

# HOT BANANAS

Oakville Amateur Radio Club

October 2002



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## Fire House

*Club members tour action central  
at the Oakville Fire Dept.*



*It was a hot night but OARC members were up to the challenge as we got the executive tour of the Oakville Fire Department's communications center and mobile command post. See page 2 for more photos.*

## ARPS Congestion

Congestion on the APRS system prompted Phil Thompson, VE3RD, to arrange for a meeting of interested parties at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Wallace Road on Monday, Sept. 24.

Phil will be our guest speaker at the next meeting of OARC on **Monday, October 7** (NOTE THE CHANGE FROM OUR REGULAR DATE DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY).

Find out what's hot in ham radio with Phil, VE3RD, and the rest of the GPS-equipped hams.

# VE3HB

The Oakville Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. from Sept. to June at the Red Cross, 167 Navy St. Guests are always welcome.

There is an informal gathering 7 a.m. most Saturdays at Angel's Diner at 369 Speers Rd. and a Friday 10:30 a.m. coffee session at Tim Horton's on Cross Road.

All are welcome.

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VE3OAK - 147.015 +.600 (131.8Hz CTCSS)

VE3OAK - 444.325 +5 MHz

**Net** - Mondays at 7:30 p.m. (except meeting nights and holidays on 145.015.)

**Web Site:** [www.oakvilleamateurs.net](http://www.oakvilleamateurs.net)

# Hot Bananas

*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 [ve3hg@cogeco.ca](mailto:ve3hg@cogeco.ca) or mail to:

**Hot Bananas**

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**Publisher:**

Oakville Amateur Radio Club  
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# Fire House



*The tour included time to chat.*



*Oakville FD's Bob Sumak ran the tour.*



*You can sleep tonight. Your Oakville F.D.'s new recruit is ready to suit up. This was the first activity of OARC's new season. Congratulations to the executive for a first-class event.*

# CQ CQ CQ

## Executives & Coordinators

<b>President</b>	<b>Jack Livingstone</b> VE3ITM
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Denny Zidek</b> VE3OKD
<b>Director-Membership</b>	<b>Russ Schwandt</b> VE3JUZ
<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>Name</b> <b>Call</b>
<b>Director-Secretary</b>	<b>Greg Foster</b> VA3GGF
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Carvell Pelkey</b> VE3CPQ
<b>Director-Activity</b>	<b>Russ Schwandt</b> VE3JUZ <b>Denny Zidek</b> VE3OKD

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<b>Emergency Coordinator</b>	<b>Rick Harrison</b> VE3YRH
<b>Assistant Emerg Coord.</b>	<b>Jack Livingstone</b> VE3ITM
<b>Assistant Emerg. Coord.</b>	<b>Phil Thompson</b> VE3RD
<b>Help Committee</b>	<b>Harry Kosterman</b> VE3HKC
<b>VHF Net Activities</b>	<b>Denny Kidek</b> VE3OKD
<b>Repeater Programming</b>	<b>Graham Chatfield</b> VA3GPC
<b>Repeater Maintenance</b>	<b>Gary Heatherington</b> VE3TGH <b>Harry Kosterman</b> VE3HKC
<b>Packet BBS</b>	<b>Michael Willems</b> VA3MVW
<b>Special Event Catering</b>	<b>Jack Livingston</b> VE3ITM
<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Jack Livingston</b> VE3ITM
<b>Internet Web Site</b>	<b>Michael Willems</b> VA3MVW
<b>Public Relations</b>	<b>Doug Smith</b> VE3RG
<b>Equipment/Shack</b>	<b>Mike Brown</b> VA3GRL
<b>QSL Manager</b>	<b>Ron O'Reilly</b> VE3FII
<b>DX Interest Group</b>	<b>Ron O'Reilly</b> VE3FII

## Denny's Excellent Executive Report

I like Saturday morning breakfast gatherings! Friendly atmosphere, strong coffee and a dose of unhealthy cholesterol - it is a catalyst for new ideas and discussion. There, I can listen to requests and ideas for organizing the program for our club meetings.



*The Saturday Morning Breakfast Club*

Last month I promised a wide variety of themes and speakers to make the presentations. So, now I can be more specific.

First of all, do not forget our next general meeting is on the first Monday of October. At this meeting, Phil, VE3RD, will explain the basics of APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System). Digital communication is becoming an integral part of ham radio activities and we all should know something about it.

We live in uncertain times, where the security in our life is questioned constantly on TV and radio. Ham operators were always helping with radio communication during times of extreme situation. That is all fine, but we need to be trained and informed. This year, a couple of presentations will be devoted to this theme.

# *Denny's Exec. report continued...*

In September, we got a tour of the Oakville Central Fire Station and its communication facilities. Our meeting in November is assigned to the ARES theme. Rick, VE3YRH, will talk about the Emergency Service communications and ham's position in the overall structure. A third presentation with a similar topic will be held in January. I have invited a police officer from the Halton Regional Headquarters to talk about 911 services. For January and February, we are planning to share and reciprocate meetings with members of the Burlington Radio Club. Details are still being ironed out and I will inform you later on. To keep duties and pleasures in balance, we need some life enjoyments and entertainment. Our December meeting / Christmas Dinner, will be held in restaurant yet to be chosen - preferably buffet. I would like to hear some suggestions about the location from all of you. And the best forum for that, is of course Monday's OARC Net.

73, Denny VE3OKD

## **Doug has an eyeball in VP-9 land**

by Doug Smith, VE3RG

During my recent trip to Bermuda, I stayed at the home of Tony Siese, VP9HK, while he was cruising to, and touring Alaska. While he was cooling off with his XYL Jeanine, Nancy and I were enjoying Bermuda where the temperature was about what we had all summer, but the humidity averaged 88% with the sun shining, and the ocean temperature was 86F.

