

JANUARY 1994



NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1994

GROUNDWAVE



Club Call VE3RC

Repeater VE2CRA

VE3LXP

Official Bulletin of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

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

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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) in the Champlain Room (2nd floor of the Old Teacher's College) of the RMOC HQ complex on Lisgar St., Ottawa, at 1915 hours. Further details about each meeting is elsewhere in this publication.

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.

PACKET RADIO MEETINGS will be held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of every 2nd month, starting September 1993, at the Museum of Science and Technology. This is an OARC technical meeting open to all who have an interest in packet radio.

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 AND AN ENGRAVING PENCIL are available for loan to club members. 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 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	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;
	Packet	145.11(SX)

For further information, please contact repeater chairman.

CONTENTS

MINUTES 3
 HERE'S JOHNNY! 4
 PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 4
 HOME BREW NIGHT 4
 DECEMBER TALK 4
 SKI MARATHON 4
 LETTER TO THE EDITOR 5
 OARC MEMBERSHIP REPORT 5
 mk's WORDS 5
 LETTER TO THE EDITOR 7
 OARC DXCC CONTEST 7
 XM49ers 7
 RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA NEWS
 SERVICE 8
 ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFORMATION . . . 10
 ELECTRIC VEHICLES FOR SALE/LEASE 10

MINUTES OF OARC GENERAL MEETING
HELD DECEMBER 1, 1993

Welcome

Meeting was opened with a welcome to all at 19:32 by Paul Coverdale, VE3ICV, president.

Visitors

Visitors welcomed to the meeting included:

- Al, VK4AN0 (really VE3AN0 in disguise)
- Tom
- Mary
- Paul
- Andy

Paul and Andy were here to assist Fred with his demonstration.

DX Report

John Athey, VE2GSX, reported on various DX happenings. Notably, The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Pitcairn Island using the call VR6FLY/VX on 15 Metres.

Dave, VE3ZP, has apparently turned in a score in excess of 2.6 million for the recent CQDX CW contest.

John also reported that african stations may be heard in the early morning hours.

Flea Market

Peter, VE3LBW reported 340 paid admissions to the flea market this year with (unofficially) \$2,215 gross income for a profit of approximately \$1,675. A show of hands revealed that almost everyone at the meeting attended the flea market.

Paul, VE3ICV, thanked Peter once again for his efforts and asked for a round of applause from the club members.

Correspondence

Paul, VE3ICV, mentioned a letter from VE3CNE at the Canadian National Exhibition looking for donations. You may operate VE3CNE when you're in Toronto and obtain a free pass for the Exhibition.

St. Lawrence Valley Repeater Council

Dave, VE3AV, reported that the SLVRC met in October for the first time south of the border. The next meeting is scheduled for April 16 in Iroquois, ON. The council has been in existence for 17 years.

RAC News Bulletin

Doug, VE3CDC read the RAC news bulletin.

- VE9 is now available for New Brunswick.
- Special prefix are permitted to mark the creation of RAC.
- RAC winter contest, December 19.
- As of October 1, there were 41,014 callsigns issued.

Speaker

Paul introduced the main speaker for the evening, Fred Green, VE3IO, Fred's talk will show his work with electric vehicles.

Fred opened with a slide show of various electric vehicles, motors, batteries, and assemblies.

Fred demonstrated an Air-Aluminum battery and showed us one of the motors used to drive his vehicles. Also on display were some of the controller circuits used in his vehicles.

There are various clubs and associations relating to electric propulsion in the area as well as provincial and national organizations. (See elsewhere in the Groundwave for the club name and addresses.)

Paul thanked Fred for his time and invited everyone to go to the parking garage during coffee to see the electric vehicles Fred brought with him.

Other Announcements

- Talk to Santa at the Museum of Science and Technology the weekend of the 4th. sponsored by the OVMRC.
- Next Bunny Hunt will be Dec 4th at 9:00. Meet on VE3TWO.
- Secretary position still open.

Close

The meeting adjourned at 21:10 for coffee and a look at the vehicles in the garage.

Respectfully submitted, Richard, VE3UNW

HERE'S JOHNNY!

Johnny Mroz, VE3EIE, has volunteered his services as our new club secretary. Thanks Johnny!

