

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

Groundwave

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

Check out our Web Page: www.oarc.net

Nov 2001

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Christmas is coming. Are you prepared. I started in August.

IRPL and PSK31 appear to be the fastest growing areas of Amateur radio at the moment. Lets not forget that we could lose the 440 band if we don't use it. The IRLP will be using it soon for linking. The talk on the IRLP lists is centering on getting IRLP in the International Space Station. Pipe dream? Perhaps not.

There are some rule when using the local IRLP. The big one is "If your signal isn't strong enough, don't attempt to use it." Another is "Don't leave a node link up if you are not around to use it." And another is don't call Node 204 from Node 204. You are already on it.

Check out the rules at <http://www.irlp.net> and see what you need to know.

Use the IRLP node. There is no charge.



NOVEMBER MEETING

7:30 Nov 7th, Ottawa City Hall, Honeywell Room

Two speakers for the price of one! See page 3 for details.

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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 email to "editor@oarc.net". Deadline for submissions occurs on the last Monday of the month preceding

Please support your local radio organizations. They support you!

The CAPITOL 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 Capitol Region.

The SWAP Net is a service provided and conducted by Dan Reardon, VE3GUU. This feature appears on the Capitol City FM Net. To list items and make inquiries, call Dan Reardon at 731-3339 or email 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 2M 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**. It is very informal and verticle polarization is encouraged.

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 n this bulletin are only those of the author.

Voice (VHF) 146.94/146.34 100Hz output tone
(UHF) 443.300/448.300
IRLP Node 204 146.94/146.34

Packet 147.07(sx) For QSO and Packet BBS
Packet 56 BPS 220.55/443.44
East Of Ottawa 145.69(sx)
Ottawa Centre 145.07(sx)
Hull 145.05(sx)
West of Ottawa 145.03(sx)
South of Ottawa 144.91(sx)
Nepean 145.59(sx)
West Carleton 144.97(sx)

For further information please contact the Repeater Chair.

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.



Minutes of the OARC General Meeting October 3rd, 2001

The Meeting was opened at 19.31 by President George Roach-VE3BNO.

Several visitors were welcomed, including Mark-VE3GID, Ben VE3CDA, Dennis-VA3DWC, Ted-VE3LV, and Grant.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved. Motion of acceptance by Croft Taylor and show of hands.

Mike-VE3FFK was thanked for his efforts re communications at the International plowing match at Navan and Greg was thanked for his organization of the September OARC Hamfest. Congratulations to all amateurs who participated in these events.

George reminded those present that October is the deadline for candidates for the Joe Norton Award. (Along with its attached bursary of \$500.00)

George announced the launch of three new Amateur Satellites from the Kodiak launch site. (PCsat, Starshine, and Sapphire) Radio Amateurs are requested to help with telemetry acquisition.

Clare-VE3NPC gave a short update on Oscar 40.

Cary Honeywell-VE3EV demonstrated the IRLP hardware he had assembled into a working package. Nice to see home built hardware...listen on VE2CRA for Cary's internet link.

Croft Taylor-VE3CT Vice President of the Quarter Century Wireless Association mentioned the QCWA QSO party taking place October 6/7.

Doug Leitch, Director of RAC-Ontario North, reported on the resignation of Dana Shtun-VE3DDS as Director of Ontario south for health reasons.

Out treasurer, Liz-VA3ELB, was not present but had reported to George that all was well in the financial department.

Our membership chair Tom-VE3WTJ reported our membership to date at about fifty members.

Richard Ferch, VE3IAY gave a talk and demonstration on Digital Amateur Radio Modes, with special attention to PSK-31. Thanks for an interesting talk, Richard. Anyone who wants more information should have a look at Ric's great website-
<http://www.storm.ca/~ve3iay>

After coffee Mike-VE3FFK announced the October 27 "Fox-Hunt"

George announced planned speakers for our meetings were Doug Yuill-VE3OCU on Differential GPS Reference stations at the October meeting and Doug Leach-VE3XK about

Radio Amateurs Canada at the December meeting.

