

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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

Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

June 2002

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Wow you are a tough audience. At least most of you showed up to the meeting on the right day. To those of you who didn't, all I can say is "Check your calendar like I should have. Meetings don't happen on a Friday night!"

Aside from that, it was a good meeting.

The June meeting is important to the club. Our new slate of officers for the executive is elected/appointed. The work done by our executive is tough, demanding and time consuming but satisfying in the long term. We need to get behind the new executive and help them make this club one of the best in the country.

June is "Field Day" month. Check VE3ICV's comments inside. Same place as last year. Since Algonquin College is in the process of selling the property, this will likely be the last year at that location.

VE2CRA took a lightening hit at the end of May which toasted a few transistors and blew the repeater off the air until Saturday June 1. George was back up the hill patching and fixing and as a result we have an operational, though wounded, repeater. Not fun.

The OARC Fleamarket comes back to us at the end of August. Same location as last year. Where? Carp Fairgrounds. Just down the street from the Diefenbunker.

On an off-topic topic, if anyone is interested in seeing the Field Day site from 2000 feet, the Ottawa Flying Club is running its annual FlyDay on the 22nd from the north field at Uplands. (MacDonald Cartier Airport) If you aren't taking part in Field Day (shame on you) then take a flight and support the Ottawa Rotary Home and Rotary Club. I was already committed to this function as a pilot so I will be there to fly you around the city. If you dare.
VE3EV



May MEETING

7:30 June 12th , Ottawa City Hall, Richmond Room
A Visit to the Mecca of Ham Radio -Dayton. By Digital Camera

In This Issue....

Club Information	2	Field Day 2002	5
April Meeting Minutes	3	A Word from VE3BNO	5
RAC Bulletins and Events	4	DC to Green Light—CBC	6
MK's Words	5	OARC Hamfest	8
IRLP News	5	Membership form	9



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Articles may be submitted for use in this publication provided that they portray events or activities that promote Amateur Radio. Letters and comments are also welcome. Submissions may be made by mail addressed to the Editor care of the OARC, or by e-mail to "editor@oarc.net". Deadline for submissions occurs on the last Monday of the month preceding any regular meeting of the OARC.

Please support your local radio organisations. They support you!

Club Information

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 Capitol 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 Richmond Room (2nd floor of the Old Teacher's College) of Ottawa City Hall (formerly Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton Headquarters) 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 first Wednesday of each month at 19:30 hours. Contact the President to confirm the date, time and place of the next meeting.

The CAPITOL 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 Capitol Region.

The SWAP Net is a service provided and conducted by Dan Reardon, VE3GUU. This feature appears on the Capitol City FM Net. To list items and make inquiries, call Dan Reardon at 731-3339 or e-mail him at 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 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 meets every Thursday evening at 20:00 hours on repeater VE3TEL, **147.03** You do not have to be a QCWA member to participate.

The 2M SSB Net is sponsored by the West Carleton ARC. Look for it every Tuesday night (except the first Tuesday of the month) around 21:00 on **144.250**. It is very informal and vertical polarisation is encouraged.

VE3TEN

Tuning in the beacon so that it makes sense requires you tune to **28.175** on cw and read the tone that is there . The spaces between the elements are the higher tone. If that doesn't work, tune to **28.175.28** on lower sideband for better results.

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club bulletin "Groundwave" is published and distributed to club members by mail. Publication dates may vary but it is hoped that the bulletin arrives at its destination before the events listed in it have expired. The bulletin is not published for July and August when meetings do not occur. Every effort is made to provide accurate information in the bulletin, however we are all human and mistakes can be made. The OARC accepts no responsibility for any damages that may result from this. The opinions expressed in n this bulletin are only those of the author.

Voice (VHF)	146.94/146.34	100Hz output tone
(UHF)	443.300/448.300	
IRLP Node 204	146.94/146.34	(VE2CRA/VE3RC)
		(Code 411 for info) (Code 2040 for activity)
Packet	147.07(sx)	For QSO and Packet BBS
Packet 56 BPS	220.55/443.44	

For further information please contact the Repeater Chair.

Note: The IRLP link is connected to Reflector 1, Ref 910 in Toronto, from 0700 to 0900 local time each weekday morning. Stations are encouraged to use this link during your drive to work each day.

