



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

May 2008

Bob Knapp, VE3CDG, SK. See page 5.

I did it again! Booked my vacation over the Field Day weekend in June. Bad on me. Don't you do the same. June 28, 29. The only consolation is that I will probably be able to join another club's festivities. Their food won't be as good though.

Also don't forget the June AGM and elections. This is your chance to help run the show.

Dayton Hamfest, May 16-18 is your only excuse for missing the May 14 OARC meeting.

The May meeting speaker will be Doug Yuill, VE3OCU. His talk is entitled "OARC Packet Working Group; Who; What; Where; When & Why".

See you at the meeting.

Ian Jeffrey, VE3IGJ
Editor



MAY MEETING 7:30 pm, Wednesday, May 14th in the Honeywell Room at Ottawa City Hall

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Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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 "ve3igj@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 which is on the second floor 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.



April Minutes

OARC General meeting April 09 2008
 Started at 19:32
 No guests identified themselves.
 Membership report: 73 members to date.

Club Project: Next session is April 19, 09:30. Some builders meeting at Summerhays Restaurant before the session. This is the final session, so bring ideas, problems you are having, etc. Dave(s) will bring for distribution all the files we have used. If you have some useful code to share, bring it.

Hamfest: Ed, VE3WGO is looking for volunteers for the Hamfest on Labour Day weekend, Sat Aug 30.

Other: Harold, VA3UNK is looking for people to work the Tour Nortel on Sun May 4.
 Dave, VE3AV is looking for a piece of Air Dux coil 8 to 10 inches long by 2 to 3 inches dia. for a 160m project.
 Ying, VE3YH is looking for a slide rule (see VE3BNO)
 Wally, VE3CBE is looking for someone who knows about vintage radio (see VE3BBM)

Manual Project: OVMRC is getting out of the "business" of selling manuals. In order to prevent them from being discarded, VE3BBM and VE3FFK have agreed to get them safely under cover pending further action. If OARC is going to take on the task we need:

- a permanent place to store the manuals
- a person to take on the correspondence with buyers
- a person to assist with the shipping
- a person to keep up a web site with the current book list
- a person to take on overall responsibility for the project.

It is possible that a person could take on more than one of these tasks. Ed, VE3WGO and Richard VE3UNW indicated they will help. We need others. Contact VE3BBM or VE3FFK if you think you can help with some part of this project.

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

Unusual contacts: VE3BBM reported a contact with SY8JZ in the Mediterranean Sea on 30m. Clare, VE3NPC reported that he has worked people on satellite modes who were using verticals in their attics.

Show and Tell: Doug VE3XK, showed the work in progress for a multi band beacon (50-1296MHz), explaining some of the design trade off choices to be made. Ying VA3YH, showed some of the techniques used to troubleshoot his NorCal NC2030 state of the art QRP transceiver, including the use of photography to assist in turns counting and diagnosis of problems over the internet. He also showed us how to make circular slide rules and other calculators using CDs, clear CD cover disks and cases, in conjunction with the TK5EP calculator and GALVA software by F5GU. Clare VE3NPC showed us his DPDT relay, made from a DC style relay but modified to have acceptable loss and SWR up to 70 CM.

Homebrew night:
 Dave VE3KL, showed his "Octopus" hardware/software project. It interfaces various pieces of equipment such as his Elecraft VSWR meter and K1EL keyer with different pieces of software such as MTTY and MIXW along with a rig and computer.
 Wayne VE3CZO showed us his surface mount based audio interface which works in conjunction with an AF sweep and audio analysis program to measure the frequency response of various pieces

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mk's Words

It seemed like a good idea at the time.. Or
No more jokes about manual labour, please.

If you read the minutes you'll know something about
the saga of the manuals. Here's more.

Once upon a time a lot of equipment manuals were headed for the dumpster at a large local institution. A ham who couldn't stand to watch the loss of all that valuable information rescued them. Later, the sales of these manuals to interested hams and others passed to the OVMRC. They did a lot of work, sold a lot of manuals and made a lot of money over the years. Then the ham who kept them in his basement moved, and the manuals were again homeless. No one in the mobile club was able to take them in so they asked if the OARC could take over the project. Since the choice seemed to be say yes or they hit the dumpster, we agreed to take it on. I agreed to give them a place out of the rain, at least for a little while. Ralph, VE3BBM also agreed to shelter some of them. This morning we (I, Larry, VE3WEH from the OVMRC, Bryan, VE3ZRK, and Ralph, VE3BBM moved the last of them. I figure there were about 35 boxes totalling a little over 1000 pounds, plus three units of steel shelving. Ralph had already taken a few boxes home. (We can't say exactly how many boxes, in case Mrs. BBM reads the Groundwave). We could really use a more permanent home for them than my living room (and wherever Ralph hid the ones at his place). If you have a place we can use to store some of these, or can help with one of the other parts of this project, please let us know. Of course if you need a manual for your GPR-90 or HP540, let us know that too.

