



# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 35, Number 5 -- May, 1992

## MAY I REPEAT?

Report of the Technical Committee - *by Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ*

Last year, the Club decided that the status of its repeater, VE3TWO, should be examined and that proposals for upgrading should be made. An in-depth report of this examination was given at the April General Meeting. It described the specifics of costs, phasing and the features that such an upgrade might include. The gist of this presentation is published here for your information and reaction.

Ours is the largest Club in the area with the highest growth rate. Our profile in the Amateur Radio community is very high and this suggests that our repeater should keep pace with our growth and the demand for more "air-time" on 2-Meters. It is considered inappropriate that our members not have access to modern, state-of-the-art repeater facilities.

The Committee has determined that serious upgrading of VE3TWO is urgently needed. However, the costs and the scope of the work in-

involved dictates that this be accomplished in three phases:

**PHASE 1** - Immediate purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art repeater controller to provide for all present and future anticipated needs.

**PHASE 2** - Move the repeater to a new site to provide increased range as well as other anticipated future expansions, such as UHF, 6-Meters, links, etc.

**PHASE 3** - Purchase new RF hardware for the new site. Install old RF equipment as a back-up service at the old site (580 Booth Street).

Phase 1 will begin immediately the Club approves, with the purchase of a new controller. This will entail the expenditure of approximately \$2800. Installation of this new controller will not affect any other decision or future plans for the repeater. We can install the controller and decide not to continue with expansion. Or we can simply maintain the repeater as is - "plain vanilla" with no features.

### Justification For New Controller

The full features of the new controller allows for future expansion for all types of repeater services and functions. New features will attract users, and increased use will promote Club membership and activities.

### Some Features and Services

The new controller allows Autopatch, autodial (240 #s), reverse patch, talking S-meter, voice mail and mailboxes, voice bulletins, link interfaces, remote programming by computer and many other features. This controller is one of the most advanced in the industry!

### Your Reaction

How do you feel about your Technical Committee's plans for improving VE3TWO? Do you think we should proceed with our three-phase plan to upgrade and improve the repeater or should we leave it the way it is? Make your feelings known to the Executive by mail or phone or in person at the General Meeting in May. The Club's decision will be based on your reaction.

### 1992 Cycle for the Kids - *by Bob Sharp, VE3YBC*

It must be coming up on summer. The 1992 "Cycle for the Kids" will be wheeling through the Ottawa area from August 13th to August 16th. Last year, the event was called the "Sony Cycle Classic," but, for lack of a corporate sponsor this year, the event takes on a generic name. This year's ride is from VE2 Land (Quebec City) to the heart of VE3 Land, Toronto.

Doug Carter, VE3RNC, is the overall co-ordinator for communications and security while Bob Sharp, VE3YBC, is looking after communications for the Eastern Ontario/Western Quebec Area.

As usual, several of the hams who have already volunteered (were drafted) to help in this year's ride are from the OVMRC but we could use more help.

If you can help on this year's ride please contact Bob, VE3YBC, at 731-7089 or leave a message for VE3YBC@VE3KYT on packet. Please call a.s.a.p. so you can be put on the roster.

73 de Bob VE3YBC



# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

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## OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1991-1992

### President

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### Vice-President

Larry Woram, VE3WLN - 835-2959

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Judy Taetz, VE3PAB - 822-0937

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### Amateur Radio Training

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY - 839-5854

### Field Day

Vic Bajaj, VE3BSV - 726-9270

### Flea Market

Ken Barry, VE3KJB - 746-4823

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731-7912

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Jerry Wells, VE3CDS - 225-7374

### Technical

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## NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

**21 May, 1992**  
**1930 hours**

**National Museum of  
Science and  
Technology**

**Auditorium**

## CLUB CALENDAR

### MAY MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

Gerry King, VE3GK

### THE HAMMOND MUSEUM

FUTURE SPEAKERS  
Solar Panels?

### FUTURE EVENTS

June

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

FIELD DAY - 27-28 JUNE

### SOME AMATEUR RADIO NETS

POT HOLE NET - Sundays 1000 hrs. 3.760 MHz (includes Swap Net)

POT LID NET - Sundays 1100 hrs(except Jul & Aug) 3.620 MHz slow-speed CW.

CAPITAL CITY FM NET - Mondays 2000 hrs 146.94 MHz Swap Net

THE WISE OWL NET - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

OVMRC CODE PHONE - 746-2065 24-hr code practice..