Note: The IRLP link is disabled during the Capitol City Net each Monday. It is disabled from 2000 to 2145 Mondays except for May to August when the link is disabled from 2000 to 2020.



Minutes Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc.

May 8, 2002

Richmond Room, Ottawa City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 19:35. President George VE3BNO welcomed everyone. There were two guests: Rene VA3RFD from Sudbury and Mohammed who is not yet licensed.

Paul VE3ICV made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting with a second from Cary VE3EV. The motion passed.

George VE3BNO reminded all present of the Capital City Net on VE2CRA on Mondays at 20:00. The swap shop will resume after the summer.

Croft Taylor pointed out an error in an article written by Cary VE3EV in the last Groundwave regarding Burt Coy. Cary will amend his notes! *(Notes amended. Ed. The radio station mentioned was the wrong one. I don't know the correct call sign of the Kingston station referenced.)*

Treasurer Liz VA3ELB presented the financial report. The main expenses in the past month were for the annual insurance premium. There were no questions from the floor.

Membership Chair Tom VA3WTJ announced we have 95 members to date.

Coming events were announced:

May 11- Smith Falls Flea Market (new venue this year)

July 26, 27, 28-RAC National Convention in Vernon, BC

June 22-23- Field Day 2002

Paul VE3ICV presented a quick report on Field Day 2002. Location will be at the Lees Campus of Algonquin College. The format is primarily the same but there is a chance to earn more points with some new changes to the rules. Mike VE3FFK will hopefully provide the generator. Any questions regarding the Field Day can be addressed to Paul at 820-6643 or ve3icv@rac.ca.

Clare VE3NPC is the chair of the nominating committee. There are candidates for all but secretary. Those interested in running for any of the positions can contact Clare by June 1.

Peter VE3BQP, team leader for the Ottawa EMRG/ARES Group, announced that for Emergency Preparedness Week the City of Ottawa in conjunction with the federal and provincial governments will be putting on a display at the Cartier Drill Hall and City Hall. On May 23 there will be an emergency exercise at the airport and amateur radio is expected to take an active part. Any questions please contact him at ve3bqp@rac.ca.

Doug VE3XK made a quick comment about the clothing line and other articles now available from RAC headquarters. Orders can be made on line at www.rac.ca

Greg VE3Y TZ reported on Hamfest 2002. Flyers will be handed out at

Smiths Falls. Bookings for tables are coming in and he expects a good collection of commercial vendors. There will be a good door prize this year: The afternoon session this year will be a RAC forum under the guidance of Doug VE3XK. Other presenters will be Clare VE3NPC: satellites, Cary VE3EV: IRLP, Frank VE3YY: I-Link, Rich Ferch and Mark VA3DRV: APRS. Jim VE3IQ will also make a presentation regarding the threats against amateur radio.

George VE3BNO introduced the speaker for the evening. Bill VE3EKA presented a video regarding the ATV repeater presently located at CJOH. He outlined how interest in this mode began and how the group of amateurs involved received grants in order to get it off the ground. The video was an interesting way to demonstrate aspects of the site and equipment involved. Bill took questions after the presentation.

After a short coffee break, Bryan VE3ZRK was presented with the plaque for his successful submission for the Clare Fowler Home Brew award. Bryan now has the plaque in his possession and will be responsible for returning it next year!!!

George VE3BNO then made a submission regarding the Amateur TV Video repeater at the CJOH site. The main expense involved this year is increasing the liability insurance to \$5,000,000 at the request of CJOH. This will cost an additional \$1000 (plus tax) for the coming year.

The proposal made by George is that the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club take over ownership of the repeater for the cost of \$1 and split the additional insurance cost involved with the group currently running the repeater. Luc VE3JGL has agreed to continue to maintain it. George sees this as a possible club project and the ability to keep this part of the band in use.

Motion: Greg VE3Y TZ made a motion that;

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club acquire the ATV Video Repeater for the cost of \$1.

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club pay 50% of the extra insurance premium (the other half to be paid by the Video Repeater Committee of PARC.)

The future of the repeater and this arrangement is to be decided during the coming club year.

Seconded by Dave VE3AV.

