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Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

Mar 2004

There are a number of club initiatives that are starting up. The Hamfest in September, Field Day in June, and the election of a new executive also in June. Volunteers will be needed so if someone doesn't call you, please call one of the event chairs. Greg Danylchenko, VE3YTZ, is our Hamfest chair again this year. I know I will be helping out. Will you?

Harold Hamilton, VA3UNK, is the Field Day Wrangler. He will need operators, equipment and other things to be mentioned later.

We need a new Groundwave Editor. I will be leaving the post after the May issue even though I will continue to contribute and help out when needed. Up to now there have been no takers for the job which leads me to believe that the membership doesn't care if we have an Editor. No Editor, no Groundwave.

I noticed an obituary in a recent edition of the Ottawa Citizen. Bernard Best passed away. Some of you may remember him as an active Ham for many years. He used to belong to the OARC, at least he was there when I joined the club. At the time I believe his call was VE3SH. I see that the call is registered with another Ham so I guess he hasn't been very active for several years. Time catches up with all of us.

Gerry King, VE3GK, is the featured speaker at the March meeting. I have know Gerry for many years and have always found his speeches entertaining and informative. He has given talks at the Dayton and Rochester Hamfests along with presentations at events in almost all of our eastern provinces. You can count on having a good meeting when Gerry is the feature.

See you there. VE3EV

MARCH MEETING 7:30, Mar 10th in the Honeywell room at Ottawa City Hall

Gerry King, VE3GK, is the featured speaker!

In This Issue....

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

Mar 2004

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 "ve3ev@rac.ca". Deadline for submissions occurs on the last Monday of the month preceding any regular 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 Richmond Room (2nd floor of the Old Teacher's College) of Ottawa City Hall (formerly Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton Headquarters) on Lisgar Street. Meetings commence at approximately 19:30 hours. Further details about each meeting is elsewhere in this publication.

Executive Meetings of the OARC Inc. are normally held on the first Wednesday of each month at 19:30 hours. Contact the President to confirm the date, time and place of the next meeting.

The CAPITAL CITY FM Net meets every Monday at 20:00 hours on the club repeater **VE2CRA** to pass traffic and to make announcements of interest to Amateurs in the NationalCapital Region.

The SWAP Net is a service provided and conducted by Dan Reardon, VE3GUU. This feature appears on the Capital City FM Net. To list items and make inquiries, call Dan Reardon at 721-3339 or e-mail him at ve3guu@igs.net. Also available on the web: http://www.igs.net/~swap

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 Thursday evening at 20:00 hours on repeater VE3TEL, **147.03** 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,** (listening on 50.150, 432.150, 222.150 and 1296.100 as well.) Horizontal polarization is encouraged although vertical will work

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.

Voice (VHF)   146.94/146.34   100Hz output tone
         (UHF)   443.300/448.300

VE3ATV 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 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.

Groundwave
Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of the February General Meeting
February 11, 2003 19:30

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 by President Ben Price (VE3CDA). There was one guest, Bob Knapp (VE3CDG). Bob is a former member who has come back to the fold. In fact, he came back with quite a bang, as you'll learn by reading on.

Clare Fowler (VE3NPC) pointed out that the previous month's minutes needed a correction. They referred to LEO 40, when they should have said A0-40. Diane Bruce (VA3DB) moved that the minutes be adopted as amended, seconded by Cary Honeywell (VE3EV).

The repeater VE3CRA is operational. Our IRLP Link, node 2040, is operational. The beacon VE3TEN is malfunctioning which Mike Kelly (VE3FFK) noticed a week or two ago. Ben will let Harrie Jones (VE3HYS) know of the problem.

The treasurer reported that the Club is in the black. The membership secretary reported that we have 85 paid-up members, which is about 10 less than the same time last year. The secretary was absent, but will get the bylaws out to the membership soon. Diane Bruce reported that she got rid of the dead links on our website. The Groundwave editor pointed out that in the hard copy version of the latest edition of the Groundwave, Peter Gamble's article on page 5 should have read "523" and not "513". The manager of Monday's Capital City Net, Brian Campbell (VE3ZRK), was pleased to report that over the past few weeks, check-ins have been averaging a healthy 14-20 hams per net. Satellite guru Claire Fowler regretted to report that A0 40 has gone down. However, A07 and F029 are still working.

