



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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

Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

Sept 2003

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Welcome back. I hope the summer was good to all of you. I'll send you the bill later. Field Day and the Hamfest for 2003 are history, but what history! Details inside. Also, we have a good article of VE3JW for your reading. Plus a bunch of bulletins. Don't ask for them in Morse code.

I bought my very first true general coverage receiver. Sure is lonely out there without CFH and the other CW commercial stations. Ah. Progress.

See you at the next meeting.

SEPT MEETING 7:30, Sept 10 in the Honeywell room at Ottawa City Hall

Presenting our Presentation Booth

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Sept 2003

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 "ve3ev@rac.ca". 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 Capital Area and to the advancement and achievement of club members.

Regular Meetings of the OARC Inc. are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) in the 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 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 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 this bulletin are only those of the author.

Voice (VHF) 146.94/146.34 100Hz output tone
(UHF) 443.300/448.300

VE3ATV Amateur Fast Scan Television Repeater
Video/audio beacon & input 439.25 MHz (audio sub. 443.75)
Video/Audio output 914 MHz (FM)

IRLP Node 2040 146.94/146.34 (VE2CRA/VE3RC)
(Code 411 for info) (Code 204 for activity)
(Code 88 for time)

For further information please contact the Repeater Chair.

Note: The IRLP link not connected to ECHOLINK. Please do not try to connect using the alpha keys on your keypad. It just confuses the operator.

Note: The IRLP link is disabled during the Capital 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 of the June General Meeting

June 11, 2003 19:30

The meeting was called to order by the president. There were 34 present including two guests, Karen Price and Johnny Krzysztof T Mroz (VE3EIE).

There were two corrections to the May minutes. Ken Willing (VE3CV) was recorded as a guest at the meeting. In fact, he has been a club member for many years. Larry Kayser's name was spelled incorrectly. It was moved by Cary Honeywell (VE3EV) and seconded by Ernie Brown (VA3OEB) that the amended minutes of the May meeting be accepted and the motion was carried.

There was a short presentation by Allan Meltzer from city hall requesting stories for an exhibit he is putting together on the 1998 Ice Storm. The exhibit will be between September 16 and October 16. Anyone with information is asked to contact Alan by mid-July at 580-2424[13146] (office), 565-3635 (home), or allan.meltzer@ottawa.ca.

There was another short presentation by Francois Vezina of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. He was requesting eight "voices" to do some radio acting for some radio promotional spots. A sign up sheet was circulated.

The OARC Flea Market will be held August 30. Greg Danylchenko (VE3YTZ) reported on the organization of the market and again requested additional volunteers for the summer period. RAC is again sponsoring the afternoon forum of presentations. The featured speaker is Robin Haighton (VE3FRH). This year's door prize is a Kenwood TH-F6A from Bytown Marine.

Harold Hamilton (VA3UNK) reported that Field Day will be held at St. Paul's University on Main Street. Field Day dates are June 28 and 29. Station assembly will start about 0900 on Saturday. Again, volunteers are encouraged to come out.

The Diefenbunker station VE3CWM is looking for volunteers to operate the station. Contact Nick Shepherd at nshepherd@storm.ca or administration@diefenbunker.ca .

Wayne Getchell (VE3CZO) was presented, in person, with the Homebrew plaque.

The following motion was moved by Brian Campbell and seconded by Ian Jeffrey. "The executive of the OARC recommends to the membership that club insurance premiums be reduced by divesting itself of the ATV repeater and antenna by either: a) selling them to another club, b) moving them to Camp Fortune, or c) removing them from the present site and storing them. This will save about \$125 per month of insurance premiums." After some discussion and clarifications the motion was carried.

Johnny Krzysztof T Mroz (VE3EIE) demonstrated his 2 m and 10 m backpack mobile station and Mike Kelly (VE3FFK) demonstrated his bicycle mobile station on 30 m and 40 m.

OARC executive elections were held. There were four vacancies on the executive: vice-president, treasurer, and two directors. George Roach, the nominating chairman, presented the slate of candidates. As there were

more positions than candidates the position were filled by acclamation. The position of vice-president was not filled. Anyone wishing to volunteer for this position should contact the executive. The duties of vice-president are primarily to line up speakers for the monthly meetings. The executive for 2003-2004 has two new members Janice Neelands and Russ Low. The positions are:

President	Ben Price VE3CDA	
Vice-President	vacant	
Secretary	Ian Jeffrey VE3IGJ	
Treasurer	Janice Neelands VA3PAX	
Past President	George Roach VE3BNO	
Director	Brian Campbell VE3ZRK	
Director	Cary Honeywell VE3EV	Groundwave Editor
Director	Tom Johnson VA3WTJ	Membership Chair
Director	Harrie Jones VE3HYS	Repeater Coordinator
Director	Russ Low VE3LOW	

It was moved by Mike Kelly and seconded by Greg Danylchenko that the outgoing executive be given a vote of thanks. The motion was carried.

