



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

April 2004

Our annual April meeting is upon us. Well, it comes every year so it qualifies doesn't it. I have not detected any April fool's jokes in this edition. A few people took last year's jokes too seriously and some serious debate ensued.

This is our Homebrew meeting. It still amazes me that people can come up with gadgets to build each year. This in spite of our buy and throw-away technology where you can purchase anything you want. Why build it?! Why not build it?!

There are several activities in the works. Field Day in June with VA3UNK. Hamfest 2004 at the end of summer with Greg, VE3Y TZ, the QCWA Convention in October (see page 5) and the election of new officers for the club in June.

There are at least 3 positions open as President Ben, Director Russ Lowe have decided to step down and the position of Editor for the Groundwave will open up a vacancy which will be important to fill. I will stay on in a director's capacity at least for the coming year but changes in my personal life require that I operate in a reduced capacity to the club. The editorship is an important post; one that the club cannot do without. Please consider volunteering for this position. It comes with an assistant. Me.

The Joe Norton Trust Award for Amateur Radio will also be presented this month. The choice between the three applicants was very tough. All three were fully qualified and makes you want to award three prizes. Since that isn't possible. A special committee was established to review the applications and decide on a winner. Come and see who they chose.

VE3EV



APRIL MEETING 7:30, April 14th in the Honeywell room at Ottawa City Hall

HOME BREW NIGHT!

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Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

April 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 National Capital 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

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 only those of the author.

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.



Editorial

Minutes of the March General Meeting

March 10, 2004 19:30

The meeting was called to order by the president, Ben Price (VE3CDA). There were 39 present including guests Tom (VE3ELM), Mike King, Kevin and Colin and family, Henry, and newly licensed Roy (VA3CKD). Thomas St-Julien (VA3OFD) was announced as a silent key.

It was moved by Bryan Campbell (VE3ZRK) and seconded by Dave Parks (VE3AV) that the minutes of the February meeting be accepted. The motion was carried.

An elmer is required for a newly licensed blind ham in the Merivale Road area. Please contact Ralph Cameron or Bryan Campbell if you can help out.

Thanks to Wayne Getchel the ATV repeater may have found a new owner in CJOH. This will be confirmed in the next few weeks.

The public awareness campaign will be at the Carlingwood Shopping Centre on Saturday, March 27. Please contact Ben Price if you can help out.

The Joe Norton award will be presented at the April meeting.

The most unusual contact of the month goes to Mike Kelly who had a QRP contact with a ham in France while portable on the banks of the Ottawa River.

Harry (VA3HHS) who runs the Snowbird Net on 14.160 MHz at 07:30 local is looking for additional check-ins. Everyone is welcome.

Tour Nortel is looking for about 15 radio volunteers for their event on Sunday, May 9. See Kris Constable (VE3URL) if you are interested.

The Smith's Falls hamfest is on Saturday, May 8.

The evening's speaker was Gerry King (VE3GK) who spoke on some of his interesting homebrew antenna projects including a mobile, roof mounted screwdriver antenna, a small loop antenna, antenna rotator, and a free-standing tower. More information on his projects can be found on his web site www.ve3gk.com.

The 50-50 draw of \$26.00 was won by George Roach (VE3BNO).

The next general meeting will be held on April 14. This is Homebrew Night so don't forget to bring in your projects for a shot at the trophy. The meeting was adjourned at 21:45

Ian, VE3IGJ

I think, for the most part, I have successfully refrained from editorializing in any of the past issues of this bulletin. Nevertheless I think it is time I say something that we all need to think about.

At a recent executive meeting it was brought to our attention that someone did not renew his/her membership because they found the club too impersonal and mildly unfriendly. Wow! I never thought of the club as unfriendly. From day one for me in 1964 the club has been an oasis of a sort from the other functions of life.

