

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

# Groundwave

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Check out our Web Page: [www.oarc.net](http://www.oarc.net)

March 2008

This just in. Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW, was awarded Volunteer of the Year 2008 by the Canadian Ski Marathon for 10 years of organizing the amateur radio volunteers who take care of communications for the marathon. He was presented the award by Gaétan Pelletier at the volunteer banquet February 27. Congratulations to Richard. We understand that next year Harold Hamilton, VE3UNK will be taking over the organizational duties from Richard.



The Club would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members. Be sure to have an eyeball QSO with one of them at the next meeting.

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Marcel Lemay, VE3FNG

Graham Eatherley, VE3GJE

Scott Murphy, (working on his ticket)

Chris Nestor, VA3CSN

Arthur Smith, VA3BIT

Next project meeting is March 15, 09:00 at Algonquin College.

The April 9 meeting is Home Brew Night. See the article on page 7.

The speaker at the March meeting will be Bob MacKenzie, VA3RKM, with help from Michael Babineau, VE3WMB, and Maritin Gillen VA3SIE. The title of the presentation is "Kit-building Re-visited: The Elecraft Way."

See you at the meeting.

Ian Jeffrey, VE3IGJ

Editor



## MARCH MEETING 7:30 pm, Wednesday, March 12th in the Honeywell Room at Ottawa City Hall

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Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

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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, go to <http://www.ncswapnet.ca>. You may reach Ed at 613-738 8924 or e-mail him at va3es@rac.ca.

**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.



## February Minutes

The president called the meeting to order at 19:30. There were 29 in attendance including two guests: Arthur Smith, VA3BIT, and Jamie Cashin.

Janice Neelands showed some of her photos from the 2008 Canadian Ski Marathon. The CSM had about 37 radio operators and another 20 on the safety teams.

We also saw some photos from the Saturday, February 2 morning session of the club project. The group was assembling the PICAXE circuit boards.

The president reminded everyone that April meeting is homebrew show and tell. The main point of the evening is demonstration of what you have been up to over the last year. It doesn't have to be Nobel Prize quality material.

The May meeting will have a historical flavour as some of the original Packet Working Group will make a presentation.

Dave Scobie demonstrated his HiQ motorized screw-driver antenna which he claims is one of the better ones for mobile work especially on the low bands.

The evening's speaker was Peter Gamble, VE3BQP, who spoke on what it takes to make a reliable repeater for emergency work. In addition to emergency repeaters his ideas are also useful in order to increase the reliability of Ham club repeaters.

There was a reminder that the March meeting speaker will be Bob McKenzie, VA3RKM, who will be speaking on the subject of kit building.

The 50/50 draw of \$18.50 was won by Al MacPhee, VE3ZTU. 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

## RAC Bulletin

On Thursday, 6 February 2008, RAC President Dave Goodwin VO1AU/VE3AAQ appointed Jim Hay, VE2VE, of Pointe Claire, QC as Special Advisor, Technical and Administrative Services. Jim is now the RAC official responsible for RAC's information technology infrastructure. He has already tackled some significant problems and taken action to ensure much greater speed and reliability for the web site. Further improvements in RAC's informatics service will follow very shortly.



In that position, Jim succeeds John Iliffe, VA3JI of Newmarket ON, who devoted a great deal of effort to RAC's presence on the web over the last few years. The Board and Executive of RAC are very grateful to John for his dedication and effort.

## mk's Words

As predicted, it's been a busy month. So here's the story in point form - 160/CSM/HQ/80/PROJECT:

The CQ 160m contest was, once again, the best ever for our little contest group anyway. For those who don't do 160, it is different from the mainstream bands, in that it works best when the sun is at its quietest. That means in the depths of northern hemisphere winter, in the absolute trough of the 11 year sunspot cycle. So when the other kids are complaining about nobody on 20 metres, 160 is jumping. There is still something eerie about hearing a KH6 in Hawaii calling and saying to the other operators "we worked him hours ago", then still hearing him hours later.

The Canadian Ski Marathon has come and gone again without major incident. One would think we are, after all these years, starting to get it right. Once again thanks to those who helped out, to those who stay off the repeaters we used, and those who resisted the temptation to jump in to ask what all the traffic was about. Special thanks to those who stood ready to step in if some unforeseen problem caused us to need a replacement operator. Those folks tie up their weekend, but don't always get to go out and play with the rest of us.