The proposed 2003-2004 fiscal year budget was presented by the executive. The motion to accept the budget was moved by Richard Hagemeyer and seconded by John Senez and after a brief discussion was approved. The main thrust of the budget was to try to reduce the operating deficit of the last two years. This was done by an across-the-board \$5 membership fee increase effective September 1, 2003, and a \$5 surcharge for members wanting a mailed copy of the Groundwave.

The 50/50 draw of \$28.40 was won by Karen Price.

The next general meeting will be held on September 10. The meeting was adjourned at 22:20.

Ian, VE3IGJ, Secretary

URL's URLs

Recently traveling to the Toronto area for the Canada Loves Toronto initiative I posted last month, I can confirm business is really hurting in the Toronto area. Thus this month I will post a few URLs in hopes to generate some revenue for them in their time of need, I'm sure they would do the same for us.

<http://www.radioworld.ca/>
Radioworld - Canada's #1 Store for Amateur Ham Radio...

<http://www.durhamradio.ca/>
Canada's Complete Communications Store

<http://www.torontosurplus.com/>
These people have not given themselves a title like the other two, but I really think they have a unique niche that is worth investigating if you have not done so before.

--
73 de VE3URL



VE3JW NEWS AND VIEWS

NORTEL PUTS DAMPER ON RADIO OPERATIONS

BUT JW BOUNCES RIGHT BACK.

In the last couple of months we've had to close our Amateur Radio Exhibit at the Canada Science & Technology Museum due to construction taking place in the section where we are located. Nortel and the Museum have been very busy completing a new exhibit showing digital communications, networking and fibre optics.

Now that the dust has settled, we have cleaned, repaired, and put back into operation our jewel station. So, this notice is to advise you that we are now fully operational to provide you with training, offer you a chance to operate our many modes, or if you would like, demonstrate to the public what Amateur Radio is all about.

Crews have been asked to resume normal operation and are now filling the schedule as per the list that you will find at the OVMRC web page under VE3JW Operations. I am still available to fill in the vacant spots and if you are interested, please let me know and we will introduce you to our current equipment setup and operating procedure, obtain you a Museum Volunteer Pass, and accompany you along till you're willing to go it on your own.

Nothing is perfect and we still have a bit of a problem with the noise level created by the new exhibit when bus loads of enthusiastic youngsters funnel through the new maze of giant fibre optic cables. Arrangements are being worked out for a meeting with the Museum Staff in order to find a solution that would allow normal radio communications in a proper environment for the VE3JW station.

When you read this we would have taken part in the International Lighthouses and Lightships Special Event Weekend on the 16 and 17 August. This year, we will mount antennas at the Lighthouse, install a radio inside at the ground level, and operate during Museum opening hours. The Media will be informed and extra tours of visitors will be guided up to the upper level for a short lecture on lighthouses' mechanics and operation. On their way down we will invite visitors to chat with our contacts.

Interesting to note here that the Museum's lighthouse is officially recognized as a bona fide participant in this special event and all contacts with us are good towards obtaining one of the awards. The Canadian list of lighthouses includes us as Cape North, Ontario (originally from Cape North, Nova Scotia) and lists us as CAN#539. Also, the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS), the most complete list of lighthouses in the world, has us as CAN#865 M (for Museum).

Also this year, for a first time, we will be presenting VE3JW at the OARC Hamfest at Carp on Aug 30. We will display VE3JW with the help of large write-ups on boards, with photographs, and with a computer based presentation of our station, inviting the whole Amateur community to come and benefit from what is now known as our National Amateur Radio Station. The Museum recognizes the part played by Amateur Radio in service to the public and has provided us with passes to

allow access for licensed Amateurs coming to VE3JW to fill any one of the station's intended purposes: Training, Operation, Demonstration.

RAC has also recognized the contribution that VE3JW brings to Amateur Radio as we are more and more representative of RAC's objectives.

Recently, I heard Peter Gamble VE3BQP, our regional emergency preparedness coordinator, mention on 2m about the tremendous efforts contributed by Radio Amateurs in times of distress, and he was encouraging everyone to continue training.

