

HOT BANANAS

Oakville Amateur Radio Club

“January” 2004

VE3HB



Meetings: 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 Street.

Breakfast: We also meet for breakfast at 7am most Saturdays at *Angel's Diner*, at 369 Speers Road.

Coffee: Finally, we meet at Friday 10:30 a.m. for coffee at Tim Horton's on Cross Road.

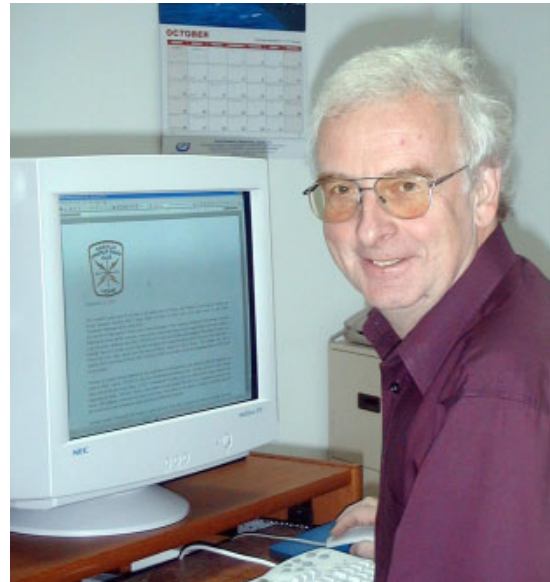
Please join us at all these meetings: All current and future radio amateurs are welcome!

VE3OAK - 147.015 +.600 (131.8Hz CTCSS)
VE3OAK - 444.325 +5 MHz

NET: Mondays at 7:30 pm (except meeting nights and holidays) on 147.015 VHF.

www.oakvilleamateurs.net

President's Message



January, 2004 - Happy New Year! Welcome to the new challenges and successes of the year 2004.

In my December Message, I promised to line up some resolutions for the upcoming year. So, what to start with?

First, we will live a healthy life, have some exercise and stop munching on the cookies. That is easy, isn't it?

Second, check-in to Monday's Net and come to monthly club meetings. Getting tougher!

Third, actively participate in planning and preparation of club activities. So, this is a type of resolution, which is usually forgotten on January 2nd.

Continued on page 4....

CQ CQ CQ

Executives & Coordinators

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2003-2004:

President	Denny Zidek	VE3OKD
Vice President	Brian Kremer	VE3DNF
Secretary	Greg Foster	VA3GGF
Treasurer	Carvell Pelkey	VE3CPQ
Membership	Russ Schwandt	VE3JUZ

CLUB COORDINATORS:

Program	Denny Zidek	VE3OKD
	Brian Kremer	VE3DNF
	Doug Smith	VE3RG
	Ian Amos	VE3ESH

Emergency Coordinator	Rick Harrison	VE3YRH
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Regional Emergency Liaison	Russ Schwandt	VE3JUZ
	Jack Livingstone	VE3ITM

Help Committee	Harry Kosterman	VA3EC
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VHF Net Activities	Denny Zidek	VE3OKD
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Repeater Programming/Maint.	Greg Foster	VA3GGF
	Gary Hetherington	VE3TGH
	Harry Kosterman	VA3EC

Website	Michael Willems	VA3MVW
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Club Bulletin	Michael Willems	VA3MVW
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Training-Basic & Advanced	Jack Livingstone	VE3ITM
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Examiner	Jack Livingstone	VE3ITM
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Equipment/Shacks	Mike Brown	VA3GRL
	Jack Livingstone	VE3ITM

Hot Bananas

Editor's Note

First of all, many apologies for the late arrival of this issue!



*Those of you who have not yet retired (boy am I looking forward to *that* day!) will remember the work pressures that interfere with hobbies. Having been to the UK, California, the UK again and leaving, as I am, for Hong Kong Tuesday again the morning of 3rd February, and combining that with a local office to run and a cottage to finish building, this editor is short of time to speak to his wife and kids - let alone to write bulletins.*

Nevertheless, we will have the next issue out in a more timely fashion. You can help - email me articles, text, and links, in any order!

73 - Michael VA3MVW

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 va3mvw@oakvilleamateurs.net or mail to:

Hot Bananas

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Oakville Amateur Radio Club
President Denny Zidek, VE3OKD

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Morse going in US, too

ARRL Board votes to propose restructuring of US Amateur licenses

At its most recent Board meeting, the ARRL decided to ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test.

The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class.

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam.

It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool.

(Thanks to ARRL)

International News

UK Astronaut Phones Home

12 January - a British astronaut at the International Space Station (ISS) contacted pupils at his former school via a live radio link up.

Michael Foale, 47, answered questions from boys and girls at The King's School, Canterbury, for eight minutes as the ISS passed nearly 250km overhead.

The school's head of science, Dr Jonathan Allday, said it was believed to be the first time a British astronaut had contacted a former school from space.

Amateur radio equipment on board the space station and on the ground was used to facilitate the communication link with the school at about 5.45pm.

Dr Allday said the pupils managed to get through 13 of the 20 questions they had planned to ask Mr Foale before they lost contact.

About 100 pupils and staff had gathered for the live link-up, which was arranged by Nasa and Ariss (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station).

"I don't think many of them have been inspired to become astronauts, but the thing that Michael emphasised when he visited the school a couple of years ago was that whatever dream you have got, you should work until you get it," said Dr Allday.

Mr Foale, who attended The King's School from 1970 to 1974, was selected as an astronaut candidate by Nasa in 1987.

The married father-of-two embarked on his fifth space mission to the ISS in October last year.

