



Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

Oct 2004

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Well, this is my last edition of the Groundwave. It has been an interesting and rewarding experience, however I can no longer devote the time needed to produce the bulletin. I indicated to the executive well over a year ago that my term would end in May of this year. I chose May because it would give me one full edition and plenty of time to help the new editor get on the ground running. Sadly, nobody came forward to take on this task and anyone I asked felt that they couldn't do the job properly. Actually it is pretty easy. It just requires a commitment of time. The whole thing can be done on a weekend.

To help out I have templated an entire year of the bulletin so that all the new editor needs to do is fill in the pages with material. I will provide a copy of the software used to produce it. Also, I plan to continue as the email distributor and I will print out the envelopes from updated membership lists for at least this year. So that leaves two tasks to be done: populate the pages and stuff the envelopes. That will reduce the workload significantly.

Enough of that.

Once again I have to report a silent key of some import. Larry Kayser, VA3LK, passed away last week from a massive heart attack. Larry was a big man with plenty of passion for this hobby. He was also a bit of a pioneer in Amateur Radio and just recently participated in the first trans-Atlantic LF transmission. No mean feat either. There will be a part of this month's meeting when you can give us your thoughts about the man. See obit on page 3.

VE3EV



**OCTOBER MEETING 7:30, Oct 13th in the Honeywell room
at Ottawa City Hall**

In This Issue....

Club Information	2	Mk's Words	4
October's Meeting Minutes	3	Pictures	5
IRLP	3	DC to Green Light	5
VA3LK Silent Key	3	QCWA Convention	8
RAC Bulletin	4	Membership Form	9

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Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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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 "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.



Minutes of the September General Meeting

September 8, 2004 19:30

The meeting was called to order by the president, Diane Bruce (VA3DB). There were 30 present including guests Pam Alexander (KD7CRB), Sylvester O'Farrell (VA3OF), and Robert Boyd (VE3BE).

It was moved by Bryan Campbell (VE3ZRK) and seconded by Al McKinley (VE3AU) that the minutes of the June general meeting be accepted. The motion was carried.

The evening's speaker was Clare Fowler (VE3NPC) and the talk was entitled "FM Birds: The Easy Sats". The talk described how to access the simple satellites that are the equivalent of FM repeaters in the sky – AO-51, SO-50, AO-27, and the ISS. Topics covered included: frequencies, tones, operation, equipment Doppler shifts, power requirements, preamplifiers, antennas, and tracking software. The conclusion was that it is simple and inexpensive to use these satellites.

Diane announced that we are still in need of a volunteer(s) for the Groundwave editor otherwise it will cease publication.

George Roach announced details of the upcoming QCWA conference on October 15-17.

Ernie Brown reported 10 membership renewals were collected at the hamfest Sept. 4th. Paid up membership to date is 17.

Greg Danylchenko reported on the results of this year's Hamfest. Paid admissions were up to 365 from 319 last year. Also, profit was \$1,482, up from \$1,107 last year. Revenue was \$2,726 and expenses \$1,244. Thanks to Greg for organizing a very successful event.

The 50-50 draw of \$16.50 was won by Ian Jeffrey (VE3IGJ).

The next general meeting will be held on October 13. The meeting was adjourned at 21:05

Ian, VE3IGJ

IRLP News

I guess we are actually moving right along now. The UHF link is being tested in preparation for relocation to the hill. We had some minor problems with the plugs due to a difference in the types of connections and pin-outs on the computer plugs but that isn't a show stopper. The node has been off-line for almost two weeks now due to this but should be available shortly.

For the next while we will still be using the old link system while the equipment on the hill is installed and tested. Changeover will only involve unplugging the VHF rig and plugging the UHF rig in. All this thanks to Bryan, VE3ZRK, Harrie, VE3HYS and some help from Wayne,

VE3CZO. With all that technical expertise, what can go wrong?

I have recently been informed that the software we are running with IRLP won't be supported by the installation team. We will have to migrate the Red Hat Linux version 9.x as older versions are no longer being supported by the manufacturer. It won't be a big problem. Just takes some time.
VE3EV

From The 2004 Hamfest Chairman

I want to thank the 2004 Hamfest Volunteers. Without you there would be no OARC Hamfest.