Ben Price announced that the OARC will man its presentation booth at the Rideau Centre on Saturday, February 28, from 9:30 on. Our booth will be located on the ground floor, in front of the Cinnibon restaurant. If anyone would like to help out, please contact Ben. He distributed samples of the Club's new public awareness "calling cards" which he had printed. They give details of our website, meeting time, location etc.

We returned to the issue of decommissioning our ATV repeater. It has been decided that we will have a professional take down the antenna array and mast before the next general meeting. We have not heard from the Canadian Museum of Science and Technology whether they would like the equipment either for the purpose of keeping it on the air, or for storing it for future use. If no one asks for this equipment by the weekend, it will be scrapped. Rick Furniss (VE3IHI) expressed an interest in the scrap.

The awarding of the Joe Norton Award has been delayed for at least another month.

Richard Hagemeyer (VE3UNW) gave a talk on the Canadian Ski Marathon, which had taken place the previous weekend, February 7-8. Richard is the coordinator of ham volunteers for the event. There are 55 amateur radio volunteers, 40 of whom come from the OARC. He estimates that hams give some 500-1000 volunteer hours over the weekend, and that we bring roughly $200,000 worth of radio equipment to the event. Five repeaters are allocated to covering the terrain which is described by a rectangle 20 miles long x 70 miles wide. He touched on other topics such as buddy assignments (i.e. pairing radio operator volunteers with

non-radio-volunteers), checkpoint schedules, sleeping assignments etc. Those who volunteered are welcome to attend the general CSM banquet to be held February 17, but please let Richard know in advance.

As an aside, it was mentioned that a good future venue for one of our public awareness demos would be the Chateau Montebello during the CSM weekend. There is a constant stream of people through the lobby all weekend long.

In the "strange but true contacts" category, Diane talked about her first satellite contact with Clare Fowler via A040 from a few weeks ago. This she accomplished in spite of the fact that her dish was propped on a kitchen chair in the laneway.

Mike Kelly was pleased to report that he ran an exam for the basic qualification. Three candidates had registered for it; two wrote, while one couldn't make the exam due to a job interview. The two who wrote were successful.

Paul Campbell (VE3PC) called for volunteers to work at the Emergency Preparedness College. The job requires that you go in for 1 ½ to 2 days and that you have a hand-held radio. The days are always Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday. Your job is to carry out simulated emergencies. The College is located on Heron Road north of Alta Vista. Interested parties are welcome to contact Paul for further details at ve3pc@rac.ca.

Our Hamfest manager, Greg Danylchenko (VE3YTZ), brought us up-to-date on the status of plans for this year's Hamfest, which will be held on Labour Day Saturday, September 4, 2004, at the usual place, the Carp Arena. We were pleased to learn that Maple Leaf Communications will be coming to this year's Hamfest for the first time. This commercial vendor from the Toronto area specializes in cables, connectors and antennas. The company is making a multi-year commitment to our Hamfest.

After coffee, we held the 50/50 draw and also gave away some old Hamfest prizes that had not been claimed. We then viewed one of the RAC movies.

Which brings us back to the story of our happy guest, Bob Knapp, of the Canadian Dancing Girls call sign. Not only did Bob get the usual guestly privilege of free coffee, but he also netted a haul of $21 in the 50/50 draw, as well as a stack of magazines left over from the last Hamfest.

The next meeting will be held March 10 at 7:30 in the Honeywell Room of City Hall.

Janice VA3PAX and Ian VE3IGJ

IRLP News

The link transmitter ceased to work during the first week of March. We hope to have it back in service soon. It is actually receiving quite well, and the pass through audio from the Internet is ok. Just the transmit side is down. In other words, other nodes can hear us. We just can't hear them. This may be the best time to migrate to the UHF link. The IC-25 is pretty old but has given us good service up to now. I actually expected the rig to blow itself away a long time ago, but I seemed to have underestimated its resilience.

VE3EV

Groundwave

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Mk's Words

It seemed like a good idea at the time..

