

FEBRUARY 1991



NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1991

# GROUNDWAVE



Club Call VE3RC

Repeater VE2CRA

VE3XXM

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Box 8873, Ottawa, Ont., K1G 3J2

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Directors	Clare Fowler, VE3NPC	232-1081	
	Dave Parks, VE3GSA	225-1206	
	Rob Morrison, VE3ZZR	722-3837	992-4334
	Doug Yuill, VE3OCU	567-2700	788-2733
	Harrie Jones, VE3HYS	739-9365	738-2372
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Repeater Chairman	Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM	825-1634	225-2850
Net Manager	Mike Kelly, VE3FFK	722-5918	788-5782
EMI Committee Chairman	Brian Summers, VE3JKZ	523-1535	996-7885
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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 1930 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.

PACKET RADIO MEETINGS will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 29, 1990; Jan. 31, 1991; March 28, 1991; and May 30, 1991, at the National Research Council on Sussex Drive. This is an OARC technical meeting open to all who have an interest in packet radio.

THE OARC EXECUTIVE normally meets on the second Wednesday of each month 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.

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.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIPS - To encourage young people to join the club and to participate in amateur radio, the club is opening a junior class of membership. Dues will be at a 50% discount but the junior member must pick up his/her copy of the Groundwave (preferably at the meeting).

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 members. For the belts, a refundable deposit consisting of a cheque equal to the replacement value of the belts is required. 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.

PACKET RADIO VOICE NET meets following the Capital City Net on VE2CRA at 2040 hours. This is an informal net to answer questions about packet radio, pass along operating hints and provide information for future packet operators.

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.

REPEATERS

VE2CRA Voice	146.94/34	443.300/448.300
VE3OCR	223.34/224.94	
VE3OCR Packet	145.01(sx)	Inter city links
VE3OCR Packet	145.07(sx)	Local Area net for QSO and Packet BBS.
56 kbps Packet	220.55/433.55	
VE3DX DX Info	146.25/146.85	

For further information, please contact repeater chairman.

MINUTES OF THE OARC GENERAL MEETING  
OF JANUARY 2, 1991

The January general meeting of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club was held in the new location, at the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Headquarters on Lisgar Street. The meeting was called to order by the president, VE2ZP, at 1950 local time on 2 January 1991.

Several visitors attended the meeting, including VE3HLB, VE3EQW, VE3SLW, VE3HPT and one prospective ham.

The first order of business was a request by VE3GSA for volunteers to help out with the annual ski marathon on the weekend of February 8-10.

The second item on the agenda was a talk by VE3MDL on his ongoing amateur radio astronomy project.

Following the break, VE3OCU gave a short presentation on the packet group's I/O board. Doug had a couple of boards and the documentation on hand for everyone to have a look at.

The last item on the agenda was VE3JLP's DX Tips.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2130 local.

This meeting was the first at the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Headquarters - courtesy of EMO.

The guest speaker was Marcus Leach, VE3MVL, talking about amateur radio astronomy. He listens at 21 cm (the frequency of neutral hydrogen) using a pair of Yagi antennas. (Ed. note)

SKI MARATHON

The Canadian Ski Marathon takes place on 9 and 10 February 1991, and as usual, repeaters VE2CRA, VE2RBH and VE2RM will be used to provide communications for the event. If you are not involved in the Marathon, please go through the net controller if you wish to make a call on any of these repeaters.

de Harry, VE3HYS

OARC ELECTIONS

At the June meeting, we will be holding elections for the new executive. Before that happens, we need a nominating committee. If you would like to help out by working on the nominating committee, please contact Dave, VE2ZP. Similarly, if you are interested in serving on the executive for 1991/92, contact Dave.

Dave, VE2ZP,  
President, OARC,  
Tel: 684-1432.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Speaker will be  
Bob Cox, VE3RJC, of  
the Ottawa District Office of  
Communications Canada, on  
the Delegated Examiner's Program  
or How You Can Administer  
the Amateur Radio Exams

HOME BREW NIGHT

The April meeting is the OARC's annual Home Brew Night. If you have any homebrew projects, even partially-completed ones, please bring them to the meeting, and be prepared to give a short talk on what you've done.

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

Another month just zoomed by. Did anyone see where it went? I'm still learning the ropes about doing the treasurer thing. I'll say something about that when I know more about it. Preliminary report: we aren't broke yet.

By the time you read this, the Canadian Ski Marathon will be almost here. It's hard to believe, but some of you won't be participating in this little party. I suggest you try to listen to some of the goings on, so you will know what everybody is talking about on Monday morning. On Friday and Sunday afternoon/evening, we will probably be on VE2CRA (146.94 Mhz) and on Saturday and Sunday morning, we use VE2RM (147.00). Especially if you are new to hamming, or to public service type operation, it's worth a listen. Next year, come on out. You might even persuade Harry to give you an assignment that puts you someplace warm.

