



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

# Groundwave

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## *From the Editor:*

October 2013

This year's Portable Station Demo event was held at Andrew Haydon Park on Saturday, September 14. The turnout was excellent despite the cool weather. There was a wide variety of radios and especially antennas in use. Special mention goes to Mike who took up the challenge of loading up a tree. Thanks to Greg for organizing it once again. See the photo of happy campers on page 6.

Just a reminder that membership renewals for the 2013-2014 year are now due. Bring your cheque to the meeting or mail it in.

October's speaker will be Wayne Getchell, VE3CZO, whose talk is entitled "23-24 cm Two Stage Amplifier Design: From Conception to Prototype".

Ian Jeffrey, VE3IGJ, Editor



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

**Next Meeting 7:30 pm, Wednesday, October 9th  
in the Colonel By Room at Ottawa City Hall**

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*Articles may be submitted for use in this publication provided that they portray events or activities that promote Amateur Radio. Letters and comments are also welcome. Submissions may be made by mail addressed to the Editor care of the OARC, or by e-mail to "ve3igj@rac.ca". Deadline for submissions occurs three days after the regular monthly meeting of the OARC.*

**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.

*Please support your local radio organisations. They support you!*

**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.

**The Rubber Boot Net** runs week days at 07:30 on VE3MPC, 147.150 + hosted by Ed, VE3GX or Mike, VA3TJP. The Rubber Boot net has been running since the early 1980's and is popular for the early risers and the go to work crowd.

**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 **VE3MPC 147.150(+)**. 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.

**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.

*The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club bulletin "Groundwave" is published and distributed to club members. 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  
Currently off the air and looking for a new home.

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.



## September Minutes

Meeting started at 7:30 chaired by Vice President Tyler (VE3DGN) replacing the President who is out of town.

There was one guest present – Sandra McGuire.

Al (VE3ZTU) was taking new and renewed OARC memberships; membership in RAC was also urged as it reduces the club's annual insurance expense.

Harold (VE3UNK) reported on a successful Field Day; 3832 points were garnered. The membership gave Harold a hearty round of applause in appreciation of his Field Day work and leadership.

Ed (VE3GWO) reported on the Hamfest held September 7. The event had record attendance and number of tables rented. The arena is getting full. Ed thanked the volunteers (32 came out to help). The membership gave Ed a hearty round of applause in appreciation of his Hamfest work and leadership.

Greg (VE3Y TZ) welcomed those present to take part in the Portable Station Demo to be held on September 14 at Andrew Haydon Park from 9 to noon.

Ying (VE3YH) invited the membership of the QRP Ottawa annual Field Day to be held also on September 14 at Rideau River Provincial Park.

Tyler reminded everyone of the deadline coming up for the Joe Norton Award (\$500!!!) which is available to eligible new hams. See the web site for info.

Dave (VE3TLY) reported on the Diefenbunker antenna project. The matter remains with the Bunker's Board.

## Dates to Remember

### 2013

- Sep. 7 Hamfest
- Sep. 30 Membership Renewals Due
- Nov. 1 Joe Norton Award Subm. Due
- Dec. 28 RAC Winter Contest

### 2014

- Feb. 8, 9 Canada Ski Marathon
- Apr. 9 Homebrew Night
- Jun. 11 OARC AGM and Elections
- Jun. 28, 29 Field Day
- Jul. 1 RAC Canada Day Contest

Tyler announced that the Executive is looking for ideas for this year's Club project and excursion. Any ideas should be sent to anyone on the OARC's executive, preferably by the end of September.

Tyler informed those present that the Scout Jamboree being held Sept 27-29 in Morrisburg is looking for radio operators. Anyone interested can contact VE3KLG.

The Tall Pines rally will also need volunteer radio operators. The event is held at the end of November. Apparently, there is plenty of roadside mayhem, so if you are interested, please contact Mike (VE3FFK).

Richard (VE3UNW) still has a lot of Hamfest goodies for sale. See Richard, he'll see to your needs.

Gord (VE3AVA) needs help assembling his MFJ 1775 antenna. If you are in a position to help, please let him know.

Clare (VE3NPO) related an interesting story about his two contacts with VE6AO one recently, the other many years ago.

