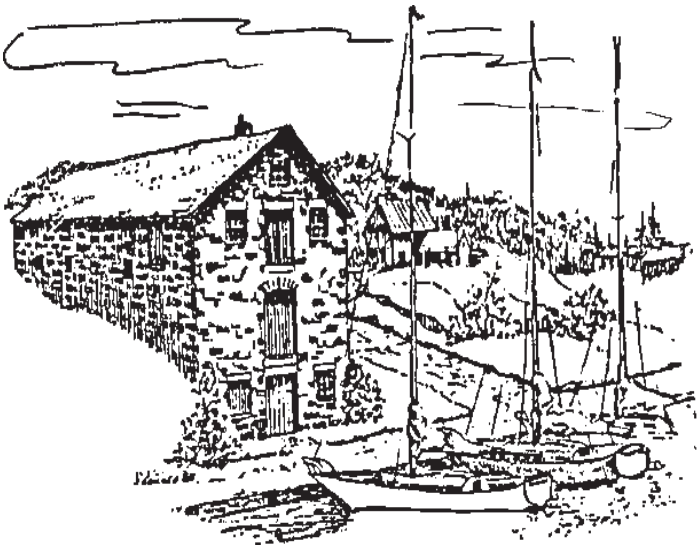
May, 2000

# HOT BANANAS

## OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ...VE3 HB



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

**http://www.mvw.net/oarc**
**E-Mail address: oarc@mvw.net**

***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)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**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***

**“HOT BANANAS” IS PUBLISHED BY THE OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AND DISTRIBUTED TO LIFE MEMBERS AND ALL OTHER MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ON THE DATE OF PUBLICATION**

**EDITOR** Ed Samborski VE3TAS

**PRODUCTION** Richard Davis Jr.

**DISTRIBUTION** Duncan Smith VE3HFG

**YOUR EXECUTIVE FOR 1999/2000**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| · PRESIDENT | Jack Livingstone | VE3ITM |
| · VICE PRESIDENT | Doug Smith | VE3RG |
| · PAST PRESIDENT | Mike Brown | VA3GRL |
| · DIRECTOR FINANCE | Jim Fitzpatrick | VE3ITT |
| · DIRECTOR MEMBERSHIP | Russ Schwandt | VE3JUZ |
| · SECRETARY | Ed Samborski | VE3TAS |

**ACTIVITY COORDINATORS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| · TRAINING (BASIC & ADVANCED) | Jack Livingstone | VE3ITM |
| · EXAMINER (VOLUNTEER) | Jack Livingstone | VE3ITM |
| · QSL MANAGER | Ron O’Reilly | VE3FII |
| · DX INTEREST GROUP | Ron O’Reilly | VE3FII |
| · VHF NET | Greg Foster | VA3GGF |
| · SPECIAL EVENT CATERING | Carvell Pelkey | VE3CPQ |
| · SHACK & EQUIPMENT | Greg Foster | VA3GGF |
| · PACKET | Phil Thompson | VE3RD |
| · REPEATER OPERATIONS | Greg Foster | VA3GGF |
| | Gary Hetherington | VE3TGH |
| | Harry Kosterman | VE3HKC |
| · REPEATER OPERATIONS PROGRAMMING | Graham Chatfield | VA3GPC |
| · CLUB INTERNET WEBSITE | Michael Willems | VA3MVW |
| · EMERGENCY | Greg Foster | VA3GGF |
| · EMERGENCY SEVICES LIASON HALTON REGION | Phil Thompson | VE3RD |
| · LIBRARIAN | *Position Vacant* | |
| · FIELD DAY COORDINATOR | Mike Cauterman | VE3QSK |
| | George Davis | VE3OGP |
| · PUBLIC RELATIONS | *Position Vacant* | |

Slate 1999/2000

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**It looks like we survived another year and by the looks of it we should be OK for another year. Jim VE3ITT has done some phoning and has come up with some amateurs who would be willing to let their name stand as a director. Thanks for your efforts Jim, and thanks guys for letting your name stand.**

**Ed VE3TAS will be retiring this year. He has served as a director in the role of Secretary for several years now and last year he also handled the news letter. Ed may be moving out of town next year. (how cum so many of the good Amateurs are moving out of town?). We wish you well Ed and you will be missed. Thanks for a job well done!**