Knowing the situation in BC with the forest fires, I checked the APRS network on the Web and looked up the Kamloops area. APRS stations are set up in a network sending periodic Alert messages to Control stations. There was one station about 140 kilometres North East of Kamloops reporting that the group had no electricity and was operating on batteries. The report said the group might be able to hold one more day. This, I think, is what Peter was talking about.

At VE3JW we have all the tools to allow you to develop or to keep up your skills. Pay us a visit, we would be glad to see you.

Maurice-André Vigneault
Amateur Radio Exhibit Group
ve3vig@rac.ca





Field Day 2003

Field Day 2003 is now complete. Overall it seems to have been a success. The weather cooperated. Lots of good food and fun was had by all.

Field Day was held behind the "Les Deschatelets", a residence and archives of St. Paul's University, on a section of their "backyard" along the Rideau River. It had a few trees away from the river - great for the antennas and shade - and is a big playground for many dogs. This was not a problem as we set up in only a small part of the dogs' playground. The dog owners were not sure what to make of us and our "elaborate" setup.

We set up two HF stations, one vhf station, and one satellite station Saturday morning. The "antenna-raising" process was comical to watch - we must have forgotten what we learned in "Slingshot 101".

Janice, VA3PAX, prepared an excellent lunch spread. Everyone dove in and created their own sandwich(es). Richard, VE3UNW, had the honour of being served by "Martha Stewart", thanks to the magic of digital hocus-pocus by John, VA3AA. He just happened to live behind where we operating from.

Kauto Huopio, OH2LFM, visiting from Finland joined us for setup and the first few hours of operating. Before Kauto left, he worked stations on 6/2 metres and HF. He also contacted a friend in Finland (via cell phone) to organize a "sked" on AO-40. With some text messaging and talking on the phone a "sked" was set up between his "Finnish" friend and Clare, VE3NPC.

Numerous persons stopped by Saturday, including a number of local hams, their spouses and friends, and some of the dog walkers. By mid to late afternoon it looked like Mother Nature was not going to cooperate. It rained - sort of - for about 5-10 minutes.

Dinner was about 7 pm. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and salad hit the spot. Janice arranged dinner and Rick, VE3IHI was the barbeque chef.

In a tent that had been set up in event of rain we set up a D7A running APRS on a small table --- "ode to va3drv - the APRS god", or as someone said "the VA3DRV Memorial APRS station".

A number of visitors showed up Sunday morning. Charles Caccia, a MP, was given a tour by Ian, VE3IGJ. Alistair Hensler from the Red Cross dropped by and Harold, VA3UNK provided him with a small tour of the site. Later in the morning, a cameraman from "the New RO" showed up. Greg, VE3YTY, and the camera man toured the site for about 45 minutes. (We did make the 6 and 11 news).

Shutdown was at 2pm. Anything that could be dismantled before hand was. We just cleared the site when the "weather gods" let loose. It was a slow drive home in the downpour.

For the score keepers:

CW - 369 contacts, SSB - 467 contacts
Claimed Score - 2410, Bonus Points - 1100, Total Points - 3510

This is down from previous years.

Field Day works because of all the volunteers who help before, during, and after.

Thanks for your support.

The Field Day Volunteers are:

Janice - VA3PAX, Greg - VE3YTY, Richard - VE3UNW, Rick - VE3IHI, George - VE3BNO, Clayton - VE3CBJ, Dean - VA3CDD, John -VA3JBS, Clare - VE3NPC,- Dave - VE3AV, Liz - VA3ELB, Tom - VA3WTJ, Al - VE3ZTU, Al - VE3ANO, Kauto - OH2LFM, Bob - VA3RCS, Ian - VE3IGJ, John - VA3GE/VE3DYJ, Greg - VE3CFG, Pat - VA3TC, John - VE3CXL, John - VE3TG, Mike - VE3FFK, Gordy - VE3DY, Peter - VE3BQP, Harrie - VE3HYS, Ben - VE3CDA, Paul - VE3ICV

Harold Hamilton, VA3UNK



The gangs all here!





RAC Bulletin 03-017E -

WRC-2003 Drops Morse Requirement



The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-2003) held in Geneva, Switzerland, 9 June to 4 July, 2003, has dropped the Morse code examination requirement for radio amateurs. In the face of pressure by some administrations to retain Morse testing, the conference decided to keep Morse as a recommended amateur qualification, but that it would be up to individual administrations whether or not they retain a Morse examination requirement. The dropping of Morse testing was one of a number of changes to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations that will take effect on Saturday, 5 July.