Ok. Let us step back and look at the situation. From my standpoint I see a club of familiar faces: people I know and respect for their individual accomplishments and contributions to our club and Amateur Radio. I wave a hello to Joe Green, talk to Ben or Greg. Russ Lowe, Keith Gowenlock, Ken Willing and other long time members are their in their usual spot. George wants to ask about an issue with IRLP. Bryan kids me about my jokes. VE3FFK, VE3IHI, VA3UNK and others are greeting their familiar neighbours and swapping stories or insults or whatever.

I know that Joe Green likes to talk about electric cars; Ben is the club President, Greg runs the Hamfest. Russ Lowe is a director and a fellow pilot, Keith is an accomplished CW man, Ken has been a member for so long that he should be a life member. George has done just about everything and continues to do so despite having retired from most jobs available. Bryan provides the coffee and dabbles with commercial broadcasting with Rogers communications. VE3FFK—antennas and things technical, VE3IHI active in many activities including the Ski Marathon with the other Rick. Harold is a Joe Norton Award winner.

This is familiar. This is a home of sorts. A smile isn't necessary. It is implied nonetheless.

Now. Change shoes. Become the new Amateur, the new visitor, the new club member. What changes? Actually, nothing changes but the perception. We are all the same people with the same talents, failures, successes and interests. The perception, however, is different. The visitor sees a field of faces that are unfamiliar. Names are passed but not easily retained. Conversations are closed, personal and sometimes not easily entered into by the visitor. One or two people express interest in you but quickly move on once the cursory introductions are passed. You are not home. In fact you are in someone else's house with rules not easily learned or understood. This can be a very threatening situation. Uncomfortable. Not really very nice despite the attempts.

The meeting carries on. Matters you do not understand or topics unfamiliar are discussed. Nothing is explained to you. (President Ben does his best to make you understand. That is what he does. He is good at it.) You are uncomfortable; lost. Do you want to come back?

Nope.

The talents of a host are numerous. The most important is to make your visitor feel at home. To make them comfortable. To include them. Help them understand. It isn't easy either. You don't want to overwhelm them with attentions. You need to achieve a balance of sorts. Elmer!

Next club meeting put yourself in the visitor's shoes. How do they fit?

Cary VE3EV



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

April 2004

Mk's Words

Welcome to spring.

Time for all the indoor projects you put off while complaining about the weather outside. While killing some time before a meeting the other day, I wandered through a Giant Tiger store. It wasn't exactly the first place that jumped to mind for cheap components. It is now. For a buck, I picked up a "007 SPY EAR", a kids toy. In it were: Two LR44 button batteries, a pair of stereo headphones and jack, a 3 transistor amplifier, an electret microphone, a volume control with switch, and a case. It is going to become either a give away code practice oscillator, or an RF powered side tone oscillator for my old reliable but Spartan ATLAS 180.

At the same time and place, for the same price was a PLL synthesized AM-FM stereo radio. It wasn't much bigger, and has a lot more "high technology" in it, but I had already spent my allowance for the day. I also couldn't think of what I make with it, either. There were other nifty gadgets there too, but it was time to go to the meeting, so I will have to leave them for another shopping trip. Next time you need a 5k pot, or a stereo jack, remember that the whole, in addition to being more than the sum of the parts, is also cheaper.

I'm still playing catch up with the antenna game. The Larsen 5/8 still needs surgery. I don't know if it will have enough mechanical strength left for mobile use after I open the plastic coil cover to fix the open circuit that seems to be hiding in there. If not, it gets demoted to life on the top of the filing cabinet as an indoor antenna for operation during thunderstorms.

I have given up on the dual band J pole, and the dual band ground plane antenna. Now I'm playing around with discones, trying to make one that will cover 144-450 MHz and store compactly. I have a feeling that if I can get the storage problem solved, it should be possible to get the thing to cover 6m as well, without taking up any more space. Stay tuned, there may be another TCA Technofile to come out of all these cut up measuring tapes I am accumulating.