I hope everyone had as much fun at homebrew night as I did. I'm sorry there weren't more projects shown. Aren't you guys building anything any more? Of course I didn't help any by not having anything of my own there. I haven't been doing much building recently except for the OARC microcontroller project and the not half bad dipole I described last month. Maybe next year I'll have something more interesting. Projects in

the hopper include a multi turn 160m loop antenna made out of multiple parallel runs of junk coax, and an end fed vertical for portable use. I'm tired of tossing lines into trees, since I'm no good at it. Projects farther out are a compact loop for 20m on the bike, to see if it works better than a hamstick in an application where there isn't much of a ground to be had. For the record, I've given up on the 6m rig built around the crystal I brought in once upon a time (for now).

The street sweeper has been around and they are starting to put bike racks on the busses. That means it just might be time to get the bike on the road again. It's amazing how much glass finds its way onto the street over the winter. It is so much easier to get out to operating spots by bike than by walking. Last weekend I walked down to one of my "spots" along the Ottawa river. Not only had the dipole I left there disappeared, but the lines I had tossed into the trees was gone without a trace. Another mystery to be solved. I'm going to miss the stainless steel hardware at the centre of that dipole, but lucky for me the rest was expendable. Next time I'll leave the lines, but take the dipole home. It will be less obvious that way. Maybe by next time the half wave vertical will be ready to play.

Maybe there are more people getting ready to play radio in the great outdoors. It seems there have been more requests for information and basic exams in the last month or so than all fall and winter. If you hear a call sign that doesn't sound familiar, make the effort to get on the air and say "Hi".

For that matter, get on the air and say "Hi" even if you only hear call signs you DO recognize.

73 & HI
-mk VE3FFK



Bob Knapp, SK

Brainteaser

This month's puzzle:

The one is to satisfy my own curiosity. For all you sci-fi fans: The answer is 42. What is the question?

Send your answers to editor@oarc.net

Last month's puzzle:

True or False?

1. SWR on the transmission line between the antenna and the matching device is determined only by the matching conditions at the load and is not changed or "brought down" by the matching device.
2. High SWR in a coaxial transmission line caused by a severe mismatch will not produce antenna currents on the line, nor cause the line to radiate.
3. SWR in a transmission line cannot be adjusted or controlled in any practical manner by varying the line length.
4. With a good antenna tuner and a well constructed open-wire feeder, a 130-foot center-fed dipole will not radiate significantly more power on 80 m than one 80 feet long for the same power fed from the transmitter.

Answer: Wow! Nobody got the answer right. Mind you nobody got it wrong either because nobody replied. All four statements are true.

Dilbertisms

"Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule." (Plant Manager, Delco Corporation)

Quote from the boss: "Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say." (Marketing Executive, Citrix Corporation)

KNAPP, Robert (Bob) Judson retired CBC announcer, aged 76 years, passed away April 21, 2008, at the Elisabeth Bruyere Health Centre following a valiant 7-year fight with colo-rectal cancer. Bob is survived by his loving wife Ruth (nee Bennie), his son Jeffrey (Wendy deZeeuw), daughter Wendy Sauve (Greg), sister Pat Tibbo, Nanaimo, B.C., 5 beloved grandchildren, Christopher, Heather and Grace Knapp, Amanda and Scott Sauve, as well as 8 nieces and nephews.

Bob was formerly an announcer with CNB in St. John, New Brunswick; CFRA, CBO and CBOT in Ottawa. He hosted CBO Morning for many years and hosted Reach for the Top, Four for the Road (CBOT), and numerous remembrance services from the Cenotaph, as well as many news, weather and sports reports on CBOT. He was a faithful member of the Capital City Chorus and Aged in Harmony, Barbershop Choruses, as well as being a barber shop coach and judge. He belonged to the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club for over 30 years, as well as the Ottawa Flying Club and more recently the Remote Control Airplane Club in Dunrobin.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, at the Garden Chapel of Tubman Funeral Homes, 3440 Richmond Road, Bells Corners. Funeral Service will be held Thursday, April 24, at 2 p.m. at Trinity United Church, 1099 Maitland Avenue (just south of the Queensway) followed by a reception at the church in Tait Hall. Bob was a consummate entertainer with a wonderful sense of humour. He will be sorely missed by his family and many friends. We his family will miss him the rest of our lives. In memoriam, donations to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre appreciated.