"How about updating that FAQ thing on the website about getting a ham ticket?" asked someone at the last OARC meeting. "Sure" I sez, "Its probably a bit out of date." After all, how long can it take. Well, it didn't exactly mention spark transmitters, but it was more out of date than I thought. Its funny how the changes in the way things work can creep up on you. Even though I am an examiner, and keep up on the regs, a change here and a tweak there adds up over the seven(!) years since the original email was answered. Toss in a few changes to the marketplace, (little things like e-bay and internet swap nets), new rigs coming in and old rigs going out (Nobody is going to buy a new HTX202 from Radio Shack these days) and a major rewrite sits in front of me. The good news is that it is half done, bad news is that it is only half done. I hope to get it emailed at the same time as this note goes to the Groundwave.

This got me to thinking, if I'm so out of date, what does Joe Ham answer when the kid down the street asks about getting a licence? Is it some story about ten words a minute and drawing schematics before getting started? Maybe they are "new" to amateur radio, and its block diagrams and 12 wpm to get on 20 metres. There are some "interesting" ideas about what is coming down as a result of the WRC 2003 rule changes, too. Do yourself a favour, grab a copy of RIC-3, check the relevant parts of the RAC website, and keep yourself up to date on what the situation really is.

Other than that, what's new?

I'm still working on my QSO totals, still aiming at one per week, outside of contests, 2m, and thing-a-thons. I'm happy to report that the average is now up to one per month. Not much, but its a better start than last year. Prime time for radio is also prime time for everything else, so my radio time seems to occur when the rest of the world is doing something else. Meanwhile, its quality over quantity, or at least that's what I tell myself. Since the January deep freeze has ended, I even got to take the radio toys outside for a bit, but by the time I walked to someplace interesting to operate from, and got the antenna into the sky, it was time to turn around and come home. Maybe by homebrew night I will have an antenna that goes up a little faster. Meanwhile, I'll get a March bus pass, and spend less time walking. By April, I hope to be back on the bike, and then the QSO rate should pick up nicely.

I'm still playing with some hardware Peter, VE3BQP has acquired to try to get around the problem doing radio from "radio free" zones like hospitals for EMRG. Maybe it will work, maybe not, but like most of his projects, it's fun trying. Ask him about some of the other hardware projects he has in his queue.

The Ski Marathon has wound up for another year, with fewer complications than in other years. One casualty of this years event is the mag mount that I got years ago from (then) VE3GSA. After a ton of ski marathons and other events, it finally, solidly, quit. After replacing the co-ax (open braid at the mount), it turned out that the coil at the bottom of the 5/8 wave element went open as well. The last of the CSM loose ends should get tied up tonight, when some of us get together to, among other things, return the borrowed equipment to its owners. Something like the "tool toss" at the end of a work party, somehow equipment wanders around during the event and takes its own time getting back to where it started. At least everything is labeled.

By the way, if you have ever waited for a bus in the winter, you would understand why I mentioned the hamlet of Bleakburn last month. *(Oh! I see. Ed.)*

Keep warm

mike .. VE3FFK

Care and feeding of your Pet Ham

Canadian Amateur Radio Bulletin
(Week of Feb.15 2004)

Pet hams are so intelligent they often seem human, but they can be difficult to raise. Only someone with great patience should attempt it. In case you do, here is a guide to the basics.

Living Area -- A pet ham needs a private nest area, an entire room where it will not be disturbed. Your pet ham will spend many happy hours alone there with its treasures. -- boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, paper, etc. that it will bring home whenever it ventures out. You will want to encourage your pet ham to confine its activity to this room to prevent the entire house from being subjected to noise, clutter and the boring of holes in the walls.

Expenses -- Keeping a pet ham is expensive, but, unlike most common pets, a pet ham can be trained to work out-side the home for a few hours each day. It may even bring in enough money to offset its expenses.

Feeding -- A well-behaved pet ham will eat with the family occasion-ally, but it will feed more comfortable and se-cure taking its meals in the nest room. You must be sure your pet ham is well supplied with food and drink during the long periods it spends alone in there, even if it does not beg or whine.

Obedience Training -- A pet ham can be trained to perform simple tricks, the easiest and most common being "sit" and "speak" Do not be alarmed if it practices them for hours at a time in the nest room.

Health Problems -- The pet ham typically suffers lower back pain and minor throat irritations from too much sitting and speaking, but health maintenance costs tend to be minimal.

Travel -- Your ham pet will gladly travel with your family by car or even by air, if allowed to bring along certain familiar items from the nest room. Most pet hams enjoy trips to places where they can meet pet hams from other families.

