

JANUARY 1996



# GROUNDWAVE



Club Call VE3RC

Repeater VE2CRA

VE3RC

**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 second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) in the Champlain Room (2nd floor of the Old Teacher's College) of the RMOG 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
VE3DXD	Packet	145.11(SX)

For further information, please contact repeater chairman.

**OARC WWW Home Page:**  
<http://www.worldlink.ca/oarc>

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
 OARC DECEMBER 13, 1995

The meeting was called to order by the President, Richard VE3UNW at approximately 19:45.

Richard announced that Eva James, wife of Mike James, VE3PDE recently passed away. Richard expressed the club's condolences to Mike and asked that a card be sent on behalf of the members.

A request was made that in view of the government's decision to close Radio Canada International that you send an e-mail to the Prime Minister suggesting that you feel that the service provided by RCI is worth the cost and that you may not be able to support such a government in the future if they do not reconsider their position. The Prime Minister's address is; remote-printer.Jean.Chretien@16139416900.idd.tpc.int. Jerry Wells VE3CDS has asked for volunteers to operate VE3JW at the Museum of Science and Technology. Jerry can be reached at 225-7374.

The OARC's home page is now completed and can be found on the internet at <http://www.worldlink.ca/oarc>. Home brew night will be in April. All the members

were encouraged to think of what they are going to enter. Last month's 50/50 draw was won by Larry VE3WLN, \$11.00. The club is still looking for a net manager. The job is not onerous as net operators are in place. If you have a little spare time and would like to volunteer please contact any member of the executive. George VE3BNO is selling QCWA pins for \$5.00 to help offset the cost of the Quarter Century Wireless Association conference next year in Ottawa.

Richard asked if any member needed any help or if there were any questions. Mike VE3FFK announced that he was presently in between employment as he was unable to avoid the latest round of cuts at Carleton University and if anyone had a lead for a technologist he would appreciate a call. Mike leaves the University in good standing as they have agreed to continue to host the OARC amateur courses.

Fred Green VE3IO recommended that members watch Regional Contact on December 16 at 6:30 p.m. as they would be featuring a show on electric cars.

In lieu of a guest speaker a DX video on the 9G1AA Dxpedition was shown. An intermission was taken at which time coffee was served and Mike VE3FFK drew the 50/50 winner, Keith Gowanlock VE3DBG.

Richard closed the meeting at approximately 20:30.

OARC MEETING PROGRAMMES, SPRING 1996

Keefer Room, RMOG HQ, 111 Lisgar St. Ottawa

- February 14: Guest speaker will be Jim Dean, VE3IC, talking about RAC.
- March 13: TBA
- April 10 Home-brew Night.

OARC ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

As mentioned in the Minutes, OARC's home page is now completed and can be found on the internet at <http://www.worldlink.ca/oarc>.

GROUNDWAVE SWAP SHOP

This space is available free to members to post their "ads". If you'd like to post a sale or want item, you can reach me, Ed, VA3ES, at the club meetings, or you can call it in: Telephone: 738-8924, packet: VA3ES@VE3KYT.#EON.ON.CA.NA.

WANTED

Heathkit Amateur Radio items and older Heath catalogues (U.S. and Canadian), and manuals. Also looking for older Radio Shack catalogues, Lafayette and Allied catalogues. Contact: Carl Morin, VA3CGM, at 523-8792

KIT BUILDING PARTY

VHF SWR meter with LED bargraph display for forward/reflected power - planned for late Jan. or early Feb. This approx. 1"x2"x4" box will have a 10 LED display to indicate the power with 2 other LED's indicating the direction being measured (forward/reflected). A commercially made circuit card will hold 5 IC's plus other solid state components.

A version with audio output is available for the sight impaired and there will be someone to build it for you. Qualified technicians will be there to guide you in construction and do any final adjustments, if required.

Cost for the kit built on that day only is \$25. Kits ordered after will sell for \$50. So join in on the fun NOW! Those wishing to participate please register with Jacques VE3TSC at 748-6597 evenings.

VE3JW OPERATORS TAKE NOTE....

If you are or you want to be an operator at the amateur station at the Museum of Science and Technology, you must become a registered volunteer at the museum. At the present time there are over 20 registered volunteers. Please contact Jerry VE3CDS at 225-7374 to get the necessary papers to register as a volunteer. IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED AS A VOLUNTEER THE SECURITY STAFF AT THE MUSEUM WILL NOT ALLOW YOU ACCESS. Those who are registered are able to escort you to visit the station if you are not registered. Don't be disappointed, register now and receive training on the museum station and get a volunteer card.

