



GROUNDWAVE

March 2000

P.O. Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1G 3J2
Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

The Canadian Ski Marathon 2000



Jim, VE3TKV and Larry, VE3WEH at Checkpoint 4

Photo by Neil Herber, VE3PUE



AMSAT



In this Issue ...

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| February Meeting Minutes | Page 3 |
| Radio Amateurs of Canada | Page 4 |
| December Meeting Minutes | Page 5 |
| Next Meeting | Page 6 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| mk's words | Page 6 |
| News from Near and Far | Page 7 |
| Upcoming Meeting Schedule | Page 8 |
| Membership News | Page 8 |
| WCARC | Page 9 |

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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 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).

February Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the OARC General Meeting - February 2, 2000
(second meeting of the millennium)

The meeting was called to order by President Ed (VA3MPY), at 7:35 p.m. Ed looked refreshed and ready to get back to work following a break for nuptials. (Glad to have you back Ed, the meeting is not the same without you.)

Our only guest this evening was our speaker - Bert Barry (VE3QAA). In response to a call for haves and wants, Jack (VE3UPH?) asked if anyone was up on PSK31 in the Ottawa area. The reply was that Ken (VA3KA) and Jim (VE3XJ) were active in this digital mode. Peter (VE3LBW) is looking for a source for cheap batteries for a FT208. Rick (VE3IHI) had a pile of newsletters from various clubs up at the front of the room.

Ed reminded members of the next CPC breakfast, Saturday, February 5th at Uncle Louis'. Also Ed mentioned that the OVMRC was to show, at their next meeting, a tape on the VE3XA DXpedition (looks real interesting).

Turning to Club business, Ed informed members that the Club funded an upgrade to the Hydra server. The upgrade was a project of Barry (VE3JF). Guy (VA3FZA) audited the Treasurer's books and found everything right as rain. George (VE3BNO) moved and seconded by Mike (VE3FFK), that the auditor's report be accepted. The members accepted the auditor's report.

In support of the Treasurer's desire for more transparency, George proposed that a financial statement be published annually in the Groundwave. Members instead accepted a proposal by Rick that the Treasurer's financial report be made available to members annually, but that it not be published in the Groundwave.

George then proposed that the Executive examine an amendment to the By-laws requiring them to come to members for approval for expenditures outside the Budget particularly when it entails a large purchase. Ed accepted George's suggestion and stated that the Executive would look into the matter. Continuing in the very business-like tone that was established, the Treasurer, Liz (VA3ELB) reported on the financial health of the Club.

Having completed Club business, Ed turned to Peter (VE3BQP) to report on EMARG/AREAS. Peter stated that Y2K and the Ice Storm had stimulated a lot of interest in emergency communications in the area. Facilities have improved considerably lately. A notice of the March meeting of EMARG will be sent to all amateurs in the Ottawa area.

On the topic of operators, Ed, demonstrating the foresight that brought and has kept him at the pinnacle of power in the OARC hierarchy, is looking for operators (who will also provide security) for the Gatineau Clog in early August. Sleeping facilities and meals will be provided (but don't expect fire water). All dry amateurs who are interested should see Ed.

Following up on Glen's (VE3GLN) passionate call for all clubs to band together for One Big Field Day (OBFD), Rick stated that he had talked to our Field Marshall, Paul (VE3ICV), who indicated that he had no objection to anyone participating in the large Field Day. Richard (VE3UNW) then reported on the organizing meeting that he attended several weeks ago at the Museum of Science & Technology. While much is still up in the air, Glen does not insist that Clubs abandon their own events, but is asking Clubs to sponsor tents. In response to a show of hands, approximately 10 members expressed interest in participating in the OBFD. George expressed interest in co-ordinating an OARC tent (including tent, rigs, operators). He and Richard will attend the next meeting (February 10th) and they will indicate to Glen that the OARC is interested in operating a tent.

On that, we turned to the real business of the evening as Bert fascinated members with his talk on rhombic antennas. (Fascinating topic Bert, and thanks from all of us.)

Upon declaring Clare (VE3NPC) (once again) winner of the 50/50 draw and pocketing in the process 18 cool ones, Ed closed the meeting at 9:20 pm.

