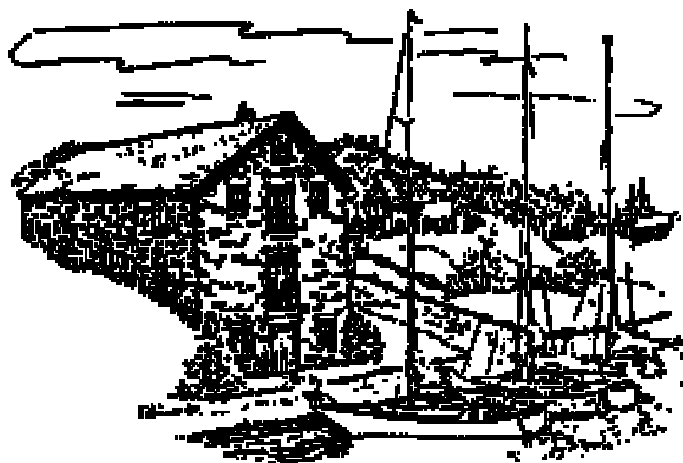


Hot Bananas

Oakville Amateur Radio Club VE3HB

January 2002



ISS Amateur Radio Antenna Work

One of the ISS Ham radio antennas is expected to be deployed as early as Monday, January 14.

Commander Yury Onufrienko and Flight Engineer Carl Walz are expected to conduct Expedition Four's first space walk on Monday. The main objective is to relocate the Russian Strela 2 crane from its temporary position on Pressurized Mating Adapter 1 to the Pirs Docking Compartment.

They will also install an amateur radio antenna onto the aft end of the Zvezda Service Module.

The antenna that we expect to be deployed is designated WA3. If you look at the end of the Service Module, this antenna is located in the 10 O'clock position, where 6 O'clock is down (Earth Pointing) and 12 O'clock is up. The Russian team is able to deploy this particular antenna sooner than the others because it is located very close to where the 4 RF connections go into the Service Module.

The following paper has some great pictures and diagrams, which depict the entire ISS Ham system, including the antenna systems. This paper is probably big for some that have low bandwidth Internet capabilities. The file is about 800K.

<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/EVAs/amsat01.pdf>

Monday's space walk is slated to begin at 2:56 p.m. CST (2056 GMT). NASA TV will provide live coverage, beginning at 2:30 p.m. CST (2030 GMT).Ω

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 ISS Amateur Radio Antenna Work
- 2 Calendar of Club Events
- 2 Just the Facts
- 3 Who's Who
- 3 EC Update
- 3 OARC News File
- 4 Call to Order
- 5 We Lost!
- 7 Calendar of Events
- 8 RAC Membership Application

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS

CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

January 14, 2002, 7:30pm

Presentation: Radioworld

CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

February 11, 2002, 7:30pm

Tour: Oakville Hydro, 861 Redwood Sq.

CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

March 11, 2002, 7:30pm

Presentation: QSL'ing and DX

CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

April 8, 2002, 7:30pm

Presentation: PSK-31 with Bob Abell

CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

May 13, 2002, 7:30pm

Presentation: Industry Canada Tour

CLUB MEETING

Oakville Red Cross Building

June 11, 2002, 7:30pm

Annual Meeting and Election

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 7:00 am at Angel's Diner, 369 Speers Road, Oakville. Also a Friday morning coffee session is held at Tim Horton's on Wyecroft Road, Oakville at 10:30 am.

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

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 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

EXECUTIVE

President	Hubert Heath, VE3HLD
Vice President	Jack Livingstone, VE3ITM
Director-Membership	Russ Schwandt, VE3JUZ
Special Projects	Doug Smith, VE3RG
Director-Secretary	John Clarke, VA3AFA
Finance	Carvell Pelkey, VE3CPQ
Director-Activity	Mike Brown, VA3GRL

COORDINATORS

Emergency Coordinator	Rick Harrison, VE3YRH
Assistant Emergency Coordinator	Jack Livingstone, VE3ITM
Regional Emergency Liaison	Phil Thompson, VE3RD
Help Committee	Harry Kosterman, VE3HKC
VHF Net Activities	Denny Zidek, VE3OKD
Repeater Programming	Graham Chatfield, VA3GPC
Repeater Maintenance	Gary Hetherington, VE3TGH Harry Kosterman, VE3HKC
Packet BBS	Michael Willems, VA3MVW
Special Event Catering	Carvell Pelkey, VE3CPQ
Training-Basic & Advanced	Jack Livingstone, VE3ITM
Examiner	Jack Livingstone, VE3ITM
Internet Web Site	Michael Willems, VA3MVW
Public Relations	Doug Smith, VE3RG
Equipment/Shack	Mike Brown, VA3GRL
QSL Manager	Ron O'Reilly, VE3FII
DX Interest Group	Ron O'Reilly, VE3FII

CLUB BULLETIN

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

OARC EC Update

Rick Harrison

The following update was provide by Rick at the December regular club meeting (ed.)

