



GROUNDWAVE

April 1999

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Details on page 5



AMSAT



RAC



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Club Information

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (OARC). 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 Keefer Room (2nd floor of the Old Teacher's College) of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton Head Quarters complex on Lisgar Street. Meetings commence at approximately 19:30 hours. Further details about each meeting is elsewhere in this publication.

Executive Meetings of the OARC, Inc., are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at 19:30 hours. Contact the President to confirm the date, time and place of the next meeting.

Packet Radio Meetings will be held at 19:30 hours on the last Thursday of every second month beginning in September, at the Algonquin College - Lees Campus. This is an OARC Inc. Technical meeting open to all who have an interest in packet radio.

NET's of Interest

The Capital City FM Net meets every Monday at 20:00 hours on the club repeater VE2CRA 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 Dan Reardon, VE3GUU. This feature appears on the Capital City FM Net. To list items and make inquiries, call Dan Reardon at 836-2633, Fax: 836-5635.

The POT-HOLE NET is a SSB/HF net sponsored by the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club and is conducted every Sunday at 10:00 hours on 3.760 Mhz. All amateurs are welcome to check in. The SWAP Net is a regular feature of this net.

The POT-LID CW NET is an informal slow-speed CW net sponsored and conducted by Ed Morgan, VE3GX, and meets every Sunday, except during July and August, at 11:00 hours on 3.620 Mhz, to promote interest in CW and CW procedures.

The QCWA Chapter 70 NET every Thursday evening at 2000 hrs local time. Repeater VE3TEL is used, courtesy of the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club. The frequency is 147.03 out, 146.43 Mhz in. The callsign used is VE3QCW. Visiting Hams are invited to check into this Net. You do not have to be a QCWA member to check into this Net.

Club Repeaters

Voice (VHF)	146.94/146.34	100 Hz output tone
(UHF)	443.300/448.300	
Packet	147.07(sx)	For QSO and Packet BBS.
Packet 56 kbps	220.55/433.55	
East of Ottawa	145.69(sx)	
Ottawa Centre	145.07(sx)	
Hull	145.05(sx)	
West of Ottawa	145.03(sx)	
South of Ottawa	144.91(sx)	
Nepean	145.59(sx)	
West Carleton	144.97(sx)	

For further information, please contact the Repeater Chair.

OARC Inc. Memberships

- **Individual Membership** is available for \$20.00
- **Family Membership** is available for \$25.00
- **New Hams** just licensed may qualify for free membership, contact the membership Chair.
- **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 50% discount but the junior member must pick up his/her copy of the Groundwave (preferably at the meeting).

March Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the OARC General Meeting - March 3, 1999

Due to the bad weather (eventually in town we got 38cm plus intermittent freezing rain and in the extreme west end over 60 cm was recorded) the meeting was abbreviated. However, 11 brave souls (including your minute taker) did make it despite the incredible odds.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ed (VA3MPY), at 7:45 p.m.

We had two guests: Peter (VA3KJT), a new ham (who else would come out in weather like this), and Lucien (VE3ERH) an old member from long ago who has returned to the flock. Welcome guys, hope we see you back.

Ed announced that Bert (VE3QAA) who was to speak to us about large antennas, including rhombics, cancelled his presentation, but he has been invited to come in April. Should be good, don't miss it!

Ed continued with a series of announcements: the Canadian Police College (CPC) breakfast will be held Saturday, March 6th; the CPC Net (Thursdays on

VE3MPC) is preparing QSL certificates in commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the march west; and the RCMP is planning a re-enactment of that march this summer and amateur radio will play a part (that's chuck wagon mobile.)

Rick (VE3IHI) told us about the Canadian Ski Marathon. Everything went well though there were a few emergencies. With over 2,000 skiers, accidents will happen. The net was very busy and because of a number of last minute cancellations due to illness, they were short several radio operators. But it seemed like everyone had fun and that's the name of the game, (isn't it?). Rick reminded everyone that the Keefer Room was booked for next month's meeting.

On that administrative detail, Ed adjourned the meeting at 8:45.

The hardy fellows at the meeting, reluctant to brave the cold inhospitable winds, preferred to bask in the warmth of ham friendship as they lingered in each other's company fortifying themselves before the trek home with coffee.

CSM Thanks

We wish to thank all those who helped out with the CSM this year. A great job was done by all!

