have done in past challenges to our society, amateur radio will play a key part in keeping people connected and assisting those who need support."

Italy: International Marconi Day 2020 Cancelled

The ARRL reports **International Marconi Day 2020**, planned for Saturday, April 25, has been cancelled. The annual International Marconi Day (IMD) ham radio operating event that was set to take place on April 25 has been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. The 24-hour amateur radio event celebrates the birth of Marconi on April 25, 1874. Sponsored by the Cornish Radio Amateur Club, which operates as GB4IMD, International Marconi Day features participating stations operating at sites having a personal connection to Marconi, including places where he set up transmitting and receiving stations.

Source ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/news/international-marconi-day-2020-has-been-cancelled>

United Kingdom: RSGB Hope QSO Party

A series of 90 minute duration daytime contests that has been introduced on a temporary basis to help and support radio amateurs who are isolated at home and would appreciate contact with other people.

This contest series is open to all entrants and is not restricted to RSGB members. This series is for Single Operator Fixed Stations only (please no Multi-Operator, Portable or alternative address operation entrants at this time). A requirement of the series is that participants must be in full compliance with all measures in respect of Covid-19, that are currently applied by the authorities at their station location. This series does not contribute to the HF Championship and is not linked to any RSGB Affiliated Club contests.

Scoring is "Anyone works Anyone" – a scoring QSO does not need to include a UK station. QSOs are encouraged before and after the contest periods. We include recommended frequencies for SSB discussion after each event in these rules.

Participants are encouraged to call "CQ HQP" or "CQ Hope QSO Party". We would like to see the number of participants growing as the series runs. On SSB and CW please be sure to ask if the frequency is in use before calling. We suggest entrants use a CQ WPX template in their contest logging software for the SSB, CW and RTTY events; this will log correctly but will not score correctly for this series - all logs will be rescored during adjudication. For FT4 the latest WSJT-X package will be appropriate and described on <https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2020/rhqps.html>

QO-100 International Emergency Frequency

In order to coordinate potential emergency communications during the actual or any other crisis, the following frequency shall be assigned as international emergency frequency on QO-100 NB Transponder with immediate effect.

- Downlink: 10489.860 MHz
- Uplink: 2400.360 MHz
- SSB channel: max. 2.7kHz bandwidth

All users on QO-100 are encouraged to monitor this frequency, but keep it clear for emergency traffic!

<https://www.ailunce.com/blog/Official-International-QO-100-Emergency-Frequency>

So who makes the Emoji's Anyways???

Ever spent....passing the time as it were, looking for an iconic emoji that could represent a Radio Amateur? None was found and there may not be available for some time. But I did find the one popular emoji that I used on our front cover this month for the coronavirus outbreak . Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it has been said: "Under the current circumstances we've heard that our contributors have a lot on their plates at the moment and decided it was in the best interests of our volunteers and the organizations that depend on the standard to push out our release date," said Mark Davis, President of the Unicode Consortium. "This year we simply can't commit to the same schedule we've adhered to in the past." From: <https://abc11.com/emojis-emoji-covid19-coronavirus/6098390/>