



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

# Groundwave

P.O. Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1G 3J2

## CLUB EXECUTIVE

### President

Dave Green, VE3TLY  
(H) 613-728-8606  
ve3tly@rac.ca

### Past President

Diane Bruce VA3DB  
(H) 613-225-9920  
va3db@rac.ca

### Vice-President

Greg Danylchenko, VE3YTZ  
(H) 613-236-9291  
ve3ytz@rac.ca

### Secretary

Dave Scobie, VA3AE

### Treasurer

Janice Neelands VA3PAX  
(H) 613-236-9291  
va3pax@rac.ca

### Directors

Wayne Getchell, VE3CZO  
(H) 613-225-7989  
getch@gamma.ca

Ian Jeffrey, VE3IGJ  
(H) 613-837-7393  
ve3igj@rac.ca

Harrie Jones, VE3HYS  
(H) 613-739-9365  
hjones@chumottawa.com

Mike Kelly, VE3FFK  
(H) 613-322-0669  
ve3ffk@rac.ca

Al MacPhee, VE3ZTU  
(H) 613-831-8920  
ve3ztu@rac.ca

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

February 2009

The CSM depends on ham radio volunteers to provide important and timely safety and logistical communication for the benefit of the skiers. The amateur radio CSM web page (<http://radio.admin2.ca>) is up and running with 2009 information and assignments are already being filled. If you would like to volunteer this year, please email Harold VA3UNK ([radio1@admin2.ca](mailto:radio1@admin2.ca)). Although he can't promise anything, assignment requests are generally first-come, first-served.

The speaker for the February meeting is Dave Conn, VE3KL. His talk is entitled "Transmission Line Reflections with Applications to Ladder Lines and Coaxial Cables."

See you at the meeting. **Note the change of room for the meeting—Keefer Room in the Heritage Wing.**

Ian Jeffrey, VE3IGJ  
Editor



## **FEBRUARY MEETING 7:30 pm, Wednesday, February 11th in the Keefer Room at Ottawa City Hall**

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**Membership**  
 Al MacPhee, VE3ZTU  
 (H) 613-831-8920  
 ve3ztu@rac.ca



**Groundwave Editor**  
 Ian Jeffrey VE3IGJ  
 (H) 613-837-7393  
 ve3igj@rac.ca

**Delegated Examiner**  
 Mike Kelly, VE3FFK  
 (H) 613-322-0669  
 ve3ffk@rac.ca

**Coffee Guy**  
 Brian Campbell, VE3ZRK  
 (H) 613-737-3933  
 ve3zrk@rogers.com

**Historian**  
 George Roach, VE3BNO  
 (H) 613-234-0885  
 (Fax) 567-2372  
 ve3bno@rac.ca

**Webmaster**  
 Dianne Bruce, VA3DB  
 (H) 613-225-9920  
 va3db@rac.ca

**IRLP Manager**  
 Cary Honeywell, VE3EV  
 ve3ev@rac.ca

**Repeater**  
 Harrie Jones  
 (H) 613-739-9365  
 hjones@chumottawa.com

*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 146.940(-)** 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, got 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

## January Minutes

**Visitors:**  
Charles Richer, Jean Richard-VE3DNL, Sandy Hoggart-VE3HAZ and Margret Tidman, YL de VA3DGN

**RAC Winter Contest:**  
Dave-VE3TLY presented an informative round up of the club's participation in the RAC winter contest, with slides.

**Badges:**  
Dave-VE3TLY and Al-VE3ZTU, handed out a large number of the very handsome club callsign badges to members. If you have not yet received yours, check with Al.

**Possible Club Trip to Dayton Hamvention:**  
Janice-VE3PAX, presented several cost breakdowns of travel to the Dayton Hamvention, examining the difference in time and the cost of driving versus flying. She also found that Dayton's local post secondary institution's residence still had vacancies, which is a cost effective alternative to hotels during the weekend event. Discussion about the various proposals was entertained, and there will be more to follow at the next club meeting.

**EMRG:**  
Dave-VE3TLY, introduced Peter Gamble-VE3BQP, and Peter outline the current progress in many of EMRG projects. He asked and received further support from individual club members to assemble this month several accessory devices needed. If you have a couple of free evenings and the ability to solder, drill a few holes in project boxes, Peter has parts kits and excellent instructions waiting for you.