The Ottawa Flying Club will be making a donation to the Cancer Society



Help Wanted:

The Radio Amateurs of/du Canada annual Board of Director's meeting will be held at the Nav Can Training Centre in Cornwall from May 1 - 4, 2008.



Although most of the attendees traveling from out of town will carpool with local RAC executive members, some attendees will require other arrangements.

I am looking for local hams with vehicles willing to provide volunteer ferry service for meeting participants.

The pay may be lousy, but the conversation is sure to be great!

Please contact me the RAC office r.

Richard Hagemeyer, rachq@rac.ca

(Continued from page 3)

of gear. The interface is powered by the 5V line on a USB port.

Bryan VE3ZRK showed his RF Relay and commented that it was much inferior to Clares, but now he can see why.

The winner of the homebrew award was David, VE3KL. The winner of the peoples choice award was Ying, VA3YH, for his CD based calculators and circular slide rules.

The 50-50 draw (\$18.00) was won by Wally Clarke, VE3CBE. Two others won RAC memo boards. Various transformers and other parts were offered by Ralph VE3BBM, to the club members in return for a donation to the club. The meeting was adjourned and all went away happy except for Ralph, who had to bring home a lot of iron.

Mike Kelly, VE3FFK

Same Old Problem

Lately, I have been answering questions from a new amateur who just received his first electronic kit.

He called me to say that one of the resistors had current going into it but not out of it and wondered if it was faulty. I asked him what the symbol was on the diagram as I could check the schematic on line.

He replied that it was D4 but didn't say its purpose. I verified that D4 was a diode that isolated the battery supply from the AC adaptor. I explained that diodes only conduct one way and perhaps he had reversed it when he soldered it in. He checked it and confirmed that it had been reversed.

That hurdle passed, the unit still was inoperative. He brought it to the house and a check of the test point showed no voltage. A voltmeter check showed reversed polarity of the main power.

This particular board permitted the battery holder to be mounted one of two ways on the top of the PCB and unexpectedly he connected it in a way that reversed the polarity. Reversing the holder, corrected the problem and he left all smiles.

I've often overheard old timers referring to the newcomers as not being able to know the difference between positive and negative, now I have to say, " You be the judge".

In order to avoid embarrassment but after many shared laughs, the amateur remains anonymous.

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.



The OARC PICAXE Project: Phase I

The club project for 2007-8 wrapped up its final session on Saturday, April 18. Judging from the level of participation and enthusiasm, this has been a very successful event. We had about 24 people sign up for the project and saw an average attendance of about 17. Over the winter, we met six times to build the processor kit and to learn how to program the PICAXE.

The following OARC members and visitors participated in the project (our apologies if any names are missing).

Ian (VE3IGJ), Clayton (VE3CBJ), Ying (VA3YH), Al (VE3ZTU), Harold (VE3UNK), Bing (VE3CDQ), Mike (VE3FFK), David (VE3KL), Dave (VE3TLY), Bryan (VE3ZRK), Wayne (VE3CZO), Greg (VE3Y TZ), Janice (VA3PAX), Dave (VA3AE), Rick (VE3IHI), Marcel (VE3FNG), Joe (VE3JPG), Ralph (VE3BBM), Peter (VE3LBW), Richard (VE3UNW), Graham (VE3BYT), Allan (VE7ALZ), Scott, and Jeff.

The project emphasized the 'how to' of processor operation using a very easy to program and inexpensive processor. This was a learning and not a kit building experience. Amongst other things, we learned how to program a variable speed iambic keyer and how to use an analog to digital converter.

Special thanks to Richard Hagemeyer VE3UNW for providing access to the excellent lab facilities at Algonquin College for all 6 sessions. Thanks too to Mike Kelly VE3FFK who organized the administrative aspects of the project and who arranged the purchase and distribution of the kits.

Next year, we would like to build upon our experience. We are looking for ideas where we could apply the PICAXE to some aspect of amateur radio. This could be in the form of instrumentation or some other add-on to improve your shack. We are looking for project ideas that require some original development, not a kit building exercise. If you have any suggestions, please pass them along to us.