The Saint Lawrence Valley Repeater Co-ordination meeting is being held on Sunday November 4 in room 3235 of the Mackenzie building at Carleton university, Ottawa. Time 1.30 pm.

Rick, VE3IHI has taken on the job of Ottawa co-ordinator for CANWARN. He will be looking for volunteers.

Bryan-VE3ZRK won the 50/50 draw, and Ernie-VA3OEB won the IARU world map.

The meeting closed at 21.26-----38 people were in attendance.

Thanks Bryan for both the Coffee and help with the minutes.

Next meeting....Wednesday November 7 in the Honeywell Room of Ottawa City Hall at 7.30 pm

November Meeting Speakers

The speakers for the November meeting are :
Doug Yuill(VE3OCU) on A GPS differential reference station and Ben Price (VE3CDA) on his visit to W1AW...The ARRL HQ Station.

Some of you might have used GPS for hunting or aviation or just simply finding out where you are. There is a project to provide a similar if not the same service using Amateur Radio. It is an interesting technology which has taken many navigational tasks to a higher level. Most of us remember the 160 metre Loran signals that dominated that Ham band for many years. Come and see and hear Doug Yuill, VE3OCU, tell us where the technology is being developed in Amateur Radio.

Ben Price: first licensed in Quebec (Canada) as VE2GHF in 1980, then as N5FLR in Houston Texas, and now operating as VE3CDA from Ottawa Ontario (Canada). My HF rig is a Yaesu FT-767GX and G5RV. My preference is for QRP CW operation.



There are few Amateurs in the world who have not heard of station W1AW. There are many Amateurs who have visited the station. Perhaps one of the best examples of Amateur Radio operations, W1AW has helped countless budding Amateurs in their quest to obtain their minimum CW requirements. How many of us remember how difficult it was to go from the basic 5 WPM code to the 7? It seemed an impassible hurdle. Nevertheless all of us made it.

Ben made the trek to the ARRL Headquarters station and will give us a presentation on that visit. We all hope that there is sufficient audio/visual equipment on hand to enhance it for us.

VE3EV will also give a brief update on the IRLP project.



QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 45
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT October 24, 2001
To all radio amateurs
ARRL to FCC: No Commercial Users at
2390-2400 MHz.



From: RAC Headquarters

Date: October 5, 2001

Subject: Amateur Radio Call Sign Data Base



Industry Canada has informed RAC that they have amended the Morse Qualification listings in their Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Database now that the Morse requirement for access to all amateur bands is 5 WPM. Because the sole requirement now is 5 WPM, they no longer show the 12 WPM qualification.

Industry Canada advises that the modifications to their Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Database were completed sooner than expected and that they (IC) were unable to give RAC sufficient warning to allow timely modification to the RAC Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Database Web page.

Industry Canada have told RAC that they realize the significance to amateurs of showing only the lower code speed and regret any inconvenience this may have caused to the amateur fraternity.

RAC is working to have the offending references removed from the published version of the database as soon as possible.

Board of Directors, Radio Amateurs of Canada

The ARRL has urged the FCC "in the strongest possible terms" to make no commercial allocations in the Amateur Service 2390 to 2400 MHz primary allocation. The League tentatively suggested, however, that hams might be willing to share the band with compatible government services that are displaced to make room for advanced wireless systems.

The ARRL told the FCC that advanced wireless systems "are fundamentally incompatible with continued amateur access to the band."

The ARRL said the federal government "has historically been a compatible sharing partner" and that government uses would offer "the least disruptive opportunities for sharing" in the band. Such sharing, the League made clear, should happen only "if it is absolutely necessary to reaccommodate some displaced users" and would be "subject to compatibility studies."

The ARRL commented this week in four separate proceedings dealing with allocations for advanced and third-generation wireless systems, the mobile satellite service and the Unlicensed Personal Communications Service (U-PCS).

