

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2007 \$7.25

# TCA

The Canadian Amateur

SEPTEMBRE / OCTOBRE 2007 \$7.25

## IN THIS ISSUE...



Feeding frenzy at the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League Hamfest and Flea Market



Jacques, VA2JOT, Robert (Maitre du Réseau des Hiboux), VE2FPD et Gustave, VE2PTT, au Hamfest de Sorel, Québec



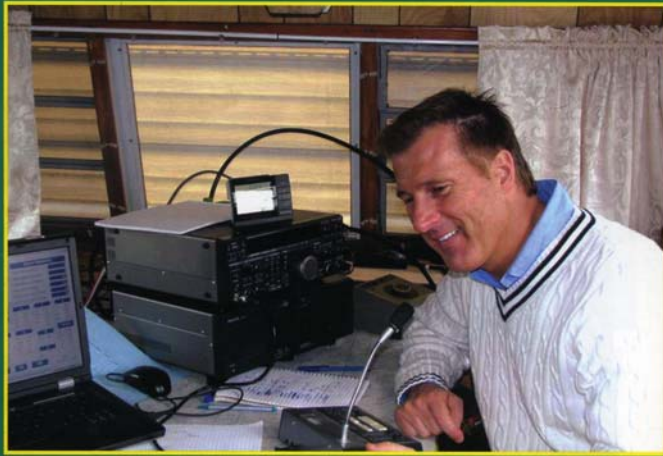
Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG, takes it to the park!

Publications Mail Agreement # 40028682, Registration # 09866



Interpreting  
Industry Canada's  
New Tower Policy

## Canada's Amateur Radio Magazine La Revue des Radioamateurs Canadiens



Minister Bernier takes part in the 2007 Field Day  
Le ministre Bernier participe au Field Day 2007

# FIELD DAY 2007



Austin Wright, VE3NCQ and Chatham-Kent ARC  
operating Field Day 2007 in Tecumseh Park

To the WAP Program Committee  
Thanks for the fun  
16789 200807  
GARRY HAMMOND VE3XN  
5 McLaren Ave N  
Listowel ON N4W 3K1  
3/13  
Garry VE3XN, VA3ANTA  
WAP-071

# DX'ING WITH HAMMOND

## ANTARTICA Part 2 of 3...



You should always be happy to see fellow Canadian hams/DXers representing us in international organizations. Some VIPs like VE6SH even honour a QSL request. Tks!



Garry Hammond, VE3XN  
5 McLaren Avenue  
Listowel, Ontario N4W 3K1  
T. 519-291-4813  
E. ghammond@porchlight.ca

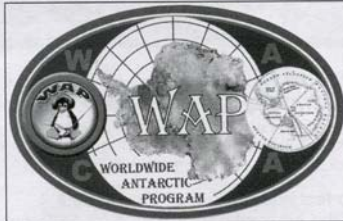
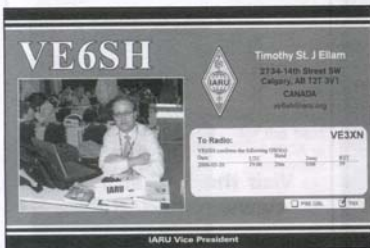
### INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR

The International Polar Year (IPY) is a large scientific program focused on the Arctic and Antarctic from March 2007 to March 2009. Perhaps you noticed the two 52c stamps issued by Canada Post earlier this year to mark the beginning of the IPY. Here they are with the unique Canadian flag perforation in the middle.

In my last column, I dealt with the Students on Ice trip to Antarctica by geographer Paul VanZant. Let's continue in this issue with an overview of some of the surprising and varied Amateur Radio activity from Terra Incognito Australis and an awards program that supports and encourages your participation in working Antarctic Amateurs.

No Antarctic award is "easy" to earn. Even making your first contact with this continent can be a formidable task for many. The Worked All Continents (WAC) diploma does not require a QSL from the seventh continent. For the IARU's WAC you need one card from each of the six permanently inhabited continents of Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America. If you have never applied for this basic award go for it. ARRL's checkpoints can check your cards. Your application and \$7.50 USD fee go to ARRL's Eileen Sapko. Go to the IARU website and download the necessary information.

