



2007 OVMRC Amateur Radio Course Graduates. From left to right; Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, Instructor, Geoffrey McCadden - VE2XYB, Garry Hammond - VE3GHP, Jane Boyko - VE3JNZ, Chris Nestor - VA3CSN, Peter Klein - VA3PJK, James Johnston - VA3JJX, Roger Bainbridge - VA3CRB, and Roger Langlois - VA3TAF (absent from picture). Congratulations to all.

Photo courtesy of: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 21

The Club's February meeting guest speaker will be Peter Gamble, VE3BQP,

Team Leader of the Ottawa EMRG (ARES).

In Ottawa, the Emergency Measures Radio Group (EMRG) is the local Amateur Radio emergency communications group. EMRG is not a club, is not incorporated and does not collect any dues. EMRG is a volunteer organization that acts as the interface between Amateur radio communications and organizations who need Amateur radio communications in an Emergency or Disaster. EMRG

has a partnership with the City of Ottawa, Ottawa Red Cross and the Hospitals, to provide communications if required in an emergency or disaster.

EMRG is part of the RAC Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) program. ARES provides a common structure, which can be used to promote ARES Federally and Provincially as well providing guidance to help new groups get started. EMRG is also called Ottawa ARES, two names, one group, one Purpose.

Peter will bring us up-to-date on his group and all the work they have been doing to properly equip and train its volunteers. ❖

Steve Cochran, VE3SBC

OVMRC 2008 Calendar

Month	Rambler Dead- line	Meeting	Exec Meeting
Feb	8	21	28
Mar	7	20	27
Apr	4	17	24
May	2	15	22
Jun	6	19	26



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VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

Ed Morgan, VE3GX

Bill Wilson, VE3NR

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www.ovmrc.on.ca

OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 Mhz(+)

Amateur Radio Exhibit VE3JW

Web site:

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada Science & Technology Museum

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jerry.neufeld@rogers.com.

Joe Blanchette, VE3BAD, Down Sizes

While an impoverished graduate student years ago in California, I wanted desperately to scrap my barely functional transmitter and receiver and get into the big league with the Drake Twins, namely, the T4-X and R4-A that had been out for nearly a year, not an easy thing to do for husband and new wife living on a teaching assistant's stipend. I couldn't do more than dream, of course, since this modern and highly-praised equipment was entirely beyond our means. Months later, while chatting with a ham friend, I heard that the very gear I sought had been sold off for a song in an estate auction as part of a large bundle, the buyer completely unknowledgeable about the value of what he had purchased. The surviving widow had simply been eager to "get rid of all that junk".

Sound familiar? How much financially better off that lady might have been, thought I at the time, if an amateur radio operator had been there to help her dispose of her dead husband's equipment. Happily, no deaths are involved in the present case and amateurs are there to help. What Steve, VE3SBC, and Larry, VE3WEH are doing serves as an excellent example of what the rest of us should keep in mind if we hear of anyone who may benefit from our assistance. Hats off to you both!

Some members of the OVMRC are helping Joe Blanchette (VE3BAD) to liquidate some of the amateur radio equipment he collected through the years. Joe, a Camp X employee during WW II, found that he had to move unexpectedly into a nursing home before Christmas and quickly put his house up for sale. Larry, VE3WEH and Steve, VE3SBC only had a couple of days to inspect and pickup as much as possible of Joe's collection and store it. Larry already had his home over-crowded so they loaded Steve's car and took it all to his apartment. In all there was three HW-12 and 32's, a Collins 75A-3, FT-101, Ten-Tec Argosy II, six boxes (over 2000) radio tubes and numerous accessories. This action was followed by separating the transmitting tubes out from the others. Joe said we should give the receiving tubes to the OVMRC (Ottawa Vintage Radio Club) which fortunately took care of 66 percent of the six boxes we started with. The equipment and remaining parts

and tubes will be prepared for listing on the National Capital Swap Net or to be sold at future flea markets. All the proceeds of course will go back to Joe, who hopes to get on the air soon from his new QTH.