Discussion from the floor indicated the Video Repeater of PARC would keep enough money in their account to pay for the decommissioning of the repeater should the need arise. This would include any costs involved. Some discussion arose over the site of the repeater but it was indicated that there is no other viable site at present.

A vote was taken of the 30 members present:

1 abstention

1 against

The rest in favor.

George will see that an agreement outlining the details of the agreement be drawn up

The motion passed.

Next page>>>



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

June 2002

On Air Events Reminder

June

1 QRP TAC Sprint
1-2 WW South America CW Contest
1-2 IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW

8 Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB
8 Portugal Day Contest
8-9 ANARTS WW RTTY Contest
8-9 RSGB Jubilee Contest
8-9 TOEC WW Grid Contest, SSB
8-10 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 8 to June 23, 2002

Special Event callsign VE7K as been assigned to the Mackenzie Amateur Radio Club from June 8 to June 23, 2002 to commemorate the International Karatedo Championships.

May 18 to July 18, 2002 (with correction for VY1)

At the request of Mr. David Goodwin VE2ZP, Authority has been granted

by Industry Canada to use National Special Event Call Signs for the celebration of The Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The call signs assigned to the special event will be:

XM1 for VE1's, XL1 for VA1's,
XM2 for VE2's, XL2 for VA2's,
XM3 for VE3's, XL3 for VA3's,
XM4 for VE4's, XL4 for VA4's,
XM5 for VE5's, XL5 for VA5's,
XM6 for VE6's, XL6 for VA6's,
XM7 for VE7's, XL7 for VA7's,
XM8 for VE8's, XM9 for VE9's,
XN1 for VO1's, XN2 for VO2's,
XO0 for VY0's, XO1 for VY1's,
and XO2 for VY2's.

This authority is valid from May 18, to July 18, 2002.



Cary VE3EV presented a quick report on IRLP. No major problems are present. In less than one year he indicated that the number of nodes has doubled. He does not yet have the standby boards but if he needs one he can get one in short order.

New Business as follows:

Next executive meeting will be held on June 5 at 19:30.

The following were winners of the 50/50 draw and door prizes:

Bill VE3FXG- \$30

Keith Poore- magnifying glasses

Others to Bill VE3KEA, Mike VE3FFK, Ben VE3CDA, and Dennis VA3DWC

The meeting was closed at 21:18.

The next meeting of the OARC will be held in the Richmond Room of Ottawa City Hall on June 12 at 19:30.

Minutes compiled by Liz VA3ELB Secretary/Treasurer.

From: RAC Headquarters

Date: May 24, 2002

Subject: New Canada Day Contest Manager



Joe MacPherson, VE1CH, First Vice President, Radio Amateurs of Canada, is pleased to announce that the Moncton Seniors Amateur Radio Club Inc., of Moncton, N.B., is taking over responsibility for the management of the RAC Canada Day contest effective immediately. Email enquiries or electronic logs related to the RAC Canada Day Contest should be directed to ve9qed@rac.ca.

In order to simplify the processing of electronic logs, ALL such logs for RAC sponsored contests, from July 1st, 2002 onward, MUST be in either the Cabrillo or ADIF format. Electronic logs submitted in other formats will not be accepted. Regular non-electronic logs, for the RAC Canada Day contest, should be mailed to the Moncton Seniors Amateur Radio Club Inc., at P.O. Box 73, Moncton, NB, Canada E1C 8R9. Contest logs for the RAC Winter Contest should continue to be sent to Dave Shipman, VE7CFD.

In order to further reduce the burden on contest managers, for RAC sponsored contests, RAC HQ has taken on responsibility for producing certificates and plaques after notification by contest managers of the winners in the different categories.

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE GROUNDWAVE IS FRIDAY AUGUST 23RD.

RAC2002 National Convention online registration available

The RAC2002 National Convention Committee is proud to announce that online registration is now available on RAC 2002 National Convention website.

There are two easy ways to register:

- 1) Print the registration form available online, and mail it along with your cheque to the address provided.
- 2) Register online with your visa or mastercard number.

Please visit www.rac2002.org to register today!