The ARRL further asked the FCC to retain the non-government primary Amateur Service allocation at 2390-2400 MHz.

The ARRL's comments noted that amateur allocations in the vicinity of 2 GHz "have been steadily eroded" through encroachment by other services.

On Air Events Reminder

October 21 to November 3



Special event callsign VB2V has been issued to Mr. Bob Chandler of Toronto for use between October 21 and November 3, 2001 to commemorate the United Nations "International Year of the Volunteer".

November

- 3 IPA Contest, CW
- 3-4 Ukrainian DX Contest
- 3-5 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
- 3-5 ARCI Running of the QRP Bulls
- 4 IPA Contest, SSB
- 4 High Speed Club CW Contest

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 44
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT October 12, 2001
To all radio amateurs



IARU Administrative Council Calls for End to Morse Requirement Saying that it was "setting aside any previous relevant decisions," the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council this week resolved that IARU policy supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz." The Council further resolved to urge member societies--as an interim measure--to seek Morse code testing speeds "not exceeding five words per minute." The resolution was adopted during the IARU Administrative Council meeting October 6-8 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, which followed the 14th General Assembly of IARU Region 2.continued page 5



MK's Words Reflections

Well isn't that something. It seems we are at war.

It's Sunday afternoon. I'm sitting in somebody's living room, fussing with the laptop and QRP rig, trying to find some PSK31 signals to show off the new interface that I had "almost" finished building. The software reads two signals at a time, and I'm watching the "other" one. Then I notice that the one I hadn't been paying attention to says ". I hear we are bombing Afghanistan, so I guess I should QRT to get the news. BTU AD2-- de NØ--- k" (I wouldn't be able to spell Afghanistan under those circumstances either) I wonder how many other people, who don't usually spend weekend afternoons tied to the television, got the news in a similar way?

Not much happening in radio land, other than the above mentioned PSK31 interface. It is never as easy as it looks in the demo at the meeting. One little by product of the project is that I had to wire a microphone to the rig, to make sure that it actually works on SSB. This was a tense moment, as I have had the rig five years, and the manufacturer went out of business a few years ago. To my relief, it turns out that the rig talks just as well as it beeps. Who knows, someday I might even make a QSO on that mode with the rig. Meanwhile, I now have another trinket to drag into the homebrew night festivities in April. Maybe by then the PTT and transmitter portions of the interface will be working too.

The leaves are coming off the trees at a pretty good rate now, so I should soon be able to see where the HF antenna goes. There is one less tree around here than there was at this time last year. The one that came down was rotten right through to the roots, and we were able to pull it down by just looping a rope around one of the branches and pulling on the ends of it. It hit the street with a bang between my neighbour who was on one end of the rope, and myself on the other. It makes one feel strong to be able to pull over a tree with muscle power alone, but a short stint cutting up the remains with a hand saw soon returns reality. With the loss of that one tree, my HF activity, limited as it has been, came to a halt around here. This left me with only portable/bike mobile operation for the next while. While curtain rods have a certain charm as receive antennas, they just don't do the job in transmit, at least as long as they remain inside where the curtains are. With any luck (and a lack of sn*w), the wires will be back in the sky where they belong before the next version of this column comes into your hands.

Coming up (or recently occurred, depending on when you read this)
Simulated Emergency Test Nov 3
Saint Lawrence Valley Repeater Council Meeting Nov 4
OARC meeting Nov 7

Be cool, and keep warm
73.. mk VE3FFK

IARU Administrative Council Calls for End to Morse Requirementcontinued



The Council's Morse resolution took into consideration the approval--without opposition--of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544. That document sets out the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs. The council also said it recognizes that Morse code "continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs" but that Morse code proficiency as requirement for an HF amateur license "is no longer relevant to the healthy future of Amateur Radio."

The principal business at the Administrative Council session was to review the status of IARU preparations for WRC-2003. Agenda items of concern to amateurs include, among others, the harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, and possible revisions to Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations.

