



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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

CLUB EXECUTIVE

President

Diane Bruce VA3DB
(H) 225-9920
db@heceta.db.net

A/Past President

George Roach VE3BNO
(H) 234-0885
ve3bno@rac.ca

Vice-President

Dave Green VE3TLY
(H) 728-8606
ve3tly@rac.ca

Secretary

Ian Jeffrey VE3IGJ
(H) 837-7393
ve3igi@rac.ca

Treasurer

Janice Neelands VA3PAX
(H) 236-9291
va3pax@rac.ca

Director

Bryan Campbell VE3ZRK
(H) 737-3933
ve3zrk@rogers.com

Director Membership

Ernie Brown VA3OEB
(613) 225-7798
va3oeb@rac.ca

Director

Wayne Getchell VE3CZO
(H) 225-7989
getchell@magma.ca

Director

Cary Honeywell VE3EV
(H) 590-9873
ve3ev@rac.ca

Director Technical

Harrie Jones, VE3HYS
(H) 739-9365
hjones@chumottawa.com

Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

Jan 2005

You will have noticed that this edition of the Groundwave has arrived earlier than usual. We are trying to shift the publication date to the left so that announcements at the general meeting are available in a more timely manner for those who missed the meeting. For example, see the announcement of the Christmas Net on page 6 from Sydney.

The RAC Winter Contest was held on Dec. 18 and club members manned the VA3RAC, Ontario station. Thanks to everyone who participated: Dave Green (VE3TLY), Carry Honeywell (VE3EV), Bob Knapp (VE3CDG), Greg Danylchenko (VE3Y TZ), Janice Neelands (VA3PAX), Liz Johnson (VA3ELB), Tom Johnson (VA3WTJ), Mike Kelly (VE3FFK), Doug Leach (VE3XK), George Roach (VE3BNO), and Rick Van Gastel (VE3HVA).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ian Jeffrey



JANUARY MEETING 7:30, Jan. 12th in the Honeywell room at Ottawa City Hall

In This Issue....

Club Information	2	IRLP	5
Meeting Minutes	3	Equipment Manuals	5
From the President	3	Not Your Grandfather's Hobby	6
MK's Words	4	Christmas Day Net	6
		RAC	6

Membership Chair
Ernie Brown VA3OEB
(H) 225-7798
va3oeb@rac.ca

Groundwave Editor
Ian Jeffrey VE3IGJ
(H) 837-7393
ve3igi@rac.ca

Delegated Examiner
Mike Kelly VE3FFK
ve3ffk@rac.ca

Coffee Guy
Bryan Campbell VE3ZRK
(H) 737-3933
ve3zrk@rogers.com

Historical
George Roach VE3BNO
(H) 234-0885
(Fax) 567-2372
ve3bno@rac.ca

Webmaster
Diane Bruce VA3DB
(H) 225-9920
db@heceta.db.net

IRLP Manager
Cary Honeywell, VE3EV
(H) 590-9873
ve3ev@rac.ca



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

Jan 2005

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 "ve3igi@rac.ca". Deadline for submissions occurs one week after the 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 Ed Seib, VA3ES. This feature appears on the Capital City FM Net. To list items and make inquiries, call Ed at 613 738 8924 or e-mail him at va3es@rac.ca. 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 Ottawa Valley VHF/UHF 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**, (listening on 50.150, 432.150, 222.150 and 1296.100 as well.) Horizontal polarization is encouraged although vertical will work

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.

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.



From the President

Minutes of the December Meeting

December 8, 2004 19:30

The meeting was called to order by the president, Diane Bruce (VA3DB). There were 26 present.

Doug Leach (VE3XK), who is retiring as RAC Ontario North director after ten years was thanked for his excellent work by the membership. The new director Ben Price (VE3CDA) takes over January 1.