Breeding -- If you plan to breed your pet ham, you should do so as soon as possible after you get it. As a pet ham matures, it becomes increasingly reluctant to engage in activities not associated with its nest room collection --

-from the W5WWW Website.

(Reprinted from The Ragchew—bulletin of the North Okanagan Amateur Radio Club)

Groundwave

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

OARC Hamfest 2003

Phillip McCorkell, VE3PMC

(from "Listening In" November 2003, the journal of the Ontario DX Association)

Friday morning I boarded the train in Oshawa. Five hours later I was in my hotel room in Ottawa. The afternoon and early evening was spent with relatives that I have not seen for a long time. Later that evening back at the hotel I decided to listen to VE2CRA, 146.940. This is OARC's repeater in Hull, PO and the same repeater that would be used for talking in at the hamfest tomorrow. I brought along my Kenwood TH-79A to monitor the activities. Now the 79A has always been my favourite HT and the one I always take when visiting out of town hamfests but it does not work very well in hotel rooms. No mater were I stood the squelch would open and noise would fill the room Must be all the metal, wires and lights. Tired, I retired for the night. Morning would come early and I wanted to be well rested for tomorrow's big event.

Several weeks back I had made plans to meet up with my friend from Montreal and we would attend the hamfest together. Once again I turned on the 79A. More noise. Outside close to the hotel more of the same. I listened for a while but got tired of the noise so off went the radio. Shortly after I did Terry VE2WTQ arrived and we were off to Carp for the hamfest. After leaving the main highway we traveled a back road through several cornfields to the Carp Agricultural Fairgrounds. I had my doubts but Terry reassured me that this would be an outstanding hamfest. He has been here before.

In the parking lot several tailgaters, also a station setup with the most unique antenna arrangement I have ever seen. Definitely a very creative home brew setup Many hours (possibly years) went into this creation. Inside the building who should be the first person I recognized from back home (and the only one from back home), it was Brian Smith standing behind the familiar ODXA table. I later returned to see Brian and purchase more raffle tickets and a repeater directory.

 Now I don't want to be accused of avoiding the competition so I won't. Also present was the Canadian International DX Club. Impressive membership application form. May join this club as well, if funds permit. Commercial dealers present, BML Communications, Elkel LTEE and Radio HF. I almost bought an ICOM IC-718 but the box would not have fit in my suitcase without leaving everything else behind. Also the wish list was once again bigger than the bankbook. Very good vendor turnout. Radios, electronic and computer parts, books, magazines and anything else 1 you were looking for but did not think you I would find it here. Terry can confirm this.

Also present Radio -Amateurs of Canada, Amateur Radio Emergency Services and The Emergency Measures Radio Group. Also on display, information on the Diefenbunker also located here in Carp. Due to time constraints we did not visit this, stayed for the draw for the Kenwood TH-F6A, or attend the RAC Forum and Technology Update.

I know that it is hard to believe but there are some things more important than radio, not many but there are. Terry and I returned to his hotel where we met up with Diane and Chris before going to lunch. After lunch they took me back to my hotel before they left to visit their own relatives.
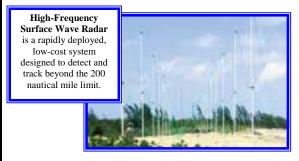
I then spent my time looking over my treasures, two keys and three books.

The rest of the day, I played the part of tourist. Sunday I took a cruise on the Ottawa River and then played the tourist role in Hull before walking back across the Pont Alexandria Bridge. Monday rode the rails to Kingston. Visited with my friend Lisa. Went on the Thousand Island Cruise. Almost bought a marine band HT but again the bank book would not allow for this. My friend Lisa has no interest in radio but her husband Kevin has a CB radio in his truck. Just thought I would throw that in. Also paid a visit to the Military Communications and Electronics Museum. This place is amazing. Truly a radio nut's paradise.

It would take an entire article to describe it. If you ever get to Kingston you have to experience it for your self. I will make one comment though. They had a key attached to a digital decoder and display. I tried my hand at it and nearly broke it. My hand not the key. Very hard to activate. Could send VE but gave up on 3. You will just have to try it yourself to know what I am talking about. Also try to make it out to Carp next year. Terry wants to make this an annual get- together for us. I agree. Times running out for the next one, I have just under a year to get a bigger bankbook.