Greg/VE3Ytz
2004 Hamfest Manager

Karen Price, Dean VA3CDD, John VA3JBS, Ernie VE3OEB, Janice VA3PAX, Harold VA3UNK, Al VE3ANO, Dave VE3AV, Clayton VE3CBJ, Ben VE3CDA, Wayne VE3CZO, Cary VE3EV, Mike VE3FFK, Ian VE3IGJ, Rick VE3IHI, Peter VE3LBW, Russ VE3LOW, Paul VE3PC, Dave VE3TLY, Richard VE3UNW, Kris VE3URL, Ed VE3WGO, Doug VE3XK, Greg VE3Ytz, Bryan VE3ZRK, Al VE3ZTU.

FROM WWW.ARRL.ORG

Larry Kayser, VA3LK/WA3ZIA, SK (Oct 7, 2004) -- Larry Kayser, VA3LK/WA3ZIA, of Westport, Ontario, Canada, died unexpectedly October 5. He was 64. An ARRL International Life Member, Kayser was widely known throughout the Amateur Radio community for his technical expertise as well as his operating skill and accomplishments. In February 2001, Kayser and Laurie Mayhead, G3AQC, made ham radio history by completing the first two-way transatlantic Amateur Radio exchange on 136 kHz. A consummate experimenter, Kayser in recent years was very active in low-frequency work, but in earlier decades he was involved in Amateur Radio satellites and contributed to the AMSAT AO-7 project. A member of the First Class CW Operators Club (FOC), Kayser for a time during the 1990s edited the "CW Today" column for *The Canadian Amateur*, the journal of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). In addition to ARRL and RAC, Kayser belonged to the Quarter Century Wireless Association. He was retired from Bell Canada. Survivors include his wife, Joyce, VE3JAK. No information is available on arrangements





Mk's Words

The following are my comments on the recommendations from RAC. As an accredited examiner, I get to observe candidates studying for the exams, the examination results, and the on air behavior of those candidates who are successful. If you haven't yet told Industry Canada what you think about the proposals on the table with regard to the restructuring of amateur radio in this country, why not? If you don't tell them what you want, you don't get to complain about the decision.

Recommendation 1 (Drop Morse requirement) Agree. As a "filter" it doesn't work. My preference is to ensure a candidate can "do" something rather than just "know" something, but I realise this would be harder to test. The dropping of Morse MUST be coupled with other changes, as recommended. If the other changes are not made, keep the Morse test as it is now.

Recommendation 2 (allow HF operation to those passing Basic exam with 80%) Agree, with additional provision that those who can prove they have already achieved 80% in the exam be permitted to operate in the bands below 30 MHz. This proof could be their copy of form IC2381 "Application and report for amateur radio operator certificate and call sign, or other proof acceptable to the department.

Recommendation 3 (Current Basic qualifications allow operation above 30MHz only) Agree. This would need wide spread publicity, otherwise people will hear what they want to hear.

Recommendation 4 (Basic holders who re-test and achieve 80% can operate below 30MHz) Agree. It should be noted that if Recommendation 7 is followed:

Basic holders have two routes to HF operation.

Recommendation 5 (Raise Basic pass mark to 70%) Agree. The mark should go at least this high, as soon as possible, regardless of other changes. This and recommendation 11 are related, and can be considered as one.

Recommendation 6a (Holders of basic Basic plus Advanced to operate below 30MHz) Agree. Of people I have examined, the lowest mark achieved on the basic exam for someone who subsequently passed the Advanced exam was 82%. Therefore a pass in the advanced exam is a good indicator that the candidate could have qualified for the Intermediate qualification.

Recommendation 6b (candidates for Advanced exam should have Intermediate or equivalent) Disagree. This is a minor point, but someone who is interested in the technical aspects of the service may still score poorly on the Basic exam. This should not prevent them from writing the Advanced exam. If someone passed a Basic exam with a 60% are they more qualified to write an Advanced exam because they passed a Morse test?

Recommendation 6C (candidates for Advanced exam must achieve 70% to pass) Agree. Of the 19 Advanced exam scores currently in my records, only two achieved a mark between 60 and 70%, therefore a change in the pass mark would change little. The pass mark should be the same for the Intermediate and Advanced exams. Eventually this would go to 75% on multiple elements, as per recommendation 12

Recommendation 7 (Morse exams continue to be available) Agree. The requirement may need to have a "sunset clause" attached to it, but until a better solution to the problem of reciprocal licensing can be found, a morse option should stay. I think (without evidence) that it is easier for some (younger) candidates to pass a Basic and Morse exam than it is to pass a more difficult technical examination.