Wilfried Mulder
VE7OHM
RAC 2002 National Convention Chairman





Internet Radio Linking Project

MK's Words

Summer finally fought its way through to us. Now is the time to get those spring chores out of the way.

What a month it has been. The flea market season has pretty much dried up. I hope you were able to buy/sell your treasures, or at least have a few good rag chews. At the OVMRC, I was able to get most of the very early years of 73 magazine, as well as finish off a lot of missing years from my collection. - Now I have to watch that I don't spend all my time reading about amateur radio and no time actually on the air. The bike is back on the road, but isn't radio active yet. Even the 2m J pole needs work. Now that Yaesu has come out with a QRP rig, there seems to be no shortage of people who also think radio is an outdoor sport, as the May June cover of TCA shows.

EMRG, the Emergency Measures Radio Group, a.k.a. Ottawa ARES recently participated in a major exercise involving the airport, hospitals, red cross and others. It was, from the amateur point of view, pretty challenging: Go to the middle of a big steel building you have never been into before. Set up reliable communications with a repeater you have never heard before, on the other side of town from your site. Use minimal power, independent of local electricity supplies. Now pass a bunch of traffic and try to be helpful to the crisis management team in the room with you. It was fun. Judging by the initial reaction from the people we were working with, we passed the test. Maybe VE3BQP will have more to say about our grade when we get to the debrief session.

The tenth anniversary of the OVMRC Welcome Mat net is coming up in early June. Looking back in my log book, I can see a lot of nets that have come and gone in less time than that. Way to go, Class of '92.

The Capital City net has been going longer, but is shrinking. It used to be about twice the size that it is now. Do you remember when the net controller had to take check-ins in chunks? "...any check-ins with callsign suffixes K through R?.." Blow the dust off that PTT button and give the net controller something to do.

- And maybe give Dave, VE3AV a holler and get on the list of net controllers yourself.

I have been chatting with someone who is in that time between writing his exam and getting his ticket. It is always difficult for the new guy to get connected with the amateur community before getting on the air. Sometimes it isn't easy after the licence and transmitter arrive. The questions are always interesting, and causes the old thinking cap to get used a bit.

Speaking of exams, one of the delegated examiners has announced that he will charge non Rac members an amount equivalent to a RAC membership (which he will submit in their name) for exams. I gave it some thought and considered doing this myself for any but Basic exams. In the end, I decided I would rather have a smaller but willing RAC membership. That first step into a Basic ticket is big enough that I didn't think it was a good idea to put any new hurdles into the system. What do you think? Should people be "encouraged" to try RAC in this way?

See you in September at the Hamfest, and on the air before then.

73 -mk VE3FFK

I keep looking behind me to see if there is any activity on Node 204. The only way I can be sure is if the transmit light is turned on. Looking at the logs gives me a pretty good idea of how many times the node is accessed even though a successful connection might not have been made. Tonight, Monday after the net, seems to be a slow night. Perhaps this is as a result of VE2CRA being blown away by mother nature last week. Perhaps no one is interested tonight. I can't tell. Mind you from the reception I have received from my IRLP presentations there is interest. Let's use the technology.

I have just so many ways to present IRLP to local groups but it was pointed out to me that the "How do I use it" speech would be more helpful. I will be doing just that at the Ottawa Pioneer Amateur Radio Club on the 11th. Please take the time to ask questions. Sometimes I don't know what was missed until someone asks the question. Remember: the only stupid question was the one that wasn't asked.

Pembroke has raised VE3LKT on node 252 which joins VE3YYS (213), VE1BAS (215), VE3TST (221) and VE3SEX (228) along with VE2CRA (204) as the Ottawa Valley's IRLP circuit. Arnprior/Renfrew and others will probably be joining us soon.

I am hoping to have a better signal feeding the repeater by the end of the summer. The existing rig, an IC25, is on its last legs with a signal output of about 2 watts to a VHF Engineering amplifier on loan from George, VE3BNO. I know George wants his amp back so I have asked a local Amateur if he has a spare rig that would fit the bill. George Sansom, VE3GWS, has graciously agreed to find one for me. Thanks in advance George. That should provide a bit of relief for us.