**Club Project:**  
Dave-VE3KL gave an extensive description of the upcoming club project which will be held on Saturday mornings at the Woodroffe Campus of Algonquin College. The presentation materials are available for your review on the OARC website. [http://oarc.net/OARC%20Project%20Winter%202009\\_V3.ppt](http://oarc.net/OARC%20Project%20Winter%202009_V3.ppt)

<b>2009</b>	
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
Sep. 12	Hamfest
Sep. 30	Membership Renewal Deadline
Nov. 4	Joe Norton Award Subm. Due
Dec. 19	RAC Winter Contest

(Note: The URL has spaces indicated by the “%20” .)

**Loops:**  
David-VA3AE, gave a very short presentation of Small Transmitting Loops (STL). Several members of the club enjoy experimenting with these fascinating and highly effective antennas and it appears a further full presentation is in the works. A great source information is the website <http://www.aa5tb.com/loop.html> or just use your favourite internet search engine to locate resources on these antennas.

**Unusual Contacts:**  
Bob-VE3OSZ made his 170th country on 160 Metres this month, with a dxpedition station JW / SM0MDE This is Svalbard Island (ITU Zone 18 CQ Zone 40) [lat 78 long 16] {11/15/45}. Congratulations Bob, quite a feat.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 and \$20 was won by VE3BOW in the 50/50 draw.

-30-



## mk's Words

Its time you folks got a look at how this column goes together. Whether it is a last minute thing, or I start a week before deadline, it follows a certain routine. You may have noticed a certain framework behind it. The column is first, an answer to the question: What did VE3FFK do in ham radio recently? and What's coming up in the amateur radio life of VE3FFK?

So first I look at my calendar and see what is on there since the last time. It's never empty. Then I look at my last column to see where I left off, and what was left unfinished last month. Then I look at what is coming up. Usually it is filling up fast by the time I have to start writing. By the time I get that onto the page (screen), there is just time enough to say a few words about the last meeting and it's time to go again.

With that said, here we go. The RAC Winter contest was a great way to say "Happy New Year" to hams from VE8 to VY2. I'm always surprised by the level of US and overseas interest in our little contest. It's great to see. Even at it's fastest pace it feels like everybody is still in holiday mode. Operating from the Diefenbunker with a collection of old and new friends made it even better. I highly recommend the experience.

The run of Basic candidates has continued. It's early, but it looks like the current crop is going to be an active bunch. I know it's early in their career, but I expect we will hear from these folks for years to come.

We had a near miss at Collegeville. 24 hours before the start of an exercise we had zero volunteers. In true amateur spirit, hams pitched in at the last minute and we got through it. It was scary to think we might not meet our commitment to the Emergency Preparedness College on behalf of the amateur radio community. For some of the students, who are municipal officials from around the country, this their introduction to amateur radio so it's important to make a good first impression.

There is another contest on my calendar. This one is the CQ 160 CW. As I explained last time, it is fun to work

the world on a band that is often written off as yesterdays spectrum. A quiet sun may be bad news for the HF spectrum, but it bodes well for the top band. Good propagation or bad, it will be a weekend in the country with a bunch of like minded amateurs, another guaranteed good time.

The Canadian Ski Marathon is coming up again. For me it is a mix of routine and exciting. It is routine in that I have done it for many years now, so in many ways it always follows the same outline. It is exciting because at the start there are always new obstacles to overcome and last minute problems to solve. The weather is always a big factor. It has to be considered even if the forecast is benign. They have been known to get the forecast wrong. It is always fun to get back together with people seen only once a year. It's like a family reunion only without the weird cousin.

Two days after the CSM is another trip to Collegeville. This time in French. My fingers are crossed already.

On to the January meeting.. It was unfortunate that the guest speaker was unable to attend. We hope things get settled down, and we look forward to seeing the presentation sometime later in the year. There is a tradition in the OARC that when the guest speaker is unable to attend, the meeting gets more free form and a variety of topics come up from the floor. It becomes more of a round table than a lecture. This time was no exception. Maybe we should schedule a meeting a year without a topic. What do you think?

That's it for this month. I'm still wondering - What YOU do in a month of radio? I'd love to read VE3xyz's words next month.