VE2HMA RAY LAVIOLETTE
 VE2TSV STEVE LAUGHREN
 VE2SJA RAYMOND FAGUY
 VA2SMF STEVE FAGUY
 VE2MKF MARTIN FILION
 VE2QSM STEPHAN MALLETTTE
 VE2FED FRED FRYER
 VA2RS BOB SPEARE
 VE3XTJ TAMMY JONES
 VE2TYD SYLVIE DION
 VE2JJG JEANJAC DESABRAIS
 VE2SDU SYLVIE DESABRAIS
 VE3PUE NEIL HERBER
 VE3ZTU AL MACPHEE
 VE2LAC SERGE FOURNIER
 VE2OUJ JACQUES OUELLETTE
 VE3UNW RICHARD HAGEMEYER
 VA3DRV MARC PICHETTE
 VE3MSM MARIE MORRISON
 VE3XG GARY MORRISON

VE3PUE NEIL HERBER
 VE3IHI RICK FURNISS
 VE3VMF EDWARD WEIGLUS
 VE3KMV DAVE HARRIS
 VE3FFK MIKE KELLY
 VE2STQ STEPHAN QUEVILLON
 VE2KHC JAMES KEEP
 VA3MPY ED STRANGE
 VA3MGY STEVE REGAN
 VE3KIH ERIK CHRISTENSEN
 VE3BDC DUNCAN BREEZE
 VA3CBJ CLAYTON JENKINS
 VE3JRL LYNDA VISE
 VE3JSR BILL REED
 VE3UAH TED SLACK
 VE3JKG JOHN GOATCHER
 VA2KLB KAREN BOWMAN
 VA3PJS PETER STOOP
 VE3ZZJ GUY JUNEAU
 VE2TBH JEAN GAGNON

As with all things which require organization, we hope we haven't left anyone out! 73, Harrie Jones, VE3HYS

Radio Amateurs of Canada

All News below is received from Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) bulletin service. Readers may subscribe to this service, visit the RAC website at www.rac.ca for more information. Guy Charron VA3FZA Bulletin Editor. Email: va3fza@rac.ca Packet: va3fza@ve3kvt

RAC Bulletin 99-021E W4RA new president of IARU

In voting completed on Friday, March 12, the member-societies of the IARU overwhelmingly ratified the election of Larry E. Price, W4RA, as President, and David A. Wardlaw, VK3ADW, as Vice President, for five-year terms beginning May 9, 1999. Mr. Price was first licensed at age 16 in 1951 and has held elected offices in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) continuously for the past 27 years, including service as President from 1984 to 1992. He succeeds Richard L. Baldwin, W1RU, who served as IARU President from 1982. Mr. Wardlaw succeeds Michael J. Owen, VK3KI, who served as Vice President from 1989.

RAC Bulletin 99-022E & 99-025E On Air Events Reminder

April, 1999

- 3-4 SP DX Contest
- 3-4 EA RTTY Contest
- 5 Low Power Spring Sprint
- 9-11 Japan Int. DX Contest, 20-10m
- 10-11 International Maritime Coastal Stations (IMCS) Special Event <http://homepages.enterprise.net/dbarlow>
- 10-11 MARAC County Hunters, SSB
- 10-11 King of Spain Contest
- 10-11 Yuri Gagarin International Contest
- 10-11 Elettra Marconi Contest
- 10-11 QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party, CW
- 11 UBA Spring Contest, CW
- 12 144 MHz Spring Sprint
- 16-18 DXYL-NAYL Contest, CW
- 17 Australian Post Code Contest
- 17-18 YU DX Contest
- 17 EU Spring Sprint, SSB
- 17-18 Holyland DX Contest
- 17-19 Michigan QSO Party
- 20 222 MHz Spring Sprint

The callsign XL3D has been assigned for use on the 25th anniversary of the Ontario DX Association for the period March 25, 1999 - April 25, 1999.

The special callsign CF3QRT has been assigned to the International Maritime Coast Stations Event for the period April 10-11, 1999 for use by station VE3JW in Ottawa, Ontario.

The callsigns CI3 for VE3 and CJ3 for VA3 have been approved for use for the time period April 10-25, 1999 in

celebration of the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Brampton.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Incorporation of the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA), the SONRA DX Group will be operating a special event on April 14, 1999 from VO1AA. 0000 - 2230 UTC April 14, 1999 Bands: 160 - 10, 2

The callsign CF3R has been assigned for the period April 1 - May 31, 1999 in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the RCAF - Borden, Ontario.