A new node numbering scheme is about to be released. With the increasing numbers of nodes coming on line, the IRLP organizers have decided to go to a 4 digit code sequence. That means that our node will be 2040 not 204. There will be a node 2041 which might cause some confusion as using a "1" at the end of a node number usually drops the link. **Starting immediately, the code "73"** will be used to drop any node or reflector link. Use this code **ONLY** from now on to shut the node down.

Have a good summer.

VE3EV

ARRL Field Day takes place this year over the weekend of **June 22-23**. As we did last year, the OARC are planning to operate from the grounds of the Algonquin College Rideau Campus, on Lees Avenue. The plan is to run at least two stations, one Phone, one CW, with the possibility of an additional Novice station allowed under new rules this year. As well as operators to man these stations for the 24 hour Field Day period, help will also be required for set-up on Saturday morning and tear-down on Sunday afternoon. There's also bonus points available this year involving non-traditional mode demonstrations such as APRS, ATV and SSTV, if anyone can look after these.

*Paul, VE3ICV
Field Day Coordinator
820-6643*



From DC to Green Light

Working at the CBC

Cary Honeywell VE3EV

President George's Words

Clare Fowler will be presenting the following slate for officers at the June meeting.

For President.....Ben Price VE3CDA

Vice President Dave Parks VE3AV

SecretaryIan Jeffrey VE3IGJ

TreasurerElizabeth Johnson VA3ELB

Directors.....

Brian Campbell VE3ZRK

Clayton Jenkins VE3CBJ

Ted Turner VE3LV

Harrie Jones VE3HYS (repeater)

Cary Honeywell VE3EV (Groundwave)

Ian Jeffrey, our new secretary....has been a ham for just over two years, and is an Electrical Engineer who travels all over the world.

Bill Westbrook and Gerry Dillon of the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club will be at the June 5 Exec meeting to sign the agreement transferring the ATV repeater.

George VE3BNO

Bryan VE3ZRK was presented with the plaque for his successful submission for the Clare Fowler Home Brew award. Bryan now has the plaque in his possession



(Left—Bryan VE3ZRK. Right—Clare Fowler VE3NPC) (photo by MK)

A dream job for most Hams will have something to do with radio. Sometimes it will have to do with television. Sometimes UHF linking systems.....telemetry....stereo encoding...fooling around. My dream job included either of the above or working with aircraft. While trying to finish first year Engineering at Carleton University I was approached by Bob Brookes, VE3CSC (now VE3SC), to see if I was interested in joining the CBC remote area transmitter crew in Ottawa. He knew I was having some difficulty with the studies and had mentioned my name to Bob Zieman, VE3ATN, who was the Supervisor of Transmitter operations based at the CBOT/CBOFT studios on Lanark Avenue. An interview was arranged and shortly thereafter I joined the zaniest bunch of technicians anyone could hope to find.

Along with the two Bobs, both of whom were Amateurs, there was also Glen Pack, VE3CPG, who was the plant supervisor and the senior transmitter tech. He supervised, or at least tried to supervise, the day to day operation of the three transmitter sites under the Ottawa area organization. One AM site near North Gower, one FM site near Cornwall, and the main TV/FM site at Camp Fortune. There were six techs under his care. The term "Mother Hen" comes to mind. I rarely saw Glen mad. Often frustrated and sometimes quietly concerned, but he rarely blew a gasket. When he did it often involved pitching the offending item or any convenient tool into a wall. No one got hurt and the smile on his face gave evidence that the crisis had passed. Even when he was the object of a practical joke, he took it well.

Along with Glen, the two Bobs and I were several other techs. Pierre Belanger, Rupert Patterson, Gord Graham and Joe Ivory. None of them were Hams but all of them had the credentials. Joe Ivory quit the corporation shortly after I arrived and was replaced by Glen Foisy whose mother, Muriel, is VE7LQH. (Glen might be the VE7KUA in the callbook). All of us had our idiosyncrasies. Pierre was trying to build a super low frequency transmitter, around 20 Hz, and was working towards his pilot's license. He failed the first part but succeeded in getting his license. Rupert was from St. Lucia in the Carribean, and seemed to be able to spot anyone else from that island no matter where they were. Their skin colour might have had something to do with it. Rupert was a renovator. He would buy an older house, renovate it and then sell it. I think he made enough money out of it to allow him to retire very comfortably. Gord Graham bought and managed condominiums. He felt that this was the way of the future and a good place to build up a pretty good nest egg. He was right too. Mind you, he didn't have to pay much for housing anyway. His house had a 6% mortgage on it at a time when 18% was the norm. The bank wanted him to re-negotiate it but he refused. He knew a good thing.