Collins A75-A3 Receiver



Heathkit HW-32 20m Transceiver



Heathkit W-12 75m
Transceiver

*Photos courtesy of
Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH*

VA3SIE Pedestrian Mobile in FYBO 2008

We are all committed to amateur radio, now aren't we. Of course we are. I wonder, though, how many of us would be willing to wend our way afoot down one of Ottawa's busier thoroughfares with a plastic pole strapped to our back and extending well above our head and a 20-foot long wire trailing along behind. Were we to embark upon such a thing, our portable transceiver held tightly for everyone to see, how many of our spouses would accept to be seen there in our company? Martin's unusual activities are frequently discussed among local amateurs, the comments always enthusiastic about someone with so much old-time ham spirit. Read what Martin himself has to say about the kinds of things he does.

That was a ton of fun!

FYBO is a relaxed, fun annual QRP contest sponsored by the Arizona ScQRPion's. The contest has an interesting twist! The temperature at the operating position is a score multiplier, so the colder you are the better your score.

I decided to operate pedestrian mobile this year for the 2nd year running. Pedestrian mobile means that my B doesn't FO © Last year 20% of the entrants in the "single/field" category were pedestrian mobile - including me!

This year I decided to walk up to the Majors Hill Park, right across the Canal from the Canadian Parliament buildings. It's a beautiful spot offering panoramic views of the frozen Ottawa River.

According to Environment Canada, the temperature when I left the house at 1pm

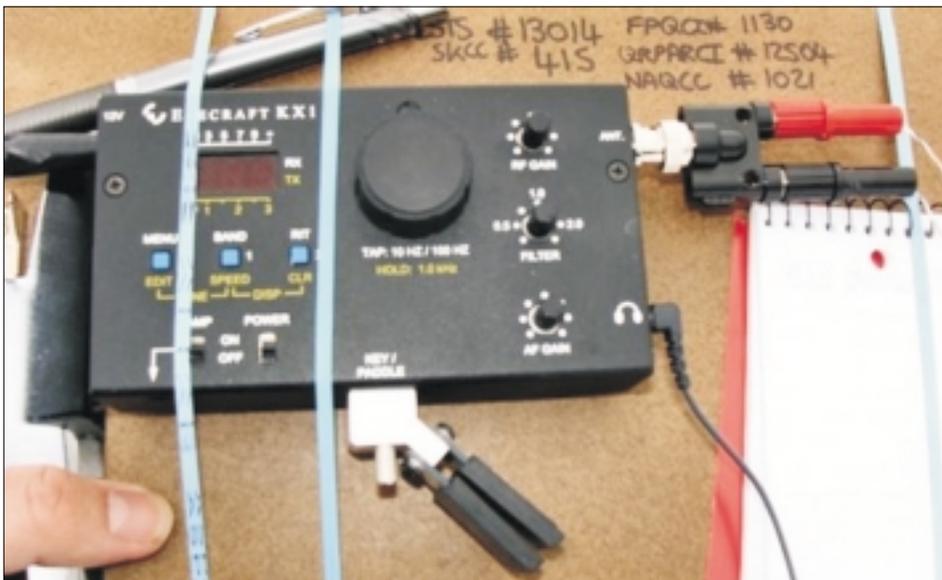


was -6°C with wind-chill -12°C so I decided to split the difference and I sent my temperature as 19°F throughout the contest. When I got to the top of the hill I realized that I would be exposed right up in the wind. Ah well, that's what FYBO is all about! The wind did die down towards the late afternoon.

I started my journey at the statue of Lieutenant-Colonel John By. His statue stands proud overlooking the Ottawa Locks, at the head of the Rideau Canal. Colonel By helped me to get my antenna going by supporting the tip of my

antenna. I hooked my backpack over a fence which runs around the statue.

My antenna consists of 32 feet of #26 AWG teflon coated, silver plated wire wrapped helically around a 20 foot Shakespeare wonderpole fishing pole. I made a harness from PVC pipe which I zipped into a backpack. The fishing pole is carried in the harness retracted and the radio, battery and antenna wire is carried inside the backpack as I walk to the area in which I intend to operate and then I find a spot to sit or hang the backpack - in this case, the statue of Colonel John By.