73 mk  
VE3FFK



## VE2CRA Capital City FM Net Control Schedule

Greetings All;

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

2 Feb - Bruce VE3QX  
9 Feb - Bruce VE3QX  
16 Feb - *Family Day - No Net*  
23 Feb - George VE3BNO  
2 Mar - George VE3BNO  
9 Mar - Dave VE3TLY  
16 Mar - Dave VE3TLY  
23 Mar - Martin VA3SIE  
30 Mar - Martin VA3SIE  
6 Apr - Mike VE3FFK  
13 Apr - *Easter Monday - No Net*  
20 Apr - Mike VE3FFK  
27 Apr - Al VE3ZTU  
4 May - Al VE3ZTU  
11 May - Janice VA3PAX  
18 May - *Victoria Day - No Net*  
25 May - Janice VA3PAX  
1 Jun - Greg VE3YTY  
8 Jun - Greg VE3YTY  
15 Jun - Sydney VE3GVI  
22 Jun - Sydney VE3GVI  
29 Jun - Harrie VE3HYS  
6 Jul - Harrie VE3HYS  
13 Jul - Bruce VE3QX  
20 Jul - Bruce VE3QX  
27 Jul - George VE3BNO

If you can not make your sessions as scheduled please contact one of the other controllers to ask if they could take your net session in your place. (you can offer to swap a session with them).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Al MacPhee VE3ZTU [amac0757@hotmail.com](mailto:amac0757@hotmail.com)  
613-831-8920  
Bruce Lauer VE3QX [Bruce.Lauer@sympatico.ca](mailto:Bruce.Lauer@sympatico.ca)  
613-721-0538  
Dave Green VE3TLY [ve3tly@rac.ca](mailto:ve3tly@rac.ca)  
613-728-8606  
George Roach VE3BNO [groach@igs.net](mailto:groach@igs.net)  
613-234-0885  
Greg Danylchenko VE3YTY  
[jneelands@sympatico.ca](mailto:jneelands@sympatico.ca)  
613-236-9291  
Harrie Jones VE3HYS  
[harrie.jones@chumottawa.com](mailto:harrie.jones@chumottawa.com)  
613-739-9365  
Janice Neelands VA3PAX  
[jneelands@sympatico.ca](mailto:jneelands@sympatico.ca)  
613-236-9291  
Martin Gillen VA3SIE [va3sie@gmail.com](mailto:va3sie@gmail.com)  
613-244-3585  
Mike Kelly VE3FFK [ve3ffk@rac.ca](mailto:ve3ffk@rac.ca)  
613-322-0669  
Sydney Moorcroft VE3GVI [smoorc@rogers.com](mailto:smoorc@rogers.com)  
613-820-0093

This repeater requires a 100 Hertz CTCSS tone for access. If you do not have 100 Hz CTCSS tone, listen and transmit on 146.94 MHz. Remember to let the repeater tail drop first. The club also operates IRLP node 2040 on this repeater. The net includes the Swap Net, from Labour Day to Victoria Day, sponsored by Ed VA3ES. All amateurs are welcome to check in to the net. Membership in the club is not a requirement.

73, Bryan, VE3ZRK  
[ve3zrk@rac.ca](mailto:ve3zrk@rac.ca)  
613-737-3933



## OVMRC Forums

You tune into your favorite repeater (VE3TWO of course) and you listen to a few other amateurs (NOT hams..[grin]) talking about a subject you are most interested in. Since you are not able to write down any information while you're bombing down the Queen-sway, you can ask one of the others to send you an email or post the info on the OVMRC forum.(assuming the others have an account on the OVMRC forum)

Why post the info on the forum? Posting on the forum serves two purposes. 1: The user who is posting the information doesn't need to know the receiver's private email address, 2: The topic shows on the forum for all to see, which I think is added bonus to everyone who missed the online QSO.

Tip #1: If you are looking for something, post a request on the appropriate forum. Before you 'submit' the topic, click on the 'subscribe' checkbox near the bottom left. This will tell the system to send you a private email when a reply to your forum post is entered. How crafty indeed!! You don't need to check at the forum until a reply is posted. If you want to follow a particular thread (no matter how controversial) simply 'subscribe' to that particular message topic. Case in point: I happen to be looking for a serial card for my Kenwood TS-680. I've posted my request for information on the 'Wanted' forum, and checked the 'subscribe' checkbox. When a registered user creates a reply stating they have info or 'here is the link.....' I'll receive a private email stating a reply has been posted.