This change does not mean that Industry Canada will automatically or immediately drop Morse testing. Industry Canada will likely want to determine the wishes of Canadian radio amateurs and will have to determine what Canadian regulatory changes, if any, first will be necessary. Radio Amateurs of Canada has already commenced discussions with Industry Canada on the future of Morse testing in the meetings of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB).

RAC Vice-president Regulatory Affairs, Jim Dean, VE3IQ, the amateur radio member on the Canadian delegation, participated in the review of the radio regulations pertaining to the Amateur Service.

RAC Bulletin 03-012E - Two way transatlantic QSO from Newfoundland



The Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (MRCN) takes pride in announcing a historic achievement: the first two way transatlantic LF QSO from Newfoundland. The event marked the culmination of five months of intensive research and experimentation within MRCN and the collaboration of radio amateurs in the US and UK and of course, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). "We are gratified by the success of our experiments, and especially by the cooperation in the traditional amateur spirit that made it possible," said Joe VO1NA, who headed the project with MRCN and completed the contact with Jim Moritz M0BMU. In Newfoundland, a 125 watt transmitter assembled from junk box parts was used to send slow speed Morse on 137.777 kHz while over 3700 km away near London, a 1200 watt Decca amplifier transmitted on 135.922 kHz. Loop aeriels two metres in diameter were used to receive the signals and communications were maintained between the two stations from about 0050- 0330 UTC on 12 June. This date was chosen based on the predictions of Alan Melia G3NYK, an LF propagation expert, who first copied the Newfoundland station on 2200 metres a fortnight earlier. Larry Kayser VA3LK who completed a transatlantic QSO just over two years earlier was also acknowledged. The MRCN resumes experimentation on 60 metres next weekend in Phase 3 of their propagation experiment. Both experiments were proposed in cooperation with Radio Amateurs of Canada and the approval of Industry Canada with a view to assisting RAC to secure additional Amateur allocations in the RF spectrum and promoting interest in 2200 metres. Additional information may be found on the MRCN web site by searching for VO1MRC with your favorite search engine.

Ontario Trillium Fund approves the grant application from the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club for a portable presentation booth...

The Ontario Trillium Foundation recently approved a grant application from the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC) for the procurement of a portable presentation booth. The booth consists of a table top display, projector, laptop computer, small public address system, and more. This booth will allow the OARC to visit shopping centers, schools, churches, and other venues and make a multimedia presentation on how amateur radio can be used for emergency response, personal enjoyment, community service, etc.

The executive of the OARC will be presenting the booth at the first general meeting, scheduled for September 10th, starting at 7:30. This will be a great opportunity to become part of the public awareness team of the OARC and spread the word about our passionate pastime. Please contact Ben Price VE3CDA if you know of venues that would enjoy a presentation, or if you would like to participate in one or more presentations.

RAC Bulletin 03-019E -



Tom Caithness VE1GTC, stepped down as Section Manager for the Maritimes Hugh Clark, VE9HC kindly offered to complete his term.

Hugh's information are as follows:

Hugh Clark, VE9HC
306 Main St.,
Hartland, NB
E7P 2M8
Phone: (506) 375-6906
E-mail: ve9hc@nbnet.nb.ca

RAC Bulletin 03-015E - WRC-2003 Revises Call Sign Formation



At World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 held in Geneva, Switzerland, 9 June to 4 July, 2003, two principal revisions were made to the ITU Radio Regulations concerning the formation of call signs in the Amateur Services.

The prohibition against prefixes of amateur station call signs commencing with a digit when the second character is the letter O or the letter I, has been removed. This has little direct impact for Canadian amateurs but will provide additional prefix options and greater flexibility for administrations assigned prefixes beginning with a digit followed by a letter. Thus 7O7 is now a legitimate amateur radio prefix.

RAC Bulletin 021E -



Fred Orsetti, VE7IO was recently re-elected British Columbia Section Manager Fred will be section manager for a two-year term that will begin on November 1, 2003. Fred ran unopposed, eliminating the need for a balloted election.



RAC Bulletin 03-020E - News Section Back on RAC Website Along with National Morse Code Survey

After a period when no volunteer was available to write the material, we are delighted to have a website news section again, with lots of current amateur radio news. A News button will be added to the home page. Meanwhile you will find it at <http://www.rac.ca/news>

With the WRC-03 activities behind him; Ken Pulfer VE3PU feels he can contribute to this important function. In addition to the national and international news items there is extensive commentary on WRC-03, and where we go from here under the Canadian News link. There is a National On-Line Morse Survey to record your vote on the important issue of Morse examinations.