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY

George Roach, VE3BNO, will talk about the construction of the new (currently in use) CFRA/Kool-FM Studio Complex. Complete with slides!

HOME BREW NIGHT

Remember! Home Brew night is coming in April. It's not too early to start thinking about presenting your latest bit of tinkering.

Get active - Get Radio-Active!

DECEMBER TALK

Fred Green, VE3IO, gave a talk on electric cars. He showed slides of electric cars from 1905 to the present. These included cars, trucks, golf carts and utility vehicles. There were more slides and interesting talk about motors, controllers and batteries.

SKI MARATHON

Volunteers are needed for the Ski Marathon which will be held February 12 and 13, 1994. Radio operators, mobiles on skis and packet are needed. This year the course will leave Ottawa on Saturday, February 12th, and finish in Lachute on Sunday, February 13th.

To obtain more information or to volunteer please call Harrie, VE3HYS, at 739-9365.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We are writing this letter to formally thank several members of the Ottawa Region amateur fraternity who recently went out of their way to assist us.

On Tuesday, November 2, as we were driving from Sudbury to Ottawa, we discovered (the hard way) that our gas tank did not hold enough to complete the trip. Consequently, the car stopped on the Queensway, just west of Bayshore. You guessed it, the rush hour was well under way. Wondering what to do, we made a call for help on one of the local 2 metre repeaters. Quite a few amateurs responded with helpful information and suggestions; although we didn't catch all the calls, our thanks to them. Especially we'd like to thank Al, VE2TYJ, who contacted someone close to our breakdown location, and Tony, VE3XNT, who kept an eye on us until help arrived. A very special thank you to Pat, VE3TZR, who rented a gas can, bought some gas and drove around the Queensway in rush-hour traffic to bring the gas to us, AND WOULDN'T EVEN LET US PAY FOR IT!

Good Samaritans are all too rare, and we thought you would like to know they still exist and who they are. It seems like poetic justice that Pat won one of the HT door prizes at the Cumberland flea market! Congratulations Pat.

Carol Brown, VE3MNX, and Cam Brown, VE3JDK

(Editor's note: Carol's father was the late Rod MacKenzie, VE3JDK, who's call is now held by Cam.)

OARC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership currently stands at 168 members -- and still growing!

mk's WORDS

If you already have full privileges, and don't know anyone who doesn't, then skip this article, because today I will be typing about what a delegated examiner (me) does.

It usually starts with a phone call... "I hear you know about how to get a ham radio licence". So I tell them in a general sort of way about what's needed, what type of licence is needed for what they want to do, about Basic, Advanced, 5 and 12 WPM, about RIC24 and 25. Sometimes it's on the air, and they ask "How do I get onto HF?" I let them know about code practice computer programs, W1AW, any upcoming courses I know about and things like that. After a few weeks of silence comes the second call: "What is the test like, when and where can I take it?"

When and where: Since I'm around Carleton most Tuesdays for the Advanced course anyway, I try to schedule tests for a 4:30 to 7:00 PM start. I once arranged a test for Easter Sunday. Anytime I'm not scheduled to be doing something else is an ok time for me, but I find it more convenient to conduct the exams at my workplace than at home. We're just better set up to do things like exams at a University.

If the candidate is unfamiliar with the campus, I'll send a map if there is enough lead time. Once the candidate arrives, I explain the rules, check for any questions they might have, (since I usually forget some little detail). The most often asked question is "What does it cost to take a test?" My standard answer is "nothing, unless you ask for so many re-tests that you start to bother me." It hasn't happened yet. Once all the details are taken care of, they are directed to a table or desk, and handed a stack of papers consisting of a blank answer form, formula sheet, schematic or block diagram book, and finally a book of questions, 100 for Basic or 50 questions for Advanced. Then I go to another part

of the room and leave them alone for a while. I check on their progress from time to time, but really can't answer any of their questions. From the time they get the question book, they're on their own. Once they are finished and have checked their answers for dumb mistakes, and unanswered questions, I take their answers and check them against a "swiss cheese" form with the correct (according to the Department) answer spots cut out of it. If, at first glance, it looks like they will pass, then I give them an examination report and certificate application form. They fill this out while I check the answer sheet and total their score. Then I check out their application, to make sure they have filled in all the spaces they have to. If it was a basic exam, I give them a station licence application form, and some advice about picking a callsign suffix.