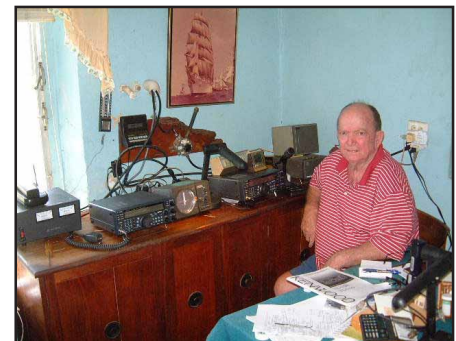
Tony's station consists of a Kenwood 870 to a six-element beam. He overlooks the south shore of Bermuda and I had regular skeds into Canada. In addition I managed to work Fiji, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, France, Russia, England, Ireland, Iceland and many others. I worked a QRP mobile station in Philadelphia who was running 3 watts. Signal report 57. The VP9 call certainly works.

While I was there I did some work on Tom Logan's (VP9V) 204BA beam. The rotor mast to beam assembly was corroded after 20 years of service and the beam was spinning on the mast. He had a spare assembly and we did the necessary repairs in the heat!! The beam sits on a 'crank up' and 'tiltable' tower capable of 60+ feet but he leaves it at its lowest level most of the time. The 'tilt over' option certainly makes working on the beam much easier.

I transported a new Kenwood 570 (with 6M) to Bermuda for Tom and we got that set up in addition to installing a Cushcraft 6m beam. He is listening on 6m but activity had been limited. One of the frequencies we installed to scan was a beacon from St. Mary's University in Halifax. Here is a picture of Tom and his "new" station, and one of the 'repaired' antennae. You can listen for Tony and Tom on 14113 Saturday and Sundays at 0900 our time. Feel free to join us. I have talked regularly to both these hams for 20+ years.



*Tony - VP8HK's station*



*Tom - VP9V*



*6 elements in paradise.*

# OARC – Minutes of meeting - September 09, 2002

September 09, 2002

First general membership meeting of fiscal year 2002 – 2003

- Meeting started 7.35 PM
- 29 members present
  
- President of the OARC, Jack Livingstone VE3ITM welcomed all members in a short speech
- Introduction of all members by call sign and name
  
- Russ VE3JUZ reported on membership drive during previous two weeks  
Club directors contacted by telephone dormant ham radio operators of Oakville area and surrounding neighborhood of Mississauga, Milton and Burlington.  
Membership numbers at the meeting: 44 members ....and growing!  
6 new members
  
- Rick VE3YRH, reported on ARES  
There were two call out exercises in May and August, both with good response from the participants  
Rick presented the request from REACT Oakville for help with communications during bike race – Sunday, September 22, 02.  
ARES will have regular Net on OARC UHF repeater every Monday at 7 PM.
  
- Mike VA3GRL presented a complete list of club station equipment inventory  
Mike also asked for help to rebuild club's HF dipole antenna – no date set
  
- Jack VE3ITM inquired about the status of Packet Radio. Due to negligible use of this mode, the radio was reassigned for APRS mode. (Digipeater). Phil VE3RD gave report about the present situation with the radio. Phil will also make a presentation about APRS on the next, October 07, 02 general meeting.
  
- Carvell VE3CPQ held 50/50 draw. The winner was Hubert (Shot) VE3HLD with a loot of \$18.50 Can.
  
- Denny VE3OKD invited everybody to participate on the Net at 7.30 PM Monday
  
- Phil VE3RD invited everybody to the APRS meeting held on Sept. 23, 02 at the Knights Of Columbus hall. Details are listed at the club's web site.
  
- The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM. Motion was carried by Shot VE3HLD and seconded by Brad VA3COX
  
- After short pause Bob Sumak started presentation about emergency communications and truncated radio system used by Oakville Fire Department, followed by a visit at the Fire Station. Over there we had a chance to explore the equipment of Emergency Command Post vehicle and computerized communication post at the station.



## Membership / The Canadian Amateur Subscription Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

Additional family membership at \$20 (one magazine per family membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name/call sign of family member - must reside at same address) \_\_\_\_\_

Blind membership (no magazine) at \$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(CNIB registration # required)

Foreign one-year single at \$53 (U.S. funds only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

VISA/Mastercard No. \_\_\_\_\_ 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, Ont. K1G 0Z5  
Fax: 613-244-4369 Tel: 613-244-4367 E-mail: rachg@rac.ca Website: www.rac.ca*



## QRT by VE3HG

It's October! This means much better HF conditions. Unfortunately for me, the CQ RTTY contest last weekend was a washout as I couldn't get my computer to release a port for my software to use. Grrrr.

The bands were **hot** and thousands of hams fired up their RTTY software. The next **BIG** contest is the CQ WW SSB contest Oct. 26/27. If you're new to contesting, this is a great contest to work. Everybody from everywhere is going to be on. If you can only spend a few hours, (It's a 48-hour marathon starting at 8pm local time Friday.) work Sunday afternoon when you'll be "fresh meat" and wanted by everyone.

If you want to work some exotic DX, fire up the rig at dawn on Saturday and Sunday and have a listen on 20 or 15. By the way, 10 was hot by mid-day. We won't see conditions this good until the next sunspot cycle in 11 years. I'll be working the contest with Greg, VA3GGF, at VE3SK's place in North Bay. Keep an ear out for us. We could use the points. 73, Peter