(The March meeting will be held in the Keefer Room, as usual.)

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 00-013E

RAC to ask IC to drop 12 wpm requirement February 11, 2000

The Board of Directors of RAC has voted unanimously in favour of a motion to approach Industry Canada with a proposal to drop the requirement for a 12 words per minute Morse code test in Canada. Following the lead of the recent FCC decision in the US, as well as in some European countries, RAC proposes that Canadian amateurs who have passed a 5 wpm Morse code test as well as the necessary written examination, be allowed full access to the HF bands. A formal proposal will be submitted to Industry Canada in the near future.

RAC Bulletin 00-015E

VE3AJB new Ontario North Ass. Director February 18, 2000

RAC is pleased to announce the addition of Allan (Al) Boyd, VE3AJB of Little Current, Manitoulin Island, as RAC's newest Ontario North Assistant Director. Al, an Advanced licence holder, was first licensed in 1986 and is currently the President of the Manitoulin Amateur Radio Club. He is also an Accredited Examiner for Industry Canada for the Amateur and marine spectrum. His area of responsibility will be Manitoulin Island and the North Shore Area between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, including Elliot Lake.

Al is the tenth Assistant Director in Ontario North and joins:

Paul Caccamo, VA3PC, Callander
John Connor, VE3TG, Nepean
Tom Lloyd, VE3UDO, Kingston
Norbert Lussier, VE3TNL, Cornwall
Fraser MacDonald, VE3KOF, Sault Ste Marie
Dave Parks, VE3AV, Ottawa
Murray Pierce, VE3IFP, Lively
Ken Stevens, VE3KRX, Geraltton
Donald Tambeau, VE3HOL, Schumacher.

On Air Events Reminder

February

25-27 CQ WW 160-Meter Contest, SSB
26-27 REF Contest, SSB
26-27 North Carolina QSO Party
26-27 UBA Contest, CW

26-27 RSGB 7 MHz DX Contest, CW
26-27 YL International QSO Party
27 High Speed Club CW Contest
27-28 CQC Winter QRP QSO Party

March

4-5 ARRL DX Contest, Phone

February 9 to March 10.

Special event callsign VC7AIR has been assigned for the period of February 9 to March 10, 2000 inclusively. It will be used to commemorate the launch of a Y2K Balloon Event to happen sometimes in February. The contact person for this event is Mr. Rick Martin, VE7CUP at 250-992-8285.

February 27 to March 26, 2000

The special event callsign VC4X has been assigned for the period of Feb 27- Mar 26, 2000 inclusively to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1950 Winnipeg Flood. The contact person for this event is Mr. Derrick Belbes e-mail VE4VV@icenter.net.

If you're not a member...

Why not join RAC now?

Better yet, make it a clean sweep and join a local club as well!

We're not biased, but the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club sounds like an excellent club!

December Meeting Minutes

Editor's note: The December minutes mysteriously went missing last month. I've decided to blame Y2K!

Minutes of the OARC General Meeting -December 1, 1999

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

Lots of guests this month including: Maurice André (VE3VIG), Lorraine (VE3VAT), Larry (VE3WEH), Graham (VE3GBD), Hans (VE3REL) and Gloria and Duncan Marshal. Thank you for coming out. Hope to see you again soon.

As he often does, Brian (VE3ZRK), had pamphlets for pick up at the front of the room.

A fountain of knowledge, Ed turned to a number of announcements of interest to members.

On December 4th, in Finch Ontario, the remainder of Mailes Dier's (VE3MD SK) extensive holdings were to go up for sale. (You have to see it to believe it. The quantity of stuff Mailes collected is simply incredible.) The Moose Creek repeater was available for talk-in.

The next CPC Breakfast was also slated for Saturday, December 4 at Louis' Steak House at 9am. A Xmas theme was promised.

On December 9th, Ed was to present our good friends of the West Carleton Club with their well deserved plaque having won the 1999 Field Day Challenge. Ed promised to pay for the beer. (Enjoy the beer guys, because you'll be buying next year. With the OARC restrained from showing its full potential as a 1A station, we were able to convince the WCC to go to 2A in 2000. You shouldn't have agreed, guys!)