If they are doing a code test, we go over to a computer, where the test software written by Richard, VE3UNW, is loaded. This software is used for the sending test. It carefully sets up the timing and unlike other software we have tested, keeps the speed and spacing constant through the duration of the test. The candidate has the option of doing the receive or transmit test first, but must do both of them before they are qualified. In the receiving test, the characters are sent at a 12 wpm rate, but extra space is inserted between characters to bring the total speed back down to 5 wpm. For the 12 wpm test, the characters and spacing are set up for 12 wpm, as you would expect. The text is usually something that I have carefully constructed to make sure that it has most of the letters and numbers, and all of the punctuation marks in it. For the receiving test, they can use a computer as an electronic typewriter, or copy the old pencil and paper way. The sending test is more low tech than the receive test. I ask them to send by hand key, bug or keyer (in one case the candidate didn't have a key, and sent at around 15

wpm by touching two wires together!). The test is three minutes long. The text for the sending test is a block of text out of some book, and will include numbers and punctuation. The candidate sends, and after three minutes I stop them and count the number of characters I have copied, and the number wrong. Some people don't seem to realise that numbers and punctuation are counted as two characters each, because they are so much longer than the average letter. If they don't pass the test, but are close, I will automatically give them another test right away. A person can get up to five characters wrong (for this purpose a number is still only one character) and still pass the test.

Once all that is done, the (much happier) candidate gets to go home and start working on excuses to tell his/her boss why they won't be in the next morning. Some time the next day, Richard takes the documentation in to the Department of Whatever They Call Themselves Today so the stuff is there waiting for the New Ham to get there. The candidate walks in, walks out again a few minutes later with shiny new qualifications and a station licence with their very own callsign (and a slightly lighter wallet, but hams get used to that pretty quickly).

Last Word.... Icicle Verticles (try one!)

73.. mike VE3FFK

Editor's Note: Phone numbers for Mike and Richard are on the inside front cover. As well, the local ISC office has the names and numbers of other Delegated Examiners who have indicated a willingness to test "drop-ins". Marc at our local (Ottawa) district office can be reached at 998-4149.

LETTER TO THE EDITORXM49ersDXPEDITION MATERIAL AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH

HCJB World Radio "Voz Andes" information package (Pappallacta flyer available in French only)

"Catch the vision" a paperback book containing the complete history of Radio HCJB.

"Telecomm: a brochure about the Coastal Radio Service of Sweden

ALSO AVAILABLE IN FRENCH

A number of short (and long) travel and or visit reports to several World Radio Stations and a few Coastal Radio Stations and some information brochures about the same. Some items are merely narrative style, while others are very technical and extensive.

I am prepared to lend this material to any OM or YL, provided it is returned after a short while.

Please contact VE20CQ (Jean) or the Groundwave Editor for particulars.

I might be able to dig more of these from my archives. This is not a complete list.

73! Jean, VE20CQ

OARC DXCC CONTEST

Mike, VE3FFK, won November's OARC DXCC award with 85 points. Tim, VE3QDX, turned in a 16 point single band (80 Metre) score. With the sunspot cycle in decline, the 160 and 80 metre bands seem to be hopping! How many countries have you heard recently?

The OARC is considering cooperation with the XM49ers, especially in emergency responses. Here is a description of the XM49ers' group.

The XM49ers Emergency Radio Squadron Inc. is a non-profit volunteer radio club founded in Ottawa in April 1963 and incorporated in June 1972.

One of the aims of the club is to be able to provide, on request, a group of trained and disciplined radio operators with equipment in time of need by civil authorities. While the club started off as a General Radio Service (GRS) (commonly known as CB) club, the Department of Communications allocated a private commercial radio frequency in the VHF band specifically for use in time of emergency or for community service activities of the Squadron.

Since being founded, the Squadron has participated with the former Emergency Measures Organization (E.M.O.) in many exercises such as the Ottawa River Flood Watch, Mock Plane Disasters and many others. It also assisted in the Heron Road Bridge Collapse. Currently, the Squadron is affiliated with the Emergency Measures Unit of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and has participated in many mock disaster exercises.