Tip #2: There are two ways to access the forum. 1. You will see a link on the main page: To participate in our user forum, click Here. This will launch the forum in a separate tab of your browser in full screen mode. 2: click on the 'forum' link on the left list of links, the forum will launch as a scrollable window within the OVMRC framework. Both will work equally well, but you may prefer one view over the other. Try them both to see which works better for you.

Click to [www.ovmrc.on.ca](http://www.ovmrc.on.ca) to get to the forums.

73, OVMRC Executive

## ARRL Quiz

1. Perigee
  - a) Closest approach of a satellite to Earth
  - b) Farthest distance of a satellite from Earth
  - c) Average distance of a satellite from Earth
  - d) A failed launch
  
2. Mode
  - a) Orientation of orbit with respect to Earth's orbit
  - b) Angle between the satellite and the Sun
  - c) Uplink-Downlink frequencies
  - d) Relative angular difference between ground station's and satellite's polarization
  
3. Bird
  - a) Protective shroud jettisoned by the vehicle once in orbit
  - b) Refers to any space-borne instrument used to monitor weather
  - c) A satellite
  - d) Signals from a satellite
  
4. Acquisition
  - a) Notification of "space-available" by launching agency
  - b) Completion of fund-raising
  - c) Phase-lock to satellite telemetry signals
  - d) Reception of signals from satellite
  
5. Keplerian
  - a) Refers to early orbital theory
  - b) Anything in the shape of an ellipse
  - c) Coefficients describing a satellite's orbit
  - d) Acceleration from a planet's gravitational field
  
6. Alligator
  - a) Sensitive satellite receiver
  - b) Ground station with better transmit than receive capability
  - c) Control station in charge of cutting off over-powered users
  - d) Nickname for the container in which a satellite is launched
  
7. Mean Motion
  - a) A fast az-el rotator
  - b) Number of satellite rotations in a solar day
  - c) Relative velocity of satellite to the Earth's surface
  - d) Relative velocity of satellite to a geosynchronous orbit

### Answers

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| 1. a | 5. c |
| 2. c | 6. b |
| 3. c | 7. b |
| 4. d |      |



## REMRC—ARES



### How To Get Emergency Communications Experience?

We've talked about the need for Amateurs to provide Emergency Communications, the kind of communications required, and the skills needed, or not needed, to be a useful volunteer. The next question for many people, is how can I gain experience with emergency like communications conditions?

Some minds have already leapt to Field Day, and 30 years ago that might have been a reasonable answer. Today, the best way to gain emergency communications experience is with community service events like the Tour Nortel and the Canadian Ski Marathon.

Conditions for Community Service events are very similar to emergency communications conditions;

- It is local communications (VHF/UHF)
- There are many stations working as a team on the same frequency
- There is a net control station and they play an important role
- You have to go where the organization needs you, which may not be where it is convenient for you and radio communications.
- You need to establish and maintain effective communications with the other stations. One quick check in is not enough.
- You may need to be prepared and creative, in order to establish communications from your location.

Working at Community Service events is a great way to realize that you really aren't prepared. What worked for your location last year may not be sufficient for your location this year. Over time you gain experience and a kit of supplies that allows you to solve almost any situation. Many of the things you need are not complicated. It might be realizing that an antenna on a 3 metre

mast can make a big difference and that you need at least 3 metres of coax cable to do that.

While Field Day is still promoted by many groups as the great demonstration and test of Amateur radio emergency communications capability, linking Field Day with emergency communications fails to promote the real benefits of field day and provides a negative view of amateurs to the emergency planning community.

Field day is a great event. It gets amateurs out of the shack, working together at something we all enjoy. It provides an excellent opportunity to promote the hobby to the public with demonstrations of different modes and bands, showing people how Amateur radio can communicate with different places.

Field day is not a great demonstration of emergency communications. Emergency planners are not looking for people to set up in tents, they want them inside buildings with the rest of the people. Talking briefly to Sable Island is cool, but clients are looking to communicate from a shelter to City Hall and the Red Cross.

So if you want to improve your understanding and ability to provide communications in an emergency, look for community service events. They are a great learning opportunity. If you want to have some fun and demonstrate the joy of Amateur radio as a hobby, mark field day in your calendar so you don't miss it.

Next Month: What kind of equipment is required for emergency communications?