Try the 5-Band WAC too – that's even more of a challenge! Check out <www.iaru.org>. BTW, Canada's own Tim Ellam, VE6SH, is Vice-President of the IARU.

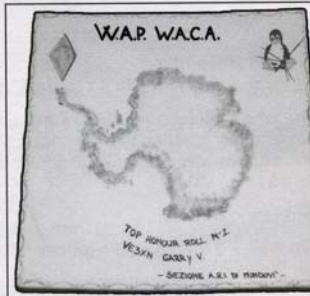
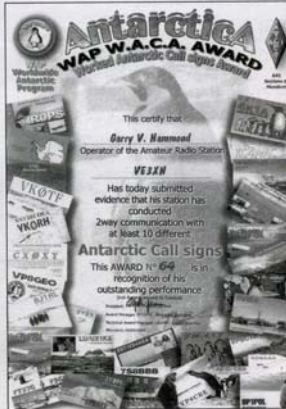


Your columnist's two favourite Antarctica awards are part of the Worldwide Antarctic Program (WAP). Here's their crest/insignia.

### The WAP WACA Award

The Worked Antarctic Call signs Award (WACA) is sponsored by the Mondovi Section of the ARI. The large vertical format of 31.5 cm x 44.5 cm (12.4 in x 17.5 in) of this parchment award is one of my all-time favourites for its use of QSL designs and colour. You are required to have the QSLs or confirmations of at least 10 different Antarctic call signs in your possession when you apply for this award. These calls can be from stations operating from the Antarctic Continent, the Peri and Sub Antarctic localities, and Austral Territories, belonging to at least three different nations, as reported in the WAP directory.

Contacts could be made on any bands from 2m to 160m and on modes that include SSB, CW, RTTY, SSTV and other digital ones such as PSK31.



Any contacts from November 15, 1945 onwards count. You can have photocopies made of each QSL to go with your application or you can have your application certified by two Radio Amateurs. Occasionally some QSLs may be requested.

The award fee is \$13 USD or 10 EUR. Please use registered mail or a delivery courier service. The awards manager is well known DXer Massimo Balsamo,

IK1GPG, Sezione ARI of Mondovi, Casella Postale 4, I-12084 Mondovi, (Cuneo), Italy.

The official website is <www.ddxc.net/wap>. A checklist for your WACA progress has been provided for you on the RAC website at <www.rac.ca/tca>.

Top Honour Roll status is earned by having at least 100 different call signs representing at least 20 different countries of the Antarctic Treaty. The award is a beautiful handpainted/engraved ceramic plate. The fee is \$35 USD or 25 EUR.

Your columnist received #2 for the THR.

### The WAP WADA Award

The Worked All Directory Award (WADA) has the same size (44.5 cm x 31.5 cm or 17.5 in x 12.4 in) as a WACA certificate but in a horizontal format. It is another multi-coloured artistic parchment certificate from the ARI Mondovi Section.

For the WAP-WADA you must have QSLs from at least 10 different bases, belonging to three different nations as reported in the WAP Directory. Contacts must be from November 15, 1945 on any of the bands from 6m to 160m using any mode.



What does the term "base" mean? The meaning includes: a true base; its supply installations and logistical accessories; laboratories, huts, camps, stations, refuges, naval detachments; and so on. Other individual stations may be considered as bases, depending on circumstances. If in doubt do check the official site and perhaps even download the free directory from the Dynamic DX Charterhouse at <www.ddxc.net>.

Around the side and bottom of the award are endorsement stickers. Your aging columnist, an Antarctic hunter for decades, has more than 120 bases.

Honour Roll WAP-WADA is available for at least 50 bases from 20 nations. The fee for this beautiful ceramic plate is \$35 USD or 25 EUR to cover shipping cost.

The Top Honour Roll WAP-WADA is free to those with at least 100 different bases from at least 25 different countries. Use the checklist found on the RAC website (www.rac.ca/tca) for your WADA progress. For all WADA awards, IK1GPG is the manager.

a Cushcraft 402-CD; and a KLM 7-element 6m yagi, plus other dipoles and VHF gear, have ensured that Massimo and Betty do not miss much in the way of DX, Islands, Antarctic calls, etc. It is this team that does a fabulous job of administrating the WAP awards program.