You can register your vote at <http://www.rac.ca/news/msurvey.htm>. Please read his well-considered overview on the Morse issues before you cast your vote. He includes the potential impact of our decision on reciprocal operating privileges for Canadians operating in the USA and abroad and for foreign visitors to Canada. The results of the survey will be considered by the RAC Board of Directors in arriving at a recommendation for Industry Canada, who must make the final decision for Canada.

Do you have a project idea? Lets hear it. Each year the OARC has \$2400 available for projects. Lets use it to promote experimentation in the world of Amateur Radio communications. Contact any executive member with your proposal.

We have a vacant position on the OARC executive. We need a Vice-President. The only duties are to arrange for speakers for our meeting. Please!

Have you ever thought about conducting a course in Amateur Radio? Have several of you discussed getting together to teach theory, regulations and code? Well, do it. Any member of the club can individually or in concert with other Amateurs, can conduct a course in Amateur Radio leading to acquiring an Amateur license.

W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z Oct 18
Asia-Pacific Sprint CW	0000Z Oct 19
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest CW	0700Z Oct 19
Illinois QSO Party	1800Z Oct 19
CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB	0000Z Oct 25
Int. Fall Contest CW	0001Z Oct 25

Thanks Derek.

Contest Calendar (Courtesy Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club)

September

MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	2300Z Sep 1
All Asian DX Contest SSB	0000Z Sep 6
Quick PSK63 Contest	0000Z Sep 6
IARU Region 1 Field Day SSB	1300Z Sep 6
North American Sprint CW	0000Z Sep 7
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z Sep 7
YLRL Howdy Days	1400Z Sep 10
WAE DX Contest SSB	0000Z Sep 13
Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z Sep 13 And 1400Z Sep 14
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	1800Z Sep 13
North American Sprint SSB	0000Z Sep 14
FISTS Coast to Coast Contest	0000Z Sep 14
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z Sep 14
QRP ARCI End of Summer PSK31 Sprint	2000Z Sep 14
AGB NEMIGA Contest	2100Z Sep 19
ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest	0600 L Sep 20 And 0600L Sep 21
SARL VHF/UHF Contest	1000Z Sep 20
Scandinavian Activity Contest CW	1200Z Sep 20
Collegiate QSO Party	1200Z Sep 20
South Carolina QSO Party	1300Z Sep 20
QRP Afield	1500Z Sep 20
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z Sep 20 And 1600Z Sep 21
Panama Anniversary Contest	1200Z Sep 21
Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint	0000Z Sep 22
CQ/RJ Worldwide DX Contest RTTY	0000Z Sep 27
Scandinavian Activity Contest SSB	1200Z Sep 27
Texas QSO Party	1400Z Sep 27 And 1400Z Sep 28
Alabama QSO Party	1800Z Sep 27

October

SARL 80-Meter QSO Party	1700Z Oct 2
TARA PSK31 Rumble	0000Z Oct 4
Oceania DX Contest Phone	0800Z Oct 4
EU Autumn Sprint SSB	1500Z Oct 4
California QSO Party	1600Z Oct 4
QCWA QSO Party	1800Z Oct 4
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest SSB	0700Z Oct 5
YLRL Anniversary Party CW	1400Z Oct 8
10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z Oct 10
Oceania DX Contest CW	0800Z Oct 11
EU Autumn Sprint CW	1500Z Oct 11
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z Oct 11 And 1300Z Oct 12
FISTS Fall Sprint	1700Z Oct 11
Iberoamericano Contest	2000Z Oct 11
North American Sprint RTTY	0000Z Oct 12
YLRL Anniversary Party SSB	1400Z Oct 15
JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z Oct 18
ARCI Fall QSO Party	1200Z Oct 18
Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z Oct 18



Internet Radio Linking Project

It doesn't seem to matter what we do. Someone is always going to do "his/her own thing" on the IRLP. I was listening to the "Name That Tune Show" which started fairly late in the evening. Someone was trying every known code to try to bring up the IRLP. I never heard a call sign and the perpetrator never did get a node to come up, but not for want of trying. I finally shut the node down for the night and a little later on George shut off the repeater.

Won't they ever learn?