That's all for this month (who says hams are long winded?)

LAST WORD .. HOMEBREW (it's that time again!)

..73 mike k. VE3FFK

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

DEFENCE OF AMATEUR RADIO TRUST FUND (DARF): Work of the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) is ongoing non-stop, and promotes Amateur Radio as we know it on a worldwide basis. In support of IARU activities monetary donations are needed to maintain a vigilant and vocal presence - now, before and during the formal convention of WARC '92. IARU members perform the role of Amateur ambassadors to preserve, protect and enhance our privileged use of frequencies we take for granted.

Both CARF and CRRL endorse support for DARF.

All donations should be made to: DARF Fund, Box 56, ARVA, Ontario, NOM 1C0. Thanks, Ralph Cameron VE3BBM. (Item 3, CARF News Bulletin 13-90.)

More information (on the Amateur Radio Trust Fund) from Tim Ellam VE6SH in the Calgary CARA news bulletin. The trustees are: Colin Dumbrille VE7FZQ, Langley, British Columbia; Tim Ellem VE6SH, Calgary, Alberta; Ralph Cameron VE3BBM, Ottawa, Ontario; B. Robert Benson Q.C. VE2VW, Montreal, Quebec; John Perkins VE1FH, Windsor Junction, Nova Scotia. At present the Fund has received donations of \$8,500 and it is expected between \$40,000 and \$50,000 will be required. (Item 4, CARF News Bulletin 19-90.)

ANTENNA STRUCTURES: Further to News Bulletin 17-90, Item 2, on consultation with municipalities over significant antennas, it is becoming obvious that this policy of DOC's has a lot to offer Amateurs. By basing its action on the Townsend Report which recognizes Federal control over antennas and supporting structures, DOC has removed much of the uncertainty that has existed in the past over how to deal with municipalities. Also of great benefit is the new arbitration procedure. DOC will assist in resolving any problem an

Amateur may have over an antenna and support structure provided the Amateur has consulted with the municipality before starting any construction. (Item 9, CARF News Bulletin 18-90.)

STATISTICS OF INTEREST - CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES

<u>October</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>
VE0	165	172	177
VE1	2,105	2,158	2,149
VE2	4,474	4,594	4,882
VE3	9,086	9,256	9,715
VE4	842	841	893
VE5	830	826	864
VE6	2,024	2,049	2,144
VE7	4,249	4,393	4,600
VE8	90	85	73
VO1	483	499	540
VO2	32	29	29
VY1	50	50	48
VY2	0	0	163
<u>VY9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	24,430	24,954	26,279

(Item 10, CARF News Bulletin 18-90.)

THE DOC is preparing to introduce RIC 17, which will address issues concerning the problem of electromagnetic immunity of both radio and non radio equipment. The assistance of manufacturers and dealers has been requested for the completion of the circular. A key portion of this publication will include the "replace, repair or refund policy" of major manufacturers/dealers of home entertainment products in Canada and the immunity characteristics of current electronic equipment to provide a baseline for decision making limits.

This RIC 17 represents the culmination of efforts made to eliminate EMI as a restriction on operating licensed transmitters in the modern environments. Contact VE3BBM Ralph Cameron with comments or questions. (Item 7, CARF News Bulletin 11-90.)

BOND THAT TRANSMATCH TO YOUR RIG

If you've ever had difficulty, or found it to be impossible to secure a good match with your antenna tuner, especially when using a random length of wire for an antenna, then try bonding the ground lug of your rig directly to that of the tuner with a heavy gauge, separate ground wire. The braid from a bit of discarded piece of RG-8U cable serves very nicely in this application.

Our group learned of the importance of NOT relying upon the interconnecting coax cable for ground during a recent Field Day. The 40 metre Bobtail Antenna we were attempting to use could not be tuned until we "bonded" the system this way.

de SPARC GAP

YELLOW ROPE!

Bright yellow "Polypropylene" is the rope of choice for supporting wire antennas in trees; it is inexpensive, water proof, light weight, strong, and (very importantly) "slippery". . .there are no threads, etc., to snag on the bark of tree limb "halyards" during the course of elevating your latest creation from the ground.

It may not be common knowledge for the beginner, however, that ultraviolet light from the sun's rays limits the useful life of polypropylene to 2 - 3 years. Be suspicious of and immediately replace any such rope which is faded and sprouting short, prickly "hairs" along its length, indicating deterioration. . .or be prepared to have your masterpiece come crashing down to the ground at the most inopportune moment.

de South Pickering ARC's  
SPARK GAP

AN ODE TO A TOWER

(from RaRa Rag, Rochester A.R.A. via ARNS.)