With the backpack secure I attach the wire to the tip of the fishing pole and then I pull each antenna section out and rotate the antenna section while holding the antenna wire spool, helically winding the wire around the fishing pole in a spiral fashion. The windings at the tip of the antenna are tight - about 1/2 inch between each winding. As each antenna section is fully populated with windings I twist it tightly into the start of the next section and continue the winding. I decrease the winding pitch as I work my way down the antenna. In the middle of the fishing pole the winding pitch is around 1 and at the base of the antenna the pitch is around 2 inches. The idea is to have lower distributed inductance in the higher current region of the antenna system.

The lower 2 feet of the fishing pole sits in the harness center pipe, so the antenna

wire covers roughly 18 feet vertically. I tape the wire to the fishing pole at the 2 foot level to keep the windings tight and leave approximately 4 feet of wire free. There is a solder-less banana plug attached to the end of this wire which connects to the radio on the hot side of a BNC to banana plug adapter. Initially I tie the banana plug to one of the backpack straps so that I can easily retrieve it once I am wearing the pack.

Once the fishing pole is extended fully and the antenna wire helically wound around it, I unwrap the counterpoise wire.

The counterpoise wire is another 32 feet of #26AWG Teflon coated silver plated wire, which I keep wrapped up using a velcro strap and attached to the back of the backpack. I run the counterpoise wire through tight fingers to flatten out the coils of wire and get it as straight as possible.

The counterpoise wire is attached to the backpack at 4 feet from the end of the wire. This is a strain relief measure in case someone steps on the counterpoise or it gets snagged. There is another solder-less banana plug on the end of the wire which connects to the neutral side of the banana plug to BNC converter. The remaining 28 feet of counterpoise wire drags along behind me.

I then remove the radio from the backpack and zip it up.

The radio is an Elecraft KX1 and I have it strapped to a clipboard with two elastic bands. I prepare the clipboard before leaving the house. The radio is attached to the clipboard with the KXPD1 paddles, a pair of Sony earbuds and a Pomona BNC to banana plug adapter connected. There is a 3rd elastic band attached to the clipboard and that is used to secure a small notepad. I also hang a mechanical pencil from the rubber bands.

The clipboard is placed in a plastic shopping bag inside the backpack. When I have finished preparing the antenna I remove the plastic bagged clipboard from the backpack and sit it in the snow. The plastic bag protects the radio from the wet snow and allows me to have both hands free to swing the backpack antenna around and attach the backpack to my back - this is an operation that requires both hands free!

Once I have secured the backpack straps, clips and the antenna is comfortably balanced, I can lean down and pick up the plastic bag. I remove the clipboard from the bag and stuff the bag into my pocket. At any point that I wish to take the backpack off I can place the radio clipboard back into the plastic bag and rest it on the

snow leaving both hands free to manage the backpack.

I then reach down the strap to find the banana plugs at the end of the antenna and counterpoise wire and hook them up to the radio. Finally I reach into my fleece for the end of the battery wire. I carry an 8-AA cell holder with 8 Energizer lithium primary cells in my fleece where it is nice and warm and run a wire to the radio.

That's it - the pedestrian mobile system is now fully ready. I can walk along making QSOs dragging the counterpoise wire along behind me. The antenna system is naturally resonant at 9MHz, and the KXAT1 internal tuner is more than capable of pulling it up to 20m or down to 40m.

I started off on 20m at 1915Z. Wow! The band was fairly jumping with FYBO stations - fantastic! The first station I came across was Bob, N4BP in Florida. I think Bob was the first station I worked in the 2007 FYBO and he would be the first station in FYBO 2008 also. Bob had a decent signal here in Ottawa and I was able to hear Bob right up until dusk. The next station was Mike at NQ7RP in Arizona but the QSB was ferocious. I was able to piece together Mike's info from 3 QSOs and then I timed the fade-in and jumped in and was able to work Mike at ESP levels before he faded out again for my bonus. I shouldn't have been so impatient though, a couple of hours later NQ7RP was more solid into Ottawa as propagation shifted.

The next signal I heard was Doc, KK6MC(5) in New Mexico quite strong. As I was working Doc I was picturing his photo from Albuquerque, NM which I saw in the 2007 results page. I'm looking forward to reading everyone else's stories and pictures! It was Todd, WD0T was next up in South Dakota, and finally Pat VE3EUR a local station - Pat was in-between snow shoveling sessions, we got a big dump of snow on Friday. It was very nice to work Pat and it rounded out my first hour of operating nicely!

The next hour started with a local contact too! A quick scan around found Bob VA3RKM in QSO. Bob was handing out the same low temp as I was so I figured Bob must have been sitting outside in his backyard. It was nice to touch base with Bob - last time I saw Bob's callsign it was in the "The Canadian Amateur", journal of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Bob was singled out for appearing in no less than 8 of the listed contest results in the January/February edition and it was the photo from that article that was foremost in my mind as I worked Bob - standing next to a vertical antenna in a snow-filled yard :)

Next up was Ned KA4MKF in Minnesota and then Joel KB5FCF in Oklahoma. I took a break from 20m and thought to see if I could hear any FYBO stations on 40m, but alas I could only pick out one station Ed, AB8DF in Michigan on 40m in FYBO. I recognized Ed's callsign from the Michigan QRP Club Net. I had been hoping to hear some of the Pennsylvania Polar Bears but the RTTY was brutal around 7040kHz and the FOC contest was going strong around 7030kHz so I didn't spend too much time listening.

A switch back to 20m netted John, AB4GK in Georgia followed by Mark K5GQ in Texas, rounding out the next hour of operating. A welcome visitor next, my XYL with some hot ab-gusht (stew) so I gulped down a couple of mouthfuls to warm me up. Fantastic, just what an FYBO'er needs!

In the final hour as dusk settled in, I was able to work Dave, NC8J in Missouri and John, K7UP in New Mexico ... Hey, 7-Up - I wonder if that is intentional?

My final two contacts were with Polar Bears. I heard QRL?... QRL?... Great! It's Steve, N0UT perhaps with Rooster and Peanut up Raspberry Mountain in Colorado? coming in nice and clear on 20m so I called Steve. We didn't chat long but Steve had quite the adventure!!

Check out Steve's video, it's FB (!) :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D40m62o1mX0>

Lastly but not leastly was a contact with Michael VE3WMB, a local QRP Polar Bear. If not for the bad timing of a flu bug, Michael would probably have been pedestrian mobile too.

I walked back to the Colonel and he helped me take down the antenna, just in time for a ride home from my XYL.

Many Thanks, Arizona ScQRPions and to the QRP community for making this such fun!

Martin, VA3SIE
72 & dit-dit
de VA3SIE



Message from the RAC President, January-February 2008

Thanks, Earle

As I assume the Presidency of Radio Amateurs of Canada, I wish to express my profound thanks to Earle Smith, VE6NM, our President for the last three years. Earle has been a member of the RAC Board or Executive for many years and has actively served in the councils of RAC's predecessor organizations.

Earle became RAC President at a critical time in its history. Our previous President, Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, suffered a sudden illness only a few months into his term and Earle stepped up to the challenge when we needed a new leader. When the Board and Executive were still tender from the effects of internal conflicts in the pre-2004 period, first Daniel and then Earle cultivated an environment of mutual respect among RAC's officers that we desperately needed.

During Earle's Presidency, we faced a huge challenge when our beloved General Manager, Debbie Norman, VA3RGM, passed away. Earle had to direct RAC through a very difficult time as we reorganized the business side of our national organization to ensure it could continue to provide RAC members and Amateur Radio at large with the services we require.

Earle devoted his prodigious skills and personal resources to RAC in a way unmatched by any previous President. He did so while maintaining a sense of humour, humility and decency that we would all be wise to emulate.

Earle consistently stated that he would not be a candidate for reelection in 2008 and he sought out a successor. For reasons best known to him, I became his recruitment target, and over breakfast on the day of RAC's 2007 Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, Earle and Daniel convinced me to go for the job. It was easy for me to say "yes," because the success that Earle achieved in his tenure as President made the job seem less daunting.

As Earle's Presidency comes to a close, he leaves the inner councils of Radio Amateurs of Canada much better than he found them. All Canadian Amateurs owe him a huge debt of gratitude. On behalf of all 57,000 Canadian Radio Amateurs, I thank Earle for his remarkable success and for his dedication to RAC and to the Amateur Radio Service.

Changes to the RAC Executive

In October 2007, the Board of Directors chose a new Executive for Radio Amateurs of Canada. The all-volunteer Executive includes many familiar faces and a few new ones as well.

Two members of the previous Executive leave the team. I wish to thank Sue Cooke, VE3SUH, for her sterling work as RAC's Secretary. Efficient, organized and possessed of the charm of a natural-born diplomat, Sue ensured that RAC's meetings ran smoothly and that no important jobs were forgotten by the RAC Board or Executive. Retiring Vice-President Industrial Liaison, Joe Parkinson, VE3JG, ensured that RAC maintained close contacts with professional spectrum users on important bodies like the Radio Advisory Board of Canada. Thanks to Joe's efforts, Amateur Radio in Canada punches well above our weight in very important councils that affect our interests.

John Iliffe, VA3JI, has shifted responsibilities, moving from First Vice-President to tackle the new position of Vice-President, Technical and Administrative Services. RAC's web presence and all the attendant services are absolutely essential to RAC's future success and it requires the benefit of John's outstanding technical skills and business acumen.

As your new President, I count myself extremely lucky to be joined by three other new members of the Executive. Our new First Vice-President, Guy Richard, VE2XTD/VE2QG, brings great professional experience in management and public policy. He is also the Vice-President of the Radio Amateurs du Québec Inc (RAQI). This, I hope, will help bring the two organizations closer together in the service of our common interests. Linda Friars, VE9GLF, assumes the position of Secretary, a key function in ensuring that RAC follows up on its commitments and continues to run smoothly. Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, our new Vice-President Industrial Liaison, brings to RAC his broad professional experience with the communications electronics industry and he speaks their language. Amateur Radio must maintain its strong links with industrial organiza-

tions, through its membership on the Radio Advisory Board of Canada, and it must continue to develop additional opportunities to promote the Amateur Service with manufacturing and equipment standards' organizations. These new officers join an existing team of highly motivated volunteers to ensure that RAC continues to develop in its mission.

I am also very pleased to welcome RAC's new Office Manager, Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW. Richard is a very enthusiastic Amateur and a dynamo of organizational ability. He is an active member of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, the Emergency Measures Radio Group (ARES) and is the ham radio organizer for the Canadian Ski Marathon. He makes a great addition to RAC's team. You can see the full team of Executive Officers and Directors on Page 4 of this issue of TCA.

RAC's Mission

And just what is that mission? I would summarize it as follows: to promote and defend the interests of Amateur Radio in Canada and to provide valuable services to RAC members.

The challenge that RAC faces right now is that we don't have the resources we need to do this essential work as well as we would like to. RAC faces two shortages: membership numbers are too low and too few people are volunteering. Amateur Radio societies and local clubs across Canada and around the world also face these challenges. The problem is not unique to Amateur Radio service clubs, youth groups, seniors clubs, professional societies, you name it all face the twin challenges of falling participation and low rates of volunteerism.

One priority I have for the coming year is to reevaluate RAC's entire approach to attracting new members and to develop better strategies to promote Amateur Radio. I hope that, by the time you read this, the long-vacant position of Vice-President Public Relations will be filled and the work in this important area will already be well advanced.

RAC and Industry Canada are Co-dependent

In October 2007, I attended my first Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) meeting. These two-day sessions are held twice annually to provide Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)

and our regulator, Industry Canada (IC), an opportunity to discuss regulatory issues and other challenges facing Canadian Amateurs. I was very impressed by the care taken by IC to listen to our concerns, whether it was RAC's Vice-President Field Services, Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, projecting the future of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), or RAC's Vice-President Regulatory Affairs Richard, VE3KI, pursuing our interests on regulatory change. Industry Canada listens to Radio Amateurs of Canada and continues to view RAC as the single authoritative spokesperson for Amateur Radio in Canada. Peter Hill, IC's Director of Spectrum Management Operations, made it very clear that he greatly values RAC's opinion and takes to heart Amateur Radio's concerns as expressed by RAC. However, he still has to balance our desires with his department's policy and budget constraints. As a result, Industry Canada's decisions will not always be as we might like them to be, but I am confident that they will listen to us and take our views into consideration.

In short, Industry Canada needs and wants to deal with RAC and RAC needs and wants to deal with Industry Canada. This co-dependent relationship is key to Amateur Radio's future in this country and RAC is firmly committed to making it work in our interests.

World Radio Conference (WRC)

I write this Message just as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ends its periodic Conference to, among other things, reallocate the radio spectrum. Amateur Radio was represented in numerous ways at the Conference: the Secretary-General of the ITU is a ham Hamadoun Touré, HB9EHT; Amateurs were represented on many national delegations either in their professional roles or as representatives of the hobby; and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) had a strong presence, lobbying with national delegations. As the Conference opened, Hamadoun noted that there were 3,117 registered delegates from 157 member states and 88 international organizations at the Conference. One of those delegates was Jim Dean, VE3IQ, representing Amateur Radio on the Canadian delegation. One of those international organizations was the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), and prominent among IARU officials was former RAC Vice-President, Ken Pulfer, VE3PU. The IARU, as usual, made a great effort to protect and promote our interests. The results, as you will see on page 24 of this issue, were substantial, yet

subtle. Amateur Radio will have its first LF allocation. Even in Amateur Radio's primordial history, Amateurs have never had an allocation below 1.5 MHz (200 metres). Threats to at least one HF allocation and one UHF allocation have been fought off for now. A worldwide allocation near 5 MHz remains a future project. The key results are that we have gained a little spectrum, lost none, and now enjoy a greater respect and credibility than ever before. It was a good World Radio Conference for Amateur Radio and your support of RAC and the IARU helped make it so.

ARES and Signal Hill Special Event

On page 39 of this issue, you will see a detailed report from RAC's Vice-President Field Services Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, on the VO1ARES special event at Signal Hill in St John's Newfoundland in September 2007. This event raised the profile of the hobby and the disciplined members of RAC's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) with both Canadian and US emergency preparedness officials. The event took place at the very spot where Marconi proved that long-distance radio communications was possible, and which should be a place of pilgrimage for every Radio Amateur. VO1ARES demonstrated what we, as public-spirited citizens, are always ready to do: apply our skills and knowledge to the benefit of the community. As Amateurs, we are all convinced of the valuable role we can play in times of emergency. The VO1ARES event served to remind officials of the value of motivated, trained, skilled volunteer Radio Amateurs.

As Amateurs, we should all be proud of the efforts of the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs (SONRA), led by President Doug Mercer, VO1DTM, and of RAC Vice-President International Affairs Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA and RAC Vice-President Field Services Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, to make the VO1ARES event a great success. This is only the first of many similar events.

Canadian Contest Update

Contesting is growing in popularity among Canadian Radio Amateurs and around the world. For many years, the RAC-sponsored Canadian Contest Championship (CCC) has served to recognize the most dedicated and successful Canadian Radiosports competitors. On page 55 of this issue, you will see the 2006 results compiled from a wide variety of

contests. It is a large and complicated business to compile these results, and my personal thanks go to Don Cassell VE3XD for taking over the job for 2006. Don took on a large task and has built on the superb work of John Scott, VE1JS, who retired from CCC with the 2005 results.

In other contest news, on page 45 of this issue, you will see the results of the 2006 RAC Canada Day Contest, our national birthday party on the air. Thank you to all who took part, congratulations to the winners, and bouquets to our volunteer team of contest adjudicators. Please note the special effort of the RAC Field Organization to activate all the RAC call signs, thanks to a big effort by our Vice-President Field Services, Bob Cooke, VE3BDB.

What to expect in the next two years?

As I begin my two-year term as RAC President, I'm hesitant to make predictions, but here is a personal wish list:

- * RAC will find better ways to promote itself and thereby increase membership
- * RAC will create tools and techniques to better promote Amateur Radio to the public
- * RAC will improve existing services to its members and create new services
- * RAC's good relationship with Industry Canada will generate improvements for current and future Amateurs
- * RAC's Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) will expand Amateur Radio's credibility with emergency authorities
- * RAC will cultivate a more constructive relationship with provincial organizations and local clubs

With your help I believe that we can make these wishes come true.

73, Dave VO1AU/VE3AAQ

TCA - The Canadian Amateur

*Canada's National
Amateur Radio Society*

"We're ALL about Amateur Radio!"