We are preparing to move QTH's soon and as a result we had to take down the IRLP antenna and re-mount it on a lower antenna pole. It didn't seem to diminish the signal any, but I haven't been listening much anyway. George, VE3BNO, and Russ Lowe, VE3LOW, performed the operation successfully despite not getting exactly what they needed from my toolbox. Drill bits made for wood don't work too well on metal. Bits with flat noses, either the wood or the metal type, don't work either.

The cable Internet was down this past week. It has become less than reliable lately and will probably not get much better.

Later. **VE3EV**

From DC to Green Light

Minor Musings

Cary Honeywell VE3EV

Sorry to disappoint anyone who expected a dissertation of the CARF-CRRL debacle of the eighties. That will have to come next month. It will probably take more space than I have this issue and it probably won't be as earthshaking and controversial as you might think.

Having two dis-similar eyes can be a bit annoying to those afflicted with this condition. Add to that a small dose of stupidity and the results can be quite amusing if you feel like laughing at it. I had laser eye surgery a few years back with the hope that I could ditch the spectacles and live a life as a free man. Not to be. The passage of time has left both eyes with the inability to focus in when reading. Something to do with being over forty I'm told. Well, I passed that landmark more than a few years ago but I guess the Optometrist was able to make a compromise for me. Nonetheless when I was finally able to see clearly enough after the surgery I still had trouble. I could read road signs with my right eye that I couldn't even see with my left. When looking at myself in a mirror, I saw a ghost image behind the main image. I thought it was the mirror. It wasn't. When I closed my left eye, my image was slim and tall. Closing my right eye left me looking at a shorter stouter being. I knew there was a problem but didn't have any idea what the problem was. I did hope that I looked like

the guy I saw with my right eye. Nope. I have regrettably put on a few pounds. Another result of the passage of time. Dreamboat's cargo usually shifts aft over time.

Now, the reason I am telling you all this is to explain a few odd incidents that have happened to me during the past few weeks. Actually they happened at the OARC Hamfest on August 30th. Wandering around the hall I began to notice that most people had name-tags stuck on their shirts. Of course this would make it easier for all of us to know who it is we are talking to. Over the course of the morning I began to notice that one specific Ham seems to change clothes a little more frequently than anyone else. This guy had the call VE3DOR. In the back of my mind I thought I had known this Amateur some time in the past but.... As time went on I began to think that this guy was trying to pull the wool over someone's eyes because it almost seemed as if his hair colour changed. Also, he seemed to wear glasses one minute and none the next. Very odd. I knew there was something up when the next time I say VE3DOR, he, or was it a she, was in a skirt and had long hair. I was about to say something to Greg, VE3YTZ, when I finally focused in on the lady and discovered my error. The nametag said **VENDOR!**

Oops.

Towards the end of the Hamfest I was sitting at the OARC booth chewing the fat with a few compatriots when I happened to glance over to my left. Brian, VE3ZRK, and his buddies had just finished taking apart their booth and past them was another vendor taking down his booth. He must have been demonstrating a satellite setup because he was disassembling a rather large antenna array which had crossed elements and multiple arrays. At least four, maybe six bays of mult-element beams connected in a rather odd configuration. I marveled at the technology and wondered how the thing was fed. I felt really foolish when I finally realized that this technical feat was actually the support hardware for the display booth used by the VE3JW exhibit.

I succumbed to the inevitable when I finally got my first bifocals. The optometrist had fits trying to manufacture a set that would work for me. I had gone to an optics expert and he had given me the specs for the specs which I dutifully presented to the guy at the counter. He looked at me as if I had developed a bad case of bad breath. He said he would try. And try he did. Several times. Finally he got a set that would be a good compromise to fix the situation. If he could aim the vision in my right eye slightly downward, then aim the vision in my left eye slightly upward then at least everyone's head would line up. That worked for a while but when I took this contraption to the optics guy, he had a bird. What he wanted me to have was a set of glasses that would focus in at one exact point in front of me which would be the centre of the scene. Not the top or the bottom. This way my brain, such as it is, would eventually compensate for the error and I would see normally. Interesting thing the brain. It takes two different views of the same object and combines them so you see only one of them. Smart. Mind you, if I close the left eye then I see tall and skinny. If I close my right I still see short and squat.

Several pictures for this year's Field Day were submitted. Actually there were three. The third one was the one I decided not to publish. It showed Rick, VE3IHI, at the barbeque preparing to load up on a very good meal. I looked at the picture with my left eye, then my right eye and quickly decided not to print it. Sorry Rick.

Cary VE3EV

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