*(Continued on page 6)*



## mk's Word

A new year at OARC, and we seem to have hit the ground running. The Hamfest was a great success, with more everything (buyers, sellers, new toys, club revenue, new hams and fun had).

Dave's presentation on hamming in Asia was eye opening, and the latest in a long line of talks on what hamming is like on the other side of the ionosphere. How many remember VE3XJ doing a talk on hamming in Senegal? There have been others before that. Check your memory, or the back issues of the Groundwave.

The portable station demo was a heap of fun. Maybe we need a new name instead of "demo". As with the Hamfest, I'm pretty sure we had more members at Andy Haydon Park than at any of the previous outings. It's a good thing the park is so large. Even so there was a bit of QRMing going on. I used the day to make progress on a few antenna projects.

There was the "load up a tree" experiment mentioned in last month's Groundwave. That proved conclusively that you can't always load up a tree. Although it likely works in the jungles of Vietnam, my guess is that there isn't enough moisture in a tree here, in September, to make the scheme viable. You are welcome to experiment on your own (or your neighbour's) trees.

Then there was the end fed half wave antenna. I wanted to try to duplicate the results of the commercial PAR antennas, but with something suitable for a 100 W rig, and at something less than the commercial price. I had trouble measuring out the right length of wire, but did get results promising enough to try again. This project has a way to go, but I don't see any show stoppers in the way.

The third antenna of the day was a fold out, 5 turn compact loop antenna for 80 metres. For that one, I just wanted to see if it behaved out in the open the same way as it did in my tiny, wire crowded

back yard. It did. SWR was good, bandwidth was about 50 kHz, and it folded and unfolded sort of OK, (but not as easily as I would have liked) There's still more work to do on the mechanics of the thing, as it easily gets twangled in the folding and unfolding process. (Twisted and tangled, for those of you who are unfamiliar with my version of the language.) I still have to find out if it actually radiates, or is just a big dummy load. I expect it will join things like the Isotron in the "better than nothing" category, but at least I'll be able to carry this thing. Of course, I have visions of a slightly larger 160m version later. If you like to talk while you walk, you should be able to scale this thing down to umbrella size for 20m.

While at the park I got to play a bit with "Tim's Cannon", the launcher VA3PYC loaned me. I want one. As someone who can't throw much higher than I can reach, a line launcher saves much frustration with tangled fishing lines and throws that go wildly astray. Maybe something like a line launcher could be the next OARC project. Of course, being the sort that I am, I would make a few tweaks to it, so I could use the space inside the air chamber as a place to store and carry things like the pump and projectiles, and maybe the barrel too. Since I often find myself in turtle mode, carrying everything on my back, I have a strong preference for compact and light weight.

OARC is looking for both a club project and a destination for an annual field trip, so what are YOUR suggestions? We've been to Kingston and Guelph (and exotic Carp), CHU, and CFRA, and probably a few places I missed or forgot. Can we combine the project and trip, and find some destination that has unique stash of parts for the keen homebrewers among us. I hear there's a place in Japan worth a visit.

73 mk  
VE3FFK



## Solar Cycle 24

### Hamfest

Thanks to Ed for all the effort he put into another (hugely) successful Hamfest. We know how much work goes into making such a complex and large event work. It is considerable and the work lasts for months, including over the summer. We thought the whole thing ran like a well oiled machine. Thanks.

While we are at it we should thank all the other volunteers who came out and made it work. Thanks to you as well.

Seven exams were administered to 5 candidates. There are now 3 new amateurs:

One person wrote Basic and passed.  
One person wrote Basic and failed, then tried again with a different test and passed.

One person wrote Basic and passed, then tried to upgrade to Basic with Honours and failed to reach 80%.

One person wrote Basic to try to upgrade an existing Basic license to Honours and failed to reach 80%.

One person wrote Advanced and failed.

No one attempted a Morse test.

Mike Kelly VE3FFK

Is the Sun More Active Than it Looks? An Innovative Method to Characterize the Solar Cycle

See the link below for an interesting take on the peak of the current solar cycle.