There it stands at a 50 foot height  
A silvery needle in the bright sunlight.  
Its feet anchored firm in solid concrete  
Wires and cables making the unit complete.

Antenna on top with two swinging beams,  
Silently tuning by magic it seems.  
Picking up DX and minute, and hour,  
Oh happy am I with my radio tower.

AN XYL'S ANSWER

And up on the arms of that antenna  
above

Sit several dozen pearly-grey doves  
Interference - now surely no signal will  
falter,

It's what hits us down here that makes  
such a bother.

On top of your head or all over the  
laundry

Those birds have no care for anyone's  
boundaries.

That silvery needle topped with antenna,  
too

May bring joy to DXers  
But what can I do?

Oh, here is the answer;  
Some say it will work.

An Owl for a decoy,  
The birds will all shirk.

Right away they will stay;  
Is this really true?

So the DXers happy,  
And the laundry safe too!

Bernie, XYL of VE3KZE

via the South Pickering ARC's  
SPARK GAP

GOOD MORNING THUMPER!

Everybody does it. . . . Well, maybe just the bad guys. The YL's are too polite. Picture him; coat open, galoshes half buckled, one glove on, paper caught in the briefcase latch. . .and so on. Man, what does he do when he reaches his car? Reaches through the steering wheel with his left hand to turn the ignition on and with the other hand picks up the mike on the seat beside him. Does he give a cheerful 'hello', does he check the gain on the receiver in the possibility that the frequency is busy, does he give his call sign and intentions for transmitting?

"No way, Jose!" Our leading edge advocate of amateur band management thumps the relay, and thereby contributes to the erosion of the amateur rights and freedoms obtained by the amateur community in return for serious, responsible use of the airwaves without thought of personal gain or privilege.

The relay thumper at hisher (women insist on being included and so they should if they thump the relays) best is selfish, using the relay equipment as a test rig for a private monitoring station. At their worst, they contribute to QRM. At their best, they contribute to the erosion of amateur credibility.

So speak up, dag nab it, speak up!

MANUAL NEEDED

If you could help by lending me the manual for an F757GX, I would greatly appreciate it. Mike, VE3PDE - 592-2962 (home), 995-2730 (office).

PARDON ME MA'AM BUT

During the Stanislaus (CA) ARC picnic (1985) an exceedingly good time was had by all those who participated in the hidden transmitter hunt.

The hunt provided some humorous moments when the search focused on a young couple enjoying the pleasure of each others' arms under a cooling shade tree on the banks of the river, not far from the starting point.

Joe, N6LSB, was the first hunter to suspect the possibility that the transmitter might be somewhere near the couple. But he was not about to disturb them while they were amorously involved.

Jim, KB6DJ, with his gentlemanly smile wasn't adverse to at least causing a short interruption in the proceedings. As the rest of the hunters looked on, Jim said politely, "Pardon me folks, would you mind if we looked for a hidden transmitter?"

Professing not to know the least bit about what he was talking about while showing mild indignation, permission was granted as the lady straightened her coiffeur. Jim explained that the assembled multitude, with their funny looking little radios, were looking for a hidden transmitter and they had narrowed their search to their immediate area judging from all the signals.

The couple righted themselves from the lawn, revealing nothing but their wrinkled blanket. Denny, WG6P, quickly asked if they could look under the blanket?

Request granted! Zap! No luck! As speculation increased, 40 over S9 signals continued to intermittently peg meters and quiet squelches. The hunters knew they were close enough to feel the heat off the heat sinks of the hidden transmitter. The couple waited patiently

as the hunters contemplated their next move. It was noted that the man was wearing cut-off's while the lady was wearing a roomy dress.

Suspicious immediately focused on the young lady's dress but no one was willing to put their thoughts into actions. In as much as WA6LZO knew where the transmitter was and was therefore disqualified, he suggested that the hunters might ask the young lady questions in an attempt to probe forbidden areas.

