



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

# Groundwave

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

September 2008

Another OARC year is about to begin, highlighted by the Hamfest. This year's edition takes place Saturday, August 30 between 10:00 and 13:00. It is followed immediately by the RAC Forum and Radio and Technology Update. Bad planning on my part has caused a scheduling conflict so I will not be able to attend the Hamfest this year. But that's no excuse for you!

Thanks to Dave Scobie for stepping up to run for, and win, the position of club Secretary.

We are now displaying the EMRG logo. The OARC is planning more support for EMRG in the future.

A reminder that membership renewals are due by the end of September. There is a membership renewal form in this newsletter.

See you at the September 10 OARC meeting.

Ian Jeffrey, VE3IGJ  
Editor



**SEPTEMBER MEETING 7:30 pm, Wednesday, September 10th  
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](mailto: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.



## Dates to Remember

### June Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the president at 19:30. There was one guest—Slavcho Zafiroff who is planning to get his license over the summer.

Harold Hamilton was presented with the “Volunteer of the Year Award” for his voluntary contributions to Field Day, Canadian Ski Marathon, and ARES, among others. Harold then announced the organization of the upcoming Field Day.

Ed Sich announced the upcoming OARC Hamfest. Elkel is again contributing money for the grand prize. As something new, Mike Kelly will be offering exams for ham licenses during the Hamfest. This is the last year that Lizzie will be running the food and drink concession. The business is up for sale to anyone interested. Contact Richard Hagemeyer.

Dave Green announced the club projection screen is missing and asked if anyone knew of its whereabouts. If you know where it’s at contact Dave.

The treasurer, Janice Neelands, then presented the financial statements and the budget for next year. It was moved by Janice Neelands, seconded by Richard Hagemeyer, and passed that the financial statements be accepted. It was noted that the club may be subject to taxation this year as the GICs earned over \$500. This is being followed up.

Rick Furniss, the Election Committee chair, started by thanking the executive for their work over the past year. He then presented the candidates for next year’s executive. These positions were filled by acclamation as follows:

- President Dave Green, VE3TLY
- Vice-President Greg Danylchenko, VE3Y TZ
- Treasurer Janice Neelands, VA3PAX
- Secretary Dave Scobie, VA3AE
- Directors Wayne Getchell, VE3CZO
- Diane Bruce, VA3DB
- Al MacPhee, VE3ZTU
- Mike Kelly, VE3FFK

### 2008

- Aug. 30 Hamfest
- Sep. 30 Membership Renewal Deadline
- Nov. 3 Joe Norton Award Subm. Due
- Dec. 27 RAC Winter Contest

### 2009

- Feb. 7,8 Canada Ski Marathon
- Apr. 8 Homebrew Night
- Jun. 10 OARC AGM and Elections
- Jun. 27,28 Field Day
- Jul. 1 RAC Canada Day Contest

Ian Jeffrey, VE3IGJ  
Harrie Jones, VE3HYS

Rick was thanked for his efforts by Greg Danylchenko.

The OARC accomplishments for 2007/8 were presented by Greg. [Listed separately on page 6. Ed]

It was mentioned that RAC wants to give more exposure to its VA3RAC call sign. Therefore, anyone interested in using the call sign for a contest or special event should contact Bill Unger at RAC.

There was an interesting CW contact by Dave Conn was a ham from a club in Russia that owns a lighthouse.

Some interesting web sites were announced. Dave Scobie provided a web link for the Software Defined Radio system made available by the amateur radio club ETGD at the University of Twente: <http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>. It is a very interesting implementation that some of us have expressed an interest in exploring further.

Ralph Cameron provided a link to a more conventional receiver that can be used for monitoring at: <http://www.chilton.com/radio/others.html>

(Continued on page 8)



## mk's Words

I gotta say it. This has been a crummy summer. If it hasn't been wet, its been damp. If it hasn't been damp, it has been forecast to be wet as soon as you leave pavement. So what has this got to do with amateur radio?