ARES was originally created by ARRL and has since been approved and sponsored by RAC in Canada. Individual Amateur radio clubs can be participants of the ARES program, or alternatively they may choose to be stand-alone organizations. OARC is an ARES sponsor in Oakville. ARES participation will assist clubs in identifying emergency equipment and provides non-emergency communications as a public service. The goal of OARC ARES group is to recruit as many members as possible and to provide additional training to increase the readiness of members to assist in an actual emergency. Several training ideas are being developed, such as formal message handling, tactical operations, a monthly ARES net, and supplying training videos. The current responsibilities of the OARC ARES group are to the Oakville Red Cross and the Region of Halton Volunteer Communications Committee. The Toronto ARES group is evolving into a regional ARES group and additional responsibilities may be defined in the future to support this organization. ARES members are asked to commit several hours per year for training. Also, a participant does not need to supply their own equipment to be members of ARES. Identification cards are available for both ARES members as well as Region of Halton. All OARC members who wish additional ARES information or want to serve their community by becoming ARES members should contact Rick.

OARC News File

Several members have recently been working hard on your behalf. Denis Zidek, VE3OKD has been working as Net Manager for most of the year. Any suggestions as to how the net can be further improved can be sent to him.

Also, Bata Spasic, VE3EXW will be working with several club club members to complete a club history. Any contributions should be sent to Bata. Ω

Call To Order

Minutes of the Oakville Amateur Radio Club Meeting of Dec 10, 2001



Opening Remarks

- The December 10 regular club meeting was opened by Jack Livingstone, who welcomed 27 members in attendance. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Bob Warkentin, VA3PRW who recently passed away.
- Gary Hetherington advised an APRS conference has been scheduled for Jan 12 in Brantford. Anyone interested in attending should contact Gary for travel arrangements.
- Ron O'Rielly reports that "Oakville Today" lists incorrect contact information for the OARC. The editors will be contacted and provided with the correct information.

Discussion

- Mike Brown has continued to make improvements to the OARC Club Station, VE3HB. All members are encouraged to make more use of the station. A suggestion was made to establish a regular operating schedule, particularly on weekends. The station is now equipped with a pc which runs a QSL card printer and log book.
- A live demo of the clubs recent IRLP project is scheduled for 8:30. Greg Foster has a schedule arranged with G1RPN via the 2-meter repeater.
- Rick Harrision provided an EC update. Details are provided elsewhere in this edition. Jack Livingstone volunteered as an Assistant EC to assist Rick. Most members in attendance agreed to participate in support of the clubs emergency preparedness plans.
- The 50/50 draw was won by Francis Curley.

Motions

- It was MOVED by Greg Foster that the minutes of the November regular club meeting as published in the December edition of Hot Bananas be approved. Motion was SECONDED by Gary Hetherington. The MOTION was PASSED.
- IT was MOVED by Carvel Pelkey that the treasurers report as presented in the meeting be approved. MOTION was SECONDED by Harry Kosterman. The MOTION was PASSED.

Closing

- IT was MOVED by Gord Appleton that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION was SECONDED by Harry Kosterman. The MOTION was PASSED.Ω

We lost! 5 million points and we lost!

Outcome fixed after first couple of hours.

By Peter West, VE3HG

Oh the agony of it all! After 48 hours non-stop, we scored over five million points in the CQ WW SSB contest from VA3SK's North Bay location and yet we lost to VE3MG by 51 measly contacts and to VE3RM by a mere 600,000 points. At least that's what the early "rumored" scores indicate.

The group consisted of myself; VE3SK, Ken Smith; VE3RZ, Tony Osman; BD4RR, Ken Wong; VA3MW, Mike Walker and VA3PC, Paul Caccamo. VE3SK's site, located on his father-in-law's property, includes a full-size three-element 40-meter beam at 120 feet! Point that sucker towards Europe and everybody over the pond is 40db over S9. It dwarfs all the other antennas. Ken has a three-element Explorer 14 with a 40-meter extension at 70 feet and a TH-7 at 64 feet. There's a 15-meter, four-element beam fixed on Europe at 60 feet plus and an 80-meter dipole array and 160-meter inverted V at 110 feet. He's got more aluminum sitting on the ground than most of us have in the air.



The drive up to Ken's place takes about 4 ½ hours so it's important you don't leave anything at home. Tony and I went up together in his compact Saturn in which we packed with two complete stations with three computers (including 15-inch and a 19-inch monitors), a large uninterrupted power supply and an R-7000 vertical and our lunch.

We arrived mid afternoon on Friday, Oct. 26 and immediately started to setup the stations in a converted two-horse stable complete with mice, spiders the size of beer coasters, and something else, something that walked above us in the rafters at night – in the dark - unmolested. Unfortunately, the stable smelled like a stable but the good news was by Saturday afternoon, I stopped noticing the odour.

At 8pm local time we fired up the Icom 756 Pro and PW1 amplifier and Tony's Kenwood 850S and LK500 amplifier. I worked my Icom 756 with the R-7000 vertical as a multi-spotting receiver only. Conditions on Friday night were terrific and the main run station started to work at a rate of hundreds of stations per hour. To do this, you need a kilowatt, a clear frequency (or something close) and an operator willing to sit in the operating chair for six or seven hours at a time saying "CQ Contest VA3SK" and keep repeating that and working stations until either propagation fails or the voice goes. I'd buy a voice keyer next time.



Early in the contest "Murphy" dropped by and the PW1 solid state 1KW Icom amp developed a clipping problem and by Sunday afternoon the LK500 had developed a sticky relay which required the operator to strike the amplifier sharply with the handle of a screwdriver after each transmission. Our callsign became Victor Alpha Three Sugar Kilo <Thump!>.

Ken, BD4RR, is in Canada for 11 months. He used the Internet to ask if anyone could use a contest operator and Ken VA3SK invited him to participate. Ken's English is quite good but his accent is pronounced and I think it helped separate him out of the pileups. He was a mainstay on the main run station.

We were operating single-transmitter, multi-operator class which allows for one transmitter on all the time and a second, on another band, working new stations which are multipliers. Now this was my first "semi pro" opportunity and it took me a while to figure out how to get the software (Writelog) to tell who were multipliers and who weren't. In my enthusiasm I worked 11 illegal contacts which had to be purged out of the log. I just hope this little gaff doesn't mean I don't make the team roster next year.

By the way, Writelog, if you haven't used it is amazing. A Windows-based logging program it will tell you if the station you're working is a dupe, a new contact, a new country or a new multiplier. It will interface with a packet (or computer Telenet) DX cluster which can be made to populate a band map with callsigns of multipliers which the operator needs only to double click with the mouse (the one on the computer not the one eating our lunch) to load into the logging program while automatically changing the radio's frequency and band. If you're used to logging with a pencil and paper and keeping dupe log by hand, Writelog is a revelation. If the computer's soundcard is employed, Writelog can generate and decode both Morse and RTTY.

Anyway, all was going well until Saturday night when we got hit by an amazing Aurora that wiped us off the bands until about 1300z. This is one of the problems of operating from North Bay (46N, 79W). Tony had times when he could hear stations in southern Ontario working Europeans that we couldn't hear because the signals were passing through the Aurora zone over our heads. Ken, SK, found he could work U.S. stations by pointing the beam north and working Ws via Auroral backscatter --not a noted contest mode of operation. The Europeans started coming back but even at good signal strengths, could not hear us and it was not until about 10:00am in the morning that we started to work Europe again.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[NPARC Big Event 24](#)

Niagara Peninsula Amateur
Radio Club
Saturday, February 2, 2002.
St Catharines

[Burlington Spring Fleamarket](#)

Burlington Amateur Radio Club
Saturday, February 16, 2002.
Burlington ON

[HAMEX 2002](#)

Peel and Mississauga Amateur
Radio Clubs
Saturday, March 23, 2002.
Brampton ON

[Montreal A.R.C. Spring Fleamarket](#)

Montreal Amateur Radio Club
Sturday, April 13, 2002. LaSalle
(Montreal) QC

[IARC 7th Annual Flea Market](#)

Iroquois Amateur Radio Club
Starts on Saturday, April 13,
2002, 90 days from today.
Iroquois ON

[Annual Spring Hamfest And Fleamarket](#)

Skywide ARC
Saturday, May 11, 2002
Etobicoke ON

[RAC 2002 National Convention](#)

North Okanagan Radio Amateur
Club / Orchard City Amateur
Radio Club
Friday, July 26, 2002, Vernon
BC



Anyway, sometime around 6 am on Saturday morning I fell asleep on a cot behind the main station and everything gets a little confused after that. There wasn't really any schedule of who operated when and sometimes we were all awake and other times most of us were asleep. I don't remember much about Saturday night but Tony woke me up so I could enjoy doing a run on 160. At home my sloper allows me to hear a dozen or so stations but from SK's place, 160 sounded like 20 meters. I was fresh meat on this band and everyone who was anyone on 160 wanted to work me. Bit of a thrill, if I do say so.

Tony had said we would win or lose the contest in the first couple of hours based on the number of multipliers that we worked. And, sure enough the final scores showed we missed hearing (and then working) a few multipliers that the competition heard. We had networked Writelog to run on the two operating stations and the multiplier receiving station and it was my job to listen for multipliers and put their call signs onto the bandmap which the main station or the multiplier station could work.

I think, if I get invited back, I'm bringing help. We need to have three operators rotating on the listening station. We also need a Zone Map or checklist on a flip chart to motivate and focus the receiving operator. We lost by a handful of contacts and five or six more multipliers worked could have put us over the top. As it is, we're also rans at 5,353,848 points and 3,296 contacts. When I work a 48-hour contest on my own, I'm delighted to work more than 500 contacts. Looks like I've got some more practicing to do. Ω

RAC Membership / The Canadian Amateur Subscription Application



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

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!