If you are interested in microcomputers for amateur radio applications, we can help you get started with lots of technical information including how to purchase low cost starter kits from HVW, a Canadian supplier in Calgary. Feel free to contact us.

Dave Green, VE3TLY

David Conn, VE3KL



PICAXE Project photos courtesy Greg, VE3YTZ

Above, "Weak Cousin Six Eyes"

Below: "Getting' It On"



Message From the President

This has been a busy year for the OARC. It kicked off with a very successful Hamfest organized for the first time by Ed Sich, VE3WGO. Ed must be congratulated for doing a spectacular job in his rookie year.

Last November we had a very interesting tour of the Military Communications and Electronics Museum in Kingston. Over 20 club members participated. From all appearances, the museum staff enjoyed our interest and company as much as we enjoyed theirs. It was my pleasure to organize this tour.

Last fall, the first phase of the upgrade of the VE2CRA repeater was installed. The system was completely re-ramped, and the first of three slave receivers was added to extend the coverage. Those participating included Harrie VE3HYS, Wayne VE3CZO, Bryan VE3ZRK, Ian VE3IGJ, and myself.

This year's club project was an experiment. Rather than assemble a kit, we chose to explore a PICAXE microcontroller. We learned how to develop and run programs with this device and how to make it interact with some common radio gear. Next year we hope to extend this experience to something more challenging. We are asking for your ideas to resume this project next fall. Dave VE3KL, Mike VE3FFK and I enjoyed working together to organize this project.

Under the guidance of Greg, VE3Ytz, the OARC operated VA3RAC, during the Canada Winter Contest last December.

In February, the club once again provided major communications support to the Canadian Ski Marathon. This was managed very professionally by Richard, VE3UNW and Harold, VE3UNK.

Upcoming activities include the Tour Nortel in May and Field Day in June.

Now the rant. As you will have noticed, all of these activities require one major element: volunteers. Without

volunteers there would be no events beyond the regular meetings and the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club would disintegrate to become little more than a social club. Without volunteers there would be no club executive. Serving on the executive not only helps you to understand how the club operates but it also provides you with an opportunity to guide the activities of the club. Believe it or not, it is a very rewarding experience. Think about it.

Unfortunately, many of the same names keep coming up over and over again when you look at volunteer participants. Why not add your call sign to the next volunteer signup sheet that goes around or consider adding your name to the executive nomination list for the June election?

We have a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and a Secretary. Oops, we don't have a Secretary! In fact we haven't had one in over a year and a half. The Secretary's role is hardly onerous. It mainly involves taking minutes and handling the mail. At the moment, your current executive has to take turns doing these chores. It's not difficult, but it's not fair either. Elections for the OARC are coming up in June. That's only two months away. You're a member of the club so why not join the fun and throw your name in the hat? You'll be glad you did – and you will be much appreciated by your fellow club members.

Dave VE3TLY, President. OARC

Antenna Expert L. B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK)

L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, ARRL Technical Adviser and antenna authority, passed away last week. He was 68. An ARRL Life Member, Cebik was known to many hams for the numerous articles he wrote on antennas and antenna modeling. He had articles published in most of the US ham journals, including *QST*, *QEX*, *NCJ*, *CQ*, *Communications Quarterly*, *Ham Radio*, *73*, *QRP Quarterly*, *Radio-Electronics* and *QRPP*. Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, *QEX* Editor, called Cebik "probably the most widely published and often read author of Amateur Radio antenna articles ever to write on the subject."

24th ANNUAL SMITHS FALLS AMATEUR RADIO FLEA MARKET

SPONSORED BY

The RIDEAU LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB inc.

MAY 10th, 2008

SMITHS FALLS YOUTH ARENA

(behind the Community Centre)

Corner of Cornelia St. (highway #43) and Elmsley St.

Smiths Falls, Ontario

Doors Open at 9:00 am (7:00 am for vendors)

General Admission: \$5.00 (includes a door prize ticket)

Youth 16 years and under are admitted free of charge

Tables: (approx. 2 1/2 ft X 5 ft) \$10.00 each (includes one admission)

Canteen Available

For information and table reservations, contact:

Steve Mayne VE3LWX at ve3lwx@xplornet.com

or

The RLARC inc. Secretary at ve3rlr@yahoo.ca

Talk-in on VE3RLR 147.21 MHz +

Special Note

The Annual Spring Meeting of the St. Lawrence Valley Repeater Council will
be held after the conclusion of the Smiths Falls Flea Market, in the upstairs lounge.

All Repeater coordinators, and any other interested amateur radio operators, are encouraged to attend.

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 _____