Don't forget, the new territory of Nunavut comes into being on April 1st. The prefix VY0 has been assigned to the new territory.

RAC Bulletin 99-024E RAC National Traffic System Sponsors New Award

Following the precedent set by the American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada announces the availability to Canadian radio amateurs of the new RAC National Traffic System Message Origination Award.

This new award is designed expressly for neophyte traffic handlers, and is available on a one-time-only basis. To obtain one, Canadian radio amateurs must show proof of having ORIGINATED (not merely transmitted) at least four properly radiogram-formatted National Traffic System messages in a one-month time frame.

Amateurs seeking the new National Traffic System Message Origination Award are encouraged to contact their Section Manager and/or Section Traffic Manager for further details as to local implementation procedures for obtaining this prestigious new NTS award. Current Section Manager address and contact information are listed in The Canadian Amateur and on the RAC web site at <http://www.rac.ca>

It will be up to the amateur to determine who his SM/STM is, and how to provide him or her with the necessary proof. To obtain this certificate, the SM or STM must check the information provided by the applicant and notify me, at which point, I will issue the certificate and mail it directly to the applicant.

Pierre Mainville, VA3PM
RAC Field Services Manager

News from Near and Far

EMRG General Meeting

The next general meeting of the Emergency Measures Radio Group (EMRG) is on Saturday, April 10, 1999 in the Champlain room at 08:45

Agenda Topics are:

EMRG update: Exercise review
Call out list
Y2K

XM49er Presentation

APRS Presentation and demonstration

On display will be VA3EMV the portable repeater, a cross-band mobile repeater, and APRS under DOS and Windows.

All amateurs with an interest in emergency communication are invited to attend.

Already the Y2K "crises" is putting a heavy demand on the amateur community, so come out and lend a hand.

It is that time again - CPC Club Breakfast

It is that time again and you must ensure that your cholesterol level is correct by attending the CPC Breakfast Club for the month of April 1999.

We will meet at Louis Restaurant at 1682 Cyrville Road in Gloucester on April 10, 1999 @ 0900 hrs.

NOTE: EMRG Members you have a meeting at RMOC ... We will miss you and sorry for double booking but it could not be helped due to my full agenda! Please let me know by e-mail or the Net if you are planning to attend the breakfast!

Guy, VE3WGL ve3wgl@rac.ca

New Eastern Ontario APRS SIG: ontario.aprs.net

Greetings All!

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club is pleased to announce the introduction of a new APRS mailing list dedicated to any and all APRS issues in, but not limited to, Eastern Ontario. Some areas for discussion are digi coordination, map requests, How-to's, hints, tips and tricks.

A web site has been created to support the sig, sign up here: <http://ontario.aprs.net/>

This web site is undergoing construction and more content will be updated with information from participants of the mailing list.

Comments and suggestions are most welcome!
Sign up today!

73! de Marc, VA3DRV.

Director, Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

New OARC APRS web page.

The web page is located at <http://ontario.aprs.net> and is part of VE3RC, our APRS/internet gateway.

This is a virtual domain running at my house. If your software does not support this, you may end up at my personal home page. If this becomes a "common" problem, I'll "mirror" the page on another port.

On the page you'll find:

*A technical info page.

*A "local" mailing list.

*A "link" to the current VE3TEN weather from the APRS network.

*WX data from VE3TEN is rebroadcast as aprs data from VE3RC.

*A ftp area with an HTML link to the files.

*We're part of the APRS webring. Many of our hits come from there.

*The log of web accesses is available.

*Links to the stations we share data with.

*Local links.

*Not so local links.

*The intro to APRS from our main page is also here.

*aprsd server documentation.

Let me know what you think. If you have anything to add or other suggestions, let me know.

Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW

Local 2m SSB net: anyone interested?

Hi Folks,

Just doing a 'head count' to see who would be interested in reactivating our 2m SSB net. I would give a try at being net control if there is an interest level to start the net again?