The evening's speaker was Peter Devanney (VA3YOW) from the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA). Peter explained the purpose, membership, and organization of the volunteer association and explained how radio amateurs are contributing to the efficiency of the air and ground search operations. He also explained how the Search and Rescue (SAR) operations work and in particular the function of Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELT) and Personal locator Beacons (PLB). He also described many techniques used in air and ground searches for ELTs. He invited amateurs to get involved by listing several problems which amateurs could work on to help CASARA: improving the RF networks in eastern Ontario, improved repeater coverage south of Ottawa, improved base stations for VHF/UHF relaying, and audio interface switchers.

It was moved by Croft Taylor (VE3CT) and seconded by Ernie Brown (VA3OEB) that the minutes of the November general meeting be approved. The motion was carried.

There was one application for the Joe Norton award. It was forwarded to the Joe Norton committee for examination.

The idea of setting up a portable RAC Canada Day contest station at an official Canada Day site was discussed. Issues mentioned were bilingualism, location, equipment, cost, etc. The chair stated that someone should put forth a proposal for further discussion.

The 50-50 draw of \$15.00 was won by Ernie Brown (VA3OEB).

It was moved by Peter Hafichuk (VE3LBW), seconded by Ben Price (VE3CDA), and approved that the meeting be adjourned. The next general meeting will be held on January 12. The meeting was adjourned at 21:40.

Seasons greetings to all. If you have been coming to meetings lately, you'll note the format has changed somewhat. I personally have always believed the club meetings should be fun. Let's get an interesting talk in and then have face to face talks. Further to this effort, we are thinking of simply dispensing with the break and just having an after meeting coffee and refreshments session. Spread the word, I don't know how to play the steel guitar like Ben, but I can sure play a mean table.

Moves are being made behind the scenes to do some public awareness of Amateur Radio. Ben Price, VE3CDA, is continuing to do his much appreciated shopping mall publicity efforts. Some efforts are also being made to do some Amateur Radio PR elsewhere. The 2004 Field Day was a perfect place to distribute flyers introducing the general public to amateur radio.

We, the executive, have started some informal talks with the executive of the OVMRC to begin some co-operative efforts to further raise the profile of Amateur Radio by running a demonstration station during Canada Day.

We need to follow through with these efforts. To this end, we are looking for amateurs willing to "Elmer" newcomers. This can be as little as having a simple station you are willing to show off to an interested non-amateur, to volunteering to teach a course, or being available to help folks studying for the "ticket" with questions they may have.

As always, we would love to hear from the membership. We'd love to hear what we are doing right and what we are doing wrong. Suggestions are always welcome.

Above all, let's just all have fun doing what we like to do with ham radio.

73, Diane Bruce, VA3DB

OARC President



Mk's Words

It's a busy time. I'll jump right in.

Organizers of the Tall Pines Rally said that as far as the radio side of the rally went, it was the best ever. Given that the thing has been run since 1970, that is going some. Of course, the hams on the event still see room for improvement. I hear it is going to be on TV over the next few months, so keep an eye out for it. None of us get to see the whole event, although I like to think that at my spot in headquarters, I get the best view of the rally on the radio.

The ARRL 160m CW Contest is one of the fixtures in my calendar that makes winter tolerable. I managed to miss putting it onto said calendar this year and had to juggle things around to make it fit, but it was worth it. This year we broke in a new member to the team. Until we figured it out, it was a scary sight. A seasoned CW op new to the group sits down in front of the rig and takes the paddles in hand with confidence. Wait a minute. He's sounding like a two year old on the paddles. Who is this guy, and what did he do to the guy we invited to join us? Puzzled looks all along the table soon give way to alarm. The medical folks call it gibberish aphasia. After sorting out a little mix-up between iambic A and iambic B, things worked out extremely smoothly to everyone's relief. All went comparatively well after that until, at 04:00 (Local, not Zulu) on Sunday morning, we QSY and find we can't load the antenna. After a few minutes of trying, one of us (the only one with two working brain cells at that point in the 'test) suggests that maybe we should venture out and take a peek at the ol' skywire. We take a look and wonder how many of our recent contacts have been made with our half-and-half dipole (half there and half not there). Somehow it doesn't seem strange to any of us that we could round up a crew of four to be outside in the middle of the night in freezing WX to do antenna work. Meanwhile, the guy with the brain cells is hollering at us from (inside) the door, saying "Hurry up. The only VE4 in the entire contest is calling CQ and not getting any answers. It's our chance for another scarce multiplier." Another year, another probable VE2 record for the VE2OJ team. Ya can't beat it.