Canada + USA: Possible Testing of High-Frequency Radar

Canadian defence scientists and the **U.S**. Missile Defense Agency are negotiating to test a new high-frequency (HF) radar system this summer on a sea-launched ballistic missile. The test would involve using Canadian-built HF Surface Wave radar (developed jointly by Raytheon Canada Ltd and Canada's DRDC) to try and detect the launch of a short-range ballistic missile. The head of radar systems at DRDC's Ottawa laboratories claimed, "The range we're talking about is about

High-Frequency Surface Wave Radar is a rapidly deployed, low-cost system designed to detect and track beyond the 200 nautical mile limit.

100 or 150 kilometres away, launched from a ship."

The Department of National Defence intends to award a $700,000 (Canadian) contract to Raytheon to upgrade a portable version of the radar, which would be used in the trials. The trials would take place in July or August on the Californian coast.

The HF surface wave system is unique in that it can track objects at much greater ranges than conventional line-of-sight microwave radar. The radar transmits high-frequency waves that follow the curvature of the Earth to detect and track targets hundreds of kilometres beyond the horizon. Microwave radar is restricted to distances defined by the line of sight or the horizon. But high-frequency surface wave radar uses the ocean as a conducting surface to increase its range.

Officials with Raytheon Canada declined to comment on the trials or the contract. Washington's Missile Defence Agency did not have information available on the ongoing discussions with the Canadian scientists.

Groundwave

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Packet Radio
Back With A New Purpose

In an emergency, voice communications is great for short tactical messages, but it becomes painfully slow when moving larger amounts of information such as lists of names or supplies. In the 1980s, Amateurs were rapidly developing and deploying a technology that would be suitable for moving large amounts of text information, they called it Packet Radio.

Packet radio is almost dead in normal Amateur use, but it is making its way into emergency communications, driven by two realities which limit the ability of amateur radio to provide effective communications in an emergency;
1) Limited throughput of voice
2) Limited availability of resources (Amateurs)

The original packet enthusiasts correctly pointed out that packet could move information far more efficiently than voice. However like most amateur technology, it was available for use in an emergency, but there was limited design consideration for emergency communications. While packet radio use declined due to its limited backbone speed and the rise of the internet, setting up a 1200 baud data link from a shelter and sending information as text messages is still impressive, even today.

The Emergency Measures Radio Group is establishing a project to investigate, design and implement a dedicated packet radio network to provide communications between key emergency centres in Ottawa. There will be a set of fixed locations such as the City's Emergency Operations Centre, the Ottawa Red Cross and the EMRG communications centre, plus a set of portable stations that can be set up as shelters or other temporary sites.

The emergency packet network will be open to all amateurs when not in use by EMRG, but the design will be driven by the need to establish a dedicated packet network to provide emergency communications in Ottawa. The number of nodes will be limited, but there will be a gateway connection to allow traffic to or from neighbouring ARES groups in an emergency.

Some preliminary investigation and equipment collecting has been done, but there is a need for more equipment and people to make this happen. One node software solution that has promise is called FlexNet. This is a German software solution, which is currently in widespread use in the Eastern US. The one issue is that the Nodes require a true TAPR-2 compatible TNC such as the AEA PK-80, PacComm TNC-200, Tiny-2, Spirit or MFJ 1270 series. If anyone has a TAPR-2 TNC they would like to donate to this project, it would be greatly appreciated. Any TNC, including Kantronics and Timewave, can be deployed at the end user stations.

There will be a planning meeting in early April, so if you want to learn more, provide some feedback or donate some equipment, please watch the EMRG web site (www.emrg.ca), or send an email to Peter Gamble VE3BQP@rac.ca, or phone 523-4572. More information about this project is available on the EMRG web site under the Packet Radio section; www.emrg.ca/packet.htm.
Emergency Measures Radio Group - Ottawa ARES

- Two Names - One Group - One Purpose -

Morse Code Knows Where It's @

Feb 19, 2004 - **International Morse Code**, the nearly forgotten shorthand of early electronic communications, is being updated to 1990s technology. Morse Code was first introduced in 1844 and has seen little change since that time. As the electronic age continues to advance, Morse Code users were finding the need to transmit the "@" symbol. In December, the International Telecommunications Union voted to add the new character.

The new sign, which will be known as a commat, consists of the signals for "A" (dot-dash) and "C" (dash-dot-dash-dot), with no space between them.

