

# Hot Bananas

Oakville Amateur Radio Club VE3HB

March 2001



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Hubert Heath**

VE3HLD

When you are reading this message I will be vacationing in sunny Portugal.

I recently read that year 2001 has been designated by the UN as volunteer's month. So I guess what I am asking that is that about what you know or can do and step forward for the good of the Club.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Message From the President
- 1** Emergency!
- 2** Calendar of Club Events & Just the Facts
- 3** Who's Who
- 4** Calendar of Ham Radio Events; Next Month
- 4** RAC and the Red Cross
- 5** Call to Order
- 6** RAC News
- 11** OARC March Presentation-Contesting
- 11** OARC February Keynote Speaker – Mike Brown
- 12** Profiles
- 14** Talking Tech-Repeater Report
- 18** RAC Membership Application

## Emergency!

**Greg Foster**

VA3GGF

*The following article articulates a local event where over 250 Amateurs gave of their time and expertise to assist Police, Fire, Red Cross and other Government agencies during one of the largest evacuations in Canadian history. The effectiveness of these teams of volunteers is for the most part as a result of their planning and preparation. Over the next few weeks I will be updating Oakville Amateur Radio Club's Emergency Call Out Tree which is the first part of be prepared.*

*The call out tee is the process we utilized in the event of a disaster to summon our volunteers. By allowing your name to be added to our call out tree you will be indicating your willingness to assist in providing emergency communications, should the need arise. Its name comes from the fact that the process starts from*

"Emergency" - Continued on Page 7

## CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS

### CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

March 12, 2001, 7:30pm

Regular Club Meeting & Contesting Presentation  
with Peter West and Tony Osmond

### SPECIAL EVENT

Hammond Museum of Radio

April 9, 2001, 7:30pm

Car Pool is being organized to depart Oakville at  
6:30pm. Details to follow.

### CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

May 14, 2001, 7:30pm

Tentative tour of the IC Monitoring Station in Acton.  
Details to follow.

### CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

June 11, 2001, 7:30pm

Annual General Meeting & Election of Officers

## Just the Facts

*About the OARC...*

### Meetings

Meetings are held on the Second Monday of each month from September to June at the Red Cross Building, 167 Navy Street, Oakville. Meetings begin at 7:30pm and all are welcome. An informal Saturday breakfast is held at 7:00am, at Nickels Restaurant, 2324 Trafalgar Road, Oakville.

The OARC is a RAC affiliated club.

### Repeater

VE3OAK 147.015 +.600 (131.8Hz CTCSS)

VE3OAK 444.325 +5.00

### Digipeater

VE3OAK 145.750 (Packet)

VE3OAK 144.390 (APRS)

### Net

Mondays at 7:30pm (except meeting nights/holidays)

### Phone Patch Access

Code & Tel No (do not pause while dialing)

### Web Site

<http://www.oakvilleamateurs.net>

### Mailing Address

Oakville Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 69615

109 Thomas Street

Oakville ON L6J 7R4

### Email Address

[info@oakvilleamateurs.net](mailto:info@oakvilleamateurs.net)

Hot Bananas is published 10 times per year from September to June and is distributed to all members of the OARC. Articles may be reproduced without additional permission provided credit is given to Hot Bananas and the Oakville Amateur Radio Club.

Submit story ideas, feedback, comments, articles or artwork to [va3afa@rac.ca](mailto:va3afa@rac.ca) or mail to Hot Bananas, PO Box 69615 109 Thomas St, Oakville ON L6J 7R4. Fax is available, address to John Clarke at (416) 982-8471. Electronic format is preferred, however we can accommodate any media, including handwritten stories, audio recordings or in-person interviews! Ω

## WHO'S WHO

### YOUR ACCESS POINT TO THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF OARC

#### EXECUTIVE

President	Hubert Heath, VE3HLD
Vice President	Jack Livingstone, VE3ITM
Membership Director	Russ Schwandt, VE3JUJ
Director at Large	Doug Smith, VE3RG
Secretary	John Clarke, VA3AFA
Finance	Jim Fitzpatrick, VE3ITT
Activity Director	Mike Brown, VA3GRL

#### COORDINATORS

Emergency Coordinator	Greg Foster, VA3GGF
Regional Emergency Liaison	Phil Thompson, VE3RD
Help Committee	Harry Kosterman, VE3HKC
VHF Net Activities	Greg Foster, VA3GGF
Repeater Programming	Graham Chatfield, VA3GPC
Repeater Maintenance	Gary Hetherington, VE3TGH Harry Kosterman, VE3HKC
Packet BBS	Michael Willems, VA3MWW
Special Event Catering	Carvell Pelkey, VE3CPQ
Training-Basic & Advanced	Jack Livingstone, VE3ITM
Examiner	Jack Livingstone, VE3ITM
Internet Web Site	Michael Willems, VA3MWW
Public Relations	Doug Smith, VE3RG
Equipment/Shack	Jack Livingstone, VE3ITM
QSL Manager	Ron O'Reilly, VE3FII
DX Interest Group	Ron O'Reilly, VE3FII
Library	TBD

#### CLUB BULLETIN

Editor	John Clarke, VA3AFA
Production	Richard Davis Jr
Distribution	Duncan Smith, VE3HFG

Talk about stepping forward let us not forget that the elections be coming up in June, so think about where you could help ie , Director, coordinator , Elmer, Speaker etc.

Have any of you wondered where the Radio Club call sign came from (VE3HB).

I was talking to Jim Croll VE3 JIC and he advised that the original call sign was VE3AIS and the call sign for one of the original founders Harold Benson was VE3HB, Harold **Benson lived on the Lakeshore** Road opposite Coronation Park and Jasper Smith another founding fathers, call sign was VE3FE and he lived on Queen Mary Dr. Bud Clements VE3 TZ. George Sleeth VE3ALR, Norm Busk VE3AGW were all founding fathers.

They were later joined by George Very VE3YM and the meetings were held in the basement of the Riverside Lodge, owned by Norm Busk.

When Harold Benson died the Radio Club took his Call Sign VE3HB.

Bert Croll was licensed in 1949 and took Jasper Smith's call sign VE3FE, and also has VE3GZN

Look forward to seeing you all in April

Keep communicating!

Hubert L. (Shot) Heath Ω

## CALENDAR OF HAM RADIO EVENTS

### HAMEX 2001

Peel Amateur Radio Club & Mississauga Amateur  
Radio Club

Saturday, March 24, 2001, Brampton ON

### IROQUOIS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SIXTH ANNUAL FLEAMARKET

Iroquois Amateur Radio Club

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2001, Iroquois ON

### MONTREAL FLEAMARKE

Montreal Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Saturday, April 21, 2001, LaSalle QC

### VE3RCX, THE AGGIE CANADIAN GIRL GUIDE CONVENTION

Mississauga Amateur Radio Club (VE3MIS)

Saturday, April 28, 2001, Mississauga ON

### DURHAM REGION AMATEUR RADIO HAMFEST

South Pickering A.R.C. North Shore A.R.C.

Saturday, April 28, 2001, Whitby ON

### OTTAWA VALLIE MOBILE RADIO CLUB ANNUAL FLEAMARKET

Saturday, May 5, 2001 Stittsville, ON

### 17TH ANNUAL SMITHS FALLS FLEAMARKET

Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Saturday, May 12, 2001, Smiths Falls ON

### ANNUAL SPRING HAMFEST AND FLEAMARKET

Skywide ARC

Saturday, May 12, 2001, Etobicoke ON

### DAYTON HAMVENTION

Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Friday, May 18, 2001, Dayton OH

### CENTRAL ONTARIO HAMFEST

Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Clubs

Saturday, June 9, 2001, Fergus ON

## RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA & THE RED CROSS

Submitted by Greg Foster

VA3GGF

*Canadian Radio Amateurs have long been associated with providing communications in times of disaster. Whether it be a tornado in Edmonton, a tornado in Barrie or a crash of an airliner in Nova Scotia few of us are aware of the formal agreement between the Canadian Red Cross and the Radio Amateurs of Canada.*

*This agreement below was struck originally with the ARRL, then the Canadian Radio Relay League and finally The Radio Amateurs of Canada. This agreement spells out at a very high level the relationship between RAC and the Canadian Red Cross. RAC through it's Amateur Radio Emergency Services organization delivers on it's commitment to the Red Cross.*

*Greg Foster – VA3GGF  
EC (Emergency Coordinator)*

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between The Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. and The Canadian Red Cross Society

The Canadian Red Cross Society recognizes that the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc., because of its excellent

*"Red Cross" - Continued on page 15*

## Next Month in Hot Bananas

- Talking Tech!
- Swap Shop
- Project Central
- Submission deadline for April issue is March 31

# Call To Order

*Minutes of the Oakville Amateur Radio Club Meeting of December 11, 2000*

**John Clarke, Secretary**  
VA3AFA



## Opening Remarks

- President Hubert Heath called the meeting to order and welcomed 20 members in attendance.

## Motions

- Motion to ACCEPT the minutes of the January meeting as published in the February edition of Hot Bananas was Moved by Hubert Heath, VE3HLD and SECONDED by Greg Foster, VA3GGF. The motion was CARRIED.

## Discussion

- Ron O'Reilly, VE3FII inquired as to the use of the Meeting Sign-in Sheet. It is currently used by the Secretary for as a record of the number of members and guests in attendance. The Secretary will research the minutes of previous meetings to determine if the origin of the practice can be determined.
- Jim Fitzpatrick, VE3ITT reported the club has a current cash balance of \$2728. The forecast is to have approximately \$2190 at year-end. This would represent a cash position of \$34 above the budgeted amount. The budget includes revenue from 60 paid memberships.
- Greg Foster, VA3GGF inquired as to the membership status of the students currently enrolled in the Ham Radio Class. Russ Schwandt VE3JUJ reported the students are included in the club's membership list.
- Greg Foster, VA3GGF reported the repeater site has new tenants and that a new tower has been installed on the building. Additionally, the new UHF repeater has been serviced is and now ready for installation.
- Harry Kosterman, VE3HKC provided a detailed repeater report which is reprinted elsewhere in Hot Bananas.
- Jack Livingstone introduced two ham radio class students , Francis Curley and Michael Kosterman.
- Doug Smith, VE3RG provided an update on the Hammond Museum visit scheduled for April. Directions to the museum will be supplied next month. The plan is to designate a central location for a car pool to assemble and depart. A list of names to attend can be submitted to Doug or via the Monday net.

## Closing

- The meeting was adjured at 8:05pm. Mike Brown VA3GRL was introduced, who will provide a talk on "Bigger isn't Always Better".



## Radio Amateurs of Canada News

### UPCOMING OPERATING EVENTS

#### CONTESTS

March

10-11 World Wide Locator Contest

10-11 Southern African HF Field Day

10-11 RSGB Commonwealth Contest, CW

10-11 QCWA QSO Party

11 North American Sprint, RTTY

11 UBA Spring Contest, CW

11 High Speed Sprint, RTTY

11-12 Wisconsin QSO Party

17-18 Alaska QSO Party

17-18 Bermuda Contest

17-19 BARTG WW RTTY Contest

17-18 Russian DX Contest

17-19 Virginia QSO Party

March 20 to April 19

Special Even Call Sign VC3X as been authorized to be used by Mr. John Hutchison (VE3CKF) for the period from March 20, 2001 to April 19, 2001 for the celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of St. Catherines, Ontario.

#### **JUNE 2, 2001 UNTIL JUNE 3 - 29TH STREETSVILLE FOUNDERS BREAD & HONEY FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENT**

Sponsored by Mississauga Amateur Radio Club on Saturday, June 2, 2001 until 2001-06-03 at Mississauga, ON. Operations from 1400Z - 2000Z both days on SSB: 7.230MHz, 14.240MHz, 28.340MHz +/- QRM. Certificate is offered to those who QSL. More info MARC, C/O Michael Brickell, 2801 Bucklepost Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5N 1X6 Ω

### Russia sets March 20 date for dumping MIR

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[www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca)

If all goes well, on March 20, the Progress cargo rocket attached to MIR will fire its engines twice during two consecutive orbits and then, several hours later, fire again to send the 143-ton station hurtling toward the Pacific between Australia and Chile. The most difficult part of the preparations will include bringing MIR, which is now in a slow rolling and rotating motion, to a steady position in orbit. Mission Control will stabilize the station just one day before the descent.

The last maneuver will take place over Russia so Mission Control can monitor it using Russian radar stations. The station will then descend over Russia and China and head down into the Pacific Ocean. It is expected to take about 45 minutes from the last engine push for the station's debris to reach the Earth's surface. Most of Mir will burn up in the atmosphere, but some 1,500 fragments with a total weight of up to 27.5 tons are expected to make it to the surface.

Officials warned that the date for Mir's long-delayed demise may still vary depending on solar activity, which expands the atmosphere and creates friction with the 15-year-old station. Ω

one call and then multiplies into many. If you are part of the tree you will receive a call indicating the requirement for assistance and you will in turn have to make another call to a fellow ham passing on the same information.

You do not have to own any equipment only a desire to help. Within Halton region we utilize the many VHF and UHF repeaters in the area and we do not strictly adhere to the National Traffic System format of Radiograms.

Greg VA3GGF

## **THE MISSISSAUGA MISADVENTURE**

**By C. H. Powers**

VE3APK

It was just midnight, Saturday, November 10 1979 when I was distracted from the TV by a small explosion. Living on Bridge Road in Oakville I have a clear view of the two refineries to the west and from my back porch, one to the east. A quick check from the front revealed no problems out west. I went to the rear of the house and just as I opened the door the second explosion occurred. I did not wait for the aftershock. I started dressing to hit the road thinking it was the Clarkson Refinery to the east (I failed to recognize the northerly location of the fire at the time).

The phone started ringing and a friend in West Toronto said it was north of Highway 5 and appeared to be an aircraft which was down. Realizing it was not a refinery crisis, I went to the local 2 meter frequency and found that many were on the frequency standing by to hear some news. Howard – VE3ITN, EC for Oakville was on the road heading toward the fire.

At 12:15 our friend in Etobicoke called back to advise that a derailment had occurred, and that the train was hauling petroleum products and some tank cars had blown up. We stayed by the frequency for an hour gathering bits of information such as the location and the progress reports on the fire.

At 01:30 it appeared our services would not be required. News reports indicated there were no casualties and the fire department in Mississauga was in control of the blaze. We retired for the night as my good wife and I were scheduled to go on parade with the royal Canadian Legion at 10:30.

We went on parade on Sunday morning and along the parade route, I noticed Tom VE3ITK, one of the Assistant EC's for Oakville, fall in at the rear of our group. Bill VE3HGJ was that the rear and I assumed Tom was taking part in the parade.

When we arrived at the cenotaph for the Memorial Service, I received word that a mass evacuation had started due to the chlorine gas escaping from one tank car, and we were alerting our ARES groups in the Toronto Hamilton area. A quick call to Mike VE3GFN, the Toronto EC revealed that our services had not as yet been requested.

On arrival back home about 13:00 hours, I contacted the Director of Emergency Services, Canadian red Cross Ontario Division, who informed me that they were just getting organized to handle the evacuees and that he would be in touch as soon as they knew where the evacuation centre would be located. I received the first call from the Red Cross at 16:30 EST advising that the first evacuation centre had been "Square One" a massive shopping centre to the northwest of Mississauga. However, the evacuation boundaries had been broadened and "Square One" was being evacuated. They would need communications as soon as the new centres were known.

At 19:30 hours, the word came from the Red Cross that the International Centre in Malton (northwest of Toronto) had been opened up for evacuees. They required a station there and one at Red Cross Headquarters in downtown Toronto. During the interim (16:30 to 19:30), the ARES groups in the area were being alerted.

As the centre of activity was in Mississauga, Rod Pears - VE3IXB was acting EC for that area. Rod's appointment became official at 00:01 hours November 12 - he sure received a full-fledged initiation. The ink was not even dry on his certificate and he was heading up one of the largest operations ever experience by Canadian Amateurs. Rod was being assisted by Roger – VE3HGC (now an official Assistant EC, also President of the Halton Amateur Radio Club). Mike - VE3GFN, EC for Toronto, was activating his group: also - VE3IMR, EC for Oshawa, was standing by with a task force. The Burlington group were already alert when I turned over to their repeater. They had twenty mobiles ready to go where needed. The Hamilton ARES, under the direction of the EC Bob Richert VE3FCU, was put on stand-by at 22:45 local time.

In the interim, more evacuation centres were opened in the Brampton/Streetsville area, and as each centre became active, a station was put on the air with two operators at each. It was decided the Brampton repeater, VE3MHZ, would be used as the control station using the Peel amateur Radio Club call VE3PRC. All transmissions were cleared through VE3PRC using the dispatch method. The South Pickering Club call, VE3SPC, was used by the Red Cross Headquarters station.

Health and welfare inquires began pouring in soon after the evacuation centres were opened, and it was decided to us a second repeater to handle the overflow traffic. Thus, VE3SKY, the Skywide Amateur Radio Club repeater was put on emergency service.

Lawrence Purdy - VE3FPF was being evacuated from his home near the disaster site. He called in and offered to stay in the area once his family was on the move to safe ground. Lawry reached the spill site and after some persuasion, managed to reach the Red Cross official at the Command Post were police, fire and government officials were controlling the evacuation and containment. Suddenly, Red Cross have a direct link between headquarters in downtown Toronto and the commanders at site. The site is assigned a priority and will be manned throughout the operation. We soon realized that arrangements to clear operators through the police barricades had not been made, and each relief operator had to negotiate his way into the area. Fortunately, an official Red Cross

vehicle was on hand and came out for each shift change to pick up the relief operator and transport to the command Centre.

Hospitals in the immediate area were evacuated early Sunday afternoon with patients being transported to Toronto area hospitals.

As evening wore on, the evacuation boundaries widened and finally, at approximately 22:00 hours, word is received that the Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital will be evacuated as a precautionary measure. VE3GUH Dr George Piasecki is on staff and puts out a call for assistance. There are seventy ambulances coming to lift patients to Hamilton and the movement must be coordinated between hospitals. Telephone systems are overloaded but Amateur Radio is available. VE3FCU - Bob in Hamilton arranged the communications links between Hamilton and Oakville - all went well.

Word is received at 23:00 hours that the boundary to the west is now Maplegrove Avenue in Oakville, just four miles to the east of my QTH. An evacuation centre for the Oakville residents is set up at a large school in Burlington; more operators and equipment needed. Burlington/Hamilton will supply the manpower. Another centre is established at the Community college in Oakville. And more operators and equipment are required.

By Monday morning (06:00 hours) a total of twelve evacuation centres were in operation and two command centres plus the Net control station were all directly involved. Auxiliary nets were being maintained during the daylight hours. The Burlington ARES group initiated a 75 meter net to handle health and welfare inquiries. VE3AML Rowland in Sarnia activated his COMSONT net on 40 meters, which covered the province.

The ONTARS net, which meets daily on 3755, was also used. My station was on the air during the entire operation: my relief operator being Brian VE3DNF who, fortunately, lives directly across the street, and my good wife who handled the land line calls, logged and did some operating when my voice gave out.

The operation began winding down late Tuesday evening, some 56 hours from the beginning as the first tentative indications of a return home by evacuees have appeared. Some centres are closing, their remaining people and supplies move to other centres. Now the Amateurs are assisting in transport problems, finding out who needs a bus and trying to minimize vehicular traffic.

By Wednesday morning, many evacuees have been allowed to return home. The Net Control is active but carries little traffic. A call to Red Cross affirms our services are still required. We are running short on manpower but vow we will keep the circuits open. We can operate with one person at each location. The day wears on and the boundaries begin to shrink. By 19:30 hours, there are three centres still in operation. Word is received at 19:00 that the railway involved will billet all the remaining evacuees in Toronto hotels "free of charge" until they are

allowed to return home. The Red Cross will arrange for a head count and advise of the transport needs. The remaining stations come to life and the traffic picks up. A final tally has been passed and the transportation buses begin to move people to the Toronto hotels. Two centres have people refusing to move. They have already been moved three to four times; they are comfortable, nearer their homes than they would be if they moved to Toronto. Permission is granted for them to stay overnight. The operation is nearing an end.

At 19:45 hours the following message is received and transmitted to all nets in operation:

**199 R VE3APK 68 Oakville 0045Z Nov 15/79**

**TO: ALL ONTARIO AMATEURS AND PARTICIPANTS MISSISSAUGA EVACUATION CRISIS**

**ONTARIO DIVISION CANADIAN RED CROSS WISH TO EXTEND THEIR SINCERE APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION FOR THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE SOCIETY DURING THE MISSISSAUGA EVACUATION CRISIS Xray**

**THE HIGH DEGREE OF DEDICATION AND PROFESSIONAL SKILL EVIDENCED BY ALL PERSONNEL OF ARRL ONTARIO SECTION IS DESERVING OF THE HIGHEST PRAISE Xray**

**AS OF 23:59 EST 14 NOVEMBER 79 THE OPERATIONS REQUIRING THE SERVICES OF ARRL ONTARIO SECTION ARE ENDED Xray**

**BRIGADIER GENERAL J. F. WESTHEAD - MBE ED CD (RETIRED)**

**CHAIRMAN – EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**MR. KEN MCBRIDE – DIRECTOR – EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**MRS. MILLIE BLAIR – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**CANADIAN RED CROSS – ONTARIO DIVISION**

Some 80 hours have elapsed since the first call for assistance was received from Red Cross. A total of 255 amateurs volunteered their services from across the province, 174 were actively involved on 2 meters, others were on stand-by or operated the HF bands. Twelve repeaters were used at various times and nine ARES groups were active.

At 23:59 hours, the following message was read by VE3GOL – Noreen Nimmons, STM Ontario:

943 R VE3APK 32 OAKVILLE 2359 NOV. 15/79

NET BULLETIN – VE3PRC – MISSISSAUGA EMERGENCY NET

ON BEHALF OF THE ONTARIO SECTION OF ARRL WE EXTEND SINCERE THANKS TO ALL AMATEURS FOR THEIR SUPERB OPERATION Xray  
YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE AMATEUR RADIO FRATERNITY

73

LARRY VE3GT SCM  
CHUCK VE3APK SEC  
NOREEN VE3GOL STM

THIS EMERGENCY NET IS OFFICIALLY CLOSED.

This is a general overview of the operation from the SEC's point of view. To cover the entire operation would result in a full-fledged manuscript. I am indebted to the EC's who supplied me with briefs covering their involvement, which in turn contributed to this article.

As VE3GFN wrote in his brief, and I quote:

**"One thing is clear. Amateur Radio continues to be a tremendous resources of emergency Communications. Radio Amateurs have again shown they are resourceful and generous of their time."**

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Remembrance Day in Canada when we honour those who gave their lives during two world wars. It will be a day to remember in Mississauga for years to come. Ω

## **OARC March Presentation: Contesting**

Join Peter West and Tony Osmon for an evening of Contesting. Peter and Tony will be revealing many of the deep secrets of contesting, such as how to win with just one contact! They will be replaying the strategy and sounds of their recent entry in the CQ WW DX contest. A must see presentation! Ω

## **OARC February Keynote Speaker: Mike Brown**

Mike provided an encore presentation of his article "To Amplify or Not to Amplify That is the Question". Mike was able to make connections between his early days in Ham Radio in the early fifties to today. A discussion of Mikes wire antenna array piqued the imagination of many. We hope to be able to bring you more details in a future article. Thanks Mike!



# Profiles

Submitted by Doug Smith, VE3RG

*This month's Amateur of Distinction is...*

## Peter West - VE3HG

Meet Meet Peter West - VE3HG and his assistant operator Serena. His ham radio interest goes back almost 40 years when he and his dad joined the Skywide Club in Etobicoke, where they both manned the grave yard shift at Field Day held in Streetsville in those days, using all tube equipment and a noisy generator.

He has early memories of visiting VE3UR (Uncle Ray) a very well known Toronto Ham, who was a pioneer in SSB and RTTY, and was a well-known avid DX'er.

Peter's dad was licensed first as VE3FWR and between them they purchased a Drake 4B and T4XB. Although Peter's interest had turned to CB, he helped his dad install a 204BA and many dipoles at the family cottage on Pigeon Lake, in the Kawarthas. There were no noise problems in that location so if you were on the air they could work you.

Peter eventually got his first ticket in 1980 and became VE3MAS. He tells of copying the advanced code while waiting for the basic exam, and 'froze' with the 10wpm, and missed a lot. He mentioned this to the examiner who checked his crumpled 15wpm sheet and passed him. Peter says his math was so bad he memorized the study guide, word for word. His first rig was an IC-730. He eventually moved to Oakville because it had few bylaws against antennas on property.

Peter asked for his Dad's VE3HG call when he died and was told he needed to get his advanced and wait 10 more years. With the change in classification he was grand fathered into the advanced class and was asked by the DOC if he was still interested. The transfer was immediate.

Peter's station now is an ICOM 756 with a TA-33 Jr. He has a deep interest in contesting and has been learning the ropes on how to be a contest operator. He recently bought a Kenwood TS-660 10 watt multimode rig. Here he uses verticals on 6 and 10 meters and works Europe FM on QRP.

For CW contests, he has a PK-232 with digitally upgraded filters so he can read or transmit CW at any speed, and also do packet at RTTY. His 756 has a memory keyer so he can program his call into one button, and the contest report into the second button, and work an entire CW contest by pushing two buttons. If he could get a computer-logging program, he wouldn't even have to be there!! He often works contests with Greg VA3GGF, Harry, VA3EC, and



Tony, VE3RZ. He says they do the work; he submits the results under his call and gets the glory. It can't get much better.

Other interests include work where Peter is an Editor for an electrically focused Trade Publication and Toastmasters, the Public Speaking group, where he is not only on the local chapter executive, but recently won the International speaking contest.

Make a point of being at the March 12 club meeting where Peter and Tony Osman will make a presentation on Contesting and his assistant operator Serena. His ham radio interest goes back almost 40 years when he and his dad joined the Skywide Club in Etobicoke, where they both manned the grave yard shift at Field Day held in Streetsville in those days, using all tube equipment and a noisy generator.

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# Talking Tech - An OARC Repeater Report

**Harry Kosterman**

VA3EC/VE3HKC

The repeater team placed a Motorola UHF model MSR2000 on air in response to a chronic problem of noise getting into the front end of the WR. This is a machine that the club procured thanks to efforts of Gary VE3TGH, Steve VE3SSD and Greg VA3GGF (correct me if I missed someone or put the wrong folks in here). This is the same model used on the VE3YYZ repeater. It is a tank and according to our repeater doctor, it is so over designed it will never break. This machine has the ability to be configured with CTCSS Tone on the input but it is not currently activated. This machine was configured and had been run a few months ago but the receive sensitivity was very poor. Dean VA3IE (Doctor Dean) was able to significantly improve the sensitivity and it was placed on the air several weeks ago.

The noise still opens the squelch in the receive path intermittently but does not produce the annoying noise that was present before. The machine was also fitted with a receive pre-amp but this had to be bypassed as a result of what appeared to be interference from a data source. This data source causes the receiver squelch to be open all the time.

The Motorola utilizes a FET front end as opposed to a bipolar front. FET front ends tend to be less prone to mixing problems than bipolar.

The WR has been tuned up and has been fitted with Tone in and out. The input tone is remotely controllable. This gives us some flexibility and a backup.

A band pass filter has been tuned for the input of the UHF repeater and needs to be put on site. This will hopefully eliminate the problem. Other possible solutions may include putting the WR back up with the CTCSS tone in activated (131.8Hz). This may effect some members without tone out on their rigs.

Any members who are impacted by this solution are requested to contact Harry, VE3HKC at [hkosterman@home.com](mailto:hkosterman@home.com) or on the weekly net.

Please forward all complaints about the repeater to Greg VA3GGF. All compliments should be directed to Harry VA3EC. Ω

geographical coverage, can render valuable aid in maintaining the continuity of communications during disasters and emergencies when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. recognizes The Canadian Red Cross Society as an agency that provides assistance to individuals and families affected by disasters in Canada and around the world through the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Whenever there is a disaster or an emergency requiring the use of radio communications facilities, the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. agrees to provide, whenever and wherever possible:

1. The alerting and mobilization of volunteer emergency communications personnel and equipment in accordance with a pre-determined plan.
2. The establishment and maintenance of fixed, mobile and portable emergency communications facilities for local radio coverage and point-to-point contact between Red Cross and various locations, as required; and
3. Adequate provision of service for the duration of the emergency or until substantial regular communications are restored and stand down is ordered by Red Cross Emergency Services.

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect provided that either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving the other party three months notice in writing of its intention to so terminate.

Further details concerning the method of cooperation are outlined in Appendix A. Information on the organization of The Canadian Red Cross Society and the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. is attached as Appendix B.

Signed by:

President  
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

National Director, Field Operations  
The Canadian Red Cross Society  
April 28, 1994

#### APPENDIX A

##### Guidelines for Cooperation

1. Through its executive level, Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. will maintain liaison with The Canadian Red Cross Society's Emergency Services in order that there may be the closest possible cooperation in emergency communications planning and the coordination of radio communication facilities for disaster relief operations.
2. Red Cross Divisions, Regions and Branches are encouraged to invite one or more members of the amateur radio community to serve as Red Cross volunteers for emergency preparedness and relief.

3. Personnel of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. are eligible for reimbursement by Red Cross for reasonable out-of-pocket and travelling expenses while conducting approved business on behalf of the Society.
4. Detailed operating plans for the full utilization of the communications facilities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service should be developed by the local Red Cross in cooperation with the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.'s local Emergency Coordinator.
5. The Canadian Red Cross Society will recommend to its Divisions that membership on disaster preparedness and relief committees include representation from the appropriate officials of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.
6. The Canadian Red Cross Society will furnish Divisions with copies of this statement of understanding and the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. will similarly furnish copies to its Field Officials.

OCTOBER 25, 1993

## APPENDIX B

### Organization of The Canadian Red Cross Society

1. The National Headquarters of The Canadian Red Cross Society is located in Ottawa. For administrative purposes, Canada is divided into ten Divisions with each Division having jurisdiction within its own Province. Divisional Offices are located in the following cities: Burnaby, B.C.; Calgary, Alberta; Regina, Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Mississauga, Ontario; Verdun, Quebec; Saint John, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; and St. John's, Newfoundland. The B.C./Yukon Division and the Alberta/NWT Divisions are responsible for Red Cross operations in their respective Territory.
2. Regions and Branches are the local units within each Division of The Canadian Red Cross Society. These units are responsible for all local activities of the Red Cross within its territory, subject to the policies and regulations of the divisional and national organization.
3. Each Region and Branch is responsible for developing an Emergency Services Committee of the best qualified volunteers available. This Committee studies the disaster hazards of the territory and surveys local resources for personnel, equipment and supplies, including transportation and emergency communication facilities, that are available for disaster relief. It also formulates co-operative plans and procedures with local governmental agencies, private and other volunteer organizations for carrying on relief operations should a disaster occur.

### Organization of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

4. The American Radio Relay League Inc., (ARRL) was founded in 1914 to encourage and support every aspect of amateur radio. The ARRL became a bi-national organization in 1920 with the formation of the Canadian Division and Canadian membership.
5. The Canadian Division was known in Canada as the Canadian Radio Relay League Inc., (CRRL) giving it a distinctly national entity. The CRRL elected officers were charged with policy administration as established by their Executive Committees and Board of Directors. On May 2, 1993 the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation and the

Canadian Radio Relay League Inc. ceased operation and merged together on that day to form the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. This agreement will then continue in force with Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. who will carry on with the Field Services Organization.

6. The Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.'s Field Services Organization operations are administered by the Field Services Manager through elected Section Managers (SM). Canada is divided into seven sections: British Columbia-Yukon, Alberta and the North-West Territories, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland forming the Maritime/Newfoundland Section.

7. The Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of two branches: the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS). Both branches work together, are supported by thousands of licensed radio amateurs and are under the jurisdiction of their Section Manager.

8. ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The ARES is an organization of licensed radio amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. for communication duty when disaster strikes. It is supported and directed by Radio Amateur of Canada Inc. appointees. The leading provincial ARES official is the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) who appoints individual Emergency Coordinators (ECs) and District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) across the province to assist locally. It should be noted that membership in ARES is not restricted to members of RAC.

9. NTS - National Traffic System. The NTS compliments the ARES and functions daily in the handling of medium and long distance formal message traffic and whose network operations can be stepped up to meet the needs of an emergency situation. The leading NTS official is the Section Traffic Manager (STM) who is assisted by carefully trained and selected Net Managers (NMs). Traffic nets link with other nets throughout North America and South America, the Caribbean and Australia and operate every day and night of the year. Further-training, tests and drills for the ARES and NTS members maintain a disciplined readiness in providing emergency communications.

10. Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.'s Section officials (SM), (SEC), (STM) work closely together daily as well as with the organization's Headquarters and/or Government officials as required during emergency situations.

Don Shropshire  
February 11, 1994 Ω

# RAC Membership / The Canadian Amateur Subscription Application



**THE CANADIAN AMATEUR,** Canada's premier national Amateur Radio magazine, brings you news and views on the ham radio scene from coast to coast. The Canadian Amateur is the membership journal of Radio Amateurs of Canada and members receive TCA automatically. A TCA subscription also provides membership in RAC. Special feature articles put you in touch with other Amateurs and their activities, and regular columns give you a detailed look at many different facets of this unique form of communication. Add to this technical articles, features, Coming Events, letters, and coverage of regulatory issues, and you have full coverage of Amateur Radio operating — the serious side and the fun side. Your subscription to The Canadian Amateur automatically enrolls you as a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc., and gives you access to all of RAC's many membership privileges.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / town \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

• 1-year single at \$39.95 (GST incl.) \*\$41.43 in NB, NS, NF (HST incl.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• Additional family member at \$20 (one magazine / family membership) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Name / call sign of family members – must reside at same address) \_\_\_\_\_

• Blind membership (no magazine) at \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(CNIB Registration # required) \_\_\_\_\_

• Foreign 1-year single at \$53 (US funds only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• I am making a donation to the RAC Foundation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• I would like to order video # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VISA / MasterCard No. \_\_\_\_\_ Card Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Have your credit card ready and call toll free  
1-877-273-8304 or mail or fax form to:**

Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217, Ottawa, ON  
K1G 0Z5 Fax: 613-244-4369 Tel. 613-244-4367 E-mail: <rachq@rac.ca>  
Website: [www.rac.ca](http://www.rac.ca)

Cheque / money order should be made payable to Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. in Canadian funds. Payment must accompany the application form. You may join with VISA/MC. Multi-year purchases are accepted to a maximum of three years.

**Don't forget, a RAC membership / TCA subscription also makes a great gift idea!**