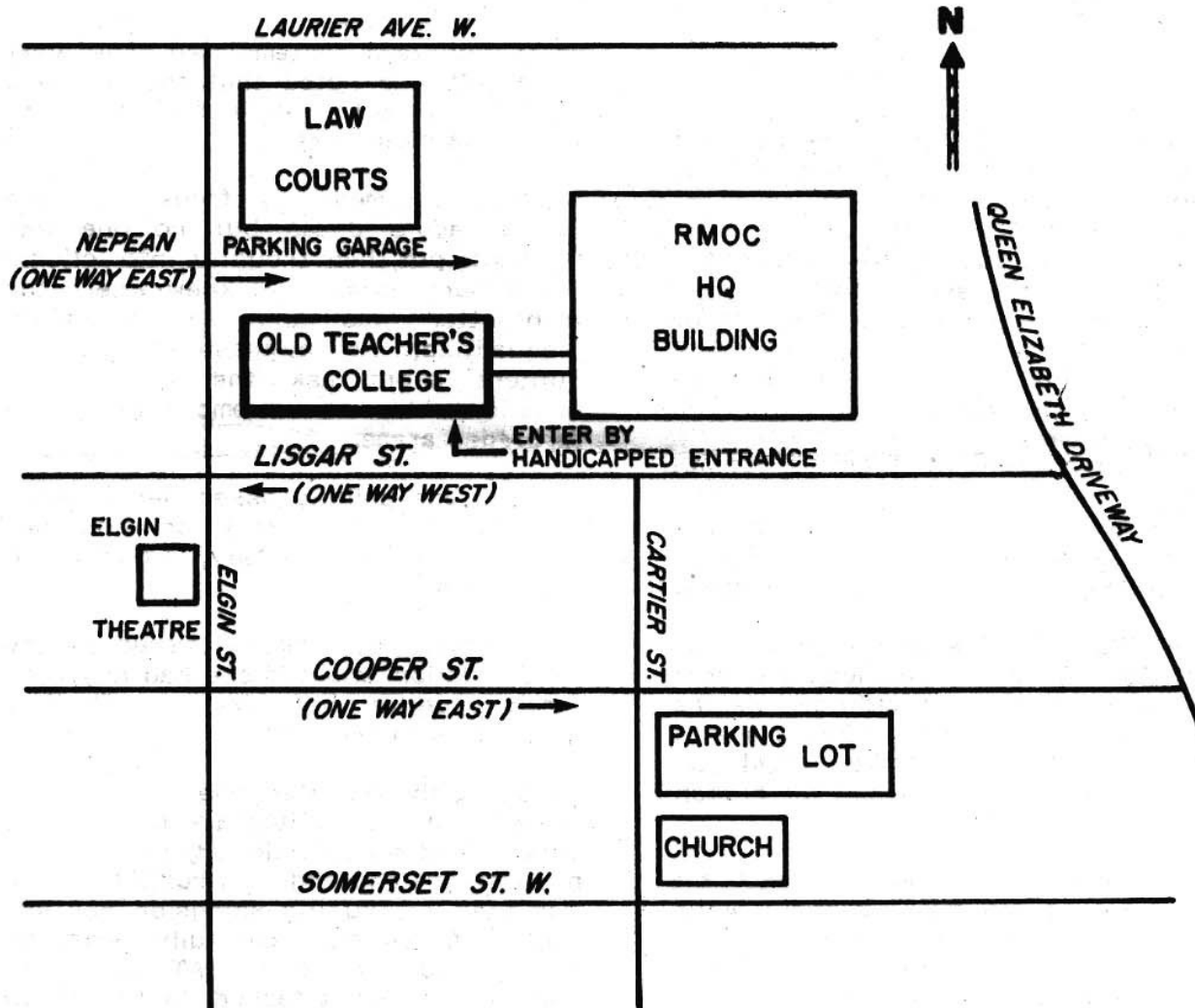
Jim and Joe politely asked her if there were any foreign items in or about her bosom. "No," said the lady, "I don't need such items."

Expectations were then lowered as the next question asked if she had anything foreign under her dress. "Well I declare!" said the lady.

Following the laughter, she was asked to raise her dress. . . "just a wee bit." She agreed, and much to the enjoyment of all present, the top end of a rubber duckie was seen protruding alongside her left thigh. A few more carefully measured inches and the Icom 2-AT was fully visible. It was attached to her thigh near the knee with an Ace bandage. A remote keying line and microphone ran from the talkie up under her arm and was keyed when she placed pressure on her arm.

After the excitement died down, it was learned that the couple was actually man and wife, and personal friends of WA6MIZ, who had solicited their help. They were thanked for their splendid job and appeared to enjoy it as much as the hunters. They were heard to say as they were leaving that they had not "made out" like that since they were teenagers.

de "The READOUT", Stanislaus (CA) ARC, WA6LZO editor and found in SPARC-GAP of South Pickering Amateur Radio Club Inc.



For the whole of 1991, the OARC will be meeting in the Champlain Room of the RMOc HQ complex on Lisgar St. in downtown Ottawa.

The Champlain Room is located on the second floor of the Old Teacher's College Building. Enter from the corner of Cartier and Lisgar. Look for the handicapped person's entrance. Take the stairs to the second floor. The room is the second on the left. There is also an elevator available.

There is FREE on-street parking on Lisgar, Cartier and Cooper.

The parking garage, accessible from Elgin at Nepean, will cost \$2.00.

The parking lot at Cartier and Cooper may be unattended and, therefore, FREE.

It is with some regret that we leave NRC, where the OARC has been meeting since the early 1950's. Sincere thanks go to Larry Abott, Emergency Planning Officer, RMOc, for getting us such beautiful accommodations.