Ed said he would not be attending next month's meeting as he is getting married early in 2000. (Good luck kids!!!)

Ed checked with the membership and while the January meeting will follow shortly after New Years, it was agreed that a January meeting should be held. However, there won't be a January Groundwave.

Peter (VE3BQP) announced that EMARG would have a New Year's Eve net on repeaters VE3PC and VE2CRA from 10pm to 2am.

George (VE3BNO) told the members about the RAC Winter Contest to be held on the December 17th weekend. George was looking for operators for VA3RAC, the official RAC

station from Ontario. (If you ever get a chance to operate VA3RAC during a contest, grab it, it's a ton of fun.)

While having the floor, George gave the members a short biography of Joe Norton, whose endowment to the Club is gratefully acknowledged every year via the awarding of the Joe Norton Award to deserving new amateurs. George told the members that Joe was a EME buff, dabbled in slow scan TV, was an organist and loved classical music. When Joe passed away, his son and daughter donated his equipment to the Club and from the proceeds of its sale, a bursary was established.

On that, Ed announced this year's Joe Norton winner - Graham Bennett (VA3GBD). Members clearly agreed with this year's choice as the members greeted the announcement with many (and loud) hurrahs. (Good for you Graham.) In accepting this year's award, Graham very eloquently thanked the club and also thanked Larry (VE3WEH) for his assistance and encouragement. Graham related how Joe Blanchett (VE3BAD) inspired him to get his license and assisted in preparing for the exam.

Larry in reply, indicated that Graham had shown dedication and was prepared to work hard towards passing his exam. In the end Graham passed with flying colours, 93% in electronic theory and 100% in regulations. (Good stuff, Graham.)

Following this very moving ceremony, which I am sure brought some of the more sensitive members (including yours truly) close to tears, Ralph (VE3BBM) took command of the floor and related a fascinating story as to how he was involved in the salvage of equipment from the Algonquin Park Radio Observatory.

Liz (VA3ELB) brought the members up to date on the financial health of the Club.

Beginning to wind up, Ed told members that the Packet Working Group had proposed to upgrade the Hydra and also the Club had taken on a project to upgrade VE2CRA.

As the last item of official business, Peter won the 50/50, pocketing \$29 (a nice prize anytime, but especially just before Xmas).

On that note, Ed declared the meeting closed at 9:35 and members turned to jaw boning and coffee. Many Xmas good wishes were undoubtedly exchanged.

(Thanks for looking after the coffee Brian, we don't thank you enough.)

mk's words

24 February 2000

Last month I mentioned that the US is dropping CW testing above 5 wpm, and wondered what would follow. Well, those of you who get the RAC news one way or another likely know that it looks like we will soon follow them. If ever there was a time to get that CW qualification, this is it. Can you get it before the snow melts?

It has been yet another busy month around here. Ski Marathon was unusually quiet, with no serious problems to deal with. Even the APRS hardware worked. For those of you who loaned equipment for the event, I can report that it all came back. It just has to get returned to the various owners. Now, if I can just get that post event report typed up and sent out, all will be well. Its never over until the paperwork is finished.

Then there was GOTA, or Guides on the Air. I'm the first to admit that public relations is not my favorite part of amateur radio, but this year, I actually had fun. We installed HF and VHF stations at Guide House over the course of about two hours, including the antennas. The girls, from Sparks to Rangers all had enough fun that they wanted to stay past their allotted time. They quickly got the idea of the phonetic alphabet, calling CQ, and answering others. Some of them really wanted to try out the morse key, but were somewhat hampered by a complete lack of knowledge of the code. They seemed impressed when I used it to tell one of the ARRL CW DX contesters that the frequency was indeed busy. We didn't make too many contacts, mostly due to the HF antenna, but just

enough to keep everyone fascinated. They enjoyed listening to some of the other conversations on the band also. QSLs from the event are starting to come back, so they will have yet more fun. Next year will be better. It wouldn't surprise me to find that some of them have picked up callsigns before the next GOTA.

