



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

January 2008

Due to a computer crash here this month, the Groundwave may be a little rough around the edges. Hopefully everything will be operational again by next month.

Remember the RAC Winter Contest December 29. See the details inside.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all OARC members, their families, and friends.

Don't forget Sydney's annual Christmas Net at 0930 EST Christmas Day on VE3TWO.

January's speaker is Marcus Leech, VE3MDL speaking on "An Introduction to Radio Astronomy". See you at the meeting.

Ian Jeffrey, VE3IGJ
Editor



**JANUARY MEETING 7:30 pm, Wednesday, January 9th
in the Honeywell Room at Ottawa City Hall**

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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 "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!

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 Honeywell 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 (except some holidays) 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 Monday evening at 19:30 hours on repeater **VE3TEL 147.030(-)**. 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 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 those of the author.

Voice (VHF) 146.94/146.34 100Hz CTCSS required
 (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 is 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.



November Minutes

The meeting started at 19:32. There were 23 in attendance with no guests. The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Dave Conn presented a short slide show on the Museum tour in November.

Al MacPhee reported that as of Dec 5 there were 63 paid club members.

Greg reminded members of the upcoming RAC Winter Contest in which the OARC will be operating with the RAC Ontario call sign, VA3RAC.

The club project is a go. A \$30 deposit for the PI-CAXE is required. *[It may still be possible to get in. Contact Mike Kelly, VE3FFK.]*

On Show and Tell Clare Fowler describes some of his experiments on the comparison of reflectors for 13-cm helical antennas. This work was previously published in the AMSAT Journal.

The highlight of the evening was the Trivia Quiz won by the team of Dave Harris, Al MacPhee, and Mike Kelly.

The 50/50 draw of \$17.50 was won by Greg Danylenko, VE3Ytz. The meeting was adjourned at 21:45.

Dates to Remember

2008

- Feb. 9,10 Canada Ski Marathon
- Apr. 9 Homebrew Night
- Jun. 11 OARC AGM and Elections
- Jun. 28,29 Field Day
- Jul. 1 RAC Canada Day Contest
- Aug. 30 Hamfest
- Sep. 30 Membership Renewal Deadline
- Nov. 3 Joe Norton Award Subm. Due
- Dec. 27 RAC Winter Contest

Christmas Net

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 is going to bring you; on the other hand, if you haven't been a good amateur this year, and Santa does 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 an informal way. It is also a good opportunity to introduce your own children and visiting children in your home to the fun side of amateur radio. Start them young on your hobby!

The net starts at 0930 hours EST on the OVMRC club 2 metre repeater VE3TWO, 147.30 receive, 147.90 transmit. It will be just about as informal as a net can get. See you then. I will be net controller, as I have been for more years than I can remember, but it is probably over 25 years. I would also like to thank the OVMRC for allowing again use of the club repeaters for this net.

73 and Ho Ho Ho!
Sydney, VE3GVI, 613-820-0093



mk' s Words

I'm writing this between trips outside in the aftermath of what the weather people say was a 37cm snow storm. That seems to be the minimum, in the places the wind scooped the snow out of. On my laneway where it finally came to rest there was much more, of course. The low NVIS dipole is now under snow in places. I seem to remember 2CV saying that they should work fine under dry snow. Let's hope so. How about you guys with verticals? Have you seen the feed point recently?

By way of ketchup, the Tall Pines car rally went off pretty well, although it required a lot of behind the scenes scrambling by the organizers. The radio end of things worked better than usual this year despite repeater problems that the Ski Marathon would be proud of. All of those "once a year ham" rally types have each had another year of practice, I guess. Weather was great, with cold and snow for the competitors to play in. Best of all, no volunteers wrecked their cars this year. Worst damage I heard of was the loss of a door mounted mirror. Things are looking up. Give it a try next year. They are always looking for more hams. I could use another operator at headquarters, too. I found myself keeping track of four frequencies with only two ears, and I don't have the processing power between those ears to keep up.

Speaking of needing another operator, we ALWAYS need more people at Collegeville. I know some of you have day jobs and can't come out to play, but with the demographics of amateur radio there must be a few more people who can make it. I can get you a copy of the newbies guide if you want more details. The next sessions are Jan 10-11, and Jan 23 24. I'll bug you about the rest of the year later.

We still have the Canada Winter Contest coming up to keep you from becoming bored between Christmas and New Years. My own plans are still up in the air, but I'm hoping to make it on the air from somewhere, with the VA3RAC call sign. It would be nice to hand out that multiplier to everyone who wants it. Being a

"rare" station means you don't need a fancy rig and big antenna farm to get lots of contacts. Give it a try. Give Y TZ a call, and good luck in the contest.

Speaking of good luck in the contest, how about that trivia night. Maybe it's just a poor memory at work, but I think it was the best one so far. Congrats and thanks to PAX/Y TZ/UNW for a great time. Now - who is going to take on the leadership of the next one? Give it a thought.