Shown below is Gianni Varetto, I1HYW, the technical advisor for the Antarctic Awards Program of Italy. Gianni is now retired from 39 years of employment in the aeronautical industry. I1HYW is avidly involved in working DX using a 6-el delta loop, a 4-el yagi and dipoles for Low Frequency. A TS930 and a FT1000 MP to a Henry 2K Classic are the main pieces of gear.



From time to time, a free e-magazine is offered at the WAP website <www.ddxc.net/wap>. An outstanding Antarctic QSL Gallery hosts hundreds of Antarctic pictures and QSLs split into many albums. Have a look!

#### Antarctic Activity Week

Antarctic Activity Week is a way to highlight interest about Antarctica as a land of study, research and peace.

TS950S and TL-922 combo that works really well! The BS7H May '07 operation was worked on 20m, both modes, by LDT for Dave's last current DXCC country.



An ATB 34 yagi on a 48-foot high Delhi Tower, an A3WS for the three WARC bands, and wires for LF allow Dave to work eight bands of DX fun.

When Dave is not working out, he's an avid reader while waiting for the next pileup. (Maybe, he's getting divine help from reading Philip Kerr's novel, *The Second Angel?*)



Each year, usually on the third weekend of September, there is an international gathering of Amateurs, SWLs, operators, etc. who get together in Italy, to discuss and enjoy all kinds of things related to castles and Antarctica. Listen for IR1DCI – and work them. Their QSL is always an excellent pictorial foldout type of the convention participants.

The back of the card lists all the attendees. IK1QFM is the manager. The group usually confirms all contacts via the bureau with a beautiful card from printer IK1PML.

Another one of IK1PML's FB QSLs shows the husband and wife team of IK1GPG and IK1QFM at their home station. Kenwood and ICOM gear coupled to a Mosley PRO-57;



The main objective of the WAP program is to know more about the continent of ice, to share and promote initiatives among hams and Antarctic hunters. This event is celebrated every year during the last week of February. Reg, VA7ANTA (VE7IG) and VA3ANTA (c/o your

columnist), and VY0ICE/VE2 were active in 2007.

One of Canada's most avid Antarctic hunters is VE3LDT. The following photos show Dave in his London, Ontario radio room. On the LDT desk is a



VE2AVT, VO1DK, VO2DK, VE2FN and VE8ZZ were Dave's calls over the years from 1961-1979, while working for various government positions.

Across from VE3LDT's desk, on the wall to the right, is a collection of plaques and awards that attest to Dave's DXing discipline! There are multi-endorsed DXCC

certificates, YASME award, US and Canadian Islands plaques, and various Antarctica plaques. [Note: Look closely, LDT is holding the delicate, but striking, cut glass diamond IOTA award for having 1000 islands confirmed! Are you aware that new IOTA computer software was introduced at Dayton this year and is available for your use? Do a search for RSGB and IOTA 2007 software and I'm sure you'll find it! XN]

This two-page QSL pictorial and map will give you some idea of the variety and extent of Antarctic activity across the continent.

**#1 – KC4AAA – Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station**

The Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, depicted in this artist's drawing, was dedicated in January 1975 for the US Antarctic Research Program for the National Science Foundation of Washington DC. Because KC4AAA runs a KW to a 6-element monobander beam, they can be heard regularly on 20m. They still run a lot of phone patches on or around 14.243 MHz with American stations. I have always found them willing to QSO others when their "traffic" is completed. In small print, in the lower right corner three facts are given: the altitude is 9,554 feet; the ice thickness was 9,347 feet; and the temperature range is from -5°F to -110°F at 90° South!

**#2 – 9V0A – Vinson Massif**

Thanks to Alan Cheshire, 9V1DX, for activating this special Antarctic Logistics & Expeditions call of 9V0A from the multinational base known as Patriot Hills. The base provides logistical support to private expeditions to the South Pole and nearby Mount Vinson, the highest mountain in Antarctica.

**#3 – ZL5BA – Worldpark Base**

Four members of the Greenpeace organization winter at Worldpark Base, home to ZL5BA. Sojo, a visiting Dane, operated back in 1988 when VE3XN was operating from Resolute Bay in the NWT as C18XN for the Polar Bridge DXpedition across the Arctic. An ICOM 751, an Alpha 77 and a couple of Vee beams did just fine!