Peter Gamble – VE3BQP

ve3bqp at rac.ca      www.emrg.ca

EMRG – Team Leader, Ottawa ARES – EC

Two Names – One Group – One Purpose



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

# Groundwave

February 2009



## RAC Bulletins

2009 is the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Bermuda by Sir George Somers. Most local organisations are having an event of some kind during the year. The Radio Society of Bermuda has been issued with a special call sign that can be used all year, it is VP9400/xx.

The xx suffix is the operator's call sign, i.e. VP9400/LP. There are a few novice licence holders who have a 3 digit suffix, i.e. VP9400/NMT. Special pictorial postcards will be used to QSL.

We would be grateful if you would kindly pass this information on to your members through your usual channels. Thank you for your assistance in this matter,

73's

Rose Spershott, VP9LP  
Secretary  
Radio Society of Bermuda.

## 2008 RAC Winter Contest at Diefenbunker

On December 27, members of the OARC operated VA3RAC for the RAC Winter Contest from the Diefenbunker Museum in Carp. The operators were Mike VE3FFK, Al VE3ZTU, Tyler VA3DGN, Dave VE3TLY and Stan VE3TW a visitor from Toronto. We ran two transceivers covering 20m phone and CW (alternating) and 40m phone from the museum. In addition, other members of the club operated from their own homes. These included Vladimir VE3IAE (40m CW), Doug VE3XK (40m phone), George VE3BNO (80m CW and 15m phone), Bob VA3RKM (160m CW and 80m CW), and another visitor Dave VA3RJ (15m CW).

A special thanks is in order to Brian VE3UU and Nick

VE3OWV, museum volunteers who were very helpful during our stay. Their sense of good humour and fun was never far away.

And the results? By the time it was all over, we had made 613 QSOs for a final score of 144,808. Not bad for a bunch of 'amateurs'. A special thanks to Vladimir VE3IAE who ran up 261 QSOs on 40m CW.

I have updated the amateur radio info page linked to [http://diefenbunker.ca/pages/get\\_involved/amateur\\_radio\\_station.shtml](http://diefenbunker.ca/pages/get_involved/amateur_radio_station.shtml) so as to include the RAC Winter contest activities.

Dave, VE3TLY

## CSM

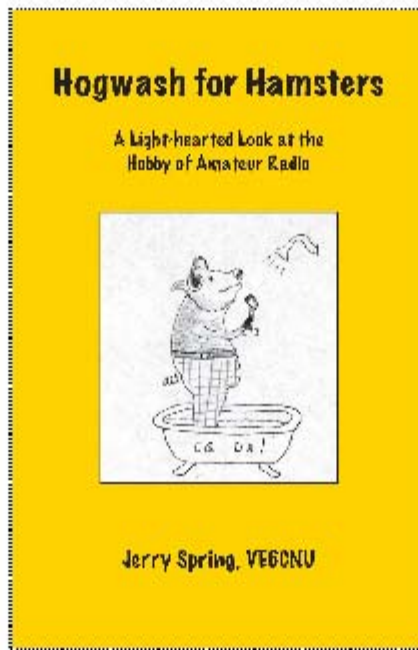
Once again the Canadian Ski Marathon is spooling up. This year we are looking forward to much more "normal" conditions and by that I mean snow!

The CSM depends on ham radio volunteers to provide important and timely safety and logistical communication for the benefit of the skiers. The amateur radio CSM web page (<http://radio.admin2.ca>) is up and running with 2009 information and assignments are already being filled. If you would like to volunteer this year, please email Harold VA3UNK ([radio1@admin2.ca](mailto:radio1@admin2.ca)). Although I can't promise anything, assignment requests are generally first-come, first-served.

Please join me the second weekend in February (7th-8th) and help make the 36th our best year yet!

73 de Harold, VA3UNK

## PRESS RELEASE: New Ham Radio Book



Over two years in the making, Jerry Spring takes a look at the more humorous aspects of ham radio. Check out the stories, riddles, one liners, limericks, jokes, nursery rhymes and more. Find out what's for dinner at Elmer's Diner and why the ham operator refused to buy the used triband beam. Got some tough technical questions? Then ask "Dear Liddy" for straight answers. This book definitely proves that Jerry had too much time on his hands in order to come up with this kind of stuff. If you're among the group that thinks hams take themselves too seriously, then get a copy of Hogwash for Hamsters and spread the fun.

For more information, and to order your copy, go to:

[www.trafford.com/08-1259](http://www.trafford.com/08-1259)

**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 \_\_\_\_\_