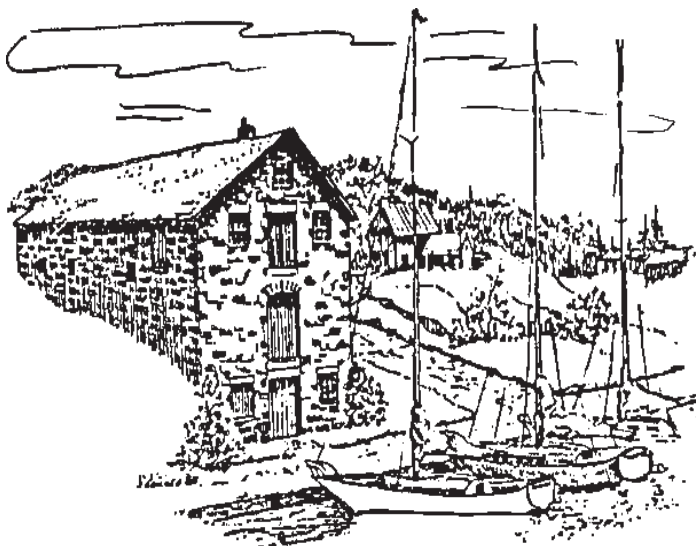


H O T B A N A N A S

OAKVILLE A M A T E U R R A D I O C L U B . . . V E 3 H B



Oakville Amateur Radio Club
 P.O. Box 69615
 109 Thomas Street
 Oakville, Ontario
 L6J 7R4

<http://www.mvw.net/oarc/index.html>

Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the Red Cross Building, 167 Navy Street Oakville.

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and all are welcome.

Repeater : VE3OAK
 147.015 + .600 (VHF) (131.8 Hz CTCSS)
 444.325 + 5.000 (UHF)

Digipeater / Node : VE3OAK
 145.750 VHF

Net Mondays at 7:30 p.m. (except meeting nights and holidays) on
 VE3OAK (VHF) 147.015+

Phone Patch Access :
 code & tel no. (do not pause while dialing)

(to clear the patch)

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
From the President	2
A Thought for the Airwaves	2
November Meeting Minutes	3
Membership Dues	3
Jamboree on the Air - JOIA	4
Repeater Report	4
Field Day Y2K	5
Tower Tales	6,7,8
Radio Society of Bermuda	8
HF DX Contesting	8

How to read your mailing label

VA3LID (***) - *speed dial # if you have one*
 Joe Ham
 123 Anywhere St.
 Oakville, L6J 7R4 (****)

access code for autopatch

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Well it is almost December and as I write this, the weather outside is like summer. Great for hooking up those Xmas lights and that is what I saw my neighbors doing as I drove up the street. It would also be a good time to do last minute fixing's to the antenna. However, for some unknown reason, most Hams seem to leave the antenna work for the middle of winter! Perhaps it's the feeling that the snow on the ground will cushion the fall, but the -35C is hard on the fingers!

Actually, I would prefer to do antenna/tower climbing in the dark, You can't see the ground so well, Problem with that is getting someone else to come up and hold the light.

I thought we had an interesting "gab fest" following the business meeting in November. We will have to do more of that. For those of you who missed it, Harry VE3HKC has put most of his contribution in writing and you can read it elsewhere in this bulletin. Thanks Harry, Very interesting and entertaining!