Joe Ivory lived near Smiths Falls and commuted to Ottawa each day. Since the AM site was near North Gower, it was obviously best that he go right there from home rather than coming all the way into Ottawa just to turn around and go back the way he came. Gord lived in Bells Corners and he did the same thing. Their seniority and work ethic made it easy for all of us to accept this



arrangement even though it seemed to be a bit unfair. When something went wrong at the AM site, they were always right there to fix it. It was actually a pretty efficient system until Joe left. After that there seemed to be a scramble to take over Joe's job as it seemed to be pretty cushy. Now Gord had to come into the main shop to get the second tech. Union rules dictated that, for safety sake, a tech could not work on site alone. Gord wasn't very happy with this change of operations and I can't say that I blame him.

One of Joe's projects was the growing of strawberries. A problem with this was that he had to get rid of weeds. Someone had suggested that he allow geese to roam freely through the garden. They would pick out and eat the weeds leaving the strawberry plants to grow. Two problems had to be overcome. First was the natural byproduct of geese eating anything. That material had to be recovered from the garden. Might as well manually pick the weeds. Second was a little more insidious. Geese can be vicious. Left to their own devices, geese can successfully prevent anyone from getting near the strawberries even after they are grown and ready to be picked. The idea of being a strawberry farmer gradually vanished.

Glen Foisy replaced Joe. At least he took over his position in the group. You couldn't replace Joe who seemed to have a funny simile for every occasion. Glen and Joe were entirely different in many ways except one. They were both excellent technicians. The list of differences was long. Where Joe was stout of stature, short of hair and full of "down home" "hail fellow: well met", Glen was tall, stringy with long hair, the start of a handlebar moustache and street smart with a penchant for "wacky tobaccy". He also drove a motorcycle which probably endeared him to Bob Zieman who also rode one.

Bob Zieman seemed to be involved in just about everything. Pilot's license, Amateur Radio license, home computers (he still has the Heathkit computer he built), remote control aircraft and I am sure lots of other things. One thing he was good at was running interference for the "F" troop that worked for him. After working for businessmen, government supervisors and any boss who felt they needed to impress their superiors by their wardrobe, it was refreshing to see Bob come to work in a work shirt, variously colored pants and sneakers. You can't fix a transmitter by looking like an insurance salesman. Because of Bob's somewhat encyclopedic knowledge of the equipment and how it worked, we were all pretty sure we could fix anything that came up. All we had to do was ask. It takes a pretty good tech to find a pin hole in a small film mica strip used as a screen bypass capacitor inside of a transmitter the size of a five ton truck! I know. I had the same problem in the same transmitter the night of the first home game of the football season in Ottawa. CBC was broadcasting the event on CBOT which decided to crash out just before the kickoff. By the time I got to the site, established that I couldn't find the problem on my own and called in the cavalry, Glen Pack, the game was half over and the telephone lines to the studio had all but melted. Even with Glen there it still took us an hour to find the problem. It was fixed by applying a piece of Scotch Tape across the pin hole. High tech stuff.

Practical jokes kept us from dying of boredom while awaiting the next disaster. You never knew when someone was going to goose you with a blast from a fire extinguisher or turn on the 50KW generator while you were crawling around it. A favorite prank was often played out on a graveyard shift when your sense of "haw-haw" was at its minimal. The TV Ontario transmitter was a huge PYE Klystron beast which had a man sized closet into which the klystron was housed when operational. A maintenance item often involved pulling the Klystron out of the closet and going

inside to measure voltages. Low voltage and some higher voltages could be measured by laying down on your stomach and extending the test leads into the power take-off box which was near the back of the closet and down near the floor. You had to be careful to turn off the 22 kilovolt power source before you did this, and it was prudent to pass the ground rod around the inside to make sure the capacitors were all discharged. One night Glen Pack was doing this chore. With only his lower half showing out of the box, Glen was carefully measuring all the available voltages when one of us simulated a voltage arc by making a loud clapping noise. Glen was out of the box and half way across the room before he realized he had been had. He was not amused.