Recommendation 8 (Intermediate qualification holders permitted to build transmitter kits) Agree. Even if the Intermediate qualification was achieved by holding a current Basic (60% pass mark) and Morse qualification, they should be allowed to build kits. They are already supposed to be familiar with basic safety skills.

Recommendation 9 (Intermediate holders permitted to build transmitters over 2.3GHz) Disagree. The candidate will not have proven competence in transmitter design, or in the use of test equipment to the level required for this task. In future the microwave portion of the spectrum will become at least as crowded as the lower frequencies, requiring careful attention to the technical characteristics of the radiated signal. Although we should encourage the use of this spectrum, this is not the way to do it.

Recommendation 10 (new entry level licence) Agree. The current Basic, with a 70% pass mark, or a new licence that emphasises operating procedures and regulations would be appropriate.

Recommendation 11 (new syllabus, pass required on each element) Agree with both ideas. The question bank should also be enlarged. If someone can memorize the answers to 100 questions on each of 25 different subjects, they have probably learned enough in the process to have a legitimate claim to the qualification

Recommendation 12 (raise pass mark on each element to 75% once new syllabi are in place) Agree. The exams must be set up so that guessing, or repeated attempts are not enough to pass.

On balance, I think the changes will be good for the long term health of amateur radio in this country. Time will tell.

mk..VE3FFK

RAC Bulletin 02-25E

Resignations of RAC President and First Vice-president



RAC regrets to announce that effective immediately, RAC President Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, and First Vice-president Bob Nash, VE3KZ have resigned from their positions for medical reasons. Both officers have been hospitalized with severe, heart-related problems. The RAC Board of Directors and Executive thank them both for their dedicated service to amateur radio and RAC, and are confident that all radio amateurs wish them a full recovery and fast return to the amateur bands.

The RAC Board of Directors will convene a special meeting of the Board as quickly as possible and in accordance with the Constitution to deal with the vacancies on the Executive created by these resignations.



DC to Green Light How to Kill a Magazine

Anyone know who the guy in the foreground is? (Answer at bottom)

Photo provided by Jim Hatch, VE7CIJ



2004 Homebrew night award presented to Clare Fowler, VE3NPC
by OARC President Diane Bruce, VA3DB



Answer to photograph: Bob Knapp VE3CDG at Field Day 1954.

It is so easy to let a situation get out of hand. Sliding down Marshall Ski Hill at Camp Fortune in a dual tracked snow machine turns into a ballet of arms, legs and wits. Should any one of them loose the cadence you can count on a very messy end. The same can be said of my tenure as editor The Canadian Amature magazine.

In the spring of 1980, then Editor of TCA, Doug Burrill (VE3CDC sk) decided he had had enough and needed a replacement. Since I replaced him as editor of the Groundwave it seemed logical to him that I take over the controls of TCA as well. Perhaps not his best decision. Perhaps not mine either. Nonetheless, I took over and started changing and evolving the magazine into a more polished publication. Up to then, TCA had gone through many changes of style and make-up. Style is usually the task of the editor, along with content, and make-up is a combination of publisher, printer and editor input.

The publisher, in this case, was CARF Publications. For the most part all they did was provide guidance to the editor who, if he was smart, usually took it. (They wrote the cheque) They also were supposed to review any editorial content which they more often did not do. Actually they shouldn't have to either but then.....

The printer is also a publisher of sorts. He advises on cost of each change or update to the magazine's physical layout and make-up and then does the processing of the printed material so that it fits on the page. Due to necessity, he also does the final proofreading to make sure the typesetting process hasn't added a new word or two to the dictionary. That doesn't always work because sometimes a word that makes perfect sense in one sentence might not be so useful in another. The proofreader must also have a basic knowledge of Amateur Radio in order that everything that hits the pages says what it means to say.

Typesetting is an obsolete term here as it was more a cut-and-paste process. Remember, this is 1980. There are no personal computers around that will do this task. The edited submission is typed into an electronic file on a word processing machine which then prints out the material onto strips of paper which has a sticky backing to it. From there, the paper is fitted to the page. Similar to what I do today for the Groundwave, fitting to the page can be an art. You literally cut the strips of paper and fit them onto the page in such a way that not only does it flow contextually but visually as well. You can always tell then the article falls short of filling a page because the blank space is usually filled by a subscription reminder, funny saying or even a block of text in bold large pitch typing inserted in the text either in the middle or at the end. I still do that.

This is the layout portion. This is very time consuming and precise. Any advertisements or reminders must also be fitted to the page. Since the advertisers have paid for the space it is necessary to make sure that it is laid into the magazine in a way that is both flattering to the advertiser and visible to the reader. The only safe place for the advertiser was the back page. Heathkit paid a good premium for that spot and did so for many years. Of course the middle pages were also a premium spot much sought after as was the inside front cover. The rest of the magazine was left to the discretion of the person doing the layout.

Once the proofreading, layout and setting were done the copy went to



DC to Green Light continued

the printer who took the photo-ready material and did the actual printing and assembly of the magazine. From there the labeling and mailing is done. A few copies are sent to the editor to be given out at Fleamarkets and club meetings as required. This was also the editor's first chance to see and enjoy the finished item. AH! All is right with the world.

Wrong!

They say that the path to hell is paved with good intentions. You may add to that the bodies of the three players in this ballet: Steve Campbell, the publisher/printer, Don Slater, VE3BID (then President of CARF) and myself as editor. The ballet became a bizarre game of dodge ball which almost became our undoing. After about a year as editor of TCA, I became frustrated at the number of typo and context errors that found their way into the magazine. Getting in touch with Steve became difficult because he had taken on a second job at a local community college as an instructor so he was often away. Married with kids and property often means taking on a second job just to keep the wolves at bay. Up to this point, Steve had been one of the best personal assets that TCA had. He was very good at producing the magazine. At one time he was actually the editor as well. Now, however, he had to farm out some of his work to others who were not as familiar with Hams as he was. That can be a mistake, and in this case it was.

For several months Don Slater had expressed a certain amount of dissatisfaction with the way TCA was coming out. Delays, errors, typos and the like were not making his job any easier. Not only was he at the top of the food chain for TCA, he was also the advertising salesman for the magazine. Without the revenue from sales of space in the magazine TCA ceases to be viable. One or two negative comments from a customer can escalate into a bad situation so Don had to act. A change was needed to see if the problem would go away. After consulting with the CARF executive and with myself as editor, Don decided that a change in the production end was needed. This would address the textual errors and the communications gap between the editorial end and the production end. This was supposed to reduce the delay in publishing the magazine as well since part of the problem was actually getting the material to Steve in a timely manner. It had always been felt that Steve held on to articles without being sensitive to the reason for the article. Material that had been expected in print was often months late being published. Doug often thought that Steve had a cache of unpublished articles and could probably produce an entire edition just by using the leftovers.

This is all and good, and speculative. In fact, most of it was a part of the lack of communications between the editor (me) and the producer (Steve) and a businessman's point of view from the advertising man (Don). Add to that the problem of using the services of a bus line to send material from Ottawa where the editor lived and Bloomfield Ontario where Steve worked. (One edition ended up in Illinois)

After several months of this Don acted. He negotiated a contract with another printing firm which was located closer to Ottawa. Both Don and I viewed the printer's facilities and were given a glowing overview of what we could expect from the company and their people. I call this company Printer "A". A's general manager introduced us to his team, led by Joe (not his real name) and showed us some of the publications his company produced for many companies around the area. We were impressed and signed up.

Mistake. Big time.

Steve wasn't very happy when Don gave him his pink ticket. Both Don and I went down to Steve's to deliver the news in person. We felt he deserved as much. Steve asked us to reconsider and indicated that he would devote more time to TCA but the decision had been made. In fact the change was only an experiment to see if the situation improved. It didn't. It got worst.

Printer "A's" first edition was the July/August issue which was to be a bigger and better magazine. It was also to be taken and distributed at a Ham convention in Charlottetown PEI in August. That was a perfect fit as far as I was concerned. We were introducing a new style and more features at an important event. What could go wrong.

The first alarm should have been heard when, by the end of July when nothing had been heard from the printer. I called the printer and they told me everything was moving along and would be available before the convention. Two weeks was all the time that was left so I was a bit edgy about it. Don, however, assured me that these guy's new their business and everything would work out. It didn't.

At the end of the first week I drove the 120 kilometers to the printer's shop to see what the holdup was. Upon entering the building I was astonished to find the place empty. Not a soul around. I went into the production area to see if the magazine was bound up for shipment. What I saw left me very unsettled. The proof sheets were scattered on the layout desk amid several semi-finished pages of TCA. Nothing finished. All I could do was leave a note to the owner indicating that the deadline for publishing TCA was past and that I needed to see the finished copy by Wednesday of the next week. After returning home I made several calls to the printer to re-enforce my request. I was always assured that things would go well. They didn't.

By the Friday of the convention I had still not yet received my copies of TCA. Just as I was leaving to go to the airport, a truck arrived with a box of TCA's. I just took the box, unopened, and went to catch my flight. When I had finally reached my hotel room I had the time to have a look at the magazine. The cover was 'ok' but not outstanding. When I opened the magazine and started reading I noticed that the textual errors that we had hoped to remove by changing printers had, in fact, grown significantly. Then it became apparent that some of the stories were sliced and diced to fit the page. If it didn't fit then it was to be continued several pages later. Nothing flowed. You remember the old newspaper saying that went "All the news that's fit we print"? In this case it went "All the news that fits we print"! This was not good.

The next day I showed my "pearly whites" at the CARF booth while trying to hide the areas where I had ground down my teeth during the night. Aside from that, the convention was enjoyable. Less enjoyable was the searing critique from the members of the CARF executive who knew the situation with TCA had only been made worst. The printing was late, there were more typos and the overall impression of the magazine was less than stellar. We, meaning I, would have to ride herd on the printer to sort out the problem. I lived closer to them than anyone else so it was left to me to confront the issues with them.

My first meeting wasn't really satisfying. Joe indicated that the errors were normal while the printer's staff got used to the context of the magazine and that next month's issue would be far better. The delay in printing was due to an increased workload that only happened occasionally. Next month would be better. Neither was.



DC to Green Light continued

September's issue arrived on the doorstep several days after the members of the CARF executive gave up calling me to find out the status of TCA. The calls started up again after they had read the issue. The only thing that had changed was the quality of the front cover. At least it was better. The quality of the inside hadn't changed. I was encouraged to rectify this problem. Another trip up the valley to the printer. This time I called ahead to make sure someone would be there. The owner assured me that I would be satisfied after the meeting. (He didn't say how long after) When I got there the place was the vision of efficiency and industry. The owner wasn't here to greet me but I was assured by the girl at the door that I was expected and both Joe and the owner would be around soon. And so I waited.

And waited.

And waited.

After an hour I found myself standing by the door in time to see Joe, in his pickup truck, drive by on his way out of town. A few minutes later the owner showed up and indicated surprise that Joe had not seen me. In actual fact he had seen me which is why he was going out of town. When asked when Joe would be returning, I was informed that Joe had taken three days off to go fishing and would be back at work the following week. What about TCA? Oh. It would be ready on time.

It turned out that nobody knew how to proofread TCA. The technical aspect of the topics made it impossible for their staff to follow through on any article and that errors should have to be forgiven. After all this was a small magazine with limited distribution. Even the layout was difficult to do because they didn't fit into the standard layout format that they were using. This resulted in the fragmentation of articles to a point where you wore out the pages flipping from front to back just to keep up. All this despite the original assurances they had given us that they could produce a quality magazine. Joe didn't want to talk to me because he knew his bluff had been called and he didn't want to own up to the fact that TCA was beyond his capability. The owner, to his credit, backed up his employee despite the obvious errors.

I made the decision that I would proofread the magazine and also do layout. This meant that I would have to go up to the printers shop and obtain the photo ready copy, bring it home and do the proofreading while laying the copy out on the page. Then return to the printers and work out the final product with their layout artist, if she were around, and approve the final copy. This took time. After several months of this I came to the conclusion that I would either have to quit my day job or divorce my wife just to keep up with the workload. During this time I was also suffering from severe back problems and so I was getting really stressed out. I couldn't help the fact that TCA was almost always late to the members. I received a small amount of expense money to help with the logistical areas of TCA but this was being eaten up by the fuel required to make the 240 kilometer round trip to the printers twice a week just to keep them from blowing away an issue. You can only do so much.

My typical weekend included a couple of hours editing material, several hours doing layout, and time to proofread. I didn't have much time for family and as a result family life suffered an ultimately fatal blow. Something had to be done to fix the situation. And fast too.

By now the CARF executive wanted my head on a platter. And I was ready to quit too. That wouldn't have helped TCA. The magazine was being killed off by a lack of commitment on the part of the printer and the stress being exerted on the editor, me, by both the Executive and the membership. Don tried to tell me that the situation would get better but I suspect that even he had misgivings about the situation.

Eventually the printer was fired and Don went to another print outfit. This one in Ottawa with much better facilities and what appeared to be a more committed staff. The only improvement, as far as I was concerned, was that I didn't have to drive so far. Layout was still a problem as was proofing the copy and so the stress continued unabated. It appeared to me that I only had three members of the CARF executive who knew what I was going through: Don, Doug and Lorna Hill, VE3IWH (sk) all of whom tried to make my life a little easier. Lorna was CARF's treasurer and saw the money going out to the printer with little value being returned. She talked me out of quitting many times during this period but I'm sure she knew that I was reaching the end of my tether. I regret that I never took the chance to express my appreciation of her help during this time. She became a silent key a few years ago.

Doug Burrill knew. Being an old journalist himself, he appreciated the lack of support I was getting and he helped at every turn. However there were some time consuming tasks that he could not help with and I wasn't thrilled at the idea that he would be editing some sensitive political material that required both tact and a vision from more than one point of view. He, however, appreciated that I wasn't getting a fair hearing from some of the executive members of the Federation. I could, however, appreciate their point of view but, try as I might, I seemed to be powerless to fix the problem.

It came to a head at an annual general meeting. At an executive session I was thoroughly roasted by an executive member for delays that could ultimately cause the demise of TCA. I tendered my resignation and left. There was nothing further that I could do except to resign.

Don and Lorna talked me into staying at least until a new editor was found and I did so. Just resigning helped my stress level even though the workload didn't abate until well after I had left the organization. Not long after, the production and printing of TCA went back to Steve Campbell who had managed to become far more efficient than before and whose expertise in our hobby was finally acknowledged.

TCA is alive and well despite our collective attempts to destroy it. It is bigger, better and more informative than it has ever been. It is a credit to RAC and the advertisers, editors, contributors and readers who keep it going year after year. It would be a shame to lose it. The best way I can see to keep it going is for more Canadian Amateurs to join RAC.

Editing a magazine today is a little easier than it was when I did it. A pair of scissors and some glue are no longer needed. Just a personal computer and appropriate software. Desktop publishing is something anybody can do. There is still the problem of layout and proofreading but with modern software all this can be automated. All it takes is a group of contributors, someone to fund the magazine and someone to bring it all together. Even a bulletin like the Groundwave is far easier than it was. Anybody can do it if you have the time and the inclination.

Really, all it takes is an interest, commitment and a love of the hobby.

Cary VE3EV

QCWA International Convention 2004

The Quarter Century Wireless Association's International Convention takes place in Ottawa on October 15-16-17. **All Radio Amateurs** and friends are invited to attend. QCWA is an international association composed of a membership of Radio Amateurs who have held their license for a minimum of 25 years

Sessions

Software Defined Radios for the Masses
Noise in Receiving Systems
Top Band Reversible Beverages
Living with Your Neighbours or EMC(101)
Rechargeable Batteries
Field Day 2000
What's That Racket - HF Digital Modes 101

Truth and Untruth about Electrically Small Antennas
Amateur Satellites; Past, Present and Future
Moonbounce, Basics and Beyond
Super-Regenerative Receivers
Forums: QCWA – QCWW – RAC

Speakers

Gerald Youngblood **AC5OG**
Dave Conn **VE3KL**
Bert Barry **VE3QAA**
Ralph Cameron **VE3BBM**
Dick Bonnycastle **VE3FUA**
Brice Wightman **VE3EDR**
Ken Asmus **VA3KA**
Richard Bandla **VE3CVG**
Jack Belrose **VE2CV**
Clare Fowler **VE3NPC**
Ken Oelke **VE6AFO**
Lea Barker

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 our 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 ½ 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. QCWA Chapter 70 invites you to join us in Ottawa at the QCWA International Convention!

Place: Ottawa, Lord Elgin Hotel, 100 Elgin Street.
Reservations 613-235-3333 QCWA Guest

Registration: Amateur \$20, Spouse/Guest \$5
Pre-registration required to attend the following—
Sat. buffet breakfast \$15; Sat. Banquet \$42; Sun. Brunch \$25; Friday
Bus Tour \$15; Sunday Steam Train \$53 (from and to hotel).

Talkin: 146.34/94 More info at www.qcwa.org or

contact Donald Heaslip ve3njh@rac.ca phone (613) 727-2769

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)

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

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

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

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Qualifications: Basic Advanced Grandfathered
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Interests: _____

Comments/Suggestions: _____

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