...73...Kieran Shepherd

va3ks@igs.net va3ks@rac.ca va3ks@arrl.net

Carp, Ontario

News from Near and Far, continued

THE THIRD ANNUAL ONTARIO QSO PARTY APRIL 24-25, 1999 18:00 UTC TO 18:00 UTC

FREQUENCIES: (Phone/CW) All HF bands 160-10 meters with the exception of the WARC bands (12, 17 and 30 meters) which by IARU agreement are contest-free. All VHF/UHF bands.

SUGGESTED FREQUENCIES FOR MOBILES/QRP:
1.870, 3.735, 3.860, 7.070, 7.260, 14.130, 14.265, 21.260, 28.360 on SSB, 1.820, 3.520, 3.720, 7.020, 7.120, 14.020, 21.020, 21.120, 28.020 on CW, 52.540, 146.550, 446.100 on FM

SUGGESTED MANNER OF OPERATION: Work HF SSB on the hour, work HF CW on the half hour, work VHF/UHF (either FM simplex, SSB or CW) at 15 minutes after the hour.

USE OF FM: Operators may not use repeaters for the purpose of the contest or for soliciting contacts. Please keep the FM simplex calling frequency of 146.520 MHz clear.

CATEGORIES: Multi-Operator, Single Operator Low Power (up to 150 watts on HF, up to 50 watts on VHF/UHF), Single Operator High Power (over 150 watts on HF, and over 50 watts on VHF/UHF), Single Operator Single Band, Mobile, HF QRP (5 watts and under), VHF/UHF FM QRP, CW, SSB or mixed mode. Also shortwave listener category.

EXCHANGE: Ontario stations send signal report and Ontario county, district, regional municipality, (or city in the case of the amalgamated City of Toronto). Other stations send signal report and Canadian province/territory, U.S. State or DXCC country.

SCORING: Ontario stations work everyone. Stations outside Ontario work only Ontario stations. Shortwave listeners log only Ontario stations. Score 1 QSO point for every station worked on SSB per HF band. Score 2 QSO points for every station worked on CW per HF band. Work each station only ONCE per band whether phone or CW. Score 5 QSO points for each contact per band made on amateur bands from 50 MHz. up. Score 10 QSO points for working ODXA special event station XL3D and RAC station VA3RAC per band.

MULTIPLIER POINTS: Ontario stations earn 1 multiplier point for each Ontario county, district, regional municipality and the amalgamated City of Toronto worked on each band (see multiplier list), each Canadian province/territory (excluding Ontario), each U.S. state and DXCC country worked on each band. Stations

outside Ontario earn 1 multiplier point for each Ontario county, district, regional municipality and for the amalgamated City of Toronto worked on each band. Shortwave Listeners use the same formula for multiplier points as stations outside Ontario.

TOTAL SCORE: Total QSO points x Total multiplier points = Your score.

MOBILE/ROVER BONUS: Mobile/Rover stations add 300 points for each Ontario multiplier activated. To earn the mobile/rover bonus a mobile/rover station must make at least three contacts with three different stations from the multiplier.

MOBILE STATIONS: Mobile stations may be worked once per band from each Ontario county, district or regional municipality they operate from.

AWARDS:

CERTIFICATES: to the top scorers in each category and to top scorers in each Ontario county, district, regional municipality, amalgamated City of Toronto, Canadian province/territory, U.S.A. state, and DXCC country. Other certificates may be awarded based on activity.

BUTTONS: Each station making over 50 QSO's will qualify for an "Ontario QSO Party" button bearing your callsign. Operators at multi-operator stations making over 50 QSO's will also qualify. Please submit \$2.00 per badge with your log to help defray costs. (Shortwave Listeners logging at least 50 stations also qualify).

T-SHIRTS: Each station making over 100 QSO's will qualify for an "Ontario QSO Party" t-shirt. Operators at multioperator stations making over 100 QSO's will also qualify. Please submit \$10.00 per t-shirt with your log entry to help defray costs. Also please specify t-shirt size (S, M, L, XL, XXL). Shortwave Listeners logging at least 100 stations also qualify.

OTHER AWARDS TO BE ANNOUNCED!!

LOGS: Entries should be postmarked no later than May 31, 1999. Send your logs to: Ontario QSO Party, Ontario DX Association, P.O. Box 161, Stn. A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5S8. Entries can be sent on disk or via the Internet in standard textfile format. (Please do not send logs in a word processing format). Please include your snail mail address with any electronic logs. Please ensure that your entry includes the class you are entering in and the multiplier area(s) that you operated from. Feel free to submit your comments or photographs etc. Donations are appreciated. Entry forms may be downloaded from the ODXA website, send an e-mail note to ve3sre@rac.ca or by sending an SASE to the ODXA. An entry is not invalid if you don't use the official forms but we would prefer that you do so.