Another joke was to put a full size flash bulb in place of the warning bulb inside the CBOT transmitter. Whenever you went inside the thing, you had to open a safety bar which disabled the high voltage and threw on a red warning light on the inside of the transmitter. With the flash bulb in place, the results were spectacular. The victim usually soiled his pants.

Speaking of which, another prank was administered by the "Black Hammer". We kept a black rubber hammer on site to help us detect or instigate a failure in the FM combining unit which allowed most of the FM stations to share the same antenna. You hit the combiner at a specific location and it either did nothing or it blew up. Nice. The way the prank was dealt out had some degree of sadism involved. The only washroom at the site was along a wall near the combiner. The door to the "Loo" was a shaky, hollow, wooden door that rumbled away with the vibrations of all the ventilation fans in the area. There was enough noise generated that you usually didn't hear anything while you were communing inside. The usual trick was to wait until someone had been in the washroom for a few minutes. Just long enough to get comfortable. Someone would run up to the door and start beating on it with the hammer. It was better than Ex-Lax.

We got Bob Zieman that way. At least Glen Pack got him. All of us were at the site to be instructed in the fine points of maintaining the sparkling new CBOT transmitter. The assistant area engineer, an engineer from HQ in Montreal and a tech from GE were doing their best to cover all the details while their ears were assailed by many DB of wind noise from the blowers. During one of the few moments of respite from these gents, Bob decided he needed to check on some internal equipment and sauntered off to the washroom. We all thought it but Glen did it. He waited until the right moment the off he went to get the hammer. We advised the others that the following would be an unrehearsed version of abandon ship. Glen went over to the door and hammered with all his might, finishing with a quick sprint to the gathered multitude. He had the presence of mind to ditch the hammer first. Bob stormed out of the washroom with the completion of a ripe apple. He was still buckling his belt and was using language that I thought was very imaginative. He couldn't identify the culprit. Glen got away with that one.

Bob Brookes, Glen Foisy and I were notorious around 250 Lanark because we were all pretty good with sound effects. It wasn't unusual to hear a brigade of fire trucks responding to a major fire only to find out it was the three of us vocalizing while we marched through the building. Cat fights were common although it was usually Bob and I vocalizing as a pair of tomcats having it out at the back fence. We often responded to queries from studio techs by the use of gibberish and snorts. This didn't endear us to many but it was fun.

Next month: How to Fry A CBC Tech! VE3EV

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

is pleased to announce its 6th Annual



Hamfest

Saturday, August 31, 2002 (Labour Day weekend)

Tailgaters Open and Building Vendor setup: 9 am

Building Opens: 10 am until 1 pm

Radio Amateurs of Canada Forum and Technology Update: 1pm-4pm (approx)

Carp Agricultural Fair Grounds

3970 Carp Rd (at Falldown Lane)

Ottawa (Carp), Ontario

Highway 417 East to Carp Road exit, North to the fairground

We are in the Arena, so follow the signs on the site

\$5 general admission

\$10/table (plus admission)

\$5/tailgate (plus admission)

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The OARC is proud to once again sponsor the RAC Forum and Technology Update. This highly informative event follows immediately after the close of the Hamfest at 1 pm. We are very fortunate to have Doug Leach (VE3XK), RAC's Ontario North Director, as Moderator.

For further information or reservations contact: Greg Danylchenko (VE3YTZ)
Tel: (613) 236-9291(H)
e-mail: fleamarket@oarc.net

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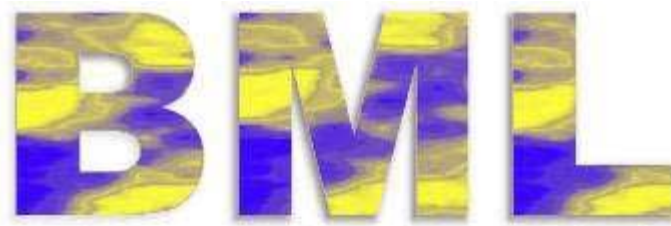
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