One of the biggest projects the Squadron undertakes each year is the Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour where a radio net is set up between Carleton University and Queens University. Several hundred cyclists leave Carleton University in Ottawa on a Saturday to cycle to Queens University in Kingston and cycle back on the following Sunday.

Other events in which the Squadron has participated are numerous 10K runs, the Gloucester Half Marathon, the Canadian Tire Cycle Races, the National Capital Gatineau Cycle Time Trials, the Cross

Country Track and Field Meet, Olympic Trials for Track and Field Meet, the Cross Country Equestrian and Show Jumping, Run for Sight, M.S. and M.D. fundraising events, the Canadian Olympics for the Mentally Handicapped and many others.

RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA NEWS SERVICE

Will ISC sacrifice 2MHz for "Harmony" - Insiders don't give Canada's Amateurs much chance to retain 220-22 MHz. Industry and Science Canada (ISC) appears to be ready to sacrifice 220-22 MHz segment of the 220-225 MHz band to "harmonize" relations with the FCC. While ISC promotes the image of "leaving the question open", in reality ISC, by opening the matter up for public debate, is inviting a totally unnecessary spectrum grab by commercial interests. Members of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) seem prepared to support the spectrum grab to satisfy the interests of commercial members of their organization.

What ISC calls a "harmonization policy" (with the U.S.) seems nothing more than caving in to FCC pressure to "go along" with U.S. plans for 220-222 along with the international border. The whole issue is neatly played to make it look like poor 'ole ISC must go along with FCC. ISC has deliberately opened up the 2 MHz spectrum grab issue for public comment so that branch plant radio-communications businesses can make a case for highjacking the spectrum. This neatly gives ISC the justification it is looking for to make it all happen "in harmony" with FCC. Uniden is already handing out glossy brochures on its 220 MHz gear to the lan mobile community!? (Item 4, Bulletin 9-93.)

New Brunswick hams to adopt VE9 suffix - As the result of an indicated interest by the majority of Hams in New Brunswick, Industry and Science Canada has announced that after December 1, 1993, no new VE1 prefixes will be assigned in New Brunswick. Effective on the same date VE9 calls will be assigned.

Licensed amateurs in the province can maintain their existing VE1 call signs if they wish or elect to change just the prefix. They can also ask for a completely new sign or a two letter suffix, subject to availability. (Item 1, Bulletin No. 10-93.)

Canadian Geographic features Amateur Radio article - The September/October issue of Canadian Geographic contains an article by Janice Hamilton VE3JHJ entitled, "Loud and Clear". In the story, Janice concludes that amateur radio is alive and well. She notes that the licensing exam has been made easier in recent years and that morse code is no longer required for the basic license. As a result, the hobby, which seemed in danger of dying out as older hams passed away, is experiencing a revival, growing at a rate of more than ten percent per year. She says that there are more than a million operators around the world. (Item 6, Bulletin No. 10-93.)

Amateur Radio operators important in emergency planning - Jim Anderson, VE6JWA, was one of nine amateur radio operators who attended the Emergency Telecommunications Management Course in Arnprior, Ontario, in June. The purpose of the one week course was to learn about the setting up and operating of a tele-communications system in the event of a major disaster.

Jim's report appears in the Northern Alberta Radio Club October bulletin. Jim tells how speaker after speaker described how to protect and operate a radio or telephone system in an emergency which they then predicted would probably fail or be seriously hampered.

We are writing to you because IPARN and our members in the Maritimes need your support to make this happen. IPARN is 100% funded by membership revenue from Amateurs like yourself. Join IPARN today and you will receive a special certificate to recognize your role as an "Atlantic Pioneer" in bringing IARN to the Atlantic region. These will only be issued up until we are operational, and we are aiming for a turn-up date to be announced, but expected to be during the coming summer.

Joining today will also allow you to follow the progress of the expansion and be knowledgeable about the network when it becomes operational. We will acknowledge you in our publication NETWORK which members receive every two months. You also get a complete Operator's Manual, roster, and membership card in your welcome package.

The IPARN network will allow hand-held communications from coast to coast for travellers, friendly QSOs, contacts with relatives, nets, and more. IPARN is a world-first and one of the best innovations that amateurs have been responsible for in recent time.