It's only December (winter isn't even officially HERE yet as I write this) and I'm already thinking about the Ski Marathon. With the snow down so far, I'm guessing it will be a pretty full field. Keep an eye out for the article coming up in TCA between now and then.

Swap Net

The National Capital Swap Net has a new web site. The new URL is <http://www.ncswapnet.ca>.

The site is up and running now. Sellers and buyers should repost their listings as this posting is now performed by the users, not the web site manager.

The old site will be shut down on January 1, 2008 and redirected to the new address.

Laws of the Natural Universe

Law of Coffee

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.



RAC Winter Contest

RAC Winter Contest - December 29, 2007.

Are you looking for a little diversion during the holiday season, something to draw you away from a table loaded with turkey, mashed potatoes and fattening desserts? Do you need a little time away from the in-laws - time spent doing something you love to do ?

If this sounds like you, then have you considered signing up to operate VA3RAC, the official Ontario RAC station from 0000UTC to 2359 UTC, December 29, 2007 (7pm Dec 28 to 6:59pm Dec 29, 2007)? The OARC will once again, this year, sponsor VA3RAC. Its great fun, a low pressure contest where everyone is your friend. No one is on your case to take out the garbage, or to tell you that you put on a few pounds since they saw you last.

The RAC Winter Contest Rules are found elsewhere in the Groundwave. Look them over, and you'll see that it's a simple straightforward contest. All bands (except WARC, 12, 17 & 30 metres) are used, as are phone and CW. It is preferable, but not mandatory, that you use the official RAC software (aka CANADAY Contest Software) to log your contacts and it is available for free download from:

http://www.qrp-canada.com/wp/?page_id=41

If you feel you need a little help getting into the contest scene, a tutorial is available from:

<http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/noscript.html>

As we cannot coordinate our contacts and in order to avoid Duplicates (i.e. Dupes) we call ACQ RAC Canada Winter Contest@ and this allows the other station to look after Dupes.

I=ll be co-ordinating operators, and bands, as there cannot be more than one operator per band at any given time. I=ll also consolidate the loggings into a single log for submission.

If you are interested in operating VA3RAC, send me an email with your preferred operating time(s), bands and mode to:

ve3ytz@rac.ca or call me at 613-236-9291

and I=ll help get you away from that second piece of fruit cake.

73

Greg Danylchenko/VE3Ytz

Brainteaser

This month's puzzle:

In the long division shown below each X is a digit between 0 and 9 (not necessarily the same digit, of course!). Determine the quotient X9X.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \underline{\text{X 9 X}} \\
 \text{X3} \mid \text{1 X 2 X 7} \\
 \underline{\text{1 X 1}} \\
 \text{X 1 X} \\
 \underline{\text{2 X X}} \\
 \text{1 1 7} \\
 \underline{\text{X X X}} \\
 \text{2}
 \end{array}$$

Send your answers to editor@oarc.net.

Last month's puzzle:

Nyrab, a ham, wants to get his repeater project finished in 30 days and immediately hires 15 hams to begin work. At the end of 24 days, the work is only half done. Assuming that everyone works at the same rate, how many additional people must he hire to finish the project on time?

Answer: Congratulations to Brice Wightman and a girl (whose name and email I lost when my computer crashed) who got the correct answer of 45.

2007 RAC CANADA WINTER CONTEST



In December each year, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sponsors the Canada Winter Contest. Amateurs all over the world are invited to participate.

Contest Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC December 29, 2007. Next year the contest will be held on December 27, 2008.

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested frequencies: CW – 25 kHz up from the band edge and for SSB – 1850, 3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

Exchange: Stations in Canada send RS(T) and province or territory. VEØ's and stations outside Canada send RS(T) and a serial number.

QSO's: Contacts with stations in Canada or VEØ's are worth 10 points. Contacts with stations outside Canada are worth 2 points. Contacts with RAC official stations are worth 20 points. RAC official stations are: VA2RAC, VA3RAC, VE1RAC, VE4RAC, VE5RAC, VE6RAC, VE7RAC, VE8RAC, VE9RAC, VO1RAC, VO2RAC, VY0RAC, VY1RAC and VY2RAC. You may work any station once on each of the two modes, on each of the eight contest bands.

It is prohibited to make CW contacts in the conventional phone sub-bands, phone contacts in the conventional CW sub-bands, or to make or solicit QSO's through a repeater during the contest period.

Multippliers: Thirteen in total, Canada's 10 provinces and three territories. Each multiplier may be counted once on each mode on each of the eight contest bands. The multipliers, with their postal abbreviations and prefixes are:

Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, VA1, CY9, CY0); Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2); Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3); Manitoba [MB] (VE4, VA4); Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5); Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6); British Columbia [BC] (VE7, VA7); Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8); New Brunswick [NB] (VE9); Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2); Nunavut [NU] (VY0); Yukon [YT] (VY1); and Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2). Certain special Canadian prefixes in use at the time of the contest may also apply; however there may be no more than 13 multipliers on each band/mode. Please use the multiplier abbreviations noted above.

