

HOT BANANAS

Oakville Amateur Radio Club

November 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 Oakville Town Hall 1st Floor in the Committee Rooms, Trafalgar Rd.

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!

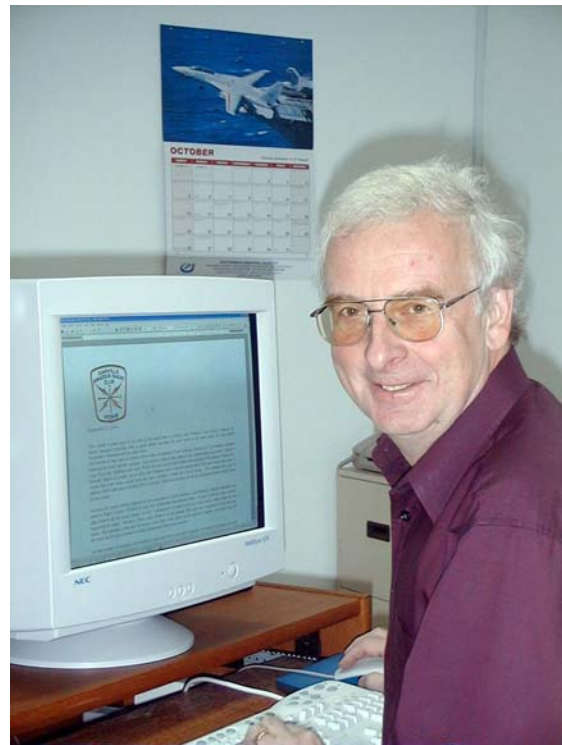
VE3OAK - 147.015 +.600 (131.8Hz CTCSS)
VE3OAK - 444.325 +5 MHz

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

www.oakvilleamateurs.net

President's Message

Welcome to the November issue of Hot Bananas. The season of 2004/2005 started with lots of excitement - a new location for our meetings, a line-up of good speakers and big optimism. But... life is always more complicated. The leaves on the trees are almost gone, the temperature has dropped to the single digits and any outside work is becoming less and less pleasant.



In the good ham radio tradition it is the right time to start working on your antenna. I have to admit I am one of those guys who fit this description. You can see me climbing the roof of my house and in the backyard installing a new tower. With signal propagation heading downwards, I wanted to upgrade my antenna for 40 and 80-meter band. The property size of a typical suburban

house definitely cannot support a full size antenna for these bands. My good friend Ernie, VE3ZUF promptly supplied the calculations and practical advice how to make a shortened dipole. So, this was a start of my little adventure. While installing the tower, a 3/8-inch drill bit broke and instead of drilling a hole in the antenna tower, it made a hole in my left hand. I have to admit, that for now it is the end of this antenna endeavor. The doctor at the hospital emergency ward promised me that I could finish the tower in about six weeks. Just in time for Christmas!

Right now I am sitting in front of the computer and pecking this Message with only five fingers of my right hand.

This is a pleasant part of the hobby by comparison to the problems, which I have to presently resolve as a director of our club.

Last week I received a telephone call from the clerk at the Oakville Town Hall informing me that the beautiful meeting room will no longer be available to our club, due to 'renovation' work at the Town Hall. The termination of the agreement will come as soon as December 2004. As far as I remember, the Town Hall was enlarged and renovated just recently. But who knows! So we are back to square one and again, we are searching for a roof over our heads. Literally! This week I already approached several organizations with a hope of securing a free meeting room. Unfortunately, there is no free ride. In order to help, you can call me, if anyone of you is aware of an available meeting facility. I will appreciate any information. I have also asked the other directors to help me with the search and I hope that together we will be able to find some facility soon. We will inform you about the progress at the next meeting and at Monday's Net. The Net controller will be happy to count many check-ins.

Those of you who are participating at the Net may have noticed, that we have a different controller every Monday. For now we have 6 operators who will rotate as Net controllers. I believe the variety of voices and operating styles will make the Net more interesting. Here is an opportunity for anyone to join this group and learn additional operator skills.

This season we have lined-up many interesting speakers for our meetings. Just today I received an e-mail from Jim Bayers, VE3YZA confirming the speaker for our February meeting. Thank you Jim for your contribution.

Here is the list of club activities for next few months.

November 8th – Serge Bertuzzo, VE3SB – QRP communications

December 6th – Christmas Dinner at Tuckers Market Place

December 13th – Visit to Star Choice facilities (this action needs to be confirmed)

January 10th – Peter Shilton , VE3AX – Vintage radios Drake and Collins

February 14th – Don Agro, VE3VRW – Satellite communications

This season our club has experienced a small decline in membership enrollment. Still, the healthy core of club members are enjoying all activities and I believe that with the coming long winter evenings, the activities on the bands and at the meetings will have an increasing trend. Yes, this season started with lots of excitement. Now we have some hurdles to overcome, but we also have plenty of good will to continue the trek we started.