**At the time of this writing, I understand Field Day may be dying. I still have a few feelers out to try to keep it alive. Come to the next meeting and see if we will be able to salvage anything!**

**Our June meeting, June15th, will be the last regular meeting for this year. It will be your last chance to come out and join us until the fall. We will be handing out some awards. For example, the "Dizzy Izy" award as well as the "sub category" as per the motion at the beginning of the year! Also the "Amateur of the Year" award, and other award certificates to some amateurs who the executive believes helped the club out a lot in the last year and probably in previous years as well.**

**Again, I would like to thank all those who helped out this year. With your efforts we kept the club alive and well for now and the future looks bright too. I would like to especially thank those who keep pitching in year after year. As I said before, your contributions have not gone unnoticed and without you, the club would not exist. THANK YOU!**

**Till next time…..Jack….73>**

# OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**General Business Meeting: May 08, 2000** (Submitted by Doug VE3RG)

Meeting called to order by Jack VE3ITM at 1945 hours.
Delayed as we were locked out of the room at the Red Cross Building.
The April meeting minutes accepted as published by Carvell VE3CPQ, seconded by Ron VE3FII and carried.

JIM VE3ITT presented the Treasurer's Report

- $2624 in Bank
- $2170 projected balance after expenses by the end of July
- At current expense levels we are $268 over budget for the year
- 59 members in the Club
- Expenses under control

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read by Greg VA3GGF, seconded by Ron VE3FII and carried. Some of the expenses projected (approx $100) are for a new ID board for the repeater donated to the Club by PetroCanada.

Ron VE3FII reported the DX Club was still active most Monday evenings with topics other than DX often discussed. DX activity has been good with Bhutan, Burma, Laos and East Timor some of the most notables.

Other Business

- Saturday Breakfasts still quite active
- Ed Samborski VE3TAS back from his trip
- Russ VE3JUZ enroute from Florida
- Field Day in need of an assistant coordinator. George VE3OGP is bowing out for personal reasons. Jack will talk with Mike VE3QSK about Field Day and report back.
- Greg VA3GGF reported the EC's & Section Managers met. He will write up issues for the bulletin.
- Jack VE3ITM still has some Lions Club Cruise tickets.
- GregVA3GGF unlucky winner of the 50:50 draw. He bought a Cruise ticket with his winnings but had to dig into his pocket for another $3.50.
- Jack VE3ITT requested people consider being a director for 2000-2001. The executive will be talking to people in the coming weeks to put together a slate of officers.

**Program**: We had hoped to have a second presentation on the Internet by Mike VA3MVW, but his new job in Hong Kong prevented him being here for the meeting. Greg VA3GGF had brought a video on the 1992 Field Day and this was presented.

---

## Fessenden, Reginald Aubrey

The Canadian-born American physicist and electrical engineer Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, b. Oct. 6, 1866 d. July 22, 1932, is known for his early work in wireless communication. He began his research at the University of Pittsburgh; after designing a high-frequency alternator, he broadcast (1906) the first program of speech and music ever transmitted by radio. That same year, he established two-way transatlantic wireless telegraph communication. Fessenden also invented the hetrodyne system of radio reception, the sonic depth finder, the radio compass, submarine signaling devices, the smoke cloud (for tank warfare) and the turboelectric drive (for battleships).

*Ground Waves* Parry Sound Amateur Radio Club

# SEMI ANNUAL CARAB MEETING IN OTTAWA

From: RAC Headquarters
Date: May 18, 2000
Subject: Semi Annual CARAB meeting in Ottawa.

On April 27, 2000, RAC President Ken Oelke, VE6AFO Co-Chaired the 14th Meeting of CARAB. In attendance were First Vice President Ralph Webb, VE7OM, Vice President of Government and International Affairs Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, Atlantic Director William Gillis, VE1WG, Quebec Director Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA and Jim Dean, VE3IQ.

Officials in attendance from Industry Canada were Darius Breau, Manager, Operational Policies, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch, Tom Jones, Chief, Authorization and Harold Carmichael, Program Manager, Certificates and Examinations, Quebec Region.

The following were highlights of the meeting.

- Industry Canada is to provide an information document outlining the process for Morse code testing in order that physicians can have a better understanding of what may constitute a disability.

- Industry Canada has asked RAC to prepare a formal proposal, regarding reduction of Morse code speed from 12 wpm to 5 wpm, for the Department's consideration.

- Industry Canada gave an update regarding antenna support structure issues and suggested that RAC continue to liaise with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

- The 220-222 MHz sharing agreement with the USA is now signed. A paper interpreting the agreement has been prepared by Graham Ide, VE3BYT, Chair of the RAC VHF/UHF Band Planning Committee, and has been posted to the RAC Web Site.

- RAC's request for a primary allocation on 2.4 GHz and a VLF allocation on 135.7 to 137.8 kHz, is still under review by Industry Canada.

- Although the provisions in Schedule IX of the Contraventions Act apply, Industry Canada agreed to examine the Radiocommunication and Contraventions Act Regulations with a view to clarification of the relevant article relating to address change for amateur stations. As a consequence of this review, it will be determined if the inclusion of a specific contravention will be necessary to address this point.

# MORSE CODE DEMISE

It makes me unhappy, sad enough to cry,
To see a wonderful hobby just up and die.
The joy it created by letting people meet,
Those that you would never otherwise greet.

Speaking to strangers in those far off lands,
In a tongue created by just using your hands.
It's a skill that can give a sort of inner joy,
That can be done by all, be they girl or boy.

No uniforms to buy, or ever leaving your home,
No costs are involved, far cheaper than a phone.
Sneakers are not needed, you can be thin or fat.
Best of all, no need for a glove, ball or bat.

Folks spend vast sums in learning a new skill,
Where monthly they'll end up paying a new bill
Mostly they will do it to impress their friends,
Cause being like others is one of todays trends.

I know the reason that the hobby is disappearing,
The problem that our Government has been fearing.
It's really sad, but easy and simple to explain,
The literacy rate has been going down the drain.

It could be blamed upon the tube ot the schools,
That is creating a nation of asses and fools.
Because the three R's have now become a mystery
It's almost impossible to learn to use a CW key.

And so another hobby passes away into the past,
And obviously gladly, for few wanted it to last.
Who today remembers Samuel Morse or Gugli Marconi,
For todays students it's just a bunch of baloney.

Things will always change with the passage of time,
And much is seen as stupid which once was sublime.
The one time romantic pony express and the magic key,
Have faded from our memory, and now are just history.

Author Annonymous (submitted by Dick VE3COO)

## TOP TEN WAYS TO RECOGNIZE TRUE HOMEBREWERS

1. Only uses parts no longer in production.
2. Still uses a Z80 computer and writes all of their software.
3. Only designs and builds circuits using PNP transistors.
4. Only designs and builds rigs with positive (+) ground.
5. Seldom labels visible switches, knobs or dials.
6. Spends every other Saturday browsing at the county landfill.
7. Refuses to plagiarize Schottky, Yagi, Uda, the ARRL Hanbook or articles from the Radio Amateurs of Canada magazine.
8. Never refers to a copy of a schematic or logic diagram.
9. Builds their own tower using a homemade electric welder.
10. Regards most Home Brew as infantile or afflicted with commercial gimmickry and precuniary interests.

Originally number ten was:

10. Has a framed picture of Nikola Telsa hanging over the workbench.

By Clay N4AOX (modified for RAC mention by Ed VE3TAS)

---

## Jansky, Karl

The American radio engineer Karl Guthe Jansky, b. Norman, Okla., Oct. 22, 1905, d. Feb. 14, 1950, was the first to detect radio waves from an extraterrestrial source--a discovery that initiated the science of Radio Astronomy. After graduating with a degree in physics from the University of Wisconsin, he joined the staff of the Bell Telephone Laboatories in Holland, N.J., in 1928. Assigned to identify the sources of atmospheric static that interfered with ship-to-shore and trans-atlantic communication, Jansky built a linear directional antenna and with it

Distinguished three types of interference. One was due to local squalls and thunderstorms; another, to distant storms; the third, detected in 1931, moved around the sky each day. Jansky percieved that this third source was extrterrestrial and later determined that its direction was nearly identical with that of the centre of the Galaxy in the constellation of Sagittarius. He ended his radio astronomy work in 1937, after the telephone company rejected, as financially unjustifiable, his proposal for a 100 foot (30 metre) dish-shaped aerial.

*Ground Waves* (Parry Sound Amateur Radio Club Bulletin)

---

## Edwin H. Armstrong

(1890-1954)

Electrical engineer and inventor, born in New York City. Armstrong graduated from Columbia University in 1913, and received his first patent for his regenerative receiver in 1914.

Without a doubt, Edwin Armstrong did more to advance the art of radio than any other inventor. Every radio and television receiver uses Armstrong's inventions. During World War I he became interested in methods of detecting aircraft. His list of patents and inventions includes regeneration, the superhetrodyne receiver and wide-band FM. From 1931 his efforts went into developing and promoting FM. He perfected the frequency-modulation system of radio transmission from static. During this same period effort was spent on defending his inventions against suits by DeForest. Many years later almost every suit was decided in favour of Armstrong. Armstrong committed suicide in 1954.

*Ground Waves* (Parry Sound Amateur Radio Club Bulletin)

---

## The Pencil

One of the most popular tools used by Hams for copying CW or voice communications is the pencil. Pencil marks, unlike those made by writing implements using fluids, can be easily erased. Although commonly called lead pencils, they do not contain any of that metal but are composed of a mixture of graphite (a form of coal) and clay. In 1795 a way was devised of mixing powdered graphite with clay, cutting the resultant mixture into strips and baking it. The hardness of these "lead crayons" depends on the proportion of graphite to clay. The more graphite used, the "softer", or darker, is the mark made. In 1812 the American William Monroe invented a process still used today by which the graphite-clay mixture could be encased between two pieces of cedar wood.

*Ground Waves* (Parry Sound Amateur Radio Club Bulletin)

---

## What is Electricity

Today's most pressing scientific questions are: "What is electricity?" and "Where does it go after it leaves the power supply?"

Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important lesson about electricity **(Do not try this. It is contained here for editorial ilustration ONLY)**:

> On a cool dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach into your volunteering friends mouth and touch one of their dental fillings. Notice how they twitch violently and cry out in pain?
>
> This teaches us that electricity can be a very powerful force and we must never misuse it or use it to hurt others.
>
> When you scuffed your feet on the carpet, you picked up bunches of "electrons" which are incredibly tiny objects that the carpet manufacturers weave into the carpets so they will attract dirt.
>
> The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your fingers. There they form a spark that jumps to your friend's filling, then they travel down to their feet and back into the carpet, thereby completing the circuit.

AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT: If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! (This is nothing to worry about if you don't have carpeting.) It is said that putting a thimble on each fingertip will prevent this.

Although we modern people tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things (which is just as well as there was no place to plug them in anyway). Then along came the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning storm and received a serious electric shock. This proved that clouds were powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged his brain to the extent that he spent a great deal of time speaking incomprehensible maxims such as "A penny saved is a penny earned". Eventually, to protect the general public, he was given a job in the Post Office. He died of serious complications, which only proves that one should never fool around with Mother Nature!

After Franklin came a herd of Electrical Pioneers whose names have become a part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Lou Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, Billy Joe Farad and Ozro Henry. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments--among them, Galvani discovered (honestly) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the legs of a frog an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was dead as a hammer.

Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed by a car, implant pieces of metal in its muscles and watch it jump back into the pond like a normal frog (except that now it will sink like a stone!).

The greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Alva Edison, who was a brilliant inventor (despite the fact that he had little education and lived in New Jersey!). Edison's first invention was the phonograph (1877), which soon could be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923 ewhen the record was invented. Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879 when he invented the electric company. Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: the electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again (3600 times a minute). This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity over five million times a day. In fact, the last time any NEW electric current was generated was in 1937. Incidently, Edison is widely credited with thw "smoke theory" of electronics which maintains that all components in any given circuit really operate on a minute charge of white smoke and when the component fatiques and releases its smoke, it is rendered useless since its source of energy has escaped.

Today thanks to men like Edison and Franklin (and frogs like Kermit) we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists have developed the LASER, an electronic appliance so powerful that it can vapourize a bulldozer, yet so precise that a doctor can perform delicate operations on the eyeball. Thanks to K4VIZ and the BirmingHAM newsletter of the Birmingham Amateur Radio Club W4CUE.