Don't forget the Xmas dinner on Dec 13th, at the Mandarin in Mississauga. Please let Carvel VE3CPQ know if you plan to attend. That info will decide the size of the room/area we get. Everyone seemed to enjoy it last year and if you missed it then, mark your calendar now for this year's event. Just think, this will be our last get together for this Year, this Century and this Millennium

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. I hope Santa is good to you, and all the best in the New Year, Century, Millenniu

CUL....Jack VE3ITM....73>

A THOUGHT FOR THE AIRWAVES

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed?
Or are you just content
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend meetings,
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home
To criticize and knock?
Do you take the active part
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
Of those who just belong?
Do you ever voluntarily
Help at guiding the stick?
Or leave the work to just a few,
And talk about the clique?
Come out to meetings often
And help with hand and heart.
Don't just be a member,
But take an active part.
Think this over,
You know right from wrong.
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

General Business Meeting: November 8, 1999

Attendees: 18

- Jack VE3ITM called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM and welcomed those present. He asked for a motion to accept the October minutes as published. Motioned by Greg VA3GGF, seconded by Jim VE3JIC and carried. Jack asked if everyone had received his or her Hot Bananas bulletin. All said yes. He advised the group that he had tried to get Industry Canada (Burlington) to come out to the meeting. They advised that all Amateur issues be now addressed through Ottawa. He had tried to contact Dana Shtun, with intent to ask if he could speak to the group on Amateur Licensing. He was not successful. He went on to state that instead we would have a rag chew session this evening after the meeting. He asked for the Treasures report.
- Jim VE3ITT advised we had 32 members for a dues income of \$750.00. He presented further detail of income versus expenses and that we should close out the year at about \$1600.00. He asked if there were any questions. There were none and he motioned for adoption of the report. STAN VE3OCH seconded this.
- Mike VA3GRL asked how many Bulletins were sent out in October. Duncan VE3HFG advised 56 went out. Mike suggested that the distribution be pulled back to only those paid up. Jack advised this would be premature as when it was done about 2 years ago there was a negative reaction. This mailing was important, as we wanted to get the Industry Canada Discussion Paper on "Streamlining the Authorization Process for the Amateur Radio Service" to past and present members.
- Greg VA3GGF asked for the status on E-mail of the Bulletin to members. Jack advised this was still being pursued. Russ VE3JUZ advised Carvell VE3CPQ had done a test on current E-mail addresses and had some come back.
- Harry VE3HKC asked when the Christmas Party notice was E-mailed. He was advised it was in the last week of October.
- Russ VE3JUZ reported we now have 36 members and that we hope to publish a membership list with the November bulletin. We need another 12 members to meet the Budget forecast. Gord VE3RRT asked how many amateurs there were in Oakville. Russ advised there were 200 and explained he had downloaded from RAC the names and addresses of Oakville resident amateurs and mailed a membership form to non-members (as members received a membership reminder form with their August bulletin). We are pursuing licensed amateurs in Oakville to become members. He advised he received a letter from Rod VE3AFS who informed that due to personal reasons he was unable to join this year. He plans to retain his license and maybe rejoin again. Jack VE3ITM stated the INTERNET seems to be overtaking some of the interest. He believes we need to rekindle the interest in Amateur Radio. We need to be enthusiastic about Amateur Radio like Charlie Powers was.
- Jack VE3ITM advised we need a VHF coordinator. Greg VA3GGF volunteered to take this on.
- Greg VA3GGF advised he is pulling together a listing of equipment located in the shack.
- Jack VE3ITM reminded the group of the Christmas Dinner being held at the Mandarin in Mississauga on December 13th. Please advise Carvell VE3CPQ after November 13 but by December 4th if you intend to attend. This dinner will be in place of our general business meeting.
- Doug VE3RG advised he has talked with Mike VA3MVW about talking on computers at our March meeting.
- Jack VE3ITM advised he still has not received an acknowledgement from RAC regarding the affiliate status request.
- Harry suggested members be requested to verify their E-mail addresses. Russ VE3JUZ is planning to do a test of current addresses. He advised another address amateurs can use is the alias through RAC, but that the link would have to be kept current by the individuals.
- Duncan VE3HFG advised the National Post of November 8 had an article on Canwarn and amateur input to that system.
- Hubert VE3HLD advised he receives E-mail bulletins from RAC. One of the recent bulletins had an article about Fred Hammond VE3HC. The article gave a brief on Fred and informed readers that Fred had died peacefully at St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph on Sunday November 7, 1999 after a long illness. Hubert advised that Fred was originally an Oakville resident and was not certain if he had not been a member of the Oakville Club at one time.
- As there was no further business to discuss Jack VE3ITM asked for a motion to close the meeting. Motioned by Bob VA3PRW, seconded by Jim VE3JIC and carried.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are due now. They are \$25.00 per person or family. Please remit by cheque to OARC at P.O. Box 69615, 109 Thomas Street, Oakville, Ontario L6J 7R4.