<http://www.universetoday.com/104023/is-the-sun-more-active-than-it-looks-an-innovative-method-to-characterize-the-solar-cycle/>

### Copper Wire Origins

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, British scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 200 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 150 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Brit's, in the weeks that followed, an American archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a story published in the New York Times:

"American archaeologists, finding traces of 250-year-old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 50 years earlier than the British".

One week later, New Zealand Dept. Of Mines and Resources in New Zealand reported the following:

"After digging as deep as 30 feet in the North Island, Keith Williams, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing at all. Keith has therefore concluded that 250 years ago, New Zealand had already gone wireless."

Just makes you proud to be From way down under !

### Joe Norton Award

The Joe Norton Award application deadline is 17h00, November 1. Rather than reprint all the detailed instructions here please see the OARC web site <http://www.oarc.net/norton/>.



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## Powerless Communication

University of Washington engineers have created a new wireless communication system that allows devices to interact with each other without relying on batteries or wires for power. The new communication technique, which the researchers call “ambient backscatter,” takes advantage of the TV and cellular transmissions that already surround us around the clock. Two devices communicate with each other by reflecting the existing signals to exchange information. The researchers built small, battery-free devices with antennas that can detect, harness and reflect a TV signal, which then is picked up by other similar devices.

<http://www.washington.edu/news/2013/08/13/wireless-devices-go-battery-free-with-new-communication-technique/>

Dave (VE3TLY) informed the membership that long time member Ernie (VE3OEB) will be moving to Toronto and so this will be his last meeting. The Membership said good-bye and wished Ernie the best of luck for the future.

Bryan (VE3QN) passed around a QSL card he had received from a YL (K9DIG) who was a radio amateur and a sled dog musher, illustrating the point that amateurs are blessed with endless curiosity and engage in a variety of activities.

Turning to the main event, Tyler introduced Dave Goodwin (VE3AAQ) who held the rapt attention of the membership as he related his “Two Year Asian Adventure – Ham Radio Culture Shock, Life in China.

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm with Clare (VE3NPC) winning the \$21 50/50 Draw.





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## Tall Pines Rally

It's that time again – the Rally of the Tall Pines committee has been hard at work and it's time to get the workers signed up. Hope you have kept the November 29-30 weekend open on your calendar. Note – we are running a week later than usual this year! As the Pines keeps growing and adding exciting new features, our needs for volunteers are greater than ever. So please pass this message on to others. Check out the Pines website at [www.tallpinesrally.com](http://www.tallpinesrally.com) for details.

While on the website, if you have not already registered for 2013, please go to the worker section and register. We have tried to keep the process very straightforward for you. So whether you registered as a worker previously or are a first-time registrant, go to the Worker tab on the website, then click on 'Register' and follow the cues from there to either update your profile or to create a new profile. Note – be sure to answer at the top 'Yes' to "I am registering as a worker for the Rally of the Tall Pines 2013" If you are stuck, email me at [ross@tallpinesrally.com](mailto:ross@tallpinesrally.com) for assistance. When you have completed your registration or update, click on 'Submit' at the bottom of the page. We need all of you, including committee, stewards etc. to register, as we work extensively with the database to make plans.

As in the past we are assisting workers with subsidized accommodations. See 'Accommodations' in the Worker section for full details and for online payment. Subsidized accommodations will be provided once again at Elmer's Hunt Camp, at Limerick Lake Lodge and at Cedar Ridge Camp. If you stay two nights, you pay for the first night and the rally pays for the second. Anyone staying three nights should first check with Ross re subsidy. To assist workers in the Registration process and in finding accommodations at the Pines we have Trish Groom waiting to assist you. You can contact Trish at [accommodations@tallpinesrally.com](mailto:accommodations@tallpinesrally.com). In addition there are many other worker perks including free Tall Pines merchandise, a free post-rally dinner and being entered in a draw for a kayak, courtesy of Clearwater Design.

With a super compact Route Plan and Schedule, we are able to squeeze two passes of recce for all stages into Friday, so we will need helpers to supervise that all day. Meanwhile we will be doing the usual final route preparation, so we will need just a few workers on Thursday and lots of helpers on Friday. In addition Shakedown is scheduled on Friday evening. The rally runs all day Saturday as usual, finishing with the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, at the Bancroft Fish & Game Club.