The symbol was selected for use in e-mail addresses in 1972 because it was rarely used but widely available. It's history is not clearly known, but some credit it as being an adaptation of the Latin word ad meaning at, to or toward. The symbol encircles the letter a with the letter d. The symbol was adapted for commerce as a shorthand to mean at the price of.

Another possible origin is the flourished style of the letter a to mean amphora, a standard-sized terra cotta jar used in the 14th century.

In English, it is commonly referred to as the at sign. In other languages, it carries names related to names of animals, tails and ears

President's Podium:

Is there a March Break for hams?...

While recently scanning for DX on 70 metres, it occurred to me that what this country needs is a national holiday for hams. I mean, we have St. Patrick's day, Labour day, Victoria Day, so why not an official holiday devoted to hams?

We could have our day somewhere in the week of the Canadian Egg Marketing Board 'Get Crackin' week (http://www.canadaegg.ca). Then we could call it 'Ham and Eggs'. Or, we could work with the Organic Rye Producers (http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/food/organic/directory/comm13.html) and call it Ham on Rye. Whatever way we decide to do it, it would be lots of fun. Each town could setup a little fair and they could have activities like, bobbing for baluns, guess the weight (of this boat anchor), 160 metre tight-rope walking; the list just goes on and on. But before I get really carried away, I better check to see if there is already a 'amateur radio day'… Hey, what do you know. There is!!! It occurs every year on April 18th and is sponsored by our American friends at the ARRL. (http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/02/27/2/?nc=1). Oh well, and I was already looking forward to the cotton candy and candy apples.

Public Awareness Drive…

By the time you read this, we will have completed a Public Awareness Display at the Rideau Centre. Our next scheduled date is March 27th at the Carlingwood Shopping Centre and you are invited to come out and work the booth for a bit, or simply to say hello. If you would like to volunteer to hang out with the coolest people on earth, then drop me an e-mail ve3cda@rac.ca or give me a telephone call 729-1370. We always have a lot of fun and get to answer lots of interesting questions.

Just make sure you enjoy life. It's a gift. *VE3CDA*

Groundwave

Contest Calendar
(This page courtesy of the Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club)

March

AGCW YL Party	CW	1900Z Mar 2
SSA 10 m Aktivitetstest	CW/SSB/FM	1700Z Mar 4
ARRL Inter. DX Contest	Phone	0000Z Mar 6
Open Ukraine Championship	RTTY	2200Z Mar 6
DARC 10-Meter	Digital	1100Z Mar 7
Pesky Texan Armadillo Chase		0200Z Mar 11
YLISSB QSO Party	SSB	0000Z Mar 13
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW	1000Z Mar 13
DIG QSO Party (10 - 20 m)	SSB	1200Z Mar 13
AGCW QRP Contest		1400Z Mar 13
SOC Marathon Sprint		1800Z Mar 13
North American Sprint	RTTY	0000Z Mar 14
UBA Spring Contest	CW	0700Z Mar 14
DIG QSO Party (80 m)	SSB	0700Z Mar 14
DIG QSO Party (40 m)	SSB	0900Z Mar 14
NSARA Contest		1200Z Mar 14
SSA Månadstest nr 3	CW	1400Z Mar 14
SSA Månadstest nr 3	SSB	1515Z Mar 14
Wisconsin QSO Party		1800Z Mar 14
BARTG Spring	RTTY	0200Z Mar 20
SARL VHF/UHF Contest		1000Z Mar 20
Russian DX Contest		1200Z Mar 20
DARC	SSTV	1200Z Mar 20
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest		1600Z Mar 20
Virginia QSO Party		1800Z Mar 20
9KCC 15m	CW/SSB	1200Z Mar 21
Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint		0000Z Mar 22
CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB	0000Z Mar 27
Oklahoma QSO Party 1		300Z Mar 27
CLARA and Family HF Contest		1700Z Mar 27
9K 15-Meter Contest		1200Z Mar 28
QRP Homebrewer Sprint	CW/PSK31	0000Z Mar 29

