



GROUNDWAVE

December 1999/January 2000

P.O. Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1G 3J2

Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

What's Santa missing?



Maybe it's the radio under your tree!!

Happy Holidays



AMSAT



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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.

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 721-3339, ve3guu@igs.net. Also available on the web: <http://www.igs.net/~swap>

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).

November Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the OARC General Meeting -November 3, 1999

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ed (VA3MPY), at 7:35 p.m.

In sharp contrast to last month, there were no guests or visitors this month.

In the needs or wants (or give aways) section of the nights activities, Brian (VE3ZRK) had magazines to give away and Rick (VE3IHI) had accumulated a number of newsletters from other Clubs and these were available. (While on the topic of other Club newsletters, the OARC would like to thank our affiliated Clubs for sending their us their Club newsletters. These are all read and distributed. We are amazed by their excellent quality.)

Ed allowed that Algonquin College Electronics Dept now has a new Big Spark. The whole Dept. is being energized including the College's amateur radio station which is being refurbished. It should be on the air in 1-2 months. Also, electronics students will be given radio amateur exams as some of them have expressed interest in doing some satellite work. While on the topic of exams, Ed indicated that Industry Canada will have its new exam questions in place by July 2000.

On a happy note, Ed and Cindy (finally) are to get married early January 2000. Congratulations kids! We knew it would happen some day :-)

Al reported on the walking bunny hunt that he organized last month. He advised that there was lots of fun and the weather was very co-operative. Susan (VE3MOG), President of the OVMRC (our kissing cousins) found the bunny first. (Good for you Susan!) Al suggested that the OARC sponsor some Bunny Hunts (Great idea, Al).

Rick, reading out of some of the club newsletters, found that the French Hill Bell Canada site was not going to the Cumberland Fire Dept as was mentioned at last month's meeting. Rick also mentioned that our colleague Ken (VE3KA), had bought a whole pile of HF gear for Environment Canada's Y2K preparedness program. Afterwards it was to go to the CANWARN guys.

While on the topic of CANWARN, Dean (VE3CDD) always plugged in and in the loop, told Members that CANWARN in Ottawa (unlike S.W. Ontario) is planned to be an-all-year round affair. (Not a surprise to anyone knowing the weather (and especially winter) in Ottawa.)

Peter (VE3BQP) updated members on the status of the Pioneer Club which had just weathered a financial storm of its own. Insurance problems have been ironed out. Peter on behalf of the Pioneers expressed his appreciation to the OARC for the offers of assistance. (We are sure you would do the same for us. Good news.)

Equipment from the Algonquin Park Radio Astronomy Lab will be sold off (cash & carry) on November 13th in Richmond.

Mike (VE3FFK) reminded members of the meeting of the St Lawrence Repeater Council to be held Sunday November 14th at Carleton University.

With the end of announcements, Peter updated members on recent developments with EMRG (the Emergency Measures Radio Group) which now is also the RAC ARES Group in Ottawa. Competing with the Algonquin sale, EMRG is scheduled to have a communications exercise November 13th and a General Meeting is scheduled to be held 9:00am, November 20th in the Col By Room at RMOC HQ.

Rick advised the members that despite concentrated effort and the best of intentions, Marc (VA3DRV) did not pass his 12 WPM exam. As a result, he lost his bet with Richard (VE3UNW) and now will buy Richard's coffee until the day Richard leaves this world for a far better place. (That's a tough one Marc. Richard is known to put back a lot of coffee in a day and on top of everything, he is still a relatively young man.)

Winding up, next month's meeting is back at the Keefer Room. On that note, George (VE3BNO) won the 50/50 for tonight, pocketing a handsome \$22.50.

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@ve3kyt

RAC Bulletin 99-104E Easier Access to RAC Field Manuals

Date: 30 Oct, 1999

In response to many requests, several downloadable documents and files that have been in the password-access portion of the Radio Amateurs of Canada web site (<http://www.rac.ca>) have been moved to the open-access area of the web site. These include:

- 1) the RAC ARES Emergency Coordinator's Manual - the ARES EC's bible.
- 2) the RAC Section Manager's Survival Guide - also useful for other Field Organization leadership appointments
- 3) the RAC Affiliated Club President's Workbook and associated documents for RAC-affiliated clubs.