I've been swapping email with Joe, VE2JHT (hi Joe!) up in his new place in Hanmer On, near Sudbury. It won't be too long before he is warming up the airwaves on 80 and 40 again. Then we can carry on our debates in front of a microphone or key, rather than the keyboard. It seems we seldom agree, but enjoy hearing the other guy's point of view.

Homebrew night is fast approaching. There is an EMRG exercise on Mar 5, and a meeting Mar 18 (watch for a change of venue from the usual). Those tie together nicely, as Peter, VE3BQP is looking for ideas for antenna upgrades. It seems there are a lot of people around who have just a hand held and a rubber duck. If you have an idea for an EASY antenna, that is rugged, compact to carry, and cheap (I mean inexpensive), put one together, show Peter, and by all means, bring it to the April meeting. I'm looking for cheap and/or busted tape measures for some antenna ideas along those lines that I'd like to try out.

Thats it for now. Spring is coming, patch those screens (and grids and plates)

..mk VE3FFK

Next Meeting

OARC

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

WCARC

The next meeting of the **WCARC** will be held **Tuesday, Mar 7th at 19:30** at the offices of IGS. #2-155 Terrance Matthews Cr., Kanata

News from Near and Far

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!

From: Ken Magee <kmagee@hudson.net>
Subject: UPCOMING 2000 EVENTS

From the VE2LZR Group we are now in the process of setting up the courses and related parameters for the first 2 events of this year.

Some interesting events that are coming up if anyone is into doing another Ski Marathon type radio exercise (they're during slightly warmer weather).
 Contact Ken Magee <kmagee@hudson.net>

UPCOMING 2000 EVENTS

(Note: all but Cyclo-Tour are equestrian type events)

The North American Selection Trials for the World Singles & Pairs Combined Carriage Driving (CAN-AM'2000)
 Date: 21 May 2000 (Sunday)
 Will need up to 25 operators
 Location: Windedge Farm, Ste-Justine de Newton, QC

Called the CAN-AM'2000 is held at the Windedge Farms. (Location is 25 mi. N/W of Montreal)(Directions and talk-in on VE2RM - 147.00 minus, provided). We are going to be posted all around this long course providing point to point information as to what and where its happening, and relaying vital information to the control station on the safety and well being of the competitors.



We require 2M / 70cm portable units as well as 2M / 70cm mobile vehicles, so let me know what you have available, portables must be able to operate for at least 10 or more hrs. We are going to be using 3 Simplex frequencies for the event, 2 vhf an 1 uhf. We will have a centrally located base station with 2 to 3 op's with about 12 op's on VHF and 12 on UHF. Operators will be with the course designers, repair crews and public announcers.

Rain or shine we are there, bring your lunch(so far), light portable chair, and rain or shine gear, MOSQUITO REPELLENT. Over the last many years many of us have been participating in this wonderful communications exercise, and we would be more than pleased to have you along.

Remember that there are many more events to come throughout the summer, but why not start with this one. It will probably be the most exiting.

Send me (Ken Magee) your ham equipment info and join the group.

OTHER EVENTS THIS SUMMER:

St. Lazare Cyclo -Tour (Family oriented pleasure cycling)
 Date: 28 May 2000 (Sunday)
 Location: St. Lazare, QC
 Will need up to 20 operators
 From 1000 to 1500 or more cyclists (30 km course).

The Harmony Horse Trails (Cross country jumping event))
 Date: 18 June 2000 (Sunday)
 Location: Windedge Farm, Ste-Justine de Newton, QC

Marathon Course Combined Driving Event (Carriage driving event)
 Date: 9th September 2000 (Saturday)
 Location: Sandridge Farm, St. Lazare, QC

Pleasure Driving Event (Carriage driving event)
 Date: 30 September 2000 (Saturday)
 Location: Windedge Farm, Ste-Justine de Newton, QC

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| March 2000 | Clare, VE3NPC and Jeff, VE3EFF present a MINI-HOWTO guide to Phase 3D! |
| April 2000 | Homebrew. If the iron's not hot, now's the time to plug it in! |
| May 2000 | Tentatively scheduled to meet at the Communications Squadron |
| June 2000 | Elections, Budget, Volunteer Recognition and Cheese and Cracker night! |

Membership News

How to Decode Your Membership Expiry Date

Your membership expiry date is the 4 digit number located in the upper right corner of the mailing label on the envelope your newsletter came in.