April

SARL 80m QSO Party		1700Z Apr 1
SSA 10 m Aktivitetstest	CW/SSB/FM	1700Z Apr 1
IYLRC Elettra Marconi	CW/SSB/RTTY	1300Z Apr 3
Kids Roundup		1400Z Apr 3
SP DX Contest		1500Z Apr 3
EA	RTTY	1600Z Apr 3
Missouri QSO Party		1800Z Apr 3
		And 1800Z Apr 4
QCWA QSO Party		1800Z Apr 4
RSGB RoPoCo 1		0700Z Apr 4
144 MHz Spring Sprint		1900 local Apr 5
ARS Spartan Sprint		0100Z Apr 6
JIDX CW Contest		0700Z Apr 10
ARCI Spring QSO Party		1200Z Apr 10
EU Spring Sprint	SSB	1500Z Apr 10
DIG QSO Party (10 - 20 m)	CW	1700Z Apr 10
Georgia QSO Party		1800Z Apr 10
		And 1400Z Apr 11

CIS DX Contest	SSB	1900Z Apr 11
UBA Spring Contest	SSB	0600Z Apr 11
DIG QSO Party (80 m)	CW	0900Z Apr 11
DIG QSO Party (40 m)	CW	1100Z Apr 11
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg		1200Z Apr 11
Low Power Spring Sprint	CW	1400Z Apr 12
222 MHz Spring Sprint		1900 local Apr 13
Holyland DX Contest		0000Z Apr 17
TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix		0000Z Apr 17
ES Open HF Championship		0500Z Apr 17
YU DX Contest		1200Z Apr 17
GACW CW DX	CW	1200Z Apr 17
EU Spring Sprint	CW	1500Z Apr 17
SSA Månadstest nr 4	SSB	1400Z Apr 18
SSA Månadstest nr 4	CW	1515 Apr 18
Michigan QSO Party		1600Z Apr 17
Ontario QSO Party		1800Z Apr 17
World Amateur Radio Day Party		0000Z Apr 18
432 MHz Spring Sprint		1900 local Apr 21
Harry Angel Memorial Sprint		1100Z Apr 23
SP DX RTTY Contest		1200Z Apr 24
Helvetia Contest		1300Z Apr 24
QRP to the Field		1500Z Apr 24
Florida QSO Party		1600Z Apr 24
		And 1200Z Apr 25
Kentucky QSO Party		1600Z Apr 24
Nebraska QSO Party		1700Z Apr 24
EUCW/FISTS QRS Party		0001Z Apr 25
Harry Angel Memorial Sprint	CW/SSB	1100Z Apr 25

World Amateur Radio Day

Radio Amateurs: Pioneers in Bridging Barriers to World Understanding. That's this years theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2004 April 18. This year, the IARU marks its 79th anniversary and the 2004 theme is intended to emphasize the IARU's long history of bringing people together across geographic, cultural, and political barriers. Created in Paris, the IARU has been the watchdog and spokesperson for the world Amateur Radio community since 1925. The worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio organizations represents some three million radio amateurs in 159 countries.

--WIA -Qnews

ARRL Files "A Plan for the Next Decade"

(Jan 28, 2004) -- **The ARRL** has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission began in 1999 but left unfinished. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access"). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. While several countries-- including Germany, the UK and Australia-- already have dropped their Morse testing requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the primary issue at

Groundwave

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND 2004.

This highly popular annual August event attracts hundreds of amateur radio stations at lighthouses and lightships (369 in 2003) in 48 countries. It is
organised by Mike, GM4SUC, and Kevin, VK2CE is the web-master. This year the period of the event is from 0001 UTC on Saturday 21 August until 2359 UTC on Sunday 22 August 2004.

The event is NOT a contest. It is a special event weekend when amateur radio stations are established at lighthouses or lightships, they do not have to be adjacent to salt water, and each group decides how it will operate the station with regard to modes and bands. Participants are not committed to being on the air during the entire period - operate as much as you can. There are no restrictions on aerials or power. We wish operators to enjoy themselves and have fun while making contact with as many stations as possible whilst giving priority to other lighthouse/lightship stations. Please take some time to work the slow operator, the newly licensed and QRP stations.

As available space in many lighthouses is filled to capacity, participation in this activity does not have to take place inside the tower itself.
Field day type set-up at the light or other buildings next to the light or adjacent field is OK. Permission MUST be obtained from any interested parties.