It is hoped that the wider availability of these documents will encourage greater participation in ARES and other RAC Field Organization programs, as well as the RAC Affiliated Club Program.

RAC Bulletin 99-107E Frederick Oliver Hammond - VE3HC "SK"

Date: November 7, 1999

It is with deep regret that Radio Amateurs of Canada announces the loss of a great friend to amateur radio. Fred Hammond (1913 - 1999) died Nov 7 at 10 AM following a debilitating stroke last year. Visitation will be at Wall-Custance Funeral Home, 206 Norfolk St., Guelph, ON Tue 7-9, Wed 2-4 and 7-9. Funeral Thursday Nov. 11 at 2pm in the chapel. Reception to follow in the Wall-Custance Family Reception Centre.

Fred was a holder of both "Member of the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame" and "Canadian Radio Amateur of the Year" awards. His contributions to amateur radio and amateur radio causes are legendary. A favourite personal project, the Hammond Amateur Radio Museum, has recently been reorganized and reopened at the family-owned Hammond Manufacturing Company facility in Guelph, Ontario.

RAC Bulletin 99-110E RAC activates Official Observer Program

Date: November 18, 1999

The new RAC OO program was developed to encourage high standards on the amateur radio bands, entirely independent of government. Government has long held that amateur radio is self-governing and this program continues in that tradition of self-help. The OO program objective is to reinforce good operating habits. Penalizing bad operating habits is the task of enforcement by Industry Canada. A detailed description of the RAC Official Observer Program appeared in the September/October, 1999, issue of The Canadian Amateur and is also posted on the RAC web site. The first "Good Operator" and "Advisory" notices are being mailed as this is written.

The Official Observer will actively look for and report on stations that have unusually good signals or operating procedures, and which set an example for the rest of the community. At least 70% of notices sent every month by new Official Observers, will be such Good Operator notices.

The OO also notes troubling operating practices or technical difficulties. The OO task is not to find fault, but to find ways to achieve solutions. Advisory Notices are to be the result of detached objective monitoring in which the Official Observer is not otherwise personally involved. The OO is not to send a notice to someone interfering with them or with a net or repeater on which they are operating.

If you receive an Advisory Notice, please remember that the Official Observer is trying to do a good job in service to his/her fellow radio amateurs, especially you. He/she is simply reporting a condition relating to your radio signal (or of someone using your call sign); and is not attacking you personally. You need not reply - the OO has completed his/her task by simply alerting you. Compliance is up to you.

The OO must not only be well qualified and service-oriented, but must also be capable of exercising good judgment, tact and diplomacy. While others are rag-chewing or working DX, the Official Observer is

News from Near and Far

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 in December. Contact Guy or listen to the Thursday night CPC club net for the date and location.

Guy, VE3WGL ve3wgl@rac.ca

Renew NOW!

Or join the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club if you're not a member! See **page 7** for a membership form

RAC News, cont

performing functions vital to the future of Amateur Radio, and dedicated to a mission of help and fraternalism.

RAC Bulletin 99-111E ARES Manuals now in French

Date: November 19, 1999

Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce that two publications relating to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service are now available in French on the RAC web site, thanks to the translation efforts of Claude Paquet - VE2OCP. Both may be downloaded and read or printed at no charge, using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

They are the ARES Instructor's Manual and the RAC Emergency Coordinator's Manual. The url for download is <http://www.rac.ca/ftpsite.htm>

RAC Bulletin 99-109 & 99-112 On Air Events

December
3-5 ARRL 160-Meter Contest
4-5 TARA RTTY Sprint

December 1 to December 31, 1999.

The Marconi Amateur Wireless Society is authorized to use the special event callsign VA1S to commemorate Marconi's contributions to wireless communications.

January 2000 Groundwave missing!

Actually it's not missing -- just combined with this issue. The Christmas season is a normally a very busy time and getting a Groundwave into your hands in a timely manner would be difficult.

Many amateurs, including Groundwave staff and regular contributors are involved in **Y2K** emergency backup efforts. We hope you will be prepared and offer to help if the call goes out!

Have a safe and fun holiday season / Y2K emergency and see you next year!

Vice-President Needed!

The executive is still looking for a Vice-President. If you have a suggestion for someone that fits the bill or would like to volunteer yourself, please contact any member of the executive or email exec@oarc.net.

Please contribute to the running of your club!

ARES SET a success!

The recent province-wide **Simulated Emergency Test** (SET) was a huge success with many dozens of amateurs from this area participating. The **National Traffic System** (NTS) was activated as well as the provincial **Emergency Measures Office** in Toronto.

The local ARES group, **EMRG** (Emergency Measures Radio Group) along with neighbouring ARES groups had lots of fun preparing for serious emergencies.

Contact Peter Gamble, VE3BQP gamble@igs.net for more information about ARES in and around Ottawa.



mk's words

Nov 15/99

Just a quick update on what has been happening around the calendar of events since last month: The bunny hunt came and went on Halloween. No one showed up in costume, witch was fine with all concerned. Some hunters feel conspicuous enough tearing around a full park on a sunny Sunday with radios and antennas in hand. This last hunt, hosted by Al, VE3ZTU was a walk in the park, literally. The cars were abandoned at the start point and we all went looking for him on foot. Once he was found, the transmitter was handed off and the chase began again. The hand off was repeated a second time and the chase continued. Special thanks to Ramsey, the faithful(?) canine companion of Susan, VE3MOG, for showing the way to her hiding place. All in all, much fun was had, and only a few antennas got bent in the process of blasting up and down ravines and through the underbrush. There is a rumour that the next hunt will happen November 27. Ask VE3MOG when you hear her.

Meanwhile, the Emergency Measures Radio Group held a local exercise as their part of the Simulated Emergency Test on November 6. Turnout was higher than expected. The telephone call out list was tested, and several lessons were learned. More about that will be said at the debriefing and general meeting on November 20 at the RMOC. All are welcome. See Peter, VE3BQP for details.

Some of you may have missed it, but one of the more interesting junkie sales of the year happened out in Richmond on November 13. Ralph, VE3BBM, arranged to sell off the electronics from the Lake Traverse radio astronomy site at Algonquin Park. It was a bit of a step into history to see hardware from projects I remember reading about when I was a kid. Some of those who went saw racks full of gear for microwave bands they don't think will be active until after they have kerchunked their last repeater. I saw (and bought) big boxes full of band pass filters that could easily be re tuned to help with intermod

problems, mixers better than anything I am likely to afford any time soon, and amplifiers that cover from 6m to 33cm, with noise figures that make radio astronomers content. (Just content - like hams, radio astronomers are never really happy with their receivers or antennas.) I really didn't need any of it. That is until I saw it. Thanks, Ralph

The loot was only half sorted, when it was time for the Saint Lawrence Valley Repeater Council meeting. I wish everyone who uses repeaters regularly had to sit (quietly) through one of those meetings, to see how much work is done by how few people. These guys go through countless hours of bench work and after hours trips to cold, dark, isolated repeater sites to fix things that break. A lot of them spend a ton of their own cash to do so. Fair enough, that is the fun part of the job. They also agonize for long periods of time about whether they should install CTCSS tones on repeaters to save their users from getting interference problems with adjacent repeaters, or to leave them unprotected so some users wouldn't have to change their equipment. They have to decide as a group how to deal with hams who, even with the best of intentions, are simply unable to get a repeater on the air and up to standards. All the while, they are having to handle requests for more frequency pairs than would be available, even if the band grew another megahertz or two. Everybody bends over backwards to accommodate the other guy. Even if you are a paid up member of the club that sponsors the repeater you use, spare a thought for those who keep the thing going before you start to complain about the audio quality, the coverage or the way the identifier sounds. On the other hand, if you want to help out, just ask.

If you think dollars are hard to come by, just try to find hours — or spectrum.

73
mk VE3FFK

Next Meeting

OARC

The next meeting of the **OARC** will be held **Wednesday, Dec, 1st at 19:30** at the RMOC headquarters - 111 Lisgar St.

WCARC

The next meeting of the **WCARC** will be held **Tuesday, Dec 7th at 19:30** at the offices of Cygnus Satellite Systems - 5799 Hazeldean Road. **OR NOT! -- Check the WCARC mail list.**

Membership Form

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Box 8873
Ottawa, ON
K1G 3J2

Membership Renewal / Application

Callsign(s) _____|_____|_____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov|_____| Postal Code|_____

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- New Family Membership - \$25
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