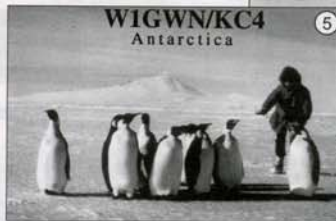


**#4 – ZL5AA – Scott Base**

Ian Johnson worked with a Collins S Line and Hygain beam from the New Zealand Scott Base when XN was VE3GCO in July 1968.

**#5 – W1GWN/KC4 – McMurdo Station**

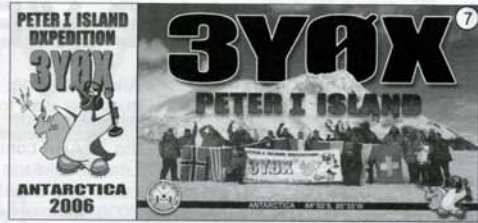
If you have it handy, check the June 1987 Scientific American Journal for information on Dr. Warren Zpol's operation at W1GWN/KC4 from near McMurdo Station, Antarctica at 77.5°S 166.2°E. The domestication of Emperor Penguins was not part of his scientific plan. Hi.



**#6 – FT4YD – Dumont D'urville Station**

FD1NZO confirmed VE3XN's QSO with FT4YD at Lefay Laurent Base D'urville found at 62°S 140°E. This QSO was back on May 4, 1991 on 20m SSB.





**#7 – 3Y0X – Peter Island (above)**

Sure hope you got 3Y0X in the log. It will likely be some time before there is another activation of this costly DX location. It took five months and 600 manhours to produce the DVD of the trip. You can share in this 2006 DX experience for \$25 USD. Just go to <www.peterone.com>. If you haven't sent for your card(s) you can also check to find yourself in the logs of 3Y0X and XR9A. Check out photos, videos and statistics. See how few sponsors from Canada there were! Are there no DX clubs out there in VE/VY/VO? I guess not, according to the listing.

**#8 – AY1ZA – South Orkney Islands**

From January 29 to February 22, 2004, Henry Ledo, LU4DXU, operated from Orcadas Base on Laurie Island in the South Orkney Islands. This is another separate country for DXCC from Antarctica. The Argentine claim goes back 103 years to 1904 when the first Antarctic post office was established here. In 1950, Orcadas Base became the oldest permanent settlement in the Antarctic. Current scientific activities include geomagnetic field studies, meteorology, marine fauna research, and seismic and glacial observations. Forty-six hundred QSOs in more than 100 countries were made. XN worked AY1ZA on February 5, 2004. Tks for a vy beautiful QSL, Henry!

**#9 – 8J1RL – Showa Station**

Every year that I can copy and work the JARL (Japanese) station from Showa, I make a serious effort for a QSO. Every year it seems that I sort different QSLs for lucky VE3s, from the yearly stays of Amateurs to Showa Station in Zone 39. This January 1, 1992 QSL was signed by JR6AOF.

**#10 – ZS7ANT – Sanae Station**

ZS7ANT was worked on February 4, 1998 on 20m SSB. Sometimes it pays to simply ask whether someone can help you in a situation. When I sent to the University of Natal (U of N) in South Africa for the ZS7ANT card, I put in a card for ZS1ANT from some 20 years earlier. Along with the QSL was a cassette tape recording I had made of the QSO. The operator was kind enough to track down the scientist I had spoken to and was able to forward a ZS1ANT card (albeit 20 years later) along in the same package, since they were colleagues at the U of N. It is a *small* world!

**#11 – R1AND – Novolazarevskaya Station**

Victor Karassev operated R1AND from the Schirmacher Oasis, a part of the Russian Antarctic Station Novolazarevskaya. His operation took place from December 26, 1999 to April 11, 2001. DL5EBE confirmed XN's QSO of 20m CW from January 9, 2001. You may have worked Victor from other calls such as UPOL-22, 4K0A, 4K0B, 4K0D or R1ANF.

Later, in 2008 there will be a Part III Antarctica... stay tuned.  
73 Garry, alias VA3ANTA. TCA