I recently started to volunteer down at RAC HQ. It is always interesting to see how things work on the "inside". I'm replacing some of the snowbirds, stuffing envelopes, typing correspondence and such. So far so good. I managed to avoid paper cuts and kept my fingers out of the postage meter. It reminds me of my days working part time with Revenue Canada, but without the cheques. The big difference is that with VE3UNW in charge of the office you know it will be a lot more entertaining. This week will be week number two and I'm looking forward to it.

The 80m dipole is up in the trees. It is a lot easier to put up this time of year, especially this year because of ALL the snow. The branches are a lot closer to my boots now that I can stand on the snow bank. If I have to go up a tree, there is less chance of hurting myself on

the express route back to the planet if I have a cushion of white fluffy stuff to land into. So far I haven't had to test that theory, touch wood. There still isn't any RF into the antenna yet. I'm still thinking. If I attach one side of the dipole (the side that is in or around my house) to the loop I have around my roof, it will act as a big fat counterpoise. It might even work. I just have to remember to unplug the other end from the tuner - or do I? I'll keep you posted.

The other project around here is the OARC PROJECT (capital letters this time). The soldering is over and we are getting deeper into the learning part of the process. While I'd like to do a kind of audio spectrum analyzer/tuning aid with it, others are starting to think about what they want it to be when it grows up. One "ferinstance" is a Morse code talking clock. It's certainly something you won't be able to buy off the shelf. I would rather hear a clock like that than one of those things with chimes that go on almost forever. The talking clocks that speak the time on the hour are almost as annoying but somehow CW, as with the identifiers on repeaters seems to slip into the audio scene and into the head of the CW op without disturbing the (voice) conversation as it does so. Meanwhile as a starting point, I'm trying to get my kit to generate CTCSS tones for the crystal controlled '70s era 2m rigs that I have around. Once I get that to work I'll be more confident about tackling the trickier jobs. These are the sort of things I wanted my TRS 80 to do for me back in 1978, but it was never going to fit between the radio and the microphone. These toys will just be a fat place in the cable. I'm looking forward to seeing what else my fellow students/project builders will come up with.

For homework, we're supposed to get the thing to send our call sign in CW. It's coming along OK, but I still have to get used to the idea of structure in a program, and this thing has hundreds of different instructions, most of which are a mystery to me. It's a good thing I have two weeks to work on it. There should be some weather in that time that

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Badges Ready For Pickup

### Brainteaser

#### This month's puzzle:

4	2	8	5	3
3	3	9	1	8
1	5	5	2	3
2	2	4	0	4
3	2	6	5	?

What number should replace the question mark in the above grid? Send your answers to editor@oarc.net

19	11	15	20	21
13	6	5	4	17
23	7	1	3	14
16	9	8	2	12
25	24	18	10	22

#### Last month's puzzle:

In the diagram above, the numbers from 1 to 25 are to be arranged in the 5 x 5 grid so that each number, except 1 and 2, is the sum of two of its neighbours. (Numbers in the grid are neighbours if their cells touch along a side or at a corner. For example, the "1" has eight neighbours.) Some of the numbers have already been filled in. What number must replace the "?" when the grid is complete?

**Answer:** See completed square above.

The following name badges are ready for pickup at any upcoming meeting. A few of these date from last January's production run. Most have just been produced this January. See Al MacPhee, our membership director to collect your badge..

VA3PUR	Patricia
VA3RKM	Bob
VE3CT	Croft
VE3EV	Cary
VE3FN	Ray
VE3PJ	Peter
VE3ADM	Roy
VE3DFH	Deborah
VE3EDR	Brice
VE3EPB	Peter
VE3EUR	Pat
VE3GGQ	Edward
VE3GJE	Graham
VE3HEW	Bill
VE3HLB	Mike
VE3NSI	Brian
VE3TIC	Chris
WY4LMB	Leo

## Laws of the Natural Universe

### Law of the Alibi

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

### Law of the Bath

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

### Brown's Law

If the shoe fits, it's ugly.

### Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.