The support of Corel Systems Corporation through  
their generous gift of  
Corel Draw used in preparing this newsletter is gratefully acknowledged.

The printing support of Dy-4 Systems Inc.  
is gratefully acknowledged.

# Ramblings

Jerry Wells, VE3CDS



Here it is May at last! During the latter part of April it looked as if we would never see spring, wasn't that a surprise on the day of the flea market to wake up and see all that snow. In spite of the weather and bad roads there was still an excellent turn out. I spoke to some of the out of town hams from Montreal and they had quite a ride to Ottawa. None the less the Flea Market was a very successful event. The many members who worked on the committee are to be commended for a job well done. It is always a good sign of spring when the Flea Market is over and we can think about the remaining events of the Club year. There are two major happenings coming up in June. First of all we have our annual meeting and then we have the annual Field day event.

Let us look at the annual meeting, which is the June meeting. The highlight of the meeting is the selection of a new board of directors or Club executive as it is sometimes called. This past year was a departure from previous years in that a number of committees were formed to carry out the functions of the club. In broad terms this has worked out reasonably well, but not without

some problems. I ask all of the members to look at their involvement in the Club and give some serious thought to the selection of officers for next year. With in excess of 200 members there are bound to be hams out there with a desire to help maintain the Club's level of activity. If you are in this group and want to get involved call me at 225-7374 or contact any member of the existing executive. The names are listed on the first page of the Rambler. Remember, no experience is required to serve on the Club executive.

The other major Club activity is the annual Field Day exercise held in the late part of June. once again this year the Club will be operating under the usual conditions of emergency power from a selected field site. For the many new Hams in the Club, Field day is a must. There are all sorts of skills required to set up and get the 2 or 3 stations on the air. We have all the equipment we need and all we need is hams to make it all happen. Contact Vic, our field day coordinator and get your name on the list to help. Vic's number is on the first page of the Rambler. If you are concerned about how you can help call Vic or Doug or Jerry or Chuck or Neil or anyone on the ex-

ecutive. I'll even teach you how to swing a sledge hammer. For those of you that want to operate either phone or cw the opportunity is there. Just be there. If you want to cook, we need one of those too. Let's make Field Day this year one of the best....

The last item I want to cover in this issue is the completion of our Amateur Radio Course a couple of weeks ago. The course this year lasted a bit longer than in previous years due to additional practical sessions added for the benefit of the students. On the night of the final exam there were many anxious and in some cases apprehensive potential hams in the class room. The results were very good. Most of the students were successful. There are some who will have to work on the code requirement a bit more but they are getting very close. We will continue to work with these students to ensure that they get their full licence. As one of the instructors it is most enjoyable to see so many dedicated students and new Hams. I look forward to seeing many of our new hams at the Field Day Exercise.

I look forward to seeing all our new hams and those still working towards their licence at the May Meeting and at Field Day

73

Jerry

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## AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE FRAMES

Did you miss out on the license plate frames at the Flea Market? There are still some available at a nominal price of \$5.50. The small margin of profit goes directly to the Club to support our activities. So if you want to have a ready answer for the question, "What's that funny license plate mean?" get a frame from Ken Barry, VE3KJB, at the next Club meeting.

# Secretary's Minutes



OVMRC General Meeting  
April 16, 1992

1) Call to Order: President Jerry VE3CDS called the meeting to order at 19:45 hours and welcomed all in attendance.

2) OVMRC Radio Course: The 1991/92 Ham Radio course came to an end last Tuesday when the final exam was taken by all the student who toughed it out to the end. Almost everyone who took the test passed the first time around. The list of successful candidates (and call signs where known) includes: Dave Murphy, Ron (VE3UWR), Roger (VE3XRR), Steve (VE3RUU), Bob (VE3UUH), Bob (VE2RGK), Alan (3TYJ), Pat (VE3TZR), Jeff (VE3WWH), Larry (VE3WEH), Margaret (VE3WIR) and Lorraine. A hearty congratulations was given to all and a special thanks to all of the dedicated teachers on the course.

3) Flea Market: The annual OVMRC flea market at Canterbury High School was an unqualified success despite the surprise snowstorm that struck the Ottawa region the

previous night. The equipment testbed and the Amateur fast-scan television demonstrations were greatly appreciated by those who attended. Over \$1200. in profits were netted after all bills were paid. Thanks to all of you who made it possible, with particular recognition to the efforts made by Ken VE3KJB, Larry VE3WLN, Judy VE3PAB, and Sue VE3SLC.