He has previously lived on the Russian space station Mir for four-and-a-half months.

President's Message (continued from p.1)

Just kidding!! I believe, that everybody can participate for, let's say, two hours a month and the results will be seen.

For a couple of months I was pushing to improve the image of our web site. In December, probably in anticipation of Santa Claus wrath, suddenly, things started to happen. Michael VA3MVW, who is our web master, added the news column to the front page of the web site. Now, all club directors have access to this feature, and latest and greatest news can be added within a minutes. So, if anyone of you has an important message, technical news or a ham radio related piece of information, contact any club director and the rest is just couple of keyboard clicks away. Michael has also updated the Newsletter section and added all Hot Bananas bulletins to the list. And a third improvement happened just a couple of days ago. The Photo section was dusted off and new picture groups were added to the gallery. Again, the directors have access to this function and the digital pictures can be posted quickly. Good job Michael, thanks.

Continuing the tradition of having interesting presentations for our meetings, I have contacted some perspective speakers. Well, things are brewing slowly, but I am sure, we can anticipate interesting meetings to come.



On the first general meeting of this year - January 12th, we will discuss some club business followed by general discussion on any technical topics you can come with. I am sure, that during the coffee break, everybody will have some ideas.

For the February meeting, Gren, VE3GLS, promised to show us his collection of Morse keys and talk about his life experience of communication for Canadian railways. I have one suggestion for this presentation. Would you like to have a competition in high speed or in that matter, any speed of Morse code receiving? This is a dying art and we should enjoy it while we have among us some real masters.

Every year in the spring, several contests take place. Among the members of our club we have couple of enthusiastic operators, who participate in every competition. For those of you, who are interested to enter this field, we could organize an informative session to get familiar with basic rules and practices of competitive radio communications.

As you can see, the green pastures of club's life are ahead of us. Now it is up to every individual to open the imaginary gate and walk into the field of ham radio hobby and enjoy life in 2004.

For now, I am clear of the frequency.

73, Denny VE3OKD

RABC recommends 220 be transferred to Mobile Service

(From: RAC, January 2004) - Use it or lose it! We have all heard that story. Canadian Radio Amateurs make very little use of the two MHz at the bottom of the 220-225 MHz band. Industry Canada can monitor usage and is well aware of this fact. US Amateurs were forced to give up this spectrum in the early 1990s.

Spectrum in the VHF range is very congested outside the amateur bands, and mobile service users such as the

RCMP and the Railway Association of Canada have well documented needs for this spectrum. Their justification is based on harmonization with the USA, with increased demands for public security communications, and on the unique propagation characteristics of the 220 MHz band. Other public safety bands in the 700-800 MHz range have entirely different propagation characteristics.

Read more on <http://www.rac.ca/news/canada.htm>

The 2003 OARC Executive:



**Russ
VE3JUZ**



**Brian
VE3-
DNF**



**Greg
VA3GGF**



**Denny
VE3OKD**

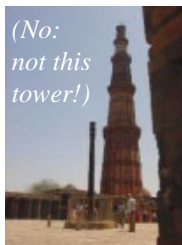


**Carvell
VE3CPQ**

For Sale:

One 45' standard Delhi tower including thrust bearing,

Asking price **\$100**. (10% discount for paid up Oakville Amateur Radio Club members).



(No: not this tower!)

The tower was originally 48' but the last installation saw 3 feet buried in concrete which we did not recover! The tower is on the ground has been donated to the club by Peter VE3HG.

Interested? Please contact Greg VA3GGF at 905-822-8726 or greg.foster@sympatico.ca.

Did you know?

...That we recommend you keep a "go-kit" ready in case of emergencies? You can see one suggested format here: <http://www.mvw.net/radio/gokit.html>



QRT

by

VE3HG

Have you been hearing the buzz about high-speed data over the power lines? The ARRL has been leading the charge against this potential noisemaker in the US and now it's coming to Canada. According to ARRL research (<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>) using the power lines to carry data will cause frequencies from 2 MHz to 30 MHz to become unusable. (Sort of the same thing that happens during contests. – Just kidding!!) Already tests in Austria were ended suddenly due to excessive noise on the power lines which interfered with International Red Cross shortwave communications. Japan has banned the use of the technology but it appears a test in Scotland is still going.

Back in 1999 Canada's Nortel and U.K.-based United Utilities pulled the plug on a commercial plan to offer one megabit per second service over power lines claiming the idea was not economically feasible. Right now, Telecom Ottawa, a power utility is experimenting with providing data over the power lines as are a German utility and a company in Sweden. Today's advocates of broadband over power lines claim the only people complaining are those "pesky hams" and that there is no interference from their systems. An online story in Computer World for Jan. 7

(<http://www.computerworld.com/mobiletopics/mobile/story/0.10801.88829.00.html>) gives a pretty good summary of the debate.

Jack Holt, manager of spectrum analysis for everything under 1 gig at Industry Canada, says he is aware of the technology. Holt says the next step for marketing of this type of system in Canada, which has the potential to radiate into free air, is a request for a developmental license. No radiation, no problem says Holt. No request has been made yet.

Bob Stelzer, CEO, of Ontario's Electrical Safety Authority, has questions about who is going to install these systems. The data over power line folks say they intend to train electricians to install induction type systems in residences and commercial properties. There are also plans to have utilities impose the signals on power lines for entire communities.

What do you think? Are you ready to abandon the HF bands to commercial data pushers? One thing you can do right now is join Radio Amateurs of Canada. If anyone is going to pull the plug on this problem, it's RAC.

73,
Peter VE3HG

Peter VE3HG

