



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

Mar 2005

MarchWhat's Up

The executive has been looking into ways to improve the club repeater with a new repeater controller and is also looking into remote receivers to improve our coverage. A repeater upgrade subcommittee has been formed to look into upgrades-- there are quite a few brands and models to look through.

We (President and VP of the OARC) have had some informal talks with representatives from the OVMRC executive (their President and VP) along with an unofficial observer from the EMRG group, Mike Kelly (VE3FFK), with the aim of cooperating on public relations within the city. This could involve joint participation in Field Day events and better visibility at shopping centre exhibits.

Our capable treasurer, Janice, VA3PAX, has been busy looking for ways to adjust our GICs to strike a better balance between a good rate of return and a reasonable degree of liquidity. She has also been looking into ways of saving us money with our insurance coverage by taking advantage of the newly announced liability insurance plan made available to RAC affiliated clubs. Liability insurance is a major expense for us.

Meeting speakers are now booked into September to make things easier for the new executive after the summer.

All in all we are set up to have fun so I look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Diane Bruce (VA3DB)



MARCH MEETING 19:30, March 9th in the Honeywell room at Ottawa City Hall

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Groundwave

March 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 three days after the regular monthly meeting of the OARC.

Please support your local radio organisations. They support you!

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**, (roll calls after net on 50.150, 432.150, 222.150, and 1296.100). Horizontal polarization is preferred.

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club bulletin "Groundwave" is published and distributed to club members by email and 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 in July and August. 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

VE3TVA 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.



Dates to Remember

Minutes of the February Meeting

February 9, 2005 19:30

The meeting was called to order by the president, Diane Bruce (VA3DB). There were 37 present including three guests: Frank Kliiger (VA6ALF), Chris (a future ham), and a new ham, Werner Zarth (VE3WSZ).

It was moved by Clare Fowler (VE3NPC) and seconded by Croft Taylor (VE3CT) that the minutes of the January general meeting be approved. The motion was carried.

The evening's speaker was Peter Gamble (VE3BQP). His talk, "Preparing Amateur Radio for Emergency Communications" described how to turn amateur radio stations into emergency stations. This covered such things as, for example, how to connect an indoor radio station to an outdoor antenna on an emergency basis, how to enhance an amateur radio for continuous duty, emergency operation. He also spoke about several current EMRG projects including the digital connector standardization, and the five-year plan. Peter invited members to visit the Emergency Measures Radio Group (www.emrg.ca) at their meetings. The group presently has about 60 members of which 45 are currently active.

The 50-50 draw of \$36.00 was won by Ben Price (VE3CDA).

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00. The next general meeting will be held on March 9.

Subject: Industry Canada Response to RAC Recommendations on Morse Code and Related Matters.



Industry Canada has analyzed the responses to the public consultation called under Canada Gazette Notice DGRB-003-04. A summary of the comments received and the individual replies are now available on the Industry Canada web site at <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08280e.html>. Amateurs should note that

2005

February 12,13	Canadian Ski Marathon
April 13	Homebrew Night
June 8	OARC Annual General Meeting & Elections
June 25,26	Field Day
July 1	RAC Canada Day Contest
September 3	OARC Hamfest
September 30	Membership Renewal Deadline
November 9	Joe Norton Award Submission Deadline
December 17	RAC Winter Contest

while the responses heavily favoured deletion of the Morse Qualification as a requirement for access to the HF bands, Industry Canada still has to make and announce a decision on Morse retention or deletion. Until a decision to delete Morse is announced, amateurs who do not hold the Morse Qualification may not operate on the HF bands below 30 MHz.

The Amateur Radio Public Relations Representative

Amateur radio is not as well known as it once was, ever notice that? When you get blank looks from your friends, "Oh, amateur radio? Is that like CB or ham?", or "Oh, amateur radio? That's still going?", then you know we have a PR problem.

So what can we do about it? The press we get from disaster relief efforts helps, but there is a grassroots effort that each one of us can do. I have related to others, how I have walked into a computer club meeting and forgot I still had my call sign nametag on. I immediately was questioned and generated a lot of interest describing what amateur radio operators do today. Now, this won't necessarily bring in new amateurs, but at least this garners some respect from highly technical people. "You mean, you can do this with amateur radio and computers?" "I can talk through a satellite myself? Neat!". This is what I mean by Amateur PR. There are many ways each of us can do our own Amateur PR. How about "accidentally" wearing your nametag to one of your other clubs? How about carrying a few flyers outlining what exactly amateur radio is? Ever been asked what that antenna is on your car? Hand them a flyer and talk to them!. It only takes a few minutes and it's easy. You too can be an Amateur PR rep.