News from Near and Far, continued

RESULTS: Raw results will be posted on the ODXA website at <http://www.durhamradio.ca/odxa> as they come in. Results will also be published in the September issue of "DX Ontario". If you'd like a snail-mailed copy of the results, please send an SASE or outside Canada an SAE with sufficient IRC's or greenstamps to cover postage. Please do not fix non-Canadian postage stamps to SAE's. If you'd like a copy of the September issue of "DX Ontario" please send \$5.00 Canadian or equivalent.

MULTIPLIER LIST

ABBREVIATION

Algoma District	ALG
Brant County	BRA
Bruce County	BRU
Cochrane District	COC
Dufferin County	DUF
Durham Regional Municipality	DUR
Elgin County	ELG
Essex County	ESX
Frontenac County	FRO
Grey County	GRY
Haldimand-Norfolk Regional Municipality	HNO
Haliburton District	HLB
Halton Regional Municipality	HTN
Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Municipality	HAM
Hastings County	HAS
Huron County	HUR
Kenora District	KEN
Kent County	KNT
Lambton County	LAM
Lanark County	LAN
Leeds-Grenville County	LGR
Lennox-Addington County	LXA
Manitoulin District	MAN
Middlesex County	MSX
Muskoka District	MUS
Niagara Regional Municipality	NIA
Nipissing District	NIP
Northumberland County	NOR
Oxford County	OXF
Ottawa-Carleton Regional Municipality	OTT
Parry Sound District	PSD

Peel Regional Municipality	PEL
Perth County	PER
Peterborough County	PET
Prescott-Russell County	PRU
Prince Edward County	PED
Rainy River District	RAI
Renfrew County	REN
Simcoe County	SIM
Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry County	SDG
*Sudbury District	SUD
Thunder Bay District	TBY
Timiskaming District	TIM
City of Toronto (as amalgamated Jan. 1, 1998)	TOR
Victoria County	VIC
Waterloo Regional Municipality	WAT
Wellington County	WEL
York Regional Municipality	YRK
*Sudbury Regional Municipality counts as Sudbury District for the purpose of the contest.	

If you plan to activate one of the above counties, districts or regional municipalities please feel free to drop us a note via packet at ve3odx@va3bbs or via e-mail ve3sre@rac.ca



The Finer Points of Publishing...

Material published herein, does not necessarily represent the official OARC viewpoint.

Items may be reprinted by Amateur Radio Clubs or other publications provided that proper credit is given to the author and to the OARC, Inc.

We also miss a credit on occasion. If this happens to your article, please email us so we may print a correction.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held April 7 3rd at 19:30 at the RMOc headquarters - 111 Lisgar St. in the Keefe room. Scheduled is Bert Barry, VE3QAA, probably talking about some really big antennas!

REMEMBER! May is Home-Brew! Get those projects ready! No excuses, you have an extra month!

Mk's words

APR 1. 1999

A high gain isotropic antenna:

The latest antenna design software(1) suggests a way around the age old gain-beamwidth tradeoff.

Imagine a multi-element yagi(2).

Now put another at one in the other polarization, like the crossed yagis currently popular for satellite work.

Now there is gain in both polarizations.

Put two of these pairs back to back so that there is gain in both polarizations in two directions.

Now put four more antennas at right angles to these so there is a pair of antennas (V and H) looking North, South, East and West.

Now.. this is where it gets interesting.

Put antennas at intermediate polarizations between each of the antennas. If you have enough of them, they will overlap each other so instead of horizontal and vertical elements, there will be disks at the element positions along each boom. I know it is difficult, but gain never comes without a price.(3)

Once this is accomplished, put antennas at intermediate azimuth angles between the four already established. Similar to the previous improvement, the antennas will overlap. The disks at element positions become rings and the booms merge to become a single horizontal disk.(4)

The next step is to repeat the above process in elevation. Because the final result will be symmetrical in all axes of rotation, it will no longer be necessary to use a disk for the booms. The elements will be concentric spheres, and the required spacing between them can be maintained with foam or some other low dielectric constant solid.