On 23 January 2008, Gilbert Restiaux, VE4GIL learned that the City of Winnipeg had dropped their objections to his tower. In 2002, Gil moved to a new neighbourhood. After checking with planning authorities in the city, he received their verbal agreement to erect a 48-foot tower and HF yagi in his back yard. Five years later, one of Gil's neighbours complained to municipal authorities because he "did not like" the appearance of Gil's tower. The neighbour lodged complaints by telephone twice a day every day for several months. The City of Winnipeg eventually laid two charges against Gil of violating Winnipeg's zoning by-law. Gil hired a lawyer, did a great deal of research, and enlisted the help of Tim Ellam, VE6SH of RAC's Antenna Structures Committee. Tim provided Gil and his lawyer with documentary references that were of assistance to Gil's lawyer in arguing that the city's attempts to regulate Gil's Amateur Radio antennas were beyond municipal jurisdiction. On 23 January, the day before Gil was scheduled to attend court on the matter of his tower, Kerri Tymchuk, a solicitor for the City of Winnipeg wrote to Gil's lawyer informing him that the city "will not be pursuing this prosecution." Although not clearly stated in Tymchuk's letter, Gil's lawyer suggested that the City of Winnipeg understands it does not have jurisdiction over Amateur Radio antennas.



The RAC Field Organization has named four persons who have agreed to fill newly-created departments in support of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the National Traffic System. As of February 1, 2008, the following volunteers assume their respective roles: Hew Lines, VA7HU, RAC National Traffic System Coordinator (NTSC); David Drinnan, VE9FK, RAC ARES National Training Coordinator (NTC); Ken Oelke, VE6AFO, RAC ARES National Emergency Coordinator (NEC); and Drew Watson, VA7DR, Manager of the RAC Canadian Amateur Radio Emergency Database (CARED). These are support functions and will not supersede or replace Section appointments. RAC extends sincere thanks to these individuals for their unselfish willingness to serve. Full details as to their duties and responsibilities will appear in the March/April issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine.

## RAC Winter Contest

The OARC operated in the RAC Winter Contest this past December. Operators were VE3YTZ, VE3TLY, VE3ZTU, VE3FFK, VE3BNO, VA3RKM, and VE3KI.

Results were:

Canadian QSO's :	198 X 10 =	1,980
RAC QSO's :	7 X 20 =	140
DX contacts :	241 X 2 =	482
Total QSO's :	446 QSO's =	2,602
Total Multipliers :		46

Claimed Score : = 119,692

A fine score. Congratulations to all who participated.

Greg Danylchenko, VE3YTZ

*(Continued from page 4)*

is between shovelling weather and skating weather. Oh yeah, that's what used to be called hamming weather.

Just in case I thought there would be any "spare" time, the nice lady from the post office just dropped seven years of "WorldRadio" magazine and a half a dozen books on CD into my mailbox.

Spare time is like leftover chocolate - a theoretical concept that is hard even to imagine.

How does anybody ever find time for TV?

73 mk VE3FFK

## Get Ready for Home Brew Night

As is our club's tradition, we reserve the April meeting for Home Brew Night. Members bring home-built radio equipment and show it off. Judges award prizes based on certain criteria. Oh yeah, and it has nothing to do with beer, sorry!

There are two categories of prize awarded. The main prize is The Clare Fowler Award and it's judged by Clare himself. He decides the winner based on four main criteria:

1. **\*originality\***: is your project something that can be found in most amateur publications, using kits and existing software, or were you innovative, with little to go on?
2. **\*complexity\***: does your project have few parts, non-critical dimensions, and only took a day to make, or does it incorporate many parts, including circuit boards, and took a long time (week or more) to make?
3. **\*craftsmanship\***: is your project crudely or beautifully constructed?
4. **\*presentation\***: how well do you present your project to the group? A good effort here is a concise, non-rambling description of how the item was developed and constructed.

The second category of prize is called The People's Choice, and is arrived at by a secret ballot of club members. As its name would imply, the award is for a project that struck a chord with the club members. For example, the first People's Choice award went to a boy who built a CW key out of lego. It's possible that the same person could win both awards, though that hasn't happened yet.

I should clarify that for those who have been involved in the recent kit-building sessions on Saturdays, there is a plan afoot to devote a meeting in the future, probably after summer, to showing off the different derivations

that members have come up with, so your home brew should not be centered around those kits.