Among other things, Article S25 spells out Amateur Radio operator qualifications. It now provides that Amateur Radio license applicants demonstrate the ability "to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals" for operation below 30 MHz. The IARU Administrative Council supports the revision of Article S25 and the incorporation by reference of Recommendation M.1544.

The IARU Council selected the theme of the next World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2002, as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."

Internet Radio Linking Project

At this point, Node 204 is online and operational through VE2CRA. This point wasn't reached without some frustration. At the last meeting, I showed the actual equipment being used. At that time I was having audio problems. It turned out that the expensive and fancy plugs I had used were defective. The crappy plastic ones worked just fine so I replaced the lot.

ext I discovered that the power supply for the radio wasn't strong enough. It gave out 3 amps. I needed 6. A temporary fix was installed with the help of Eric, VE3EI, who drove up from Cornwall with a couple of sealed 12 volt batteries. I connected one in line with the power supply and voila! Full output.

I rebuilt to power supply adding a pair of 2n3055's and the rating increased enough to supply the rig's requirements. When I turned it on, the computer died. (?) It turned out that one of the reasons these 19" computer chassis were surplus was due to power supply failure. Not to be defeated, I tore the unit apart and found a pinched 5 volt power line that was shorting to ground. Once again, full power output. But into what?

A check into the Capitol City Net resulted in a mostly noisy signal through the repeater. 40 watts into a 19" whip in the clear shouldn't be noisy. I changed it to a 5/8th whip. Now the output meter was showing poor output to the antenna. Next came the 4 element beam. The power,continued page 6
went up but the repeater wasn't hearing me properly. Back to the 5/8.



IRLP continued.....

went up but the repeater wasn't hearing me properly. Back to the 5/8. The signal died out before I reached the end of the street. So I changed the coax. Voila! (again)

The IRLP committee hasn't met yet, but we shall do so very soon as there are other items that need attention, and I sure will be grateful for the help when it is required.

VE3EV

From DC to Green Light

The Passing of Traffic and The Boys Up the Valley Cary Honeywell VE3EV

A teenager is always looking for some sort of validation for his/her being on earth. It is a pity that it often takes 75 years before it happens, but....

When I became a Ham, I gravitated towards the one activity that made me feel good about what I was doing. Public Service. Traffic handling to be specific. Actually, I was lured into it by Burt Coy, VE3GI. Once I had acquired a reasonably efficient and reliable station, Burt invited me to have a QSO with him on 3.535 Khz, and about 1850 local. Of course, the Ontario Traffic Net, OQN, met there at 1900 so I just glided into it. His ploy must have worked because I became interested enough in traffic handling to be held its captive for almost 20 years. During that time I held various National Traffic System appointments, and participated in both CW and phone networks. I was, at one time or other, Official Relay Station, Official Phone Station, Route Manager for OQN, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Ottawa, Brass Pounder League, and net control for the Grey Bruce, Ontario/Quebec CW, Ontario Phone and Eastern Canada nets. I was ECN rep to the Eastern Area Net, the stomping ground for the elite of the traffic handlers. I must have passed thousands of messages during that time. Being that Cell phones and the Internet were not around, this form of activity did have its place. I'm not sure this applies now, but it doesn't hurt to keep practiced at this sort of thing.

I certainly had an abundance of good instructors in the art of CW operating. Not only was Burt teaching me correct form, but others like Terry (VE3AWE), Bud (K2KIR), Gord (VE3BZB) were examples of the best of the best. I could name quite a few others but I might need a few more pages to do it. Of course there were a few less than stellar examples of good operating procedure, but they were, thankfully, few and far between. The rigors of traffic handling on 80 metre CW during the thunderstorm season tended to weed out the faint of heart.

Ottawa was well represented on the CW traffic nets with Burt (VE3GI) along with Shep (VE3DV), Larry (VE3GT), Bill (VE3SB), Al Christie (VE3BPC), Jim (VE3GP) and Arn (VE2SD). The last 4, though Ottawa residents, were a part of the group I call "The Boys Up The Valley".