Membership is just \$36 for one year, \$95 for three years, or \$150 for five years. Please make your cheque or money order out to "IPARN" and mail along with your name, address and call-sign to IPARN, Dept. 394, P.O. Box 3156, Langley, BC V3A 4R5. Thank you!

73, IPARN.

FIELD DAY CONTEST

The Field Day Contest will take place June 25-26, 1994. Anyone interested in participating should contact Paul Coverdale, VE3ICV, at 820-6643 (home) or 763-4277 (office).

IT'S AGAINST THE LAW

All of the laws listed below were laws in Canada at one time, and many of them are still in the books!

- A Winnipeg bylaw forbids anyone from striking a sidewalk with any metal object.
- It's illegal to fish in the Yukon with an unbaited hook.
- An old law in Winnipeg declares that one may be fined for kissing a woman on the street.
- In St. John's, Newfoundland, there are strict laws governing the size of raisin bread. A loaf may weigh no more or no less than 1-1/4 pounds.
- In Toronto, it is against the law to run for a streetcar.
- In Charlottetown, the law forbade anyone from buying liquor without a prescription from his family doctor saying it was for medicinal uses only.
- In Vancouver it is illegal to tricycle faster than 10 miles an hour.
- In Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, it is illegal to try to catch fish with your hands.
- Residents of Winnipeg may be arrested for sprinkling salt on the street.
- Tightrope walking is prohibited over the main streets of Halifax.
- In Saskatchewan, it is unlawful to drink water in beer parlors.
- Toronto bylaw 4305 stipulates that bathing suits must cover a human from the neck to the knees.
- In Edmonton, "all bicycle riders must signal with the arm before making a turn, and a bicycle rider must keep both hands on the handlebars at all times."

de Bulletin of the
Guelph Amateur Radio Club

Nobody was sure where the victim was until Judy VE4JBN was able to encourage him to describe his location and turn on his flashers. After a few days in ICU and a stay in the hospital the patient was improving and his wife credits the prompt action for saving him from a worse fate.

Dick Maguire VE4HK in reporting on the real life emergency in the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club bulletin says that as soon as the emergency developed, every non-essential person monitoring the frequency kept quiet, which is what enabled Judy to talk with the victim and direct the ambulance to him. (Item 16, Bulletin 10-93.)

Spectacular growth in Canada's Amateur population - As of October 1, 1993, three years after introducing the restructured amateur service, the number of licenses in Canada reached 41,014. Since April 1990, 15,787 new licenses have been issued. Nearly 72% of all amateur operators have obtained the highest level of qualification.

In 1987 more than 60% of all Canadian amateur operators were over 50 years of age. That has dropped to 54%. About 10% of Canadian amateurs are now under age 30. (Item 17, Bulletin 10-93.)

Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (VEVA)
1402 Charlotte Road.
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 1H2
604-987-6188
(\$25/yr Over 180 members - monthly newsletter)

Metro-Toronto Chapter of EVAC (MT-EVAC)
21 Burritt Road
Scarborough, ON
M1R 3S5
416-755-4324
(\$25/yr)

Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa (EVCO)
P.O. Box 4044
Station E
Ottawa, ON
K1S 5B1
613-744-5611
(\$20/yr)

Electrauto
1601 de Lormier Ave.
Montreal, PQ
H2K 4M5
514-529-4954
(New - No information)

ESTCO
University of Ottawa
613-564-6818

Fred Green, VE3IO
613-232-5950

ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFORMATION

Electric Vehicle Association of Canada (EVAC)
33 Mann Avenue
Ottawa, ON
K1N 6N5
613-226-7171
(\$50/yr. Has information library and caters mostly to Corporations.)

ELECTRIC VEHICLES FOR SALE/LEASE

Fiat 850 - Mr. McMahon, 828-0805
Citicar, White - Marcel, 820-5949
Citicar, Red - Donald Reed, 523-2540
Elcar, White - Tim Showalter, 728-2539
Chimo - Eric Needham, 742-6736
Mini-el & Keutet, USA - Fred Green, 232-5950 for info
GM G-Vans, 10 or more, for lease by ESTCO - Sarah Spray, 276-7171