NOTE: The next HOT BANANAS bulletin (Jan 2000) will be sent only to paid up members.

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

JOTA

For most people in Oakville, if you ask them what was special for Scouts in the Oakville area on October 16 they will answer, Apple Day. For the 40 members of the Scouting movement that visited the club shack they will answer JOTA. JOTA is a weekend organized world wide when Scouts team up with Amateur Radio operators to talk to one another.

This year's event was organized by Dave VA3DDA (a.k.a. Scouter Dave). Dave had contacted all the troops in the Oakville area soliciting from them the number of Scouts that would be interested in participating and organizing their attendance.

It did not matter whether the contact was David VE3IC (Kitchner, Ont.) or Leon 6Y5MV (Jamaica) they always found something to say. The rig was fired up at approximately 11:30 local time and we went no stop until 5:30. When it was over we had cover topics of school, music, sports, hobbies and various other activities that interests of kids 8 to 11 years old.

This was my third JOTA in four years and I would encourage everyone to become involved. While I do not profess to know of the names of all the modern bands nor am I an expert on the various cards the kids collect, the one thing I do know is I had a good time. It is not only an opportunity to work with the young in our community for a few hours but to also inspire future Amateurs.

Greg VA3GGF

REPEATER REPORT

Saturday Nov. 24th, a number of us (Greg VA3GGF, Phil VE3RD, Harry VE3HKC, Jack VE3ITM, Carvell VE3CPQ, Mike VA3VMW) went up to the repeater site to perform a number of maintenance tasks. The problem that instigated the trip was the saga of the Packet system not functioning. We replaced the coax feeding the VE3OAK node and the link to Toronto with a length of RG-213 along with moving the antenna further away from the tower. Neither of these actions has solved the problem. With on other no other suggestions forthcoming we removed the Data Radio and Data Engine from the site to go up to Deans for a "once over".

The other work performed was the rotation of the voice repeater antennas 90 degrees. The reason we did this was although these antennas have a somewhat circular pattern there is some gain off the sides of their loops. This meant our strongest direction would have been over the lake and to the northwest. We have now oriented them to have the greatest gain to the northeast/southwest (hopefully along the Toronto Hamilton corridor). If anyone would like to pass on their comments (good or bad) about the new pattern, they would be appreciated. Reports so far have indicated an improvement to the southwest on the UHF machine. Your comments can be sent to Greg VA3GGF via the net (Monday nights), packet (VA3GGF-1) or e-mail (gfooster@globalserve.net).

Greg VA3GGF

FIELD DAY Y2K

It was all George (OGP)'s fault. On a couple of occasions we had discussed the possibilities of starting a Field Day (FD) group. George's persistence paid off. We have committed! Many of the details are still up in the air, however this club has a ton of talent and could pull off a great FD with minimal notice.

Quite a few years ago Brian (DNF) ran the first FD that I was involved with. In wrapping up that project he also secured a new FD coordinator – me. With George's help the following year went off with out a hitch. Or that was the illusion we tried to present. There were many last minute challenges and this is where I gained respect for some of the problem solvers in the club.