There is a bunch of antenna stuff I'd like to try. There isn't much I can do with antennas indoors. I can't do much in the field if the grass is wet, and the tall grass in the sort of places I like to play stays wet for a day or so after the last rain, so it takes a few clear days before I get out to play.

Halfway through my work on an end fed half wave antenna, I gave up and finally bought one. Now, I'd like to get out and use it some time. That leaves the compact loop, halo and mobile compact loop on the drawing board. And I'd still like to finish my own end fed half wave, since it looked so promising in the early stages.

The last bit of radio fun was Field Day, the last rainy weekend of June. The only bad part was that I wasn't able to be there for the full 24 hours, and wasn't as well rested going into the event as I would have liked. One of the best parts of that was operating during the down-pour. What made that great was the fact that the CW station was in the camper, warm and dry even when it took ear muffs over the headphones to keep the racket of the rain on the roof out of the ears. During the storm someone asked me if I wanted to shut down due to the lightning. Since I was concentrating on the receiver, and not the weather, I ended up operating through the storm. Maybe not smart, but that is how it worked out. I was surprised that I could continue to hear stations on 80m, but the rig's filters and DSP were good enough that the QRN was still manageable. That thunderstorm got me thinking about putting together compact loops for operation during field day thunderstorms. All it takes is time (and [good] weather) to work on it.

Looking forward (from when I write this) is the Hamfest, the next big OARC party of the year.

This year's event will be different for me, since for the first time at the Hamfest I will be offering amateur exams (Basic, Advanced and/or Morse). There is one candidate in the queue already. If you want to upgrade your ticket, or know someone who wants to try for their Basic ticket, let me know. I plan on bringing spares, so there will be an exam waiting for you. If nothing else, you'll help restrain me from buying too many toys (again).

There have been a few new toys coming into the hamshack this summer even before the Hamfest. I'll try to bring them in to show and tell for one of the fall meetings. A few of you have seen one of the toys at Field Day. For the rest, stay tuned.

Meanwhile, all this rain has done wonders for the organic antenna supports at the front of my house. Maybe I'll get something back soon for all those years of leaf raking. Next year they will be big enough to hold antennas, so I have to start to think about what I want to put up. Any ideas?

The forecast is, once again, cloudy with sunny periods, pop 40 with a chance of thunderstorms.

73.. See you at the Hamfest (or is it hamfest or Ham feast?)

-mk VE3FFK

## Missing

The OARC projection screen has been misplaced. The screen which is about 5 feet wide includes a stand and was last seen at the Sept. 2007 OARC Hamfest. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this screen, could you please notify any of the OARC executive. Thanks.



## SDR

[Although many of you may have already seen this email from George, I thought it worth including for those who haven't. The web site is ... Ed]  
<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/>

I've been having a lot of fun with these receivers. It is enlightening to listen to your own signal as they hear it in Holland. I never realized how good a cw signal I have over there.

Also have worked a couple of stations (ew3lo, yo2bbx) on sideband by listening to them on the internet, putting my signal on the frequency shown by the Twente receiver and then called them. There is very little delay on this link so can talk and key fb. I was not able to hear these stations off air due to the propagation and noise, but they could hear me off air in Holland. They were both very strong into the Twente receiver which made them armchair copy off the internet here.

Also had a 3 way with nt4xt with both of us hearing ourselves via Holland and direct on 40 meters cw. Gets a bit confusing listening to yourself on your own rx sidetone and slightly delayed from the internet.

Also as you can see where other stations are tuning and listening I have been able to use the call sign screen to place myself where some ham was listening and call him on cw . Gets their attention real quick !

Thanks for the lead, David [Scobie, VA3AE].  
George, VE3BNO

## Net Schedule

Here is the Net Control schedule for OARC's Monday Night Capital City Net for July 2008 to January 2009.