4) Field Day: Vic VE3BSV reported that the OARC were not going to participate with the OVMRC at Field Day, so we will go it alone. Vic is looking for a tower to mount an HF beam. There is a TH6 tri-bander available to the club, but it's located in Toronto. Anyone who can help transport it back to Ottawa, please call Vic. Also, anyone interested in helping to locate a site, arrange for food, etc., contact Vic.

5) 1992/93 Executive: A new executive needs to be chosen. A nomination committee will be set up to help recruit candidates. Anyone interested in getting more involved in club activities please contact Jerry VE3CDS.

6) VE3TWO Repeater Project: The main topic of discussion for the meeting was the proposal by the technical committee to upgrade the club repeater, VE3TWO. Ed, VE3RDZ, the Technical committee chairman presented an overview of the rationale for upgrading the system, as well as specific details of the project, including the new features of the proposed controller (including voice bulletins, automated code practise, autopatch, voice mail service, etc.). He also outlined the implementation stages, consisting of the purchase of the new controller, a relocation to a new site and the eventual purchase of a new repeater transceiver.

A discussion followed the presentation. This will be followed by an article in the next Rambler which will poll members for their input on the plans.

7) Door Prizes: Fred Heyer and Jeff (VE3WWH) won the evenings door prizes.

8) Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 21:30 hours followed by coffee, cookies and conversation.

de Ted VE3KEH

## MOTION

**Discussion.** A motion was passed at the December, 1991 General Meeting to spend an amount not to exceed eight hundred and five dollars (\$805) to upgrade an existing PC computer to accommodate Corel Draw in order to produce the illustrations for the manual *Amateur Radio For Beginners*. It was noted that this equipment could be used subsequently for the production of radio course training material and the *Rambler*. The motion was passed with the reservation that the option to upgrade be re-examined with a view to the purchase of a completely new 386-33MHz computer. This has been done and a computer of the required specifications is estimated to cost \$1800 (eighteen hundred dollars). Funds for this acquisition are available on a shared basis between the Radio Course revenues and the Club's general revenues. It is anticipated that the cost of the equipment will be recovered through the sale of manuals to our course members, to self-study students and to other teaching institutions.

**Motion.** Moved by Doug, VE3ATY, seconded by Judy, VE3PAB, that an additional sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) be approved for the purchase of a new PC 386-33MHz computer for the production of the manual *Amateur Radio For Beginners* and for subsequent use in producing the *Rambler*.

# NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HERE AND THERE



by Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Here once again is your monthly trip across Canada through the bulletins of nine different amateur radio clubs. This month we start with the *Reflector* of the **Halifax Amateur Radio Club**. At the March meeting of HARC Gary VE1RGB was the winner of the surprise door prize. The "prize" was a 14 foot reticulated python concealed in a gym bag! Gary was relieved to find out that the REAL prize was a power bar. Jonathan the python was in fact just the guest of club president Martha VE1LE. She happens to work at the Nova Scotia Museum where Jonathan was part of a special display on reptiles.

Moving right along we come to our home town and *TelePARC* the bulletin of the **Pioneer ARC**. Bill VE3EKA has been "blown away" by the continued success of the video repeater project. In addition to the New Horizons grant, the club now has permission to install their repeater at CJOH. The Emergency Measures (Ottawa-Carleton) have agreed to spend \$15,000 to add enhancements to the repeater as well as \$3,000 for equipment in their command vehicle. BNR is donating four RF power amps to the project.

There is not much news in the **Ottawa ARC Groundwave**. The ham radio exhibit at the Tulip Festival has been cancelled. At the March meeting Mike VE3FFK demonstrated a commercial discone antenna, the MFJ portable 3 element Yagi for 2 metres, and a miniature photocopier. Mike seems to have a new toy every month! He can't be married.

Heading a little south-west we have the **Kingston ARC** bulletin, *The Kingston Amateur News*. The guest speaker at the April meeting was Bob VE3SBA on the subject of police radar. The seven Kingston amateurs who helped at the PBS station pledge drive in March were

thanked in fine form by their American ham friends. In addition to lunch at the Ramada Inn and a plane flight, they were each presented with a quartz clock.