I spent another two days at Grandville, which is the Federal Emergency Preparedness College small town equivalent of their big city, Colledgeville. On day one, the exercise was a simulation of an ice storm, modeled loosely on January 1998 around here. The weather outside was a fair copy of the simulation script. Fortunately, there were no train wrecks in

Ottawa as there were on the following day in Grandville, so the simulation remained just a simulation. It's just as well, since the folks in charge "evacuated" the entire town of 5,000 people. The EOC and its radio operators got relocated so smoothly that we didn't even know we had been moved until we saw it written in the master event log. We can only hope that real life goes as smoothly.

The continuing saga of licensing changes.. A while ago, I said my best guess for rule changes would be in April '05. Folks who know about these things say I'm not likely to win the pool with that bet any more. Stay tuned.

The RAC Canada Winter Contest is coming up Dec 18, rather early this year. By the time you get this it will be all over but the stories. I'll be holding down 15m CW this time. The ARRL 10m contest is this weekend (Dec 11). Maybe I'll see if I can make a contact or two, just to blow the dust off the rig. More realistically, to blow the ice off the antenna.

Santa dropped off a copy of the QST CD set from 1918 to 1999 just a bit early this year, so I have no shortage of interesting stuff to read. Now if I just had a nice fireplace and comfortable rocking chair to go with all those magazines, I could park my laptop on my lap and read straight through until spring.

You should be thinking of the Ski Marathon now. There's always another spot where we could use you. Speaking of Ski Marathon, I understand that Richard, VE3UNW is doing a Basic course for some of the safety and other CSM people, with a few hangers on. Many of them have received their tickets already. Congratulations to all. I will be doing some sessions for them in early January on Nets, Net Controlling, and Repeaters. See 'UNW for time and place details if you want to brush up.

73, Keep warm, and think antennas. Antenna season is getting REALLY close now.

-mk



IRLP

Well, it has been a while. Node 2040 is finally back in operation, albeit from a temporary location.

First, I replaced the operating system. We upgraded from Red Hat 7.0 to Red Hat Fedora. This is the latest IRLP software so we should be good for a few years before we have to upgrade again.

The original 411.wav file which gives the node info when you dial 411, was recorded at 16 bits. When played it comes back as 8 bit audio so the announcement sounds like it is coming from the Jolly Green Giant. I re-recorded it at 8 bit and now it seems to be ok.

Then, I replaced the sound card. We had been using an obscure "SoundBlaster Vibra 16" card which had some issues. In fact, the way it was set up, the IRLP wasn't able to blank out the touch tones when a local user signed out of a remote node. Many node owners asked me why our tones were getting through. Simply put, the hardware didn't fully work. The new (well, almost new) card is a "SoundBlaster AWE64" around which the IRLP is built. With a bit of configuring, I have it connected directly to the output of the audio section of the radio and, through a preamp, to the mic input. Levels are now set in software. This also simplifies the box since there are fewer wires to trace. (You are welcome Bryan.) Next, I replaced a duff floppy drive, installed a new hard drive, and created an image file of the entire system so it can be restored should some disaster befall the computer. Peace of mind time.

All this came as a result of us not being able to trace the touch tones through the receiver to the decoder. It turns out the sound was tapped from the main audio input to the audio mixer. I just connected it directly to the hot end of the volume control on the rig and now it works. It didn't help that the DB-9 connector to the decoder board is non-standard. That took some sleuthing to find.

One of the fans on the power supply went rigid on us so Bryan replaced it with a newer (?) fan. Looked nice, however it seemed to be generating enough noise to

poison the audio with a nice loud buzz. I disconnected it and the buzz went away. Now I have to find another one.

For the moment the setup is sitting in my living room. I am going to move it downstairs to the basement for the time being so I can continue to fine tune it. The node should be operational most of the time as I expect most of the work will be software.

We will be test driving the new UHF link setup in the new year. That will give me time to have a life, and give Bryan, VE3ZRK, more time to fiddle with the radios.

Happy Holidays to all.

Cary VE3EV

DC to Green Light will return for the February issue.

Equipment Manuals

According to an article in the OVMRC Newsletter by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, the club has over 40 lineal feet of equipment manuals. "Some manuals contain operating instructions, some contain service instructions, and some are a combination of both. Almost all are the manufacturer's originals, clean, unmarked, and the majority are in excellent condition. We do not make copies of the manuals but sell the original as is. The price of each manual is determined by the number of pages it contains."

The club has a list of manuals on their web site at <http://ovmrc.on.ca>. They are looking for manual donations as well as a new home for them and someone to look after them.

- From the RAMBLER, October 2004



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

Jan 2005

Christmas Day Net

Amateur Radio Is Not Your Grandfather's Hobby

Amateur Radio is not your grandfather's hobby with Morse code keys in a dusty dark basement and refrigerator size transmitters. Nowadays, Amateur Radio is an exciting dynamic hobby that brings both radio and computers together. Today's operator combines computers, satellite operation, and state of the art digital signal processing to communicate for fun and even in emergency conditions when cell phones do not work.

Imagine, being able to see exactly where stations are located simply through the tie in of computers and radio and GPS. The Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) is used today by civilian volunteers in Search and Rescue missions, the Civilian Air Search and Rescue (<http://www.casara.ca>) use APRS today, to help find downed aircraft using Amateur Radio. (<http://www.aprs.org>)

Amateurs communicate on a daily basis via Amateur Radio built communication satellites. Using simple equipment, anyone can talk via a satellite (<http://www.amsat.org>) Amateurs as young as 11 can do it, you can too! Amateurs also communicate with the crew of the International Space Station (ISS) (<http://www.rac.ca/ariss>) when their time permits.

During times of emergencies operators in this service are able to communicate when other communications systems fail. It takes time for the armed forces to mobilize and set up backup communication in an area struck by disaster, trained communicators are in your community already set up to supply badly needed outside communications. (<http://www.emrg.ca>)

Like everything else, the technology used by the modern Amateur Radio operator is nothing like you will see in the movies. Today's radios are amazingly small compared to the equipment used even 10 years ago. This is not your grandfather's hobby.

(Copyright 2004 Diane Bruce, VA3DB)

There will be a special Christmas Day Net on repeater VE3TWO and all radio amateurs are encouraged to join in. This net gives you an opportunity to tell everyone about the new amateur gear that Santa brought you. On the other hand, if you haven't been a good amateur this year, and Santa did not bring you a new rig, you are still welcome to join the net if you promise to be better behaved next year. You can also convey Christmas greetings to all your friends.

This is an opportunity as well to introduce any visitors you may have over Christmas in your home to amateur radio, in a fun and informal way.

The net starts at 0930 hours EST on the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC) 2-metre repeater VE3TWO, 147.30 receive, 147.90 transmit. It will be just about as informal as a net can get. I will be net controller, as I have been for more years than I can remember, but it must be over 20 years. See you then.

I would also like to thank the OVMRC for allowing again use of the club repeater for this net.

Ho ho ho!

Sydney, VE3GVI

P.S. For amateurs who are not sure, and are afraid to ask, Christmas Day is on December 25 this year!

RAC Announcements

Rose Scholtyssek, VE3RIS was recently re-elected Section Manager in the Ontario Section for a two-year term that will begin on March 1, 2005. Rose ran unopposed, eliminating the need for a balloted election.



KENWOOD

TS-480HX/TS-480SAT

HF/50MHz All-Mode Transceiver

KENWOOD
NETWORK COMMAND SYSTEM
with Voice over Internet Protocol capability

TS-480SAT \$1,999.00 + tax.

TS-480HX \$2,199.00 + tax.



Bytown Marine Limited
5 Corvus Court
Ottawa, K2E 7Z4

Tel: (613) 723-8424
Fax: (613) 723-0212
gwalker@bml.ca