Normally this would be a four digit date with the last 2 digits of the year concatenated with a 2 digit number representing the month, however, late last year the Y2k bug paid us a little visit and the number in the corner is the temporary solution that was devised.

Here's how to decode the temporary number: take the 1st 2 digits (should be 99) and add the whole portion of the last 2 digits divided by 12 to get the year, take the remainder of the last 2 digits divided by 12 to get the month. For those of you that are allergic to math word problems (I know I am) here's a quick table:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 9920 expires end of August 2000 | 9924 expires end of December 2000 |
| 9932 expires end of August 2001 | 9936 expires end of December 2001 |
| 9944 expires end of August 2002 | 9948 expires end of December 2002 |
| 9956 expires end of August 2003 | 9960 expires end of December 2003 |
| 9968 expires end of August 2004 | 9972 expires end of December 2004 |

A more permanent solution to this problem is in the works, but is not currently ready for our use.

73, Dean the Membership Guy - VA3CDD ddenter@ottawa.com

WCARC

Minutes of WCARC meeting
Tuesday, February 1
Meeting held at IGS World Headquarters.
19 hams in attendance.

Treasurers Report:

Kieran, va3ks, the club secretary was late (see below), so report was not included. Members are reminded, it is NOW TIME to renew your WCARC membership. Ken, va3ka, would be delighted to see your \$20.00 membership at the next meeting.

Field Day 2000:

Field Day presentation by Glen, ve3gln, for a joint FD by local clubs in the area. Call maybe VA3RAC and be12a. Regional involvement required so there is a short time frame for clubs to commit themselves to the project. Ken, va3ka, mentioned his e-mail that supports the idea. Glen also mentioned corporate sponsorship will be required for the event and those hams that are involved may have to pay \$10.00 +/- for FD to assist with some costs. Concerns regarding insurance/liability since it is a large event and other hard costs?? Glen is looking into insurance issues. There was general discussion on logistics for such a large FD. More information is required such as site selection etc. A number of sites was discussed such as the Museum of S&T. VE3WCC callsign will be available for those that wish to continue a WCARC FD. Peter, ve3tff, should be contacted as our official FD co-ordinator. General discussion about running 2a with a WCARC FD and have a more universally popular event (VHF/UHF/Sat. etc) instead of points was also suggested. No final decision was made!

144mhz SSB Net:

Change of name for the net to the Ottawa Valley 2m SSB net to reflect the geographic distribution of check-ins. The number of check-ins has increased and Kieran continues to run the net every Tuesday night,

144.250MHZ USB at 9:00pm (except club meeting nights).
See www.igs.net/~va3ks for net details

TNC SoundBlaster:

Andy, ve3uiy, discussed the use of a SoundBlaster as a TNC that can run up to 9600bps. He handed out a circuit diagram and article detailing the technical requirements. It MUST be a true 'SoundBlaster' card for the drivers to work. Send Andy an e-mail ve3uiy@rac.ca for more information. No linux support yet but on the way. Andy has tried it on 1200bps and it works!

WX project:

Graham, ve3byt, is doing some pricing and research. Three choices that are available on the market in the range of \$255US - \$440US (volume discount available). Most are kits. General discussion on various units, including a \$300 unit at RS that can be used as an APRS WX station.

Club Insurance:

John, ve3iao, called the insurance company recommended by RAC and got a quote for insurance. The quote was in the range of \$325. It was generally agreed that we should purchase insurance before Field Day

General notes:

Kieran apologised for being late but he just administered the 12wpm code test to Andy, ve3uiy. Andy successfully passed his 12wpm code test and is now looking for an HF rig.

End of meeting 9:52pm
Next Meeting: Tuesday March 7th
IGS World HQ
#2-155 Terrance Matthews Cr.,
Kanata
Everyone Welcome!!



BML Communications

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