Next we have a little news from the *SARCommunicator* of the **Sudbury ARC**. Like most clubs, they have noticed the large number of new hams on two metres, and have also noticed their lack of good operating skills. The anonymous writer of the article is quick to point out that the "veterans" could use some tips too! In reading through a number of bulletins I find that although there is general agreement on the need for good operating practices, every author has their own opinion on what is correct. I suppose what is required is that the "veterans" think about their own operating practices and that the new hams listen as much as they talk, and then follow the accepted practices on the local repeaters.

On to the **London ARC** bulletin. The main news item is that the club station VE3RCL is almost back on the air at the Red Cross building. The new station will have 24 hour seven day a week access for any club member. Equipment will include a Kenwood TS440sat HF rig, TM721 VHF/UHF rig, a Kamtronics all mode data interface, and a portable Compaq computer.

Members of the **Chatham-Kent ARC** are gearing up for another season of tornadoes and the CAN-WARN weather warning system. Dan VE3DAA wrote an article in *Clear Signals* on gearing up to Field Day. He says, "Many hams work toward their licence in anticipation of talking to far away places. Then, after receiving their licence, their goals are modified and they become VHF only people. One of the best parts of a club activity like (Field Day) is the fact that anybody can operate under the club

call. By anybody, I mean anybody, hams with only a basic licence, their wives, even their kids".

Next we have some tidbits from the **Saskatoon ARC Feedline**. Ariel LW1EVN, an exchange student from Argentina was a visitor at the March meeting. An uncredited article relates that you can blow out the computer in the 1992 Toyota Camry by installing a transmitter which exceeds 10 watts output. The author caused \$1,115 damage to his car by transmitting. Editor Syl VE5YK went on a cruise recently and had several nice visits with the ship's radio officer who was an amateur from Norway. Larry VE5WX had an informative article about the very high noise level on his HF rig. It was eventually traced by Sask Power to his next door neighbour's doorbell transformer. A new transformer fixed the problem.

Finally we have *Key Klir*, the bulletin of the **Calgary Amateur Radio Association**. This club continues its incredible growth with 406 members by March. Another incredible thing is that the monthly bulletin is delivered by hand(!) with each person responsible for up to 25 bulletins. The March Digital Group meeting featured a talk and demonstration of the Ramsay Kit VHF voice/packet radio. This is a well documented inexpensive kit and "is a tremendous learning opportunity for those with little experience".

The final word for this month comes from *Clear Signals* of the **Chatham-Kent ARC**. If you are the parent of a teenager show them this notice: **ATTENTION TEENAGERS:**

**If you are tired of being hassled by unreasonable parents now is the time for ACTION. Leave home and pay your own way while you still know EVERYTHING.**

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# OVMRC FLEA MARKET 1992 – A SUPER EVENT

by Ken Barry, VE3KJB & Chuck King, VE3PDK

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The OVMRC Annual Flea Market for 1992 well deserved to be called a super event. New equipment from commercial vendors and ham shack goodies from private vendors were only a part of the show. There were fastscan amateur TV demonstrations, packet demonstrations, a full test-bench to test the newly purchased piece of junk, gourmet dining at the Flea-Bite and draws for fabulous prizes. If the weather has been more cooperative, the Flea Market Committee would not have been able to manage the crowd.

## Planning the Key

Planning for this year's event started on April 12, 1991, the day after last year's Flea Market. Last year's was good and it was decided that this year's would be better. Planning is now underway for 1993 and it should be a block-buster.

The large signs prepared by Judy Taetz, VE3PAB, helped immensely in directing the vendors and buyers to the right access doors. Access to the Canterbury High School gymnasium on Friday evening allowed the Committee and about 20 volunteers to set up tables for ten commercial and ninety private vendors. More tables had to be rented to accommodate the extra bookings. Based on a prepared siting plan, tables were marked so that each vendor knew exactly where to set up. This enabled the doors to open promptly at 8 a.m. for the vendors and their numerous "assistants" to set up, dragging their wares through six inches of snow. Winston

Hetherington, VE3WTH was busy on the air on the Club repeater, VE3TWO handling the talk-in. Canterbury High School is a little out of the way and Winston had his hands full answering queries and directing the lost and confused to the site. At 9 a.m., the shoppers "stormed" in with their money in their hands, ready to buy everything in sight.