Eight years ago we had a volunteer produce a video production on FD with special effects and narration. Bill WIM, in the past, created a picture collage capturing the weekend on one page with about 25 shots. At Bronte Creek Provincial park we had a group picture following the annual awards. There were approx 50 people stacked 3 rows high. Of course the operators were not in the picture, as we could not drag them away from their stations. We've had a satellite station worked by Al XCW. Enthusiastic Novice stations making their first CW HF contacts. What are your memories of FD? If they are fading it's time to come back out to participate.

Good news; FD will not conflict with your plans for the July long weekend! Unless the rules have changed, it always falls on the last full weekend in June. This year will be 24th & 25th. Stop reading for moment and write it in that new daytimer you bought!

The location has not been determined. We can not announce the final spot until we have a confirmation that our host has permitted the use of the facility. We are looking for good RF locations, local access, not conflicting with the Water Front Festival. This is the time to bring forth your ideas.

What are we trying to do this year? FD has always been both a contest and a social event. There is a push to introduce Amateur Radio to the public and promote the club. We actually get bonus points for public access to our event. Saturday dinner is the focus of the social event. In the past there have been BBQ's and pot luck gatherings. Selling tickets seems to be the only way to ensure that we have enough food or conversely don't get stuck with 20lbs of defrosted burger meat. We are looking for some assistance in this area: both cooks and organizers.

The competitive side of the contest is usually headed up by a few dedicated hams who are very sharp on the key. Only time will tell if we have scheduled shifts and target contact goals for band operators. Separate loggers and operators are needed to handle the pile up stations waiting to contact HB A 2A category station could provide a CW and Phone station on emergency/generator power. A tower with a beam is a usual site for one of these stations. I anticipate some newly engineered directional wire antennas that should mark our spot on the dial and on the scorecard. Additional stations can add to the total without changing our category. These are a Novice station and an Above 30Mhz station. Does anyone know any novices out there? I will not get too deep into the point/bonus structure here, however if you are curious please call George or myself. The contest itself is a big part of our motivation.

March edition of QST will have rules for the event. We will look at last years results to see what other clubs in Canada are running 2A. I would like to send a letter to the top Canadian club as a friendly reminder not get to used to that spot. HB is back on the air!

Contact information for this event is George Davis or me at:

gdavis@interhop.net 905-693-8692
cauterman@home.com 905-881-3074

TOWER TALES - opening scene:

The project launched as a result of Dick VE3COO's desire to part with his tower. Dick and I came to terms with an arrangement, alas I found myself torn between the elation of building a station and the sadness of seeing Dick prepare to move away.

Well, the story starts back last spring (the spring of 1999 to be exact). I called in the troops and they answered the call!

Derek VE3DDL & Mike VE3QSK get top billing since they did the high wire act. (I had broken my ankle earlier in the spring and was vertically challenged and unable to partake!) The end result of WWUI (Walking Whilst Under the Influence!). Greg VA3GGF and Gary VE3TGH were on the ground with Brian VE3BNS and children as cheer leading core. Mike VA3MVW, Peter VE3HG along with Dan Howard (forgot his call) were at hand as well as Dick VE3COO, who's wife Elaine put on a great feed to satisfy the onslaught of hungry Amateurs.

The tower had been up for 22 years. The biggest test was conquering the "Pipe". The "Pipe" was a 50 foot piece of Schedule (big number and &^%* heavy) pipe that ascended from approximately the 10 foot level to tickle the atmosphere at 60 feet. (This made working on the rotor at 10 feet up a "down to earth experience"). The group was challenged with safety issues over concerns of wrestling this monster to the ground without threatening life and limb. It was not without suspense, but the men were up to the task! The pipe however has been segmented (into 4 pieces to be exact). Its future form has yet to be determined.

The tower came down safely. My many thanks to all whom contributed most of all Derek VE3DDL and Mike VE3QSK who braved the climb to make the day a success! It has always amazed me to see that eagerness of my fellow amateurs to be part of an event such as this. It seemed like only yesterday that Gary VE3TGH and I were suspended high above Brian VE3DNF's old home dismantling his tower as a result of his re-location.