The QSO rate is still about the same (too low for a "real" ham's logbook), despite getting the bus pass so I can get more outside operating time. All that did was get me out of the habit of walking everywhere. Maybe by my next report the bike will be under me, and I can start going CW mobile again. At least there isn't a lot of snow to get melted this spring before the roads and pathways open up.

73, and hang in there.. Now that spring is here, REAL spring can't be too far behind.

mk VE3FFK

RAC Bulletin 04-07E

New interim director for Quebec

The RAC Board of Directors has approved Murray Epstein, VE2AUU, as the interim Director for Quebec pending the results of an upcoming election in the next few weeks. Murray has been an Amateur for more than 55 years, and is very active both on and off the air. He has been an important innovator both as a Ham and in the business world.

FEEDBACK

Re the short piece in the last Groundwave about a portable surface wave radar to be operating in the H.F. spectrum. It reminded me about a problem the folks down east had a while ago with a similar system. They went through a bit of trouble to get it moved out of the 80 metre band back around 1999-2000. With a portable version coming on line, maybe we will have to keep watch on 40, and who knows maybe 60 metres as well. See TCA Jan-Feb 2000 for a bit more info. There may be more in earlier issues, but I only went back that far.

73 .. mk ve3ffk@rac.ca

I have read with interest the article in the March issue of the "Groundwave" about the possible deployment of ground wave radars.

For your perusal, I am attaching a photo of one of those radars already deployed in Newfoundland. Sorry about the quality but the weather was not cooperating.

Jacques d'Avignon <monitor@rac.ca>



RAC Bulletin 04-06E

New managers for two RAC contests

RAC is pleased to announce the appointment of Sam Ferris VE5SF, Bart Ritchie VE5CPU and Bruce Rattray VE5RC/VE5QRP as managers for both the Canada Winter and Canada Day contests. This appointment starts with the 2003 Winter Contest, the adjudication for which is presently underway.

RAC would also like to take this opportunity to thank the retiring managers, David Shipman (VE7CFD) and the Moncton Seniors ARC for their work over the past several years. Thanks a lot!





President's Podium

Spring is in the air!...

Hello fellow hammers. Well, Spring is finally in the air. Time to do all those things we have been putting off. Fleamarkets, for example. (<http://www.rac.ca/fleas.htm>) Where else can you spend a few fun filled hours looking at so-o-o much interesting stuff for so little money? I bet each and every one of you has an interesting story about stuff you bought at a fleamarket. Me, I remember an audio tape I bought at the OARC flea-market a few years ago. It was only a buck! Imagine that. I have been using this tape once a month ever since at our OARC meeting to open up the 'Most interesting contact' portion of our meetings.

Hamvention 2004...

I am getting ready to head off to the Mecca of Ham Radio, the Dayton Hamvention. (www.hamvention.org) My lovely wife and Dave Parks will also be in the car. For months now, I've been throwing my change into a jar at night, with the hope of saving enough money to fund a special purchase at the Hamvention. Just the other day, I counted up almost \$27.00 in change. I can't wait to see the look on their faces when I slap down my hard earned cash and say, "I'll take it!".

Dave and I have talked it over and we are taking roof racks just in case we stumble across a real find. A really cheap tower, for example. I wonder what they would say at customs?

Election 2004...

If Paul Martin, and those Americans, can call an election, then why can't we? Remember that the OARC elections will be held at the June meeting, with nominations (hopefully) done by the April general meeting. I would encourage everyone to participate in our club by becoming a member of the executive. There will be a number of open positions this year, so give some thought to becoming part of the team. More information on this at the April general meeting.

Parting thoughts...

We have been running the Public Awareness displays at local shopping centers for the last few months. There, we have a chance to talk to people who have little or no knowledge of amateur radio, but are interested enough to stop by and ask questions. In answering their questions it has made me think about what attracted me to amateur radio 20 years ago, and what keeps my interest today. There is certainly no doubt that the technology has evolved tremendously providing more modes and options; land use issues are more complicated; licensing requirements streamlined, and everyone's time has become a precious commodity. With all that said, however, there is just nothing like firing up the radio, looking for an open spot, calling CQ, and talking to a new friend. It's always a new experience.

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

Ben, VE3CDA

QCWA Convention In Ottawa

Convention time in Ottawa on October 15, 16, 17! The QCWA International Convention is being hosted by QCWA Chapter 70. All Radio Amateurs and their friends are invited to attend at the Lord Elgin Hotel.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association has an international membership of Radio Amateurs who have had their license for 25 years or more. Many of the members are United States citizens, but here in Ottawa we have the current QCWA president Croft Taylor VE3CT and director George Roach VE3BNO!

The following sessions and speakers are on the agenda for Friday and Saturday -

Software Defined Radios for the Masses

Gerald Youngblood AC5OG

Noise in Receiving Systems

Dave Conn VE3KL

Top Band Reversible Beveridges

Bert Barry VE3QAA

Living with Your Neighbours or EMC(101)

Ralph Cameron VE3BBM

Rechargeable Batteries

Dick Bonnycastle VE3FUA

Field Day 2000

Brice Wightman VE3EDR

Illegal Antennas and Other Stuff

Gerry King VE3GK

What's That Racket - HF Digital Modes 101

Ken Asmus VA3KA

Richard Bandla VE3CVG

Truth and Untruth about Electrically Small Antennas

Jack Belrose VE3CV

Amateur Satellites; Past, Present and Future

Clare Fowler VE3NPC

Moonbounce, Basics and Beyond

Ken Oelke VE6AFO

Super-Regenerative Receivers

Lea Barker

Forums: **QCWA - QCWW - RAC**

For those who just want to see more of our Nation's Capital or are non-Amateurs, they too will find arrangements have been made for their enjoyment. The Lord Elgin Hotel, newly renovated and located in downtown Ottawa, is a great location situated just steps away from the Canadian Parliament Buildings. Within walking distance are the National War Memorial, the Centennial Flame, the Rideau Canal Locks and the National Arts Centre. Shoppers have a choice of walking to the Sparks Street Mall, the enclosed Rideau Centre Mall or the Byward Farmers' Market. The Market is also the centre of Ottawa's night entertainment district, with restaurants, nightclubs, bistros, etc.

On Friday, there is a bus tour of the city followed by a Meet & Greet evening. Saturday begins with a buffet breakfast and concludes in the evening with the Annual QCWA Banquet. Astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk **VA3CSA** may be out guest speaker!

Travel back in time on Sunday after brunch by taking a trip on a steam engine train. A short bus ride to the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, then all aboard for 4 1/2 hours of entertainment while viewing the colourful countryside along the Gatineau River with a stop in quaint Wakefield.

Enjoy the camaraderie of others in our hobby. Join us in Ottawa at the QCWA International Convention!



The Joe Norton Trust Award For Amateur Radio

OARC Groundwave, March 1986

Contest Calendar (Courtesy Winnipeg Amateur Radio Club)

April

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

May

US IPARC Annual CW	0000Z May 1
MARAC County Hunters CW	0000Z May 1
UBA Welcome European Union	0000Z May 1
10-10 Int. Spring CW	0001Z May 1
2 GHz and Up	0600 local May 1
Microwave Spring Sprint	0600 local May 1
AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z May 1
Indiana QSO Party	1500Z May 1
ARI International DX	2000Z May 1
New England QSO Party	2000Z May 1
and	1300Z May 2
US IPARC Annual SSB	0000Z May 2
RSGB 80m Club Championship SSB	2000Z May 3
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z May 4
Nevada QSO Party	0000Z May 8
SL - CW	1100Z May 8
VOLTA WW RTTY	1200Z May 8
SL - SSB	1230Z May 8
Oregon QSO Party	1400Z May 8
Mid-Atlantic QSO Party	1600Z May 8
FISTS Spring Sprint	1700Z May 8
CQ-M Int. DX - CW/SSB/SSTV	2100Z May 8
50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z May 8
RSGB 80m Club Championship Data	2000Z May 8
Anatolian WW RTTY - RTTY	1800Z May 8
Portuguese Navy Day HF	0800Z May 15
US Counties QSO Party - SSB	0000Z May 15
Manchester Mineira CW	1500Z May 15
His Maj. King of Spain CW	1800Z May 15
ARCI Newcomer's Run	1800Z May 15
SSA Portabeltest Vårömg. - CW	0700Z May 16

OARC members are probably all aware that VE3OWL was the first winner of the Joe Norton Trust Award for Amateur Radio. Not everyone may be aware of the source of the trust fund on just who was Joe Norton.

Joe, VE3PN, became a silent key in October 1979. At that time, his station equipment was donated to the club for whatever use might be made of it. After considerable deliberation, the gear was sold and the proceeds were used to establish the Trust Fund. The intent has been to maintain the integrity of the capital and use the earnings to fund the Award. Details of the rules and closing date for 1986 were published in the February 1986 issue of the Groundwave.

Joe Norton was a founding partner with Peter Mahoney and George Glinski of Computing Devices of Canada. Initially his chosen role was that of Vice-President Operations and later Vice-President Research and Engineering. Joe never accepted the post of President, preferring family life and hobbies to the social responsibilities of the top post.

Amateur Radio was just one of Joe's hobbies. Joe "grew hobbies as other people grow tulips." This man who loved a challenge became interested in music and taught himself the piano. Similarly he became a competent sailor, a serious farmer, and not the least a successful Ham. As VE3PN he made friends with many Ham operators around the world.

Joe Norton stories abound. He is described variously as brilliant, volatile, serious, a man of action, whimsical, the tactical brains of the company, dedicated.....

A later interest in life was helping his three sons and his daughter set up Norpak Ltd., their own high-tech company in Pakenham, incorporated in 1975.

Joe Norton traveled a long road. Born Joseph Anthony Spsychalski, March 17, 1914, in Bydgoszcz (Bromberg), Poland, he graduated in engineering in 1938 just before the German invasion. Escaping from Poland through Eastern Europe, he eventually reached Paris where he worked for a time on the assembly line of an armaments factory. As the Germans approached Paris, Joe moved on, first to Grenoble and then to Canada via an American transit visa.

In Canada, Joe now Norton, worked as a lathe operator in Hamilton while learning English. After the war, he became partner and manager in Polytronics Co. of Toronto developing instrumentation for laboratory tools. In 1948, a Computing Devices of Canada was formed in response to a perceived need for the Royal Canadian Navy.

In coming full circle, we have merely touched the perimeter of a very full and complex life which the Amateur community was fortunate to share and to honour by the Joe Norton Trust Award for Amateur Radio.

The 2003/2004 Joe Norton Trust Award for Amateur Radio will be presented at the April Meeting. This was a very tight race with three very qualified entrants. A special committee was formed to select the winner. All three can be very proud.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Box 8873 Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J2

Renewal New New Ham (FREE if licensed in current membership year)

Single (\$25 (\$20 after 1 Feb) Family (\$30) 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: Basic Advanced Grandfathered
 5 wpm 12 wpm Year Licenced: _____

Other Family Members

Name: _____ Callsign(s): | _____ | | _____ | | _____ |

Qualifications: Basic Advanced Grandfathered
 5 wpm 12 wpm Year Licenced: _____

Name: _____ Callsign(s): | _____ | | _____ | | _____ |

Qualifications: Basic Advanced Grandfathered
 5 wpm 12 wpm Year Licenced: _____

Name: _____ Callsign(s): | _____ | | _____ | | _____ |

Qualifications: Basic Advanced Grandfathered
 5 wpm 12 wpm Year Licenced: _____

Interests: _____

Comments/Suggestions: _____

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