For further information see <http://www.rac.ca>, <http://www.oarc.net>.

Diane Bruce



Mk's Words

It's February 14, not only Valentine's day but the day after the Canadian Ski Marathon. For me it was 56 hours of fun and games. Now it's a day of unpacking, repacking and charging batteries, both internal and electrical. Then comes the distilling of logs and writing of the post event report. Since your Groundwave editor also participated, I am hoping the deadline for this column will be extended for a few hours while he catches up on his sleep. [*Absolutely. Ed*]

The marathon was one of the smoothest I can remember. In reading my notes from previous events I see that I often say this after the CSM. I guess that means we are still getting better at it. We had a good mix of veterans and rookies helping out this time around. Special congratulations to the rookies, some of whom really jumped into the deep end of the pool and came up shining. Thanks to all who helped out. I hope you know that the CSM knows the show can't happen without you. Thanks also to those who just refrained from trying to carry on casual contacts on the many frequencies the event occupies for the weekend.

In other news... What other news?

Well, not really. The EMRG meeting and exercise went extremely well. I can see the exercise being duplicated with everyone playing different roles next time. Besides being a fun time, everybody seems to learn something new with every running. The city seems to be recognizing the value of EMRG. As you heard at the last OARC meeting, they have decided to start funding the group. If you ever needed proof that hams are taken seriously by the emergency planners, that should do it. NOW is a good time to ensure YOU can live up to their expectations. (Sorry, slipped into sermon mode there for a bit.)

My new (to me) rig, the Yaesu FT5200 has now had its first test in field conditions. It came through with flying colours. The experience reinforced my decision to insist on a rig with a "real" microphone connector, and a one button reverse function. Now I have to learn how to do the fancy stuff like program separate transmit and receive frequencies. I also have to get used to the idea of

repairing the "flying lead" coax connector every two years or so, sigh. By the way, if your rig is one of those with the RF connector on a short piece of coax instead of a proper bulkhead connector like Marconi intended, take a look at it. I bet you find busted strands in the shield - lots of them. Between spraying RF around the inside of the car, and the bad things that can happen when you try to shove 50 watts through a few remaining strands of #30 gauge wire, it is worth taking a peek at that cable.

The tutorial sessions that were designed to bring people with new basic qualifications up to speed on some of the public service stuff have now expanded into other related areas. Sections on 12V dc and antennas for unusual situations have been added to the ones mentioned last month. Some of them are nearly complete (if only I can stop tinkering with them) and some are little more than outlines but I find them more interesting to work on than the stuff I should be doing when I'm sitting in front of the keyboard.

The CQ 160m CW contest is now a fast fading memory, but it looks like we set the bar a bit higher in the VE2 multi-op category again. This can't keep happening, but I've never heard as much DX on that band. The only improvement for next time is more and better antennas. Dreams of balloons holding wires are occurring more and more. Of course a few stations in VE8 / VY1 / VY0 / KL7 would be nice. There's always something more for VE2OJ to aim for. That's part of the fun.

The only thing coming up on my horizon is another stint at the Emergency Preparedness College (Collegeville) later this month. I found out at the last EMRG exercise that I'm still learning things at Collegeville that can be applied to real emergency operations. Just when you think you know something a new twist sets you straight. It really makes the whole thing worthwhile.

73... See you in March
mk VE3FFK



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March 2005

Canadian Ski Marathon 2005

Another 1000 or so pieces of traffic gone by and if we did everything right, they all went in the right direction.

It seems like only a couple of days ago we were setting up Net Control and Papineauville (oh right, it WAS only a couple of days ago) and now all is torn down. All that remains are the stories.

This year was particularly easy to organize due to the overwhelming response to the call to volunteer. I filled spots rapidly throughout January and was in the enviable position of reporting a full complement to Beaver ("Admin-2").

Everyone showed up when they were supposed to and dealt with adverse circumstances in the true amateur radio spirit. Repeater and coverage problems continue to try our skills and sometimes our patience. These circumstances only provide an opportunity to show off our unique skills, abilities and inventiveness.

I would especially like to thank all the new ham volunteers and the new hams from the last couple of years. I

apologize now if I didn't properly recognize every new ham or new volunteer.

A special mention goes out to the Canadian Ski Marathon 2005 Volunteer of the Year - Garth Champion, VE3EOF. Garth was a longtime ham and safety team member, who became a silent key December, 2004.

Richard Hagemeyer (VE3UNW), Radio-1

The following picture is from "VE3PUE" - "Real hams can work in crappy conditions."



Canadian Ski Marathon 2005 Volunteers

Stephen Switzer	VE3AVP*	Safety Skier	New ham and new volunteer
John Morgan	VA3RNL*	CP 02, 07	New ham and new volunteer
Anna Morgan	VA3BBZ*	CP 02, 07	New ham, 9 years
Peggy Robinson	VA3PGY*	Admin 2	New ham, 15 years
Rob Trudel	VA2RDT	Safety Skier	New ham, 2 nd year as ham
Jim Trach	VA3JMT*	Safety 1	New ham, 2 nd year as ham
Jane Trach	VA3JTA*	Safety Skier	New ham, 2 nd year as ham
Gil Meerakker	VE3GJM*	Safety 2	New ham, 2 nd year as ham
Ken Trudel	VA3BKT*	Safety 3	New ham, 2 nd year as ham
Clarence Barnes	VA2SLB	Safety Skier	New ham, 2 nd year as ham
Mike Joyce	VE3LTN	CP 05	New volunteer
Éric Paquin	VA2EP	Papineauville, Banquet	New volunteer
Daniel Schaller	VA2SCH	Banquet, CP 01	New volunteer
P. Max Davies	VA2PMD	CP 06d	New volunteer
Craig Hamm	VA3KRT	CP 07, Gold Camp	New volunteer
John Orritt	VE3HLR	Safety Skier	New volunteer



François Daigneault	VE2AAY	Net Control	New volunteer, 2 nd year
Henry Jarzyna	VA3OV	Ops 6	New volunteer, 2 nd year
Normand Pitre	VA3NHK	Banquet, CP 06a	New volunteer, 2 nd year
Peter Whitworth	VE3RVR	CP 11, Safety Repeater	New volunteer, 2 nd year
Duncan Breese	VE3BDC	Safety 2	
Erik Christensen	VE3KIH	Safety 3	20+ years
Kris Constable	VE3URL	Banquet, Gold Camp	3 years
Raymond Faguy	VE2SJA	CP 04	3 years
Rick Furniss	VE3IHI	Net Control	14 years
Jeff Gagnon	VE2TBH	CP 04	10 years
Wayne Getchell	VE3CZO	Net Control	6 years
Richard Hagemeyer	VE3UNW	Safety 4	14 years
Harold Hamilton	VA3UNK	CP 02, CP 07	5 years
Dave Harris	VE3KMV	Admin 1	
Neil Herber	VE3PUE	Road Runner	15 years
Jim Humphrey	VE3TKV	CP 11, Safety Repeater	
Ian Jeffrey	VE3IGJ	CP 04, CP 08	3 years
Clayton Jenkins	VE3CBJ	Safety 1	10 years
Harrie Jones	VE3HYS	CP 03, CP 09	27 years
Tammy Jones	VE3XTJ	CP 03, CP 09	
James Keep	VE2KHC	CP 02, CP 06d	9 years
Mike Kelly	VE3FFK	Admin 2	18 years
Shon Kelly	VE3SKK	Repeater & Scanners	2 years
Ray Laviolette	VE2HMA	CP 01	7 years
Doug Leach	VE3XK	CP 05, CP 10	3 years
Alan Macphee	VE3ZTU	CP 06a, CP 10	5 years
Mike McKay	VE3UMC	Admin 3	5 years
Alan McKinley	VE3AU	CP 04, CP 08	2 years
Stéphane Quevillon	VE2STQ	Admin 2	17+ years
Bob Sharp	VA3RCS	Papineauville	6 years
Lynda Reed	VE3JRL	Safety Skier	
John Goatcher	VE3JKG	Safety Skier	
Souly Loizos	VE2FFS	Safety Skier	
Pete Stoop	VA3PJS	Safety Skier	
Bill Reed	VE3DW	Safety Skier	
Ann Odgers	VA3PAO	Safety CP Team	
Ted Slack	VE3UAH	Safety CP Team	20+ years

* Graduates of the 2003 or 2004 OARC basic course.

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