The gear was moved to my new home thanks again to Derek VE3DDL and his trusty 4x4.

The tower had sat quietly throughout the summer with nary a glance till I was reminded by my wife Anne that I had parted with a considerable amount of purchasing power in acquiring not only the tower, rotor and antenna, but Dick VE3LIR's old Rig from Jim Butler. Anne's effect on myself was profound! I jumped into action! It was time to prepare the erection.

I started in late August to dislodge the tower from the surface rust that had encrusted it. A wire-buffing tool affixed to the drill did the trick. That and \$500 worth of sweat equity brought us to a wash phase. I used the "Mud Blaster" to blow the rust off the tower. 1,600 PSI should work, but the wet rag afterward seemed to do more. Okay, let it dry and let's prime!

Well! Painting a Delhi with a brush is not for those with little patience. I found myself a member of that very list. I survived the first section and resolved that there must be a better way! A Wagner Power Painter had to do better. Well, it does fine so long as you have deep pockets. I used less than 1/4 quart with a brush on the first section (The largest). I then pumped 5 quarts of primer onto the tower (most on the ground and some on the drop sheet with the remainder on the tower).

The sight of seeing those white structures contrasting against the stark background of the garage was quite a lift. The end was in sight! Or so, I thought. Well, I start with the brush on the first section, and then the second. Many hours past, the weather turned cold on October 3 and here I sit, tickling the keys on a PC keyboard instead of the metal tower with a brush hoping for warmer weather.

Scene two,

The weather warmed slightly. I quickly decided to take the plunge and paint the rest of the tower with the Wagner. I turned to Para Rust Paint for the answer since it came in Gallon pales and I was not confident Quarts were the answer any longer. Two coats and lots of paint on the floor of the garage made for interesting observations from Anne. I am being coaxed to finish the job (the paint job on the floor that is).

That Saturday, with fortification close at hand and my friend Kevin Morris a brave and willing partner, we set about moving the earth for the tower footing. What were we to find? 3 hours of shovel work and we had one fine looking hole. It looked just like the picture that the tower wanted. 4 by 4 by 4 feet with a flare to 5 feet at the bottom! We covered the hole temporarily and I thought that was too easy.

On the Monday, I ordered the concrete. On Wednesday we had a rain that collapsed the back wall nearest the house. Murphy had reared his ugly head.

Determined to meet the challenge I took the Friday off, cleaned out the hole and fabricated a frame to hold the dirt back. For fear that the concrete would break the frame, we back filled against the frame using some 1-inch thick cardboard from Dave VA3DDA. I bolted the concrete base stubs to the bottom section and using a 2 by 4 and sections 2 and 3 for support we hung the tower over the hole. Voila! Ready for concrete!

The crew that Saturday was awesome; it consisted of Greg VA3GGF, Derek VE3DDL, Carvell VE3CPQ my not so little brother Neil (6 foot 60) and friends Danny Belliveau and Kevin Morris. It was music; we had a traffic jam at the concrete truck. We started at 8:00 am and by 9:00 the concrete truck was gone.

A week later, my brother Neil along with my son Nick and Peter VE3HG put up the next 4 sections. Then I really needed to get the Rotor ready. I quickly ordered some rotor cable and coax as well as a new plate for the rotor to sit in on the bottom of the first section. The forecast for the next weekend was good so with many unused vacation days in the bank I took the Friday off and prepared the top section.

The Rotor was staged with the Pipe in the garage; I then removed the Pipe and prepared to mount the top section on the tower. It was far too windy so we decided to wait for calm air.

Scene Three

That evening, the air was reasonably still. I recalled Jim Goodman and his antics about climbing at night. The legend promotes the idea that it is not as scary since you can't see the ground in the dark. I was overcome with a sense of adventure and talked my wife Anne, Heather (my daughter) and Nick (my son) into helping with the top section. They were great and using the 2-pulley system hoisted the top section to me, and I promptly bolted it in place. Next came the Pipe and now we were ready for the beam!