## Attendance

Despite a raging blizzard and atrocious driving conditions, four hundred or more eager shoppers showed up for the event. Maybe it was the snowstorm that drove them into the gym, but we prefer to think that it was all those great bargains and the anticipation of the other activities planned for the day. When these happy shoppers found a gadget they just couldn't live without, they could take it over to the test-bench and find out if it was in good working order.

## Test-Bench a Big Attraction

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM, applying his wide range of expertise and about \$30,000 worth of test equipment, gave buyers an idea of the state of health of that piece of equipment they wanted to buy. He set up test bench with a spectrum analyser, an oscilloscope, a tracking signal generator, a power supply, a dummy load and a reflected power meter to examine transmitters and receivers. Some folks even brought over their handies for a quick check. This service was very much appreciated, especially by the new amateurs,

whose knowledge of the technical aspects of the hobby is still a little sketchy. Ralph promises to be back next year if he possibly can and he has been invited to attend other Flea Markets to provide the same service.

## Fastscan Amateur Television Demonstration

A team of amateurs demonstrated the fun to be had with mobile amateur television. A twenty-minute demo tape entitled *ATV Ottawa Style*, was run throughout the day, but the highlights of the show were the two live mobile video demonstrations. Bill Westbrook, VE3EKA, manned the fixed station while the camera crew, consisting of Norm Hull, VE3JDJ, and Ian McIntyre, VE3CZ, produced full colour motion pictures with sound from a roving vehicle. The images of drifting snow, slippery driving and traffic snarls were impressive if not altogether pleasant for those watching, who had to head out into those driving conditions. As Bill says, "This is the Mobile Club of the future."

## Packet Demonstration

Ron Schwartz, VE3VN, ran demonstrations of Packet Cluster, explaining TNC set-up, the operational modes, the network features of PacketCluster and the many other advantages of this packet system. Although these demonstrations did not attract a wide audience, those who attended exhibited a high degree of interest.

*Flea Market Continued* page 7

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Flea Market from page 6

### Commercial Vendors

Peter Purdy of **Seaway Communications** was welcomed again to our Flea Market. His display of new equipment and his friendly advice was a valuable addition. Graham Walker of **Bytown Marine** was a welcomed new vendor this year. Graham graciously donated an SWR meter as a door prize. There were many positive comments about **Bytown Marine's** presence and it is hoped that this will be the first of many. The one equipment vendor missing this year was **H.F. MacFarlane Ltd.** Harold had booked tables, but did not show, much to the chagrin of many shoppers. Harold's tables have always been mobbed in previous years and he was missed this year. There was more than radio equipment. **Cipher Systems Design**, a new vendor this year was selling computer hardware. **World View Time Incorporated**, represented by Dwight Darling, another new vendor, was selling world clocks. **Affir Motif**, another welcomed addition to our Flea Market provided caps with machine-sewn names and call-signs. They also had collector's cards for sale. A returning favourite, **Canadian International DX Club**, represented by Sheldon Harvey had DX books and subscriptions to the Club journal for sale. Of course, it

wouldn't be a Flea Market without representatives from our two national amateur radio organizations. Dan Holmes, VE3EBI and Chuck Baker, VE3PAP represented the **Canadian Amateur Radio Federation**, and Ray Perrin, VE3FN ably represented the **Canadian Amateur Radio Relay League**. With the wide variety of goodies offered by the other ninety private vendors, you might say that there was something for everyone - amateur and non-amateur alike.

### Flea-Bite A Resounding Success

All that browsing, shopping and watching demos is bound to make one hungry, and amateurs for some strange reason seem to become hungrier than most. The Flea-Bite team of Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell, VE3SLC, Judy Taetz, VE3PAB, Roxanne Dalmage, VE3VON and harmonic Erin, were kept hopping just to keep the coffee pots hot and the goodies ready for all those hungry hams.

### Prizes, Prizes, Prizes!

The door prize, an SWR meter, donated by Bytown Marine, was won by Dan Stanton, VE3RDG. A second door prize, a subscription to *The Canadian Amateur*, donated by the **Canadian Amateur Radio Federation**, was won by Gerry Wells VE3CDS. The prize of the day, coveted Kenwood TH-77A dual bander handi, donated by Kenwood

Electronics Canada Ltd, represented by Lloyd LeBlanc, was won by Larry Woram VE3WLN. There have been grumblings of "fix" because two members of the Club executive won prizes, but believe me folks, the draws were completely above-board. Larry tells me he practically bought the handi with the number of tickets he had purchased. So that seems to be the answer.

