

# HOT BANANAS

Oakville Amateur Radio Club

November 2002



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### You're Invited

The Oakville ARES net meets Mondays (on non club nights) at 1900 hours (local) on 444.325 followed by the OARC member's net at 1930 hours on 147.015MHz.

## Return to the north

by Peter West VE3HG

The last time I finished a 48-hour contest at Ken VA3SK's horse barn in North Bay, I said to myself I'd never return to too many bugs, too little sleep, too little warmth and, almost, too much operating.

Funny how the pain of the past fades from memory and so Friday, Oct. 25 found Greg, VA3GGF, and myself back on Hwy. 11 heading northward for the CQ WW DX SSB contest. *See page 2.*



*The barn. Note VA3MW's screwdriver mobile antenna on the back of the SUV.*

### Got a rig to lend?

Mike, VE3QSK, is looking to borrow a rig for use at his home location on Appleby Line. If anyone's got an old rig they could spare for a couple of months, Mike would like to hear from you. E-mail Mike at [cauterman@sympatico.ca](mailto:cauterman@sympatico.ca).

# 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

VE3OAK - APRS - 144.390 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**

The Oakville Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 69615  
109 Thomas St., Oakville, Ont.  
L6J 7R4.

**Editor:**

Peter West, VE3HG

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Oakville Amateur Radio Club  
President Jack Livingston, VE3ITM

## Return to the north...cont.

Last year we ended up with 5,353,848 points which represented 3,296 qsos from 143 zones and 493 countries.



*We had all kinds of amplifier problems. My SB-220 got accidentally dropped coming into the shack. Ken's LK500 needed a switching part so we pirated Tony VE3RZ's amp. Tony was in TI land at the time. Tony's amp needs a new part and my 220 is okay after getting a couple of new parts.*

Greg and I were responsible for the multiplier station. Under the rules of this contest (each contest has different rules), we could call CQ (This is called running.) with one transmitter and work only multipliers (new zones or countries) on the other transmitter.



*Here's Greg hunting for the elusive multiplier call sign. Both stations had separate beams on their own towers and both stations ran a kilowatt. Conditions kept scores down especially on 10 meters. We're on the declining side of the 11-year sunspot cycle. For contesters this means more emphasis on the low bands of 80 and 40 meters rather than 10 and 15 meters. 20 is almost always a good band to work.*

# 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 Zidek</b> VE3OKD
<b>Repeater Programming</b>	<b>Graham Chatfield</b> VA3GPC
<b>Repeater Maintenance</b>	<b>Gary Hetherington</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

All told we had six operators including Greg; myself; Ken, VA3SK; Mike VA3MW; Paul, VA3PC and Ken, BD4RR from China.



BD4RR



VA3PC



VA3MW

Mike (above) watches last year's episodes of *The Sopranos* and Ken (right) digs into the parts box.



VA3SK

### So how did we do?

We didn't do as well as we thought. We were three zones short of last year and up 20 mults (to 513) for a total score of 4,508, 312.



Home Sweet Home

What could we have done better? We didn't need more power or better antennas and we improved our multiplier. It comes down to more qsos. We needed to run harder and use voice keyers which transmit CQ CQ CQ contest.

We also could have used a couple more operators. The next big phone contest comes Dec. 14/15. That's the ARRL's 10 meter contest. With propagation declining as we continue the 11-year sunspot cycle, the band will only be open during daylight hours so you can get some sleep on Friday and Saturday night. Contesting is fun. It builds operating skills and gets you out of the house for the weekend. If you're interested in the 10 meter contest, let me know. There's always room for one more contester.