Thank you for the attention and I am looking forward to seeing you at the November meeting.
73, Denny VE3OKD

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CQ CQ CQ

Executives & Coordinators

President	Denny Zidek	VE3OKD
Vice President	Brian Kremer	VE3DNF
Secretary	Greg Foster	VA3GGF
Treasurer	Jim Byers	VE3YZA
Director	Russ Schwandt	VE3JUZ

Club Coordinators 2004-2005

Membership	Russ Schwandt	VE3JUZ
Meeting Programs	Denny Zidek	VE3OKD
Emergency Services	Rick Harrison	VA3NV
Assistant Emergency Coordinators	Russ Schwandt	VE3JUZ
	Jack Livingstone	VE3ITM
	Rob Hagley	VA3WXR
VHF Net	Denny Zidek	VE3OKD
	& Club Directors	
Repeater Maintenance	Greg Foster	VA3GGF
	Harry Kosterman	VA3EC
	Gary Hetherington	VE3TGH
Web Site	Brian Kremer	VE3DNF
Bulletin Editor	Ian Amos	VE3ESH
Training and Examiner	Jack Livingstone	VE3ITM
Public Relations	Peter West	VE3HG

Editor's Note

Welcome to the fall issue of Hot Bananas for the 2004 / 2005 club year. Well we have had a great start to our club year so far and the Directors have arranged a full schedule for the balance of our meetings as outlined in the Presidents message above.

I had the pleasure of visiting Ron, VE3FII last week and what was supposed to be a 5 minute visit turned out to be 2 hours. I should know better, whenever you put 2 hams together time usually disappear very quickly. He and I covered many topics before I realized how long we had been talking. Anyway, the reason for my trip was Ron has been collecting the back issues of Hot Bananas and

he has donated them to the club. So now I will be trying to figure out how the best way to get them into digital format and hopefully post them to the club website.



Ron had singled out one issue of Hot Bananas in particular, the February 1988. This was the 30th Anniversary issue of the Oakville Amateur Radio Club and in the issue was a copy of the first minutes that started the club. I have scanned this page for you all to see and included it later in the bulletin. Thanks Ron for such a complete collection of the clubs history.

Hope you enjoy the bulletin and see on Monday the 8th of November for our next meeting.

73s
Ian, VE3ESH

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Hot Bananas

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Ian S. Amos, VE3ESH

Publisher:

Oakville Amateur Radio Club
President Denny Zidek, VE3OKD

The Oakville Amateur Radio Club's First Meeting Minutes

OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MINUTES of a meeting of the members of OAKVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, held at Riverside Lodge, Oakville, Ontario, on the 24th day of September, 1957, at the hour of 8.30 in the evening.

Present: J. Busk
C. Campbell
J. Campbell
B. Croil
D. Fekyt
B. Graham
J. Higgins
H. Parkinson
J. Maybee
D.J. Russell
G. Sleeth
J. Smith
M. Stewart
G. Very
S. Ware

The meeting was called to order by Mr. J. Campbell, the President of the Club, and Mr. J. Maybee, the Secretary of the Club, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

The Secretary tabled the notice calling the meeting and produced a certificate proving the due mailing of the notice to the members.

A quorum of the members of the Club being present, the Chairman declared the meeting to have been regularly called and properly constituted for the transaction of business.

The Minutes of the last meeting of members were read. On motion made by Mr. S. Ware and seconded by Mr. J. Higgins, it was resolved that the minutes be adopted as read.

INCORPORATION OF CLUB

Mr. Ware reported his findings, as requested at the last meeting, concerning the liability of Club members when the Club is not incorporated.

On motion made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Graham, and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the Club be incorporated.

On motion made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Parkinson, it was resolved that Mr. Ware be and he is hereby instructed to engage Mr. John F. Isard, solicitor, to make application to the Provincial Secretary for incorporation of a corporation without share capital under the name Oakville Amateur Radio Club, and that the Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized to pay the cost of such incorporation from Club funds, and that James Campbell, George Sleeth, John Murray Maybee, Stuart Bruce Ware and Jasper Duncan Smith be and they are hereby authorized to sign such application and that the Club undertake to discontinue carrying on its activities under that name within six months of incorporation of the proposed corporation without share capital.

On motion made by Mr. Higgins and seconded by Mr. Very, the meeting then adjourned.

George Sleeth
Chairman.

John Maye
Secretary of the Meeting.

OARC Christmas Dinner Announcement



Halton Region Emergency Exercise

After more than six months in planning the Region's emergency exercise "Charlie" was held on Thursday October 14, 2004. The ARES group from Oakville ARC was asked by Oakville Red Cross to provide communications. The Oakville Branch, a shelter in Burlington and the Region of Halton Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on Bronte Road were staffed by amateur volunteers.