So, having said all that, I'll take some of it back now and say that the above is JUST A GUIDELINE. The main goal of Home Brew is to participate, have fun, learn and get ideas. So we encourage you to bring whatever you have done, even if it's a spectacular failure. In other words, who cares if it's good, we just wanna see it! See you April 9.

Janice Neelands, VA3PAX

RAC has become aware of increasing levels of interference to Amateur Radio operations on the 902-928MHz (33cm) band from wireless power meters and is calling on Radio Amateurs who use that band to provide any information to help identify the extent and nature of the problem.



In a number of cities, electrical power utilities are installing wireless meters that operate in the 33cm band. Amateur Radio has access to that band on a Secondary basis, meaning we may not cause interference to, nor be protected from interference by licensed Primary users of that spectrum, which are stations in the Fixed and Radiolocation Services. However, these wireless power meters are operating legally, but as unlicensed devices and are therefore legally subordinate to Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio operations may claim protection from these devices.

RAC intends to raise this issue with Industry Canada, but requires more information on the effect these meters are having on our operations. If you are active on the 33cm band, and you have suffered harmful interference from these devices, please provide details to RAC's Vice-President Industrial Liaison, Norm Rashleigh VE3LC of Ottawa. Norm may be contacted by e-mail at [rashleigh@sympatico.ca](mailto:rashleigh@sympatico.ca) or [VE3LC@rac.ca](mailto:VE3LC@rac.ca).



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

# Groundwave

March 2008

## Canadian Ski Marathon 2008

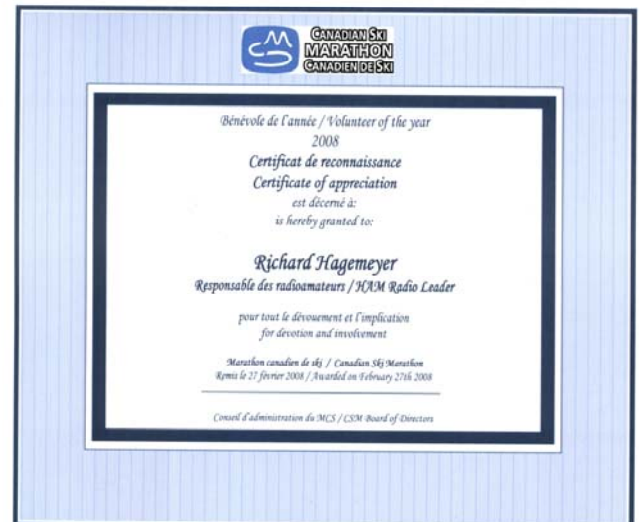
Photos Courtesy Janice Neelands, VA3PAX



STAPLES  
Business DESKTOP

HAM RADIO LOG Location: CP5  
(CP is or Nat control)  
(CP is or Nat control)  
Please return to CP Leader in the envelop / SVP retourner au Responsable du PC dans l'enveloppe.

TIME - TEMPS	FROM - DE	TO - A	MESSAGE	HANDLED
0910	CP5	NR	9:00 #s in 564 - out 513	✓
0910	NR	CP5	no answer on John's cell	✓
0912	CP5	NR	try in Vals? military/indus code	✓
0913	S1	CP5	same in navesque - my ship patrol will advise later	✓
0935	CP5	NR	patrol AB D left (navatia)	✓



**Membership Application/Renewal**  
Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc., Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J2

- Single (\$25, \$20 after Feb 1)
- Family (\$30)
- Junior (\$15, under 18 years of age)
- New Ham (Free if licensed in current Membership year)
- Emailed *Groundwave*     Mailed *Groundwave* (add \$5.00)



**Please Note: Membership year is September 1 to August 31**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name/Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ (For *Groundwave* mailing)

Callsign(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications:  Basic     Advanced     Morse Code  
Year Licensed: \_\_\_\_\_ RAC Member?    Yes

**Other Family Members**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Qualifications:  Basic     Advanced     Morse Code  
Year Licensed: \_\_\_\_\_ RAC Member?    Yes

Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

All members who are in good standing on or before the December General Meeting will be eligible for a free one-time name badge. Members who wish a second or replacement badge may purchase one at the Club Price (approx \$7.50 plus tax). Ordered badges will be available in January.

OARC NAME TAG    Yes     Second or Replacement    Yes

ORDER DETAILS - As to appear on badge:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_