The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend is used to obtain maximum exposure for our hobby. We invite the press and, QTH permitting, also the public and try to underline the parallel between the international aspects in lighthouses, lightships, and amateur radio. As from last year, the World Lighthouse Day is held on the Sunday of the event and lighthouse keepers/managers/caretakers all around the world open their lighthouses to the public. http://www.lighthouse.fsnet.co.uk/events/intlighthouseday.html

We use the event segment of the 5 Classic bands, consider the following as a range of suggested frequencies.

CW
80m: 3.510 - 3.540 kHz
40m: 7.005 - 7.035 kHz
20m: 14.010 - 14.040 kHz
15m: 21.010 - 21.040 kHz
10m: 28.010 - 28.040 kHz

PHONE
*80m: 3.650 - 3.750 kHz
*40m: 7.040 - 7.100 kHz
20m: 14.150 - 14.290 kHz
15m: 21.150 - 21.250 kHz
10m: 28.300 - 28.400 kHz

* Some of the frequency ranges listed above are NOT legal in the United States of America. As a substitute, USA operators should consider these alternatives.

USA PHONE
80m: 3.950 - 3.990 kHz
40m: 7.250 - 7.290 kHz

However because the ILLW is NOT a contest, you can operate on any authorised QRGs as per your licence, including the WARC bands. Please be sure to observe band limits for your class of licence and your country.

To assist other stations in the identification of lighthouse/lightship stations, we request that participating stations using CW add LS after their callsign at a lightship and LT at a lighthouse. SSB and other modes should use LIGHT, LGT, LIGHTHOUSE or LIGHTSHIP after their call. UK stations normally obtain a GB callsign with the letter L in the suffix and USA stations can request a Special Event callsign from the ARRL.

A list of the lighthouses/lightships of the world, currently 10,550 in 203 DXCC countries, with their Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) Number can be found at http://arlhs.com/awards/arlhs-numbers.html The list is constantly being updating and added to as more data become available. You can help: If you see a correction or an addition needs to be made, please send an e-mail with the information to K2JXW@arrl.net

If you decide to join us, please register on-line at http://illw.net/index.html with details of your name, callsign to be used, lighthouse/lightship, Country, qsl route etc. Although registration is not compulsory, doing so enables us to maintain a detailed list of participants at http://illw.net/2004.htm showing QSL address, web site and any special event calls they may be using. E-mail addresses will be modified with unicode to minimise harvesting by spammers.

So come and join us in the fun of the weekend, already 55 stations have confirmed their participation, establish a station at a lighthouse, lightship or maritime beacon. If you are unable to find a lighthouse/ship you can still join in the fun by contacting the special stations. The more the merrier.

73 Mike GM4SUC

Bogus e-mails contain worms !

A new worm is circulating through the e-mail system, and appears to come from a legitimate source such as RAC. Delete it! It does not come from RAC, or any other amateur radio organization. Here is what it may look like (with variations)

From: management@rac.ca
Dear user of e-mail server "Rac.ca",

Your e-mail account will be disabled because of improper using in next three days, if you are still wishing to use it, please, resign your account information.

DELETE IT WITHOUT OPENING OR READING IT!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

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

O Renewal   **O** New   **O** New Ham (FREE if licensed in current membership year)
O Single ($25 ($20 after 1 Feb)   **O** Family ($30)   **O** Junior ($15)
Add $5.00 if you wish to have your Groundwave mailed to you.
(**Please note**: membership year is 1 September to 31 August)

Family Name:_____   First Name/Initials: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ ext _____

E-mail address: _____@_____ (*For Groundwave mailing*)

Callsign(s): |_____| |_____| |_____| Fax: _____
Qualifications: **O** Basic   **O**   Advanced   **O** Grandfathered
                        O 5 wpm   **O** 12 wpm   Year Licenced: _____

Other Family Members

Name: _____ Callsign(s): |_____| |_____| |_____|
Qualifications: **O** Basic   **O**   Advanced   **O** Grandfathered
                        O 5 wpm   **O** 12 wpm   Year Licenced: _____

Name: _____ Callsign(s): |_____| |_____| |_____|
Qualifications: **O** Basic   **O**   Advanced   **O** Grandfathered
                        O 5 wpm   **O** 12 wpm   Year Licenced: _____

Name: _____ Callsign(s): |_____| |_____| |_____|
Qualifications: **O** Basic   **O**   Advanced   **O** Grandfathered
                        O 5 wpm   **O** 12 wpm   Year Licenced: _____

Interests: _____

_____

Comments/Suggestions: _____

_____

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