

Hot Bananas

Oakville Amateur Radio Club VE3HB

April 2002



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First 2-Metre Trans-Atlantic Contact?

via www.rac.ca

Have the first 2-metre band trans-Atlantic contacts now been made? A second-hand message posted on the packet network by DK3XT would, if confirmed and proved to be true, re-write the 2-metre DX record books. DK3XT says that he received an e-mail and phone call from Alex, N2PIG, in which N2PIG claims to have made trans-Atlantic contacts on 2 metres using WSJT, the new weak-signal digital communications mode.

N2PIG says that three weeks ago he went to the east coast of Newfoundland to establish a high-power 2-metre and 70-centimetre station with the callsign VO1/N2PIG Portable. The following week, Alex and his wife Debra, VA3PIG, traveled to western Ireland, where they established a similar station. Alex then returned to Newfoundland, leaving Debra in Ireland. Alex goes on to say that on St Patrick's Day, the 17th of March, an exchange of callsigns was made while the following day they completed a full exchange in less than four hours. On the 19th, Alex claims that the greeting "God Bless America" was received from Newfoundland, and a partial "Greetings from Ireland" was received by him.

He says that full details of the event will be available on a website to be established soon. Both stations have now been dissembled. If anyone has any corroborating evidence of these contacts, we would be very interested to hear from them!Ω

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS

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 Wycroft 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, VE3JUJ
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
Assistant Emergency Coordinator	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 Website Updated

Oakville, March 31, 2002

OARC webmaster VA3MVW today updated the OARC web site
www.oakvilleamateurs.net.

As you will see, the site now looks better than before: that yellow is gone, a new "about" page was added, and the front page is organized much better. A new link to some old pictures was also added. Members who referred to the site as www.oakvilleamateurs.net/index.php3 should now refer to it simply as www.oakvilleamateurs.net.

More importantly, Michael also did a technical update to the web server. The server environment was updated to take advantage of a number of recent security fixes in the PHP web code server, and a number of other technical changes ensure the site is ready for more new mechanisms.

These mechanisms will ensure the web site serves Oakville amateurs well. Already present are a forum, where you can leave comments, questions and for sale and wanted-ads, a guest book, and news link with regular amateur news from international news media and US. Future new mechanisms will include automatic email mechanisms, login mechanisms, and special pages for members only.

Please take a look at the new site, and send Michael your feedback and suggestions - or just use the forum! Ω

Call To Order

Minutes of the Oakville Amateur Radio Club Regular Meeting of March 11, 2002



Opening Remarks

- Jack VE3ITM opened the meeting at 7:35 pm. He welcomed 16 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Discussion

- On behalf of the club Jack expressed thanks to Oakville Hydro for their hospitality for the tour of their facilities on February 11th.
- A moment of silence was observed for Des Orton VE3DEX – SK
- Emergency Coordinator, Rick VE3YRH updated the members re the ARES callout tree. There are now 27 amateurs registered with ARES.
- Greg VA3GGF updated members on the on the upcoming Red Cross Personal Disaster Assistance (PDA) training. A full day session of preparatory PDA training is scheduled for March 23rd.
- Jack announced that Denny VE3OKD has obtained his advanced amateur license.
- Greg noted a report of interference from the club VHF repeater on 446.200 MHz.
- Jack reminded members of the table available at HAMEX on Saturday March 23rd in Brampton and asked for volunteers to coordinate it. He also thanked those who had purchased tickets for the HAMEX draw.
- Jack introduced guest speaker John Summach VE3MFA who will present a talk on RFI topics.

Motions

- None

Closing

- IT was MOVED by Mike, VA3GRL that the meeting be adjourned. MOTION was SECONDED by Francis, VE3FTC. The MOTION was PASSED.Ω

HOW I DID IT WITH THE DIGI

Ernest Latal

VE3ZUF

The digital PSK mode is spreading fast almost over all AR bands. The amazing BPSK, free software and very good propagation with minimum energy, makes it my favorable mode in AM and early PM almost daily. At this hour hams in Europe are still up, in Canada, USA, Argentina, Uruguay and so, hams in retirement stage are available and digital parts of bands are not overcrowded. You can watch your computer screen and judge who is sending message; CW folks are brief in reports and using CW abbreviations, phone people are typing stories about grandchildren, how to repair garage roof and similar info. Both conversations have own charm and interesting parts.

The BPSK mode has the three big enemies. Heavy QSB, too wide signal of station beside you (AMD under -18dB, -22dB is fine) and overpowered transmitters near you.

Fighting QSB can be done the technical way (horizontal and vertical antennas method), or by reducing the extensive contact conversation. As in CW or phone mode first rule here to is listen, listen and listen again. It pays off for me. I find how long of a period of QSB lasts and how "deep" QSB is with chosen station.

I have two sets of MACROS on my DigiPan. One is for fast QSO when QSB is really heavy and second MACRO is more voluminous and with information about station, weather and personnel mater.

First (fast QSO) MACRO starts as "OK1OKD de VE3ZUF k" then the next short report says RS, name, QTH, QRP and QSL via..... Last transmission is TNX + SK and QSO is done in short period before the QSB catches me.

When you have solid reading on your contact and not too much QSB, the second set of MACROS permits longer talks, with very important report on AMD and eventually taping special message. I prefer AMD report, if possible, every day. When tuning up antenna, changing power, band and using filters, AMD report from counterpart station is essential. When communication is OK I try to set power lower to prove PSK capability and go easy on digi portion of band. Your Tx should be running on ½ or less of max. power, otherwise due to duty cycle, overheating your rig is the result. Between 5W to 30W is adequate for BPSK.

How do I record the QSO? I am not fast enough to absorb all info from screen, especially when text is mixed with garbage (and always is). I practice saving the whole QSO conversation and not only DigiPan - LOG data. Before I open the station I open a Microsoft Word file. Then DigiPan is opened and transmitter set on and tuned and antenna checked. If I am lucky and QSO is done I **Copy** DigiPan window and I **Paste** it to the open Word file and go immediately back to DigiPan. No switching off digi program or losing text in DigiPan windows is necessary. Later you have two records; DigiPan LOG and whole conversation in Word file. Now it's up to you; print it, read it from screen or just save it. All QSO's in one day are recorded in one file. It helps with the QSL job.

Some questions come up about usefulness of RST report. **R** – readability 0 to 5 is OK. **S** – signal strength 0-9 is acceptable, but too fine scale is not easy to use. I use 9,7,4 scale. **T**- tone 0 to 9 is not doing any sense in *digi mode* to me. Info of QSB probably should be more practical (readability?). Strength report is visible on monitor to compare to other stations and can be judge by *Squelch threshold* icon. Signal meter on transceiver is unfit in this case.

To spend time to set up auto-printing QSL (in DDE Microsoft Office System) pays off. The DigiPan program contains DDE QSL ready to use. If you held **ALT+F9** on this file, hidden codes show up (in weird shapes). **Copy** it and **Paste** these codes to the fresh WORD file. **Shift+F9** hides codes. Now you can type text, shuffle the fields, add picture, special text and frames to create new QSL. Remember the DigiPan program **must be open** otherwise nothing works. The Internet eQSL Service and E-mailing QSL is so fast and convenient today and I use it.

I believe the future will bring new rules and tricks to handle DIGI operation. At present time will be nice to hear or to read other hams opinion about digi procedure, for example in our Hot Bananas bulletin. For now happy DIGING and many DX QSO.Ω

The HSDXA/RAST DXPedition to Laos is now Finalized

Dates of operations: 10 to 20th April 2002.

Group Call-Sign - XW1HS

QSL Manager E21EIC

Address - P.O. Box 1090, Kasetsart, Bangkok 10903, Thailand

Individual Call-signs: XW1CW (E20HHK), XW1IC (E21EIC), XW1OM (HS0/G3NOM), XW1CKC (HS1CKC), XW1EQY (HS9EQY), XW1GBI (HS0GBI) -

QSLs to the Home Call-Sign or Thailand QSL Bureau.

All amateur bands and modes are authorised and will be attempted. Please request any special modes or contacts before 10th April. It is hoped we will have internet access in Vientiane, to be announced.

Main operating frequencies:

CW (MHz) 50.115, 28.006, 28.023, 24.895, 21.006, 21.023, 18.073,
14.006, 14.023, 10.102, 10.108, 7.006, 7.023, 3.506, 3.523,

1.8265 (QSX JA segments also)

SSB (MHz) 50.115, 24.945, 21.295, 18.140, 14.195, 7.052 (QSX NA 7.2 up)

3.795-3.802 (QSX 3.800 for VK), 1.835-1.840.

RTTY (MHz) 28.080, 24.920, 18.102, 14.080, 10.140, 7.037,

FM (MHz) 50.115, 29.260

SSTV MHz 28.540, 21.340, 14.230

Satellite Operation should start on 11th April, and continue until 20th April. A concerted effort will be made. HS2JFW has prepared equipment for operation on AO-10, AO-40, FO-20, FO-29, RS12/13, RS15, AO-27, UO-14.

Frequencies bands to be used are 21MHz, 28MHz, 144MHz, 430MHz, 2.4GHz.

Modes: CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, SSTV. The uplink signal may be weak on 70cms so listen carefully.

See further detail of equipment, antennas, operations and updates on the following web-site www.rast.or.th/xw1hs

73 de Ray

HS0/G3NOM

International Secretary

Radio Amateur Society of Thailand

Under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King

***** MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND EVENT *****
***** sponsored by the USS SALEM RADIO CLUB**



Well now that the the new year has started lets put aside July 20th and 21st 2002 for this years Museum Ships Special Event.

The operating time will be from July 20th 0001Z through 2359Z July 21st

The ships listed below will using SSB and CW on various frequencies on all the Amateur HF Bands. All of these museum ships are open to the public so that all may experience what it was like to live and work on a ship.

"As one of the co-ordinators of this event I would like to thank all the ham radio operators who volunteer on these ships and bring their equipment to life for all to enjoy.

I would also like to thank the administrators of these ships for allowing this to happen. A special thanks to Joanne Condon Walsh for her support"

Bob Callahan W1QWT.

Please visit this page for updates to the event information as it unfolds.

If the callsigns of the ships are underlined you may click on the callsigns to send email to the ham radio contact for that ship.

Here is the list of participating ships for the year 2002 Museum Ship Event as of 2/16/02. I will add ships to the list as I am notified of their participation. Note: If anyone knows of any ships that want to participate please have them contact me so I can add them to the list. Also please send me corrections.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TYPE OF SHIP</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CALLSIGN</u>
USS Alabama	Battleship	Alabama	W4BPR
USS New Jersey	Battleship	New Jersey	NJ2BB
USS Wisconsin	Battleship	Norfolk, Virginia	N4WIS
USS Texas	Battleship	Texas	NA5DV
USS Salem	Cruiser	Quincy, Ma.	K1USN
USS Littlerock	Cruiser	New York	W2PE
USS Barry	Destroyer	Washington DC	W3MAD
HMCS Haida	Destroyer	Toronto, Canada	VA3XJF
USS Kidd	Destroyer	Louisiana	W5KID
USS Slater	Destroyer Escort	Albany, NY	N2USN
USS Cassin Young	Destroyer	Boston	K1RMC
USS Orleck	Destroyer	Texas	AC5YP
USCGC Ingham	Coast Guard Cutter	South Carolina	NR4DL
USS Bancroft	Submarine Memorial	Georgia	KB4NSB
USS Requin	Submarine	Pennsylvania	NY3EC
USS Cavalla	Submarine	Texas	W00OG
USS Cod	Submarine	Ohio	K8KRG
USS Becuna	Submarine	Philadelphia, PA	WB2LNR
USS Drum	Submarine	Alabama	KG4HDP
U-5075	Seehund Submarine	Quincy, MA.	WW2MAN
B143	Submarine	Zeebrugge	ON4BRN
USS Lionfish	Submarine	Massachusetts	W2SUB
USS Ling	Submarine	New Jersey	NX2ND
USS Hazard	Minesweeper	Erie, PA.	
WBOZLM/WSOFSK/WA0TJU			
MS Rudolph Diesel	Minesweeper	Senheim, Germany	DL0DAU
MV Pluto	Minesweeper	Hameln, Germany	DF0MV
LST-325	Landing Ship	Alabama	WW2LST
SS Red Oak	Victory Ship	Richmond, California	K6YVM
SS John W. Brown	Liberty Ship	Baltimore, Maryland	W3TFR
MV Cap San Diego	Freighter	Hamburg, Germany	DL0MFH
LS Westhinder	Lightship	Belgium	ON4BRN/LGT
LS Columbia	Lightship	Oregon	W7BU
MV Helsinki	Lightship	Hamina Harbour	OH5AD
LV Elbel	Lightship	Cuxhaven, Germany	
Southern Actor	Whaling Ship	Sandeford, Norway	LA4S
STR Portland	Sternwheeler	Portland, Oregon	W7P

Special Events

April 20 to May 19, 2002

Special callsign VC3T is assigned to Mr. Bob Hawkins (VE3AGC) from April 20 to May 19, 2000 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ottawa Tulip Festival.

March 25 to April 25, 2002

The special callsign VC6R is assigned to Mr. Don Moman (VE6JY) from March 25 to April 25 2002 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the awarding of a patent to Mr. E.S.Rogers for the alternating current radio.

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!