On Saturday morning, November 5, 1999 I attended breaky and rustled up a crew. Greg VA3GGF and Peter VE3HG answered the call. It was rather raw but both men showed no fear of the elements. Whilst waiting for them after breaky I started building up the beam. It is an Explorer. The boom is 14 feet and the reflector is about 32 feet. It consumes quite a bit of space on the ground. Just as we had finished bolting all the bits together, Anne came into the back yard. In the 18 years we have been married, I can't recall seeing her eyes that wide open. She gasped "It's big!" Well she had to run and we pressed on.

Up the beam went using the Gin Pole and was bolted into place in short order, there was almost no real problem. We had beaten winter! Anne came home and exclaimed, "It doesn't look so big now". I guess 50 feet will do that to ones perception.

Closing Scene

I was itching to test out the beast. I had bought new 213 coax but decided just to stick up a piece of 58 that I had laying around and give it a whirl. I hauled up the coax and the rotor cable and tied both down. I then worked my way down taping things off as I went. I connected the rig up with no ground and the rotor yet to be connected. I flipped on the rig, and tried to load up on 20. It appeared as though the rig was not loading. I found out that the way my auto tune works, if the match is flat it does nothing. 20 was flat! I threw out a call and asked if anyone could copy. Fritz W0KO came back from Minnesota with a 20 over 9 report with the beam aimed to the North! Success. Later my second contact was Greg VA3GGF on 10 meters FM.

I surmised that Anne might not be fond of using the sliding door as access for the coax. I also needed to ground the tower. I picked up a ground plate and a ground rod. I buried the plate 3 feet down and 3 feet away from the base of the tower. I then took the 10-foot ground rod and drove it down 10.5 feet. I tied 3-gauge wire from both the plate and the rod to 2 spots on the tower and connected that via 3 gauge as my ground. If I was to take a lightning hit, I would give the juice 2 path's to earth for redundancy.

Using a 3-inch coring bit I pumped a hole through the wall 2 feet below grade to get access into the crawl space. I used 3-inch ABS pipe as my access and fashioned a ship port vent like connection outside above grade. I used concrete patch to patch the hole edge and after a day used sealer to tidy that up.

I ran the connections into the rig and played again. I heard a VE7 calling a VE5. He had no joy so I called him (beam still pointing due north). Bill VE7FWS came back with a great report. I signed with Bill and Dave VE5DSS who was mobile between Vancouver and Calgary called me. He asked if I had just spoken with his father Bill VE7FWS, I acknowledged and he asked me to relay. I passed several messages between Victoria and the mobile that could not hear each other. After signing with both Bill and Dave, I got a call from Bruce ZS1/ZD7VC in Cape Town South Africa! Wow!

Many thanks to the Family, Friends and the Great Amateur community here in Oakville for all the assistance in this project. It's been to a heart-warming experience.

Harry Kosterman VE3HKC

RADIO SOCIETY OF BERMUDA

On September 12th of this year Doug VE3RG transported a 2 Metre Repeater and antenna to the RADIO SOCIETY OF BERMUDA. This repeater, a Spectrum 1000 (model SCR1000), and antenna were redundant to the Club and the Society was in need of a repeater and antenna. On September 27th Jack VE3ITM received a letter of thanks from the President of the Radio Society of Bermuda, Mr. Eugene Rayner (VP9NLW), expressing their gratitude to the Club for the gift of the repeater and antenna.

The Society plans to install this equipment at their police headquarters for their EMO repeater.

HF DX CONTESTING

Peter West VE3HG is active in HF DX contesting. He welcomes members, who wish to get active, to participate with him in this activity. Peter can be reached at; E-mail pwest@c gocable.net, phone 905-825-4264 or contact Greg VE3GGF should you wish to participate.