The event was a huge success despite the weather and it was all due to the efforts of the amazing Club members who put their shoulder to the wheel and their nose to the grindstone. You may notice these folks at Club meetings -- they have round shoulders and flat noses. They are the ones who printed the raffle tickets, sold raffle tickets, set up and took down the tables, collected the table-money from the vendors, prepared and sold the food and did the one thousand and one jobs that need to be done to have a successful Flea Market. A well deserved "Well Done" to each and every one.



#### EDITOR'S CORNER

When things go wrong, they tend to go very wrong, and the last two issues of the *Rambler* were no exception. Last month's issue was designed for early printing and distribution at the Flea Market. It was supposed to carry a bonus Club Directory that could be removed as the last two pages, folded into a 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 booklet. Well, you know about the best laid plans . . . The printing machine decided that it was time to go on strike and repairs took longer than anticipated. The job was finally done, but by someone who was unfamiliar with our printing style. As a result, the *Rambler* was printed on the eve of the April meeting -- too late for the Flea Market, and the last two pages were printed as a separate document on one side of four sheets of paper. Mailing would have cost an additional thirty cents per issue. It was handed out to those attending the meeting, but those receiving *Rambler* by mail must have scratched their heads when they read, "Remove and fold the last two pages of this issue and retain as a Club Directory." when there were no pages to either remove or fold. What can you say after you've said, "I'm sorry."

This issue presented its own problems with a computer that decided it should also go on strike. Two members of the Executive spent numerous hours with your Editor trying to diagnose and repair the problem at home. Finally, it went to the shop where a motherboard with damaged chips was diagnosed and the board was replaced with a 386 board with 2 Megs of memory. As you can see, several hundred dollars later, the bugs have not all been worked out, but most of the newsletter was produced in its usual format. Oh, well! We keep trying.

#### Speaking About 6 Meters - by Bob Sharp, VE3YBC

Hi folks! This is the first in what I hope will be a series of articles on the 6m band in the Ottawa Area. First of all, did you know that there is a 6m interest group in Ottawa? The Ottawa 6-Meter Interest Group (OSMIG) was formed in June 1991 and its objective is to promote the growth and use of the 6m band. The group sponsors two nets weekly and also is in the final stages of getting a 6m repeater on the air. The net times are as follows:  
Mondays, 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm on 147.300/147.900. VE3TWO;  
Wednesdays 8:00 pm to 8:30pm on 52.525 MHz FM Simplex.  
The net on 52.525 MHz will be moved over to the repeater as soon as it gets on the air. Look for the change by September.  
The question most frequently heard is, "What is happening with the repeater?", so here is the latest poop as of April 20 1992. All of the equipment is being tested, prepared and tuned. The OSMIG has been allocated the frequency pair of 52.030/53.030 MHz, which is the same as VE3SIX in Toronto. These frequencies may change, because of restructuring in the 6m bandplan by the ARRL/CRRL. Watch this column for further details about the final frequency allocation.  
The next most popular question is "WHERE will the repeater be located?" This is a harder question to answer. As you well know, good repeater sites are hard to find. In January 1992, the Ottawa 6-Meter Interest Group offered the repeater to the OVMRC, hoping that it could be included in a new, improved VE3TWO set-up. As of the April Club meeting, the offer had not been formally accepted. The OSMIG is now looking for other sponsors and repeater sites. There has been a proposal from a new radio club at BELL NORTHERN LABS, but nothing confirmed yet. I should add that, as soon as the frequency allocation has been cleared by the St. Lawrence Repeater Council, the repeater will be on the air operating from a test site.  
The OSMIG is planning to have a station in operation for the May 23rd, 6m sprint contest as well for the June VHF QSO party on the 13th and 14th. At this time, no plans have been made for FIELD DAY but we would entertain offers. Anybody want to add a 6m rig and operator for their club's field day station? Well that's about it for this month so if you have any questions about the band or the repeater drop me a line on packet to "VE3YBC@VE3KYT" or write to me at the following address: BOB SHARP VE3YBC, PO BOX 41052 ELMVALE R.P.O., OTTAWA, K1G 5K9, and I will attempt to answer all questions received in the upcoming articles.....Until then.....73 de VE3YBC



# The Sinking Membership

de VE3PUE Neil Herber

Well, now that I have your attention, I should confess that membership is not sinking – it's floating upwards at a pleasant pace. However, it's time to renew, and last year we lost almost one quarter of our membership at renewal time. Our new members have made up for the initial drop, but it is still disheartening to see the numbers go down.