Final Score: The total QSO points from all bands multiplied by the total number of multipliers from all bands.

Categories: The following 9 categories are eligible for a certificate or award. Plaques will be awarded to the top-scoring entrants in each category. Thanks to the following for their sponsorship:

- Single Operator All Bands High Power (>100 watts) – **Radioworld**
- Single Operator All Bands Low Power (max. 100 watts output) – **Contest Club Ontario**
- Single Operator QRP (max. 5 watt output) All Bands & Single Band ** – **QRP Canada**
- Single Operator All Bands CW only, any authorized power – **Maritime Contest Club**

- Single Operator All Bands PH only, any authorized power – **Saskatchewan Contest Club**
- Single Operator Single Band, any authorized power *** – **Elkel Products**
- Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power (>100 watts) * – **Alfa Radio**
- Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low Power (max. 100 watts output) * – **Tony Allsop VE3FTA Memorial by the Mississauga ARC**
- Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter, any authorized power – **Radioworld**

For the Canada Winter Contest a special trophy is awarded for the highest Single Operator (no power classification) Foreign ENTRANT – **Jorge Bozzo LU8DQ Memorial by Alan Goodacre, VE3HX.**

Notes:

Where the categories have a power class and the submitted log does not clearly identify the power class entered, then the log will be treated as if the highest power class for that category was entered. Where logs do not properly indicate the entry category, they will be classified into the highest category.

Single operators who receive assistance from a DX spotting system or Packet Cluster network during the contest must classify themselves as Multi-ops.

* In the Multi-Single category only one transmitter and one band are permitted during the same time period (defined as 10 minutes.) Exception: One, and only one, other band may be used during any 10-minute period, if and only if the station worked is a new multiplier. In other words the Multi-Single Transmitter class allows a second station to "hunt" and work multipliers only on a separate band.

* Multi-Multi category stations may operate on several bands simultaneously.

** Although there is only one QRP category, which qualifies for a certificate or award, it is intended that the published results would show All Bands or the Single Band of operation. To facilitate this break out of the listings, your entry should indicate the power class you used.

*** Although there is only one Single Operator Single Band category that qualifies for a certificate or award, it is intended that the published results would show High Power or Low Power. To facilitate this break out of the listings, your entry should indicate the power class you used.

Awards: Plaques will be awarded to the top-scoring entrants in each category, as noted above with the sponsor name in bold text. Special thanks to our sponsors for their ongoing support! Certificates will be awarded to the top-scoring entrant in each category in each province, territory; US call district, and DXCC country. To facilitate the proper allocation of certificates, all US stations should indicate their actual US call district if different than indicated by their call prefix. DX stations should indicate the actual country of operation if different than indicated by their call prefix.

Results: Will be published in *The Canadian Amateur* magazine published by the Radio Amateurs of Canada. The results will also be published on the RAC website at <www.rac.ca> in the contest section.

Entries: All entries (electronic or paper logs) must be postmarked or electronically submitted by January 31, 2008. Electronic entries will be confirmed by return email.

Send paper entries to:

Radio Amateurs of Canada
720 Belfast Road, Suite 217
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 0Z5

Paper mail entries must contain a summary sheet showing score calculation, a multiplier check sheet and logsheets.

Logsheets must show time, band, mode, call of station worked, exchanges sent and received and points claimed for each QSO. New multipliers must be clearly marked in the log.

Contest entry forms are also available on the RAC website at <www.rac.ca>.

Send email entries to <canadawinter@rac.ca>.

Any entry with 200 or more contacts should be submitted in digital form, either submitted by email or mailed in via 3.5" MS-DOS/Windows formatted diskette. The preferred format is RAC Cabrillo in plain ASCII/Text format. While the contest committee prefers Cabrillo formatted submissions, we will continue to accept electronic logs from older versions of contest software, but your file must be in ASCII/Text format. Given there are several free programs that support the RAC contests and generate an acceptable entry, we encourage you to seek out one of these programs. The RAC Cabrillo format is described and its detailed layout is shown on the RAC website at <www.rac.ca/downloads/raccabrillo1.pdf>.

Electronic logs should provide a summary sheet with the same information as shown for the paper log entries. The standard summary sheet provided by the typical logging program is generally acceptable, but you should confirm that it contains the same information as shown for paper log entries. A properly filled out Cabrillo header section will be sufficient for logs submitted in that format.

Please ensure that you completely fill out the header information in the Cabrillo file. Name your file with your Call Sign and the file extension .LOG (e.g., yourcall.LOG). If you email your log, please send the file(s) as attachments. Do *not* paste the log file into the text of your message. This is often impossible to extract correctly.

Large files may be zipped if necessary. If you need help with preparing or emailing your log, please contact Sam Ferris, VE5SF, at <ve5sf@rac.ca>.

For the previous year's contest results, visit the RAC website in the contesting sections. We will also be publishing a list of submitted logs and the categories entered on the RAC website after the cut-off date to assist in correcting any entry categorizations.

Please send email entries to <canadawinter@rac.ca>.