- 7 Jul - Al VE3ZTU
- 14 Jul - Sydney VE3GVI
- 21 Jul - Sydney VE3GVI
- 28 Jul - Greg VE3Ytz

- 4 Aug - Civic Holiday - No Net
- 11 Aug - Greg VE3Ytz
- 18 Aug - Harrie VE3HYS
- 25 Aug - Harrie VE3HYS
- 1 Sep - Labour Day - No Net
- 8 Sep - Bruce VE3QX
- 15 Sep - Bruce VE3QX
- 22 Sep - George VE3BNO
- 29 Sep - George VE3BNO
- 6 Oct - Dave VE3TLY
- 13 Oct - Thanksgiving - No Net
- 20 Oct - Dave VE3TLY
- 27 Oct - Janice VA3PAX
- 3 Nov - Janice VA3PAX
- 10 Nov - Martin VA3SIE
- 17 Nov - Martin VA3SIE
- 24 Nov - Mike VE3FFK
- 1 Dec - Mike VE3FFK
- 8 Dec - Al VE3ZTU
- 15 Dec - Al VE3ZTU
- 22 Dec - Sydney VE3GVI
- 29 Dec - Sydney VE3GVI
- 5 Jan - Harrie VE3HYS
- 12 Jan - Harrie VE3HYS
- 19 Jan - Greg VE3Ytz
- 26 Jan - Greg VE3Ytz from Bryan, VE3ZRK

## Rogers Antique Radio

From Michael Madore:

"I have an old Rogers tube AM/SW receiver that a friend passed down to me. He somehow thought that I would have the time to restore this radio. Unfortunately, I don't - though as a kid, rebuilding radios and designing antennas was my passion. I was going to retire it to the local dump but thought that you might know someone in the area that is interested in taking the radio for parts or restore it completely."

In the interests of not wanting to overburden the landfill sites, I have given this radio a temporary home. If anyone is interested in acquiring it (or knows of someone who does) please let me know. It is a Rogers seven-tube, three-band (0.55-1.7 MHz, 1.7-5.5 MHz, and 5.5-18 MHz), model 7R634, S/N A19539. It is missing one tube (6A7M) and in need of restorative work. I can send a picture if needed.  
Ian, VE3IGJ



## OARC Accomplishments 2007/8

- Membership: 76, 73% are RAC Members
- Capital City Net (Bryan – VE3ZRK)

### Guest speakers

Vladimir Sidorov , VE3IAE spoke on RTTY basics

Peter Gamble - VE3BQP "Building Robust Repeaters for Amateur

Radio Emergency Communications"

Dave Conn - VE3KL "Impedance Measurements: Old and New

Equipment and Techniques"

Marcus Leech - VE3MDL "An Introduction to Radio Astronomy"

Bob McKenzie, VA3RKM with Pat Byers and Mike Babineau building Elecraft kits

Doug Yuill, VE3OCY historical summary of the Packet Working Group

Lee McMurter, VA3LHM, Durham Radio Radio Products Show and Tell

### Homebrew night:

Dave VE3KL, showed his "Octopus" hardware/software project.

Wayne VE3CZO showed us his surface mount based audio interface

Bryan VE3ZRK showed his RF Relay

Ying, VA3YH, showed his CD based calculators and circular slide rules.

Clare Fowler award to Dave Conn VE3KL

People's choice award to Ying

### Field Day 2007

(Harold – VA3UNK), OARC Field Day Crew Photo Presented to RAC, hangs now at RAC HQ

**Hamfest 2007** combined with the RAC Annual General Meeting (Ed Sich, VE3WGO)- 400 paid admission

### VE2CRA repeater upgrade

continued, with major commitment in time by Bryan – VE3ZRK, Wayne – VE3CZO, Harrie – VE3HYS, Ian – VE3IGJ, Dave – VE3TLY)