If you are not planning to renew your membership, or if you know of someone who is planning to drop out, please give me a call or drop me a line to let me know why.

I can think of two good reasons to drop out:

- times are tough, and every penny counts
- home and business pressures leave no time for amateur radio

But if you have both the money (\$15 or \$5 for a family membership) and the time, what could the reason be?

- can't stand the stupid articles about membership etc.
- not interested in amateur radio any more
- find the meetings boring
- never been asked to help out
- asked for help and didn't get it
- interested in packet (or satellite operations, or 6 meters), but no one in this club knows anything about it
- want to join a club that has a working repeater
- horoscope warned me not to join clubs with five-letter acronyms

If your reason is among the second list above, I have good news: the solutions to these problems appear below. If the list does not include your reason(s) for non-renewal, I have more good news: I am now compiling a new, expanded list! Please send me your contribution.

## Solutions

Can't stand the stupid articles about membership etc.? Easy. Crowd me out of the Rambler by contributing an article (technical or otherwise). Our esteemed editor, Chuck, only uses my stuff as filler when he is short of good stuff.

Not interested in amateur radio any more? Wow! How did that happen? Come to a meeting, stand up and challenge the group to suggest something interesting to do in amateur radio. I guarantee you at least a half a dozen ideas, one of which will rekindle your interest. If not (out on a limb time) I will personally refund you the cost of admission to the meeting.

Find the meetings boring? Hey, who doesn't? All that blather about club finances, repeater plans, computer purchases and membership trivia before the featured speaker comes on is enough to put anyone to sleep. I have two solutions to this one.

1) Bring a friend and a pillow to the meeting. Have a nap while your (former) friend listens to the blather, and have them wake you – refreshed and attentive – to listen to the featured speaker.

2) Propose a motion from the floor at the next meeting that the featured speaker come on first, followed by the blather. Any time I've suggested this, I've been told it's impractical, because no one would stick around after the speaker. Hmmm...

Never been asked to help out? Quickly make an appointment with your doctor for a hearing examination. The club always needs help. We just don't ask all the time because it starts to sound like whining.

Asked for help and didn't get it? Hey, this one is serious! Please ask again. If any member of the executive can not help you out personally, we would be glad to direct you to someone who can help. (Just for the legal beagles, we provide information – not the financing for your next HF rig.)

Interested in packet (or satellite operations, or 6 meters), but no one in this club knows anything about it? Not true! There are people in the club who know all about these topics. Why not form a special interest group? Hold a workshop?

Want to join a club that has a working repeater? Hey, who doesn't? In concert with the movement to reduce, reuse and recycle, the OVMRC has decided to:

- reduce the repeater power to  $0 \times 10^{-6}$  watts
- reuse the old repeater
- recycle the repeater budget into next year

So support the OVMRC, the only club with an environmentally friendly repeater.

Horoscope warned you not to join clubs with five-letter acronyms? Well, the official name of the club is the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Incorporated. So the acronym should be OVMRCI, but past-president Jeff VE6RCI (ex: VE3RCI) may have some prior claim. To be safe, we just use the first five letters.

So now that I have laid all of your fears to rest, march down to your nearest OVMRC recruiting center. Remember, renew early and renew often!

*Members should note that the opinions so well expressed in this article are strictly those of the author and many like-minded souls.*

# Membership Musing

de VE3PUE Neil Herber

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Welcome, welcome, welcome to the following new OVMRC members (listed in the order they joined):

Robin Webb  
Andrew Webb  
Chris Cullen (VE3ULL)  
Gordon Charland  
Doug Frame (VE3JDF)  
Eric MacGillivray (VE3LBE)  
Barry Hall (VE3BXH)

Be sure to seek these fellows out and give them a warm welcome at future meetings. And at the risk of being politically incorrect, where are all the women? (New members, that is.) The OVMRC has about 24 female members (my rough count based on first names that sounded female) out of a total of 255 members. Ten percent may not seem like a lot, but I'm willing to bet it's pretty high compared to most other clubs.

The president of the Augusta (Maine) Amateur Radio Association, Arnold "Skeet" Smith (KA1LPW), had the good taste to republish a recent Rambler article in their newