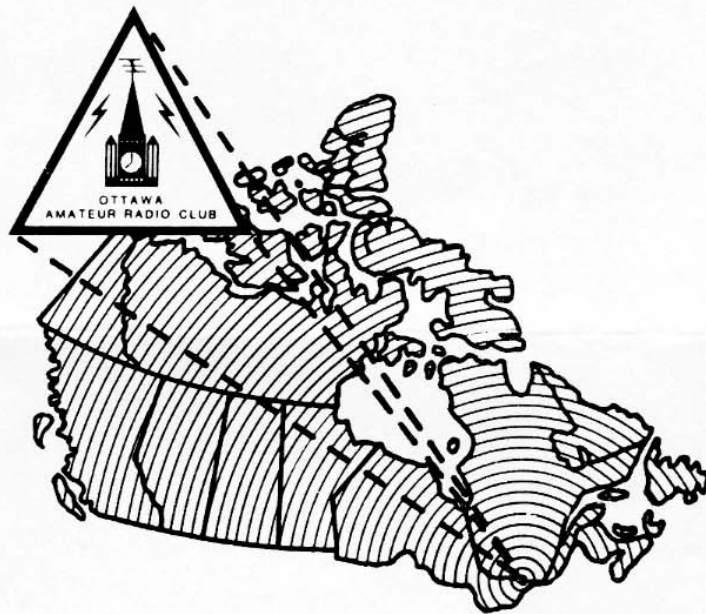


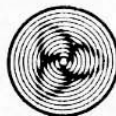
FEBRUARY 1987

THE GROUNDWAVE



Club Call VE3RC

Repeater VE2CRA



THE GROUNDWAVE

Official Bulletin of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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THE OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. is an association of Radio Amateurs devoted to the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communications in the National Capital Area; and to the advancement and achievement of club members.

REGULAR MEETINGS of the OARC, Inc., are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at the National Research Council Auditorium, 100 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, at 2000 hours. A bulletin board is available for posting notices of interest to other members about 1915 hours. Further details about each meeting is elsewhere in this publication.

THE OARC EXECUTIVE normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Board Room of CFRA, 150 Isabella St., Ottawa, at 1930 hours. Contact the President to confirm the date of the next meeting.

DEADLINE FOR COPY is the second Wednesday of each month. Make yourself better known to fellow members and other amateurs, too, by giving us an article, technical or otherwise, relative to our hobby. They may get reprinted in far away places; and the family will be proud of you.

MATERIAL PUBLISHED herein does not necessarily represent the official OARC viewpoint. Items may be reprinted by Amateur Radio or other publications provided that proper credit is given to the author and to the OARC, Inc.

RADIO AMATEUR CALL BOOKS are available at many local libraries. Ask at the information desk.

SAFETY BELTS, 2-METER RIG AND AN ENGRAVING PENCIL are available for loan to club members. The 2-meter rig may be borrowed by members who are hospitalized. The engraving pencil (to mark valuables for identification in case of loss or theft) and the safety belts with pole straps are available to any member.

A \$100 refundable deposit is required for the belts. Contact the President for the 2-meter rig or the engraving pencil; and Paul, VE3ICV, at 820-6643 (West End) or Brian, VE3JKZ, at 523-1535 (East End) for the belts.

THE CAPITAL CITY NET meets every Monday at 2000 hours on the club repeater VE2CRA (146.34/94) to pass traffic and to make announcements of interest to Amateurs in the National Capital Region.

THE SWAP NET, is a service provided and conducted by Ed Morgan, VE3GX. This feature appears on the Capital City Net, noted in the foregoing paragraph. To list items and make inquiries, call Ed Morgan at 733-1721.

POT-HOLE NET is a SSB/HF net sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, and conducted every Sunday at 1000 hours on 3.760 MHz. All amateurs are welcome to check in. The Swap-Net is a regular feature.

POT-LID CW NET is an informal slow-speed CW net sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX, and meeting every Sunday, except during July and August, at 1100 hours on 3.620 MHz, to promote interest in CW and CW procedures.

MINUTES OF THE OARC GENERAL
MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 1987

The meeting was convened at 2004 hours (local) by John, VE3NVF.

John welcomed five visitors - Jean Desbiens, Tim Preston-Thomas, Peter, 40K, Joe and Jeff, VE6CB. They were then invited to have a free coffee and issue of The GROUNDWAVE at break time.

When John brought up the subject of last month's minutes, Larry Kaiser was pleased to announce he is not dead, "reports of my death are greatly exaggerated". With this amendment, on a motion by Bill, VE3UD, seconded by Ted, VE3ADZ, the minutes were adopted. All in favour - CARRIED.

John was pleased to announce that all of the OARC equipment held by the Carleton University Students' Union has been released.

John announced a change in the date of the executive meeting from the 14th to the 21st.

Dave, VE3JTZ, announced that the first of the monthly code tests was completed tonight, and three of the four candidates passed. Future candidates should contact either Dave or John.

Harrie, VE3HYS, spoke about the upcoming Ski Marathon on February 7th and 8th. He is looking for 45 volunteers for this VHF field day. Repeaters used will include VE2's CRA, RM and RBH. For further information, see or call Harrie.

Merv, VE3CV, stood to address the club on voice linking, instead of the RSO, tonight. Merv explained the CRRA (VE3STP group) will be linking to the Toronto FM VE3RPT link with 220 MHz equipment, and then into Ottawa via 450 MHz link into VE3MPC.

Merv knows there are 40 repeaters linked in Quebec, so the Ontario linking project is feasible. Merv can be contacted for more information or to lend assistance to the effort described.

John conducted a poll which showed few had used voice linking but most were interested.

Larry Kaiser wondered if many were willing to write \$50 cheques for the project now. Merv responded by saying most of the equipment is now bought, just has to be connected. The CRRA has voted to up their dues and plan to approach area clubs for a stipend.

Dan, VE3EBI, wondered if the ULR proposal competes with the RPT proposal. Merv felt that having alternate north (RPT) and south (ULR) routes was desirable.

Dave wondered if the MPC repeater would be too busy to be suitable. Merv felt that the link would operate at 450 MHz independently of 147 MHz, unless commanded by the user. There have been 8-10 access codes allocated for use in the Ottawa Valley.

Dave also asked about the use of autopatch facilities on the link. Merv thinks that using an autopatch will be allowed.

Brett, VE3JLG, had no status report for the Packet Group.

Gord, VE3PPE, brought in the repeater controller he is working on for VE2CRA. It is still missing parts but Gord volunteered to 'open the hatch' for club members to have a look inside, during break time.

Paul, VE3JLP, gave us the following DX tips for this month: 3Y - Peter 1st Island, 68 degrees S, 90 degrees W, has had its DXpedition by Bob, KO7P, cancelled. Norwegians hope to be able

to land on it instead, by the end of January. FT8W - Crozet Island, FT9Z - Amsterdam Island, are checking into the INDEXA net at 14.236 MHz, at about 1730 Z. TA - Turkey, is off the banned list, but HZ - Saudi Arabia, is on. Note the error in last TCA.

The meeting adjourned at 2032 hours for coffee and resumed at 2100 hours.

Larry Kaiser addressed the club on nuisance laws, his own lawyer had used the Houghtby vs. Ravenscroft as an excellent precedent. The following six reasons are an ineffective defence: 1) amateur was there first; 2) amateurs are beneficial to society; 3) there is no better location; 4) skill and care was used to reduce the nuisance; 5) one can be sued for the combined action of many and 6) use of the property is reasonable. See also Salmond's Law of Torts. Larry advised re-thinking links with commercial entities and advocated a 'Right to Amateur Radio' law.

John Henry, VE2VQ, then took the opportunity to present Larry with his plaque for AMSAT.

Mailes, VE3AP, referred members to the editorial in 73 magazine. The merger of CRRL/CARF mentioned on page 14 is talk only, no decision has been made. Also, there are some 1 hr. club tapes on packet radio. Mailes will dub them on to members' tapes (VHS, Beta or 3/4") upon request.

Fred, VE3IO, knows of a blind amateur, VE3KET, in the Meadowlands area, that needs assistance. He needs an audio tuner and help setting up an inverted V the CNIB has bought. Interested people should call 232-5950.

Herb, VE3HMF, wondered who is looking after the Club's DDDF project. Doug, VE3OSL, is.

Doug, VE3CDC, is looking for a DT23 that can donate its ferrite cores. Craig suggested contacting Merivale High School.

Paul, VE3JLP, introduced the feature presentation, 'DX Forum', and his two guests: Dave, VE2ZP, and Brian, VE3JKZ.

Paul explained that HF DX work is a subjective subject, but synonymous with 'difficult'. Also, DX is a moving target, as "today's DX is tomorrow's QRM". A contact after a struggle in difficult conditions is working DX.

Dave, VE2ZP, goes after DX contests. Often QSO parties can bring out rare countries to pick up DX. Also, if you can hear your contact, you consider his RS as 59. If you have to ask for a repeat, it is 33. But "you have to be able to hear 'em to work 'em". If you need a QSL card for a contest, you may have to send IRCs to the operator to make it likely he will reply. Dave is also setting up a DX repeater on 145.11 MHz, but does not think it should be used for contesting.

Brian, VE3JKZ, spoke on DXing on the 'Top Band'. He has a 60' x 100' lot and has conducted many antenna experiments. The best time to work 160m is October/November and March/April, when the D layer absorption is least. Also, it pays to spend a lot of time listening and anticipating where the sun is setting or rising around the world.

He finds that vertical antennas are good for transmitting, but noisy for receiving - closed loops are quieter. Brian also has to contend with power line noise and IM from BC stations.

The meeting was adjourned at 2200 hours on a motion by Dave, VE3JTZ, seconded by Tom, VE3OFM. All in favour - CARRIED.

"HAROLD" REPLIES TO THE HAMS

All right, I confess it! When we held the Simulated Emergency Test Oct. 19/85, I was Harold. As part of the test, when my phone number was given out as the addressee of the messages for S.E.T. the name given with it was Harold, and I did answer the phone by saying "Harold Page Ltd." It was a dirty trick gang and I admit it! But I learned something from it.

When I decided to play the part of the unknown Harold, I decided that I would BE Harold instead of myself. I imagined that there really had been an emergency, that I was worried about my family, and that the nonsense messages which I received were, in reality, messages about the health and welfare of my family in the Mexico City earthquake. I tried to put myself into that frame of mind and in Harold's shoes.

Harold was scared to death. He was scared to death because he got a phone call in the middle of his distress, and that call was confusing. It included scary talk about strange message numbers, addresses, check numbers, signatures, breaks and x-rays. Now, don't forget, Harold isn't a ham. He doesn't know what all these things are, and probably doesn't care. Maybe he doesn't even speak English very well. He just wanted to know if his wife and kids were okay.

When we make a call to the general public, especially in time of distress, we owe it to them to start by explaining what they need to know and be preparing them for what they are hearing.

"Is Harold there?"

"Yes Harold, my name is Bill White and I'm an amateur radio operator. I've got a message here that I got over my two-way radio. Are you ready for it.

"Okay Harold, the message is: Bridgitte and the kids are with Aunt Maria and they're okay." "Yes, that's what it says on the message. Does that mean something to you Harold? It's signed by Jack, and it came from another radio operator who relayed it to me. I'll send a written copy by mail if you wish but I wanted you to know what the message was right away. Do you want me to try to get a message back to Jack?"

We're wiser to keep out check numbers, breaks, and x-rays for ourselves, lest those we are helping think that Bridgitte has broken her neck and they're waiting for the doctor to get the x-ray results. When we make the call we have to assume that the recipient doesn't know how to speak Ham and just speak English, plain English.

This is not intended as a criticism, it's an opinion (both mine and Harold's). I'm not a lawyer but if Harold committed Hari-kari, based on a misunderstanding of the message, I'd bet that we could be brought to court by Bridgitte and the kids when they arrived home safely and discovered that they had no Dad anymore because he misunderstood. She might very well win too! The courts place a heavy emphasis on the word "reasonable" and so should we!

Thanks for all the fine work that was done and we'll all learn a bit from it all....and I won't tell you which ham invited me to take off all our clothes and play in the sandbox. That was one of the messages I received and what's more, she signed it!

Bill, VE3NRQ
de LARC BULLETIN
London Amateur Radio Club

MISCELLANENOUS ITEMS

1. Apologies to Larry Kaiser, who was said in the December minutes to have died. At the January meeting he assured us that this is not true.
2. Paul Cooper pointed out that Turkey is now off the banned countries list, while Saudi Arabia is now on. Attention DXers.
3. Nuisance (remember the Ravenscroft case). Larry Kaiser, besides being alive, pointed out some unfortunate legal points having a bearing on ham radio when it interferes with other services. The points are valid even though the radio is operating in a perfectly "legal" (i.e. clean signal, etc.) manner.

Salmon's "Law of Torts" lists the following points which are not defence against being a nuisance:

- You were there first.
- The activity is beneficial to society.
- You have a good location and there is no better location.
- You have used the best possible skill and care to prevent the nuisance.
- Your activity is useful.
- Others are creating a similar nuisance.

These comments apply to other nuisances (presumably including a barking dog, etc.) and there are centuries of precedent in common law.

4. Mailes Dier, VE3AP, has offered to duplicate a tape of the Packet Radio Course in Beta, VHS or 3/4" format for anyone who asks (and supplies a blank tape). Contact him through the repeater or at 346-2206.

5. There is a blind amateur, VE3KET, in need of assistance. He lives in a group home in the Meadowlands area and needs help in repairing an HW32A and an audio tuner.
6. According to Ham Radio, there were 421,082 hams in the U.S. at the end of September 1986.
7. Speaker for February - Dr. Ted Hayes talking about SARSAT - the search and rescue satellite.

A TIME OF TRANSITION

There is no doubt that amateur radio is in a period of transition. The need to revitalize the amateur radio service has been recognized by many amateurs. The DOC has recognized the need and has published an excellent discussion paper on the subject. Amateurs across the country have responded with all sorts of suggestions and comments. Based on input from amateurs across the country, CARF and CRRL have submitted a joint paper to comment on the DOC proposals. The DOC is now working on restructuring the amateur service. It is not known when the DOC will announce the new set up, but we can rest assured that DOC is working in the interest of the amateur community and the system we finally end up with should be supported by all amateurs. We should extend all possible help to those folks who are attracted to our hobby.

de SARC NEWS
Scarborough A.R. Inc.

"CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT" CHARGED

John R. MacDougall, KA4WJA of Ocala, Florida, has been charged with illegally operating a satellite uplink transmitter to intentionally interfere with the satellite cable television programming of Home Box Office, Inc. (HBO). On April 27, at approximately 12:30 a.m. EST, during the showing of the film "The Falcon and the Snowman", a video transmission overrode the HBO transmissions to the Galaxy I Satellite. The transmissions consisted of a color bar pattern with a message to HBO and other cable networks who scramble their transmissions protesting high monthly charges. The transmission lasted 4 1/2 minutes and was seen by viewers over the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. After careful analysis of videotapes by the FCC, it was concluded that the interfering signal was transmitted from a professional satellite up-link facility having an antenna of at least seven meters in diameter and that the message had been generated using a specific make and model of character generator. The Central Florida Teleport at Ocala, Florida, was the only surveyed facility with the proper combination of equipment and availability for use at the time and date of the interference. The operator on duty was John R. MacDougall. His actions allegedly constituted unlicensed operation in that he did not possess a license from the FCC nor have the authority or permission of Central Florida Teleport to operate the facility after the scheduled programming was complete. In a plea bargaining agreement, MacDougall reportedly was fined \$5000 and was asked to surrender his Technician class license for the remainder of its term.

Tnx ARRL Newsletter and the RARA Rag published by Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

ELECTRON HOLE THEORY EXPOSED AS FRAUD

Have you been bemused and confused by the electron-hole theory? Do charges, valence bonds, and the 3/2 power law make you nervous? A startling discovery by Mark Persons invalidates all of this claptrap! In a recent issue of Radio World, Mark reveals how electronic equipment really works:

"For many years, young electronic technicians have been taught the "hole" theory of electronics. This theory explains how electrons move along conductors and semiconductors. The explanation has been good enough to satisfy or keep at bay anyone who might otherwise question the theory.

However, after a number of years working in the broadcast industry, I have come to realize the "hole" explanation may not be correct.

"My theory, which has been proven time and again by personal observation, is that electronics works on smoke. Yes, that's right. I recently learned that every manufacturer encapsulates a certain amount of smoke in every piece of electronic component he builds. The smoke is what does the work.

"You have probably noticed that a component will quit working when the smoke leaks out. I've documented this many times and it conclusively proves my theory. My theory sure beats the "hole" theory. I've never seen holes in a wire, and why don't electrons pour out of the end of the wire, if the wire is broken?"

I say Mark Persons is RIGHT. I've seen smoke many times but I've never seen an electron. Hats off to this pioneer whose discovery will be celebrated each April in the years to come!

de FEEDLINE Niagara
Peninsula Amateur
Radio Club

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE SECOND "R"
IN CRRL?

This is what is behind 'traffic handling.' R = relay = message handling. You may have heard a 'net' working, found it unintelligible and moved on. Well, it is really very simple, very rewarding, and excellent PR. After all, have you never been asked, "You're a ham, eh? Can you send messages etc?"

Did you dare to say 'Yep'?

"OK then, can you send one to my friend in Chicago?"

"Oh! Well, I'm a bit busy right now. See you sometime."

It doesn't have to be like that. Let us go through a session of the Ontario/Quebec slow speed C.W. (is there any other way?) net to see how simple it is and how you could contribute and have fun.

Net times are 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. You can check into one or all on 3666 kHz. Get a copy of the pink ARRL card titled AMATEUR MESSAGE FORM (measures 6" x 9") for format assistance.

What you will hear is

OQN OQN OQN DE VE3FAS QNI (OQN = Ontario Quebec Net, VE3 call is a sample net control, and QNI is a request to please check in.)

D (a station checking in sends one letter of his call)

D (control station answers)

VE3ISD QRU

VE3ISD GE ERIC R AS (control station)

OQN K

M (second station checking in)

M (control acknowledges)

VE3EAM QTC MONTREAL 1, VANCOUVER 1 AR

VE3EAM R AS (control station)

R (another station checking in)

R (control acknowledges)

VE3CYR GOING TO ECN QRU (ECN = Eastern Canadian Net)

VE3CYR R, VE3EAM, VE3CYR UP 5 ECN 1

V

V

VE2EDV QRU

VE2EDV QNU AS (this means net has tfc for you, the Montreal tfc above)

CYR

CYR CLR (cleared tdc for Vancouver)

EAM (EAM checking in again)

EAM (control answers)

VE3EAM CLR ECN

R VE3EAM, VE2EDV DWN 5 MONTREAL 1

(when all stations have cleared tfc then control gives each one QRU QNX you are excused).

So, couldn't we all do this simple procedure. It's all over in 10 minutes and you will have helped someone else and kept the traffic nets active for the time when there is a real emergency. Then the system will be in place and the real emergency traffic will be handled in an efficient and professional manner!

All the traffic nets of the National Traffic System interlock so that messages are passed from one net to the next at interlocking times. However, for the time being all you need to know is how to 'list' your traffic.

All messages for Ontario and Quebec are listed as per QTH, i.e., if you had one for Montreal, one for London, and one for Peterborough, then you would call in as:

DE VE3XXX QTC MONTREAL 1, LONDON 1, PETERBORO 1

If, however, you had messages for points outside of Ontario and Quebec then they would be listed as ECN. If you had the following, Kansas City 2, Vancouver 1, Winnipeg 1, Tampa 1, you would list them simply as:

QTC ECN 5 (no mention of where they are for).

With a mixed bunch, e.g., Toronto 1, Quebec City 1, Chicago 1, Washington DC 1, then you would call in your traffic as follows:

QTC TORONTO 1, QUEBEC CITY 1, ECN 2 (simple eh?).

Does it work?

VE3OCF was in Florida this summer playing in the Florida Orchestra. He sent messages to VE3GMA, VE3ISD and his xyl. All were sent at 7 p.m. from Hollywood, Florida, and delivered the same night in St. Catherines. Replies to him in his motel were also received the same day as sent. For the general public the thrill of receiving a 'radiogram' is quite something. Until you phone a recipient you will never know how much pleasure you give and what a boost to ham radio you make.

So, try traffic handling as a change from the endless and often mindless QSOs one after the other, each meaning as much as the last. Of course this is CW and there are also SSB nets but you wouldn't expect me to give publicity to that mode now would you?

by Eric, VE3ISD
in FEEDLINE, the bulletin
of the Niagara Amateur
Radio Club

SENSES WE TAKE FOR GRANTED

I never fail to be amazed at those among us with special aptitudes for senses that we take for granted. The other day I travelled to Atlanta, Georgia, to meet with a computer graphics expert. This person is truly an expert. He can tell you more about computer graphics than most of us would believe. He can describe the attributes of a computer screen and the specific resolution requirements, colour, pixels, primitives, etc., . . . and yet he is legally blind! Actually, I think that the effort he has made to see even with his limited sight creates a stronger image in his mind than the image created in our minds by our casually accepted sense of sight. He certainly uses his memory more than we do since he cannot simply pick up a reference and re-read it so once something has been read to him he simply remembers it.

Needless to say when we went out to lunch I drove the car but he gave me very precise directions; which way to go, when to turn. I shall be meeting this gentleman again next week in Seattle as he is the Chairman of a Graphics Committee on which I am the recording secretary. It is a pleasure to assist such a person in his chosen field of endeavour where he manages to turn his acknowledged handicap into an asset.

73

Robin, VE3IUI
de The BARC PRINTED
CIRCUIT, The
Burlington ARC Inc.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

If you don't want your children to hear what you're saying, pretend you're talking to them.

de Bulletin of the Peel
Amateur Radio Club Inc.



The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Box 8873, Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3J2			
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	Ralph Thomas VE3GG	2180 Benjamin Ave. Ottawa, Ont., K2A 1P4	729-9252
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Net Manager	Bruce Lauer VE3MJV	10 Winlock Crescent Nepean, Ont., K2G 3X4	829-9471 957-1825
Emergency Coordinator	Ken Kendall VE3IHX	777B Springland Drive Ottawa, Ont., K1V 6L9	731-0892
EMI Committee Chairman	Ralph Cameron VE3BBM	30 St. Remy Drive Nepean, Ont., K2J 1A3	825-1634 225-2850
Membership Chairman	Peter Hafichuk VE3LBW	118 Ivy Crescent Ottawa, Ont., K1M 1X6	745-0608 993-1740
National Cap. Award Manager	Brian Summers VE3JKZ	2231 Hillary Avenue Ottawa, Ont., K1H 7H7	523-1535