I arrived at the EOC at 9:30 am to find about 40 people from a number of Region departments and agencies very involved with the exercise. After connecting one of the Region's new Yaesu FT-8900R quad band FM transceivers, I was able to contact the stations at the shelter and RC branch, using the VE3OAK UHF repeater. Emergency communications involved message handling between the RC staff at the Branch, volunteers at the shelter and agencies operating out of the EOC.

The Dakota/Glenorchy rooms have recently been enlarged and upgraded for use as the Regional EOC. Power and computer network connections are provided, equipment cabinets and computer projectors installed. During the exercise, a GIS map of the area and a status screen were projected for the use of the participants.

The scenario involved a vehicle accident on Burloak Drive in which a tanker collided with a cube van, both carrying hazardous products, and a school bus loaded with secondary school students. A cloud of toxic fumes was released requiring evacuation of the area. A number of "injured" students were treated on the scene by EMS crews and transported to two local hospitals for treatment. Environmental agencies responded to deal with air and ground contamination, while the police service dealt with road closures and traffic issues.

During the morning, the incident was upgraded from a municipal to a regional status. This resulted in transferring the control group from the Burlington EOC to the Regional EOC and raised some problems that had not been previously considered.

Organizations taking part included Halton Region, the City of Burlington, the towns of Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills, Halton Regional Police Service, Halton's school boards, local hospitals, Laidlaw Bus Lines, Oakville/Mississauga CAER (Community Awareness and Emergency Response) Group, Mississauga CACC (Central Ambulance Communication Centre), the Burlington Chemical Association, the Red Cross and

local emergency responders. Some 400 people were actively engaged in the exercise.

Changes to the Province of Ontario Emergency Management Act have placed new emergency management obligations and responsibilities on municipal governments. All Ontario municipalities are required to conduct annual emergency tests. Wayne Gould, Halton's emergency management co-coordinator said that large scale exercises such as "Charlie" usually take place every five years.

By Russ VE3JUZ
AEC Oakville ARES

Lung Association Bike Trek

I would like to thank all the ARES people who came out to help with the September 19, 2004 bike trek for the Lung Association.

It turned out to be a better day than the weatherman promised. All the riders were glad to see all of you ham operators out there, keeping an eye on things. There was no one lost or not accounted for out of the 170 participants. The mother and daughter who took the wrong turn on the trail were back with their dad at the Milton stop. Then Henry was two hours late in starting, so I backtracked to find him, gave him cold water and got him to check in. Henry is 62 and he was doing really well.

The Lung Association raised \$40 000 this year. The riders and group leaders were very thankful for our support. We were there in case they needed us to send information or get help. The Oakville's VHF repeater also worked well. The operators worked with hand held radios in some checkpoints. The base station was in the park using Yaesu 5100 radio with ten foot Comet base antenna. The traffic was done well and everyone was in a good mood. Unfortunately the maps were wrong. The organizers changed the route at the last minute, but we were able to make the corrections.

Thank you for all your help.

By Derek, VE3DDL

ARES NOTES for November, 2004

October was a busy month for Oakville ARES.

The first event was the Region of Halton's Disaster exercise held on Thursday, October 14. A simulated hazmat incident kept emergency responders busy all morning. We were asked to provide a communications link between the Region of Halton Emergency Operations Centre, the Oakville Red Cross branch office and the simulated evacuation centre located in an arena complex on Appleby Line in Burlington.

Communications went well, and it was quite an interesting experience.

Next up was the annual Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday, October 23. Our goal this year was to man a station at the Oakville Red Cross branch office and at the Region of Halton EOC. We wished to check out repeater and simplex links from as many locations that we might be asked to respond to in a real emergency as possible.

In all, we covered 15 locations. Repeater (UHF) and VHF simplex coverage from all 15 sites was excellent.

Saturday, October 30 saw us participating in a Red Cross regional exercise. The goal here was to link various Red Cross offices using the Golden Horseshoe ARES linked repeater system. While we experienced some difficulties due to the lack of a proper radio station set up at the Oakville Red Cross, the ARES crew there improvised and managed to provide all the communications that was required.

On the evenings of October 30th and 31st we assisted in the annual Hell Night and Hallowe'en Patrols. Our Net Control Station was in the Region of Halton EOC. Both nights were extremely quiet.

I would like to offer my thanks to those Oakville ARES members who took part in some, or all, of these events. I would also like to ask all Oakville ARES members to participate in at least three or four events each year. This means that all the work isn't falling on the shoulders of a few people. Such events are also excellent training opportunities.

Oakville ARES is still running its Monday night net at 1930 hrs. on VE3OAK UHF repeater. Please check in if at all possible. For the next little while I may not be able to act as NCS, so I'm looking for volunteers to take over

NCS duties from time to time. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

Rick Harrison, VA3NV
Emergency Coordinator
Oakville ARES – Oakville ARC

W1AW 2004/2005 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST) RTTY Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST) RTTY Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

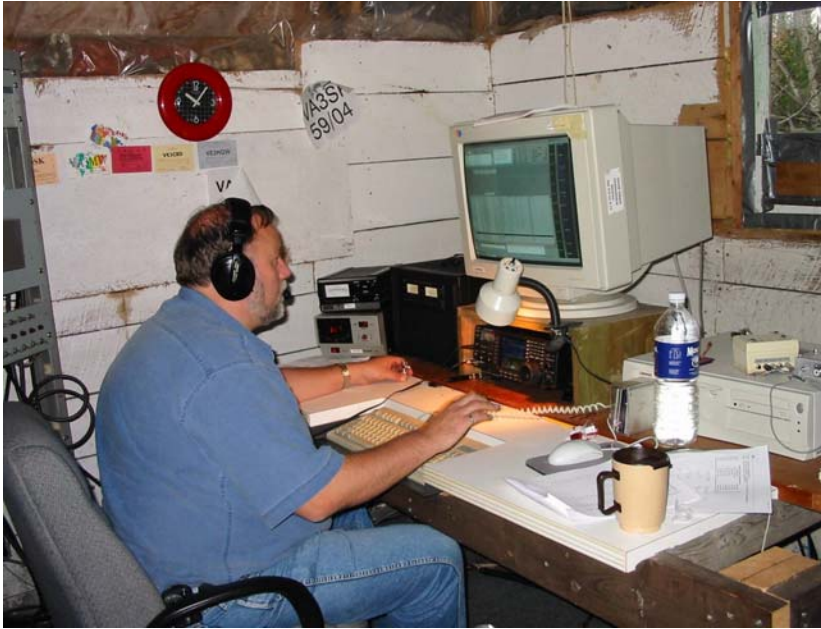
Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675
28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.625 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095
147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590
147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM
CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.
RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.
Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

The CQ WW SSB Contest from VA3SK's



Greg, VA3GGF before the storm when all seemed to be working well on the run Station.



Greg, VA3GGF and Mike, VA3MW outside looking at the former stable which is now a two-position shack. The home-built three-element 40 meter beam is dead centre; the TH-7 at 64' is to the right and the Explorer with 40 meter extension is to the left. Just below the 40 meter beam is an 80-meter dipole. This is a fabulous world-class contest station, which is under continuous improvement.

QRT by VE3HG



My earliest memories of ham radio go back to Field Day contests when every station needed three people to operate it efficiently. There was, of course, the operator whose job was to call CQ and work everyone he could hear. Sitting to his right was the station logger who logged the QSO information in a paper logbook. Sitting to his right was the dupe checker who manually checked for duplicate QSOs using an oversized pad of paper with North American and DX call sign prefixes set up in a grid for easy entry.

Of course, back in the early 60s the typical ham radio station looked very different from today's station. Back then, a separate receiver, transmitter and antenna tuner plus a T/R switch was the only way to go. Each unit could be the size of a big microwave. There was lots of room to sit in front of the equipment so long as the table could handle the weight which could exceed 100 pounds for everything. The generator was towed behind a car and was the size of a VW bug.

Today, Field Day equipment can consist of a 100-watt rig that includes an auto-tuner that's the size of pocket novel. But shrinking the rig isn't the only change. Now all logging and checking functions are being done by computer so our operator can easily run the rig by himself plus operate the computer programs.

For those of you who haven't checked out the hundreds of ham-radio programs, many (or most) of them offer for free, here's your first stop:

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/>. This web page has reviews written by other hams on radio-related software.

For those of you who attended the meeting where Ian, VE3ESH, gave his excellent presentation on how to use free propagation software (<http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>) to predict the likelihood of an HF path being open from your QTH to the QTH of the next DXpedition, this is the site for you. Most of the reviewed software includes a hyperlink to the software's homepage and most of the software will run on a minimal system and is usually bug free.

I just download a general logging program called AClog which costs \$19 (U.S.) but which allows for a 45-day evaluation period. This is a really simple but effective little logger which includes a Telnet connection so you can connect to a DXcluster and watch the DX alerts in a separate window. There is even an automated YL's voice to alert you to the DX. Sure there's bigger and better logging programs but few so simple and easy to use. This program will even print out QSL card labels that you can stick on your outgoing QSL cards. I'm just finishing hand writing out over 1,000 QSL cards. This program could have saved me days of work.

73,
Peter, VE3HG