**Club Excursion** to Military Communications and Electronics Museum in Kingston – 18 participants

### Public Service

CSM (Richard, VE3UNW) Richard Hagemeyer awarded Volunteer of the Year 2008 by the Canadian Ski Marathon for 10 years of organizing the amateur radio volunteers

Tour Nortel, Harold VA3UNK

OARC Members participated in EMRG / Ottawa ARES sessions & exercises

### Club Project

organized by Dave Kohn/ Dave Green, Mike Kelly – Project Administrator

Pic-Axe Micro Processor, 25 participants

Fantastic facilities courtesy Algonquin College & Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW

### Financial support:

\$100 to the D-Star Ottawa Amateur Radio Digital Group

Defence of Amateur Radio Fund = \$200

AMSAT = US\$120

RAC Youth Education Program \$100

### Web site (Diane)

*(Continued on page 7)*



## Field Day West

Due to bad planning again on my part, I scheduled my vacation over the Field Day weekend in June. We were visiting the inlaws in Vernon, BC. I checked with the local ham club, NORAC (North Okanagan Radio Amateur Club) and discovered that they were holding a joint Field Day operation with the Shuswap Amateur Radio Club from Salmon Arm about an hour's drive away. I contacted the man in charge David Skelhon, VA7SKN, and arranged to join them. The site was historic Haney Park in Salmon Arm. I drove up to the site at about 20:00 local time, met a few hams on site, and was put to work immediately by Denny, VE7ASY, logging for SSB.

There were about 15 hams there at various times so I guess it was a little smaller than our turn out. They were 2A but both stations operated both SSB and CW. There were two generators running and two antenna towers with various dipoles attached.

The most interesting piece of equipment was "Cranky" - a crank-up, tilt-over, trailer mounted, 60-foot tower with a 15/20 m, 3-element beam and 80-m dipole mounted at the top. I thank David, Bill, VE7VTC, and Fumi, VE7VTE, Crowther, and all the rest for their hospitality and the great summer weather.  
- Ian, VE3IGJ



(Continued from page 6)

**Groundwave** (with Ian, VE3IGJ at the helm)

### Delegated examiner's report (Mike):

5 Exams, resulting in 2 new Basic and one Advanced qualification.

### Dec. Trivia Quiz

Richard – VE3UNW was MC, Janice & Greg did prep work won by the team of Dave Harris, Al MacPhee, and Mike Kelly

best noise maker won by Bryan, VE3ZRK

### RAC Winter contest

OARC coordinated VA3RAC – excellent results, RAC HQ station was activated by Al MacPhee, Dave Green, Janice Neelands, Richard VE3UNW and Greg VE3Ytz

### "Manuals" project

commenced with Mike, VE3FFK and Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM in lead positions

### Badge Program

continued with 88% of members now having badges

### Club Historian

George Roach is transferring all club historical records to the Ottawa City Archives

### Meeting Format

meetings now include perennial favourite segments, "Needs & Wants", "Best

Contact" and "Show & Tell" one particularly memorable presentation was Dave Scobie's, VA3AE, HiQ motorized screwdriver antenna

Greg Danylchenko, VE3Ytz

Dave Green, VE3TLY

Mike Kelly, VE3FFK



## Encounter in the North Atlantic May 1941

By Ernie Brown, VA3OEB

In June of 2008 I had the opportunity to read an account of the Wartime experiences of a German POW, who had been in Canadian POW, working in lumber camps of BC and Northern Ont. He immigrated to Canada about 1952.