Rally Headquarters will be at the Dungannon Rec Centre on Hwy. 62 south. Virtually all activities except the Banquet will take place there. The official WORKERS' MEETING will be held there at the 9 P.M. on Friday evening.

We also need lots of help on the WORK DAY on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26. Please advise if you can attend then by e mailing Ross Wood directly at [ross@tallpinesrally.com](mailto:ross@tallpinesrally.com) Anyone who assists on the Work Day will receive a \$10 subsidy on the RallyCross on Sunday. Note – competitors are invited to assist on the Work Day. This not only offers them an opportunity to contribute to the event, but also affords a chance to preview the stages.

Note – we will again be using the RallySport Ontario electronic timing equipment. If you already have experience with the equipment and would like to work with it at the Pines, please indicate that in the 'Request for a Special Job' section of your registration. Note also – we are planning to hold a training session on Friday, November 29th at 4:00 PM at Rally HQ. This session is intended for everyone interested in working with it at the Pines, whether you have previous experience or not.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or Trish. Trish is my Worker Registration assistant this year, don't be surprised if you receive a response from her.

Ross Wood, Clerk of the Course  
Trish Groom, Assistant for Worker Registra-



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

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## Regional Director's Report

### North East Ontario Regional Directors Report for September, 2013

I hope you all had a pleasant summer and the weather was good. We managed to get out and visit kids, grand kids and grand dogs in Alberta and even got some time to operate portable VE6.

The first thing I want to mention is that the RAC Annual General Meeting will be held in Hamilton on October 5 starting at 1 PM. It will be in conjunction with the Hamilton ARC at the Ancaster Fair Grounds starting at 9 AM. The AGM agenda includes the Presidents Report, 2012 finances, appointment of auditors for 2013 and an amendment to the RAC constitution. There will be the Great RAC Debate session for both Amateurs in attendance and RAC members from across the country will also be able to ask questions using Go To Webinar. Full information is available at [https://www.rac.ca/downloads/racagm\\_2013\\_en.pdf](https://www.rac.ca/downloads/racagm_2013_en.pdf) For info on the Hamfest goto [www.hamiltonarc.ca](http://www.hamiltonarc.ca)

If you want to know why the executive does what they do this is your chance to ask us. Too often it seems the flow of info is from the executive to the membership, this is your chance to reverse this situation.

I also would like to get more comments from RAC members in the North East Region. Got a question, send me an email and I will answer you personally and then in this bulletin as well.

One of the things we don't do enough as an organisation is saying Thank You to all the volunteers who make RAC viable. With only 1.5 paid employees the entire organisation is basically run by volunteers. Thanks to all the ARES folks, clubs who have sponsored the RAC AGM, QSL Bureau sorters, Contest organisers, Wednesday RAC HQ volunteers, members of all the standing committees and others. We still get the odd comment that those dozen or so faces on the executive page run RAC. And yes we have taken on decision making roles, but those decisions would never be imple-

mented without all of the above folks who make RAC a successful organisation. To quote one of my favourite Canadians, Red Green, "Remember, we're all in this together".

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [ve3xt@rac.ca](mailto:ve3xt@rac.ca)

Bill VE3XT, North East Ontario Regional Director, Radio Amateurs of Canada

### RAC Bulletin

### 2013 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) October 19, 2013



This year's SET is now scheduled for October 19, 2013 due to a conflict with Thanksgiving on October 12. Please visit the RAC website for details.

A reminder that groups are encouraged to hold their SET on any weekend that is convenient

73,

Doug Mercer VO1DTM/VO1DM CEC  
Chief Field Services Officer - Radio Amateurs of/du Canada  
Tel: 709-364-4741

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked bare-foot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him - Oh, man, this is so bad, it's good— a super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

## 2013-2014 Membership Application/Renewal

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc., Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J2

- Single \$25 (\$20 after Feb 1, 2014)
- Family \$30
- Junior \$15 (under 18 years of age)
- New Ham - Free (if licensed in current Membership year)
- Emailed *Groundwave*     Mailed *Groundwave* (add \$10.00)

**Please Note: Membership year is September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014.**

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.

Do you want an OARC NAME TAG?    Yes     Second or Replacement    Yes

ORDER DETAILS - As to appear on badge:

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