# Minutes of the October 7, 2002 Meeting of the Oakville Amateur Radio Club

1. Introduction of members and guests, a total of 24 attendees.
2. Brad VA3COX moved that the minutes from the September meeting be accepted as printed. The motion was second by Francis VA3FTC. Motion carried.
3. Carvel VE3CPQ had a number of items to report on.
  - a. The membership numbers are close to the budgeted numbers with 4 family memberships and 52 regular memberships. Our cost for the membership drive was down this year as a result of the prequalification done by the telephone.
  - b. There have been two donations of \$10 each, one from Gren VE3GLS and the second from Bata VE3EXW, thanks guys.
  - c. Carvel asked if the club would also like to donate \$50 to the CNIB as we have done in the past.

Shot VE3HLD moved that the Treasure's report be accepted, the motion was seconded by Brad VA3COX. Motion carried.

4. Russ VE3JUZ stated that we currently have 59 members of which 10 are new members.
5. Ron VE3FII asked if there still exists a membership category that allowed free membership for those over 80 years old. There are only three current membership categories regular, family and life membership.
6. Greg VA3GGF provided a brief update on recent repeater activities. The VHF has been performing without problems but the UHF has had some problems, locking up of the transmitter for no apparent reason. This will have to be monitored and the WR reinstalled if the problem continues.
7. Denny VE3OKD provide the members with a preview of the upcoming program for club meetings.
  - a. November 11 – A presentation related to A.R.E.S. with two guests Wayne Gould (Emergency Service Coordinator – Halton Region) and Pierre Maineville VA3PM (Vice-President Field Operations R.A.C.)
  - b. December 9 – Club Christmas Dinner – Mandarin Restaurant (details to follow)
8. Rick VE3YRH is asking for members to help with a Halloween Patrol on October 30 & 31. Net control will be run from Halton Region building located on Bronte road. Anyone interested should contact Rick.
9. No new business, Brad VA3COX moved the meeting be closed, seconded by Ray VE3YLF. Motion carried.

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**Editor's Note: We're always interested in your ham radio activities. Copy deadline for all issues of Hot Bananas is the weekend prior to the monthly meeting. Please e-mail any submissions to VE3HG at [ve3hg@cogeco.ca](mailto:ve3hg@cogeco.ca) or [ve3hg@rac.ca](mailto:ve3hg@rac.ca)**



*MERRY CHRISTMAS*

*OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB'S CHRISTMAS DINNER*

**THE MANDARIN RESTAURANT  
3105 DUNDAS STREET WEST  
MISSISSAUGA**

Near Corner Hwy 5 & 403

*December 9 , 2002 7:00 PM*

*All Are Welcome  
Buffet Menu*

**\$15.99 Drinks Extra**

*RSVP*

*Carvell 905 827-4956*

*carvell@ica.net*

*By November 30, 2002*





## 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*

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## IRLP Upgraded

*by Greg, VA3GGF*

During the Thanksgiving weekend the whole Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) under went a significant upgrade. This upgrade was required as a result of the tremendous growth of this system (and it is a system) has undergone since its inception. Currently there are 649 nodes of which 12 are reflectors. There has been a growth of approximately 200% over the past 8 months and as such the node numbering scheme had to be revised. We went from a 3-digit scheme to a 4-digit scheme. The upgrade was performed by a select few LINX gurus that run/maintain the network. With the exception of a few software glitches all work was completed within the previously identified window.

As a result of the upgrade there are a few operating changes that you need to be aware of:

1. Existing node numbers have changed by adding a zero to the end. For example VE3OAK was node number 219, it is now 2190. If you are unsure of the new node numbers please check the IRLP web site, [www.irlp.net/18-newnode/frame.html](http://www.irlp.net/18-newnode/frame.html);
2. To bring up a node you now only have to key in the node number on you DTMF pad where as before you had to key in the node number and append a zero. To bring up VE3OAK you would now key 2190. (Please identify via your call sign before keying up a node);
3. To drop a link you now only have to key in 73 (how appropriate).

These are the major changes that affect the use of IRLP on the Oakville node. There are some others that will affect the Autopatch speed dial lists which still have to be worked out. If anyone would like to assist with the hardware and software changes on the VE3OAK please see Greg VA3GGF.