He was inducted into the Hitler Youth program at the age of 14, and when he reached the age of 18 he joined the Navy and trained as a wireless operator. In 1941 he was assigned to Submarine U111 as 4<sup>th</sup> Wireless Officer, and the boat set out on their first mission in May of 1941. They reached the North Atlantic hunting ground about 58 degrees N and 42 degrees W late in May. On May 22 they sighted an eastbound convoy and reported it to German Naval HQ. Instead of the expected order to attack, they were ordered not to attack, but to keep the Convoy in sight and to report positions directly to BISMARK. It was expected that the battleship could destroy the whole convoy by gunfire. BISMARK was still several degrees to the north, and on May 24<sup>th</sup> the encounter with HMS HOOD took place. HMS HOOD opened fire and BISMARK responded, zeroing in on the target with her second salvo. HMS HOOD was hit in this exchange of gunfire, and blew up. The accompanying British Cruisers escaped into the fog, and BISMARK was ordered back to her base because the German High Command expected the British Navy to launch an all-out effort to "SINK THE BISMARK", which they did. The outcome of that is history. [Google: Warships; HMS HOOD; BISMARK; etc and browse the stories.]

While U111 and BISMARK were in direct HF radio contact, the Allied Monitoring stations were copying their signals and taking DF bearings. Admiralty later acknowledged the value of the DF Bearings in the subsequent "hunt for the BISMARK".

The monitoring stations would not know the origin of

the signals they were hearing, but would have recognized that they were "mobiles" and would be taking bearings on those signals.

U111 meanwhile continued her patrol, reporting weather from the area between Greenland and Newfoundland, and eventually returning to base. On her next patrol in the south Atlantic she was sunk by a British Frigate, while attempting to attack a British Tanker. Many of the crew and all Senior Officers were killed in the action, and the Wireless Officer became a POW. He was confined in British camps for some time, and later was sent to POW camps in Canada. With access to Canadian radio and newspapers he learned that his Nazi upbringing had not told the whole story.

In May of 1941, SS MAASDAM with this writer as Second Wireless Officer, had dispersed from a westbound Convoy on May 20 at about 58N 42W, and had proceeded due west at top speed, quite unaware of the action taking place in the nearby waters. We turned southward on reaching the warm waters of the Gulf Stream on May 24<sup>th</sup>, and reached New York safely.

History in review is fascinating, and somewhat scary.

*(Continued from page 3)*

Show and Tell had a \$60 transistor/diode tester kit from M3 Electronics. The device could characterize almost any transistor or diode. Also presented was a yagi calculator program by John Drew, VK5DJ. This analysis software provides the yagi performance based on the input geometry.

Greg Danylchenko gave a slide show of his visit to the Dayton Hamvention.

It was moved by Ernie Brown, seconded by Al MacPhee, and passed that a one year OARC membership be donated to a student coming to Ottawa this fall. [Name to be provided by RAC]

There was no 50/50 draw (the hour was late) but draws were made for maps and hats donated by Greg from his visit to Dayton Hamvention. The meeting was adjourned at about 22:00.

**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.

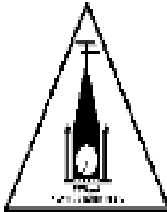
OARC NAME TAG    Yes     Second or Replacement    Yes

ORDER DETAILS - As to appear on badge:

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



## THE OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB *HAMFEST*



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008 (LABOUR DAY WEEKEND)**

Tailgaters Open and Building Vendor setup: 8 am

Building Open: 10 am until 1 pm

### CARP AGRICULTURAL FAIRGROUNDS

3832 Carp Rd (at Falldown Lane)  
Ottawa (Carp), Ontario

*From Ottawa take Highway 417 West to Carp Road exit,  
10 kilometres North to the fairgrounds.  
We are in the W. Erskine Johnson Arena – follow the signs.*

\$6 general admission  
\$12/table (plus admission)  
\$5/tailgate (plus admission)

**Radio Amateurs of Canada  
Forum and Radio & Technology  
Update: 1 pm until 4 pm**

*The OARC is proud to sponsor the RAC Forum and Radio & Technology Update. This highly informative event follows immediately after the close of the Hamfest at 1 pm. We are very fortunate to once again have RAC President Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ, as Moderator.*

We are offering an excellent door prize,  
a \$300 Gift Certificate, generously  
supplied by Elkel.



**ELKEL LTEE**  
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