Arn and the boys were pranksters of the first water, and water was usually behind it. Arn had a cottage up on a lake in the Gatineaus. To get to it, you had to drive through some back roads one of which took you over "The Mighty Quyon river. Once Arn was ensconced in his summer location, the

focus on repeater VE3STP was on anyone who dared drive up to his location, especially that last part of the journey where the voyageur would have to cross the two log bridge over the "Mighty Quyon". Arn would be sure to advise the dupe to make sure the logs were set wide enough so that the car's tires would be able to roll on the logs, else you would be tossed into the turbulent waters and carried downstream to be churned up into the kilowatts that fed the city below. Anyone listening to this crock on VE3STP were either in on the joke or unknowingly being led down the garden path along with the dupe. I'm sure Bunny, Al, Jim, Arn, and the league of listeners were rolling on the floor with laughter. The bridge over the "Mighty Quyon" was a culvert.

At this point in my life as a Ham, I was interested in emergency planning and operations. I had already taken a load of supplies to Maniwaki during a spring flood, so I took it pretty seriously. Too seriously I guess. I listened with interest as Jim and Arn discussed a pending disaster up the valley. It seems that the "Mighty Snake" river was about to flood its banks thus flooding out the residents of Calumet Island. On hearing this, I readily volunteered to stay up at night listening to the repeater in case the call went out for relief during the flood. Arn and Jim were very pleased that I would take this on. To this end, I rigged up a remote setup from my basement to my bedroom, which was 3 stories above my shack. I waited with diligence for a call that would never come. At its peak, the "Mighty Snake" was probably 4 feet across. I was had by the masters.

I have often wondered if they, too, had stayed up that night to see if I fell for it. Probably not.

My last act as a member of the Emergency Preparedness team left me with more than a bitter taste in my mouth. I can fall for a joke and not take it personally. I might have been a dupe, but I deserved it. What happened in the early 90's wasn't quite so funny.

No names: no packdrill. A major simulated emergency test was slated for Ottawa one spring, and all communications participants were at the ready. Long and hard planning went into this effort, which was supposed to result in a test evacuation of an area in the south end of Ottawa. A simulated train wreck in the switching yards off Johnson road was the planned emergency. All the emergency resources of the Ottawa Amateurs, The CB'ers, the Salvation Army, Red Cross, police and fire from all areas and all the radio stations were primed and ready. The regional Government was the coordinating body.

At the prescribed moment, the emergency was declared and everyone moved into action. Everyone except the people to be evacuated. Few if any of the civilians could be bothered moving to the evacuation area at a local high school. The 500 people who were supposed to show up didn't. No-one told the Salvation Army who showed up with food for 500 bodies. Being the operator stationed there, I tried to inform the authorities that all this food was going to be thrown out because there were no evacuees. The regional chairman didn't care. He declared it a success and closed everything down. What a waste. I felt badly for the "Sally Ann" staff who had obviously worked very hard to make the effort work.

Next month: Equipment I Have Loved and Destroyed. VE3EV

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)
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E-mail address: _____@_____

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: _____

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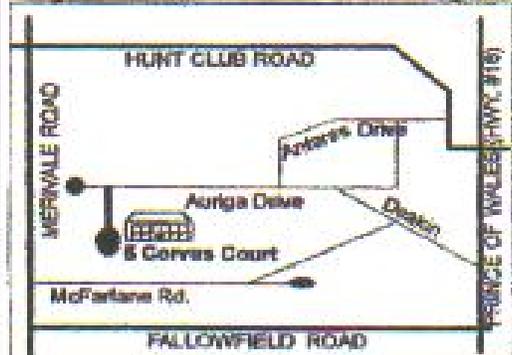
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Weight: 2.6 lb (w/Alkalines & Antenna, w/o Mic.).

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