The resulting antenna will only be isotropic when it is in free space. Anyone who has tried to arrange for a launch vehicle for their pet project (or even their pet) will tell you that free space is anything but free. On the other hand, being omni directional and in free space, you won't need either your tower or rotor.(5) Another possibility is to ground mount it and accept some reduction from optimum performance.(6)

Feeding this array will be a problem left to the reader, but preliminary results show that it is possible.(7)

Results of field tests will follow in a later article, once I figure out how to get a field into free space.

mk

(1) Almost Perfect Random Independent Limited Fractal Optimized Omni Linear Sequencer

(2)If you can imagine a yagi that is not multi element, you can write something for next April edition of the Groundwave.

(3)The price is, of course reduced for amateurs, and increased for big greedy commercial outfits, as it should be.

(4)See footnote (3)

(5)You can give them to me.

(6)I think there such an implementation of one of these at the Montreal Road campus of the National Research Council.

(7)Early experimental results show that feeding the antenna with peanut butter sandwiches is effective, but messy.

Keep smilin' and keep home brewin'

73.. mk

VE3FFK

WCARC

WCARC March 2, 1999 Minutes

Opening — The meeting was opened shortly after 7:30pm at the offices of Cygnus Satellite Systems Corporation, 5799 Hazeldean Road in Stittsville by Club President Brian VE3CRG. 11 Amateurs were present.

Treasurer's Report — Club Treasurer George VE3GWS was not able to attend the meeting. He did report earlier that, since the last meeting, ten members paid their dues, adding \$200.00 to the Club's account. Cash on hand reported in February was \$1413.05.

Club Projects — In a joint project between the Club, SiGEM Corporation and Cygnus Satellite Systems Corporation, GPS antennas were close to becoming available. Brian mentioned that 17 antennas had been presold to Club members alone. A discussion ensued about how best to sell the antennas to other amateur radio operators outside of the Club.

— Peter VE3TFP was looking into whether it would be possible to move back to the Mill of Kintail (north of Almonte, just off County Road 29) for Field Day this year. The move back to the Mill would only be made if the ARRL did not return to allowing 1A stations to count contacts on VHF and UHF, and if the Club would receive permission to make use of the park. In Peter's absence, Brian reported that Peter had not been able to reach anyone at the Mill yet, due to the time of year.

— The planned GPS receiver with built-in APRS-capable TNC was discussed briefly. The modules are available, but the software to run the units was still being worked on.

— Dave VE3LFO reported that the Pixie II prototype was done, but it needed to be tested before more boards were made.

— Ken VA3KA and Brian reported that there had been no change regarding the status of the rotor control boards since the February meeting.

Other Topics — The issue of whether to affiliate with the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club was introduced at the January meeting and discussed at the February meeting, but the motion to affiliate was not formally motioned in February due to poor attendance. The motion was passed at the March meeting. Affiliation with the OARC means that WCARC members will receive the OARC's monthly newsletter, *The Groundwave*, and will have space in the newsletter for WCARC topics, such as the minutes and any other articles about Club projects. It was agreed that the cost of the newsletter would come out of Club funds, thereby not increasing the membership fee. It was also agreed that the issue would be revisited after Spring 2000 to decide if the two clubs would like to continue with their affiliation.

— Graham VE3BYT mentioned that Kantronics has a 2-metre, 2-watt transmitter kit for US\$79.95, oriented to APRS use. There does not appear to be a distributor in Canada for it.

— Ken brought up the merger of three amateur radio stores in the Toronto area. Atlantic Ham Radio, Norham and Texpro Sales are merging to become Radioworld, located on Steeles Ave. Their website is located at www.radioworld.ca.

Conclusion — The meeting was adjourned at about 9:45pm. The next meeting will be on April 6th, 1999, and will be held at Cygnus Satellite Systems Corporation in Stittsville starting at or about 7:30pm.

Rene VA3RDK.

WCARC Project News

The West Carleton Amateur Radio Club website can be found at <http://www.wcarc.on.ca> Always check there for the latest news!

Recent club projects include GPS antennas, GPS units, an 80M transceiver on the "club" frequency and a TNC on a PIC micro-controller.

The club is considering selling some of these items to the local ham community. Although no prices or details have been set at press time, check the club page frequently for the latest.

www.wcarc.on.ca