Tnx, de Jerry VE3CDS

END OF AN ERA  
VE3GX RETIRES FROM THE SWAP NET

After 26 years of helping local amateurs either find or sell radio and related equipment, Ed Morgan VE3GX, has decided to close his Swap Net ledger and pass the microphone on to someone else. The amateur community of greater Ottawa certainly owe Ed a very large "Thank You" for having given so freely of his time for almost three decades in helping local amateurs with his much listened to Swap Net on the Pot Hole Net on Sunday mornings and the Capital City FM Net on Monday nights. Ed is passing the reins (and the headaches) of running the net to Dan Reardon, VE3GUU. Dan has no illusions that he is "replacing" Ed. After so many years at the helm, you just don't replace a fellow like Ed Morgan, Dan is quick to point out. However, he says he will do his darndest to continue the precedent set by Ed. If you would like to list items for sale or wish to find an item to buy, you can reach Dan by telephoning 613-836-2633.

HF CONTEST CALENDAR SPRING 1996

JAN**19***0000z-2400z	Hungarian DX Contest	160-10m	CW
JAN*19-21*0001z-2359z	YL International CW QSO Party	?0-?0m	CW
JAN 20-21 1800z-0600z	North American QSO Party	160-10m	Phn
JAN**21***12pm- 8pm 1	QRP ARCI Winter Fireside Spr	160-6m	Phn
JAN 26-28 2200z-1600z	CQ WW 160-Meter DX Contest	160m	CW
JAN27Feb4*0000z-2400z	QRP ARCI Nov/Tech. Roundup	80,40,15,10m	CW
JAN*27-28*0600z-1800z	REF French Contest	80-10m	CW
JAN*27-28*1300z-1300z	UBA Contest	80-10m	Phn
FEB*03-04*0000z-2400z	Ten-Ten Int.Net Winter QSO P.	10m	Phn
FEB*03-04*1300z-0700z	Maine QSO Party	160-0.7m	digi+Phn+CW
FEB*03-04*1300z-0700z	New Hampshire QSO Party	160-1.25m	digi+Phn+CW
FEB*03-04*0000z-0500z	Vermont QSO Party	160-2m	digi+Phn+CW
FEB**04***0000z-0400z	North American Sprint	80-20m	Phn
FEB*04-05*1900z-0400z	1996 Classic Radio Exchange	80-10m	CW
FEB*10-11*0000z-2400z	IDRA WW WPX Contest		RTTY
FEB*10-11*??00z-??00z	QCWA CW QSO Party	?0-?0m	CW
FEB 10-11 1200z-1200z	PACC Contest	160-10m	(160m CW) Ph+CW
FEB*10-12*1400z-0200z	YL-OM Contest	80-10m	Phn
FEB*10-11*2100z-0100z	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	160m	CW
FEB**11***0000z-0400z	North American Sprint	80-20m	CW
FEB**11***??00z-??00z	NW QRP Club Winter Sprint	??0-?0m	CW
FEB*12-16*1300z-0100z	ARRL School Club Roundup	160-10m	Digi+Ph+CW
FEB 17-18 0000z-2400z	ARRL International DX Contest	160-10m	CW
FEB*23-25*2200z-1600z	CQ WW 160-Meter DX Contest	160m	Phn
FEB*24-25*0600z-1800z	REF French Contest	80-10m	Phn
FEB*24-25*1300z-1300z	UBA Contest	80-10m	CW
FEB*24-26*1400z-0200z	YL-OM Contest	80-10m	CW
FEB*24-25*1500z-0900z	RSGB 7 MHz Contest	40m	CW
FEB2526/261800z-2400z	Winter QRP QSO Party	160-10m	Phn+CW
MAR*09-10*1200z-1200z	RSGB Commonwealth Contest	?0-?0m	CW
MAR*16-18*0200z-0200z	BARTG WW RTTY Contest	?0-?0m	RTTY
MAR 02-03 0000z-2400z	ARRL International DX Contest	160-10m	Phn
MAR*09-10*??00z-??00z	QCWA SSB QSO Party	?0-?0m	Phn
MAR*12-13*??00z-??00z	CLARA HF Contest	?0-?0m	???
MAR*16-17*0000z-2400z	Bermuda Contest	80-10m	Phn+CW
MAR*30-31*0000z-2400z	CW WW WPX SSB Contest	?0-?0m	Phn
APR*12-14*2300z-2300z	Japan Internatio. DX Contest	20-10m	CW
MAY*25-26*0000z-2400z	CQWW WPX Contest		CW

VHF CONTEST CALENDAR SPRING 1996 CANADA AND USA, W-W

JAN 20-22	1900z-0400z	ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes	50MHz & up.	Phn+CW
JAN**21***	0800z-1200z	Ceczk activity contest	50MHz	
JAN**23***	1800z-2200z	Scandinavian activity contest	50MHz	
FEB**18***	0800z-1200z	Ceczk activity contest	50MHz	
FEB**27***	1800z-2200z	Scandinavian activity contest	50MHz	
MAR*02-03*	0000z-2400z	REF/DUBUS EME Contest (W-W)	144,1296	
MAR**17***	0800z-1200z	Ceczk activity contest	50MHz	
MAR*23-24*	0000z-2400z	REF/DUBUS EME Contest (W-W)	432,2304, &up	
MAR**26***	1800z-2200z	Scandinavian activity contest	50MHz	
APR 15	7 PM-11PM	1 ARRL 144MHz Spring Sprint	144MHz	Phn+CW
APR**21***	0800z-1200z	Ceczk activity contest	50MHz	
APR 23	7 PM-11PM	1 ARRL 222MHz Spring Sprint	222MHz	Phn+CW
APR**23***	1800z-2200z	Scandinavian activity contest	50MHz	
MAY 01	7 PM-11PM	1 ARRL 432MHz Spring Sprint	432MHz	Phn+CW
MAY 11	6 AM-1 PM	1 Spring Sprints 1 Per Band (902,1296,2304MHz)	5cons.Hour	
MAY 18-19	2300z-0300z	ARRL 50 MHz Spring Sprint	50MHz	Phn+CW
MAY**19***	0800z-1200z	Ceczk activity contest	50MHz	
MAY**28***	1800z-2200z	Scandinavian activity contest	50MHz	
JUN 08-10	1800z-0300z	ARRL June VHF QSO Party	50MHz & up	Phn+CW

**MORE ON THE WELL-KNOWN "34-FOOT ARMY AERIAL"**

by Andy VE2DNN

The April article on the Army Aerial written by Fred VE2SEI prompted me to share how I have used this old-timer so far. When I first saw the beast, it was at the Brownsburg Hamfest this past spring. There it was — pointing loftily into the sky with a 2-meter antenna atop, and I believe there was a Canadian flag a-waving in the wind. I kept reviewing the antenna on the table, trying to get a better price. Several times, I went outside to consider how the aerial could be used by myself. The wallet still had some cash inside, so the purchase was made at the vendor's price. It just fit inside my Ford Escort, so off to Montreal with the new treasure.

I had purchased the famed G5RV from the local amateur radio store and had asked Al VE2TAS for comments on how to put it on my Pierrefonds city lot. There were two trees that could be seriously considered. Al suggested using his sling-shot device. Somehow that method didn't come to pass. I wondered just how high the spruce tree was...voila — inspiration! Extend the 34-footer against the spruce tree to see just how high 34 feet was. Very good.

A couple of days later, I leaned a 24-foot ladder from work against the spruce and sent my 15-year-old boy, Brian, up to the minimum height of the antenna. I then said "Brian, extend it as high as possible." He did a good job.

Now the problem was the other end of the G5RV, to be lodged somewhere inside a mature maple tree. Climbing up and into a maple tree can be fun, but not in the very top branches. That was where the 34-foot aerial rested in all its glory. I tied the Dacron lead rope onto a box hand wrench with a pair of small vise grips clamped on for extra weight. I placed the box wrench over the narrow end of the aerial so that it remained about half an inch from the end. After several tries, the final tree limb was selected, the aerial was carefully hoisted aloft to a fork in a branch, jiggled a little, the wrench assembly fell off towards the ground. It was placed exactly where I wanted it to be. The same procedure was used to lead the guy rope down the tree to a convenient tying point. The hardest part of the job was to cut some of the interfering branches. Somehow my wife didn't complain about the missing tree limbs.

Another use was to determine the height of the rain gutter. I extended the aerial to the roof, secured and lowered it to the ground. A tape measure determined its height.

When Canada Day arrives, up goes the aerial with the Canadian flag a-waving, "Made in Canada."

There is one note of caution. Be careful with your fingers and hands when collapsing the sections. I suppose many a fellow has had some painful experiences.

from "The Repeater", Nov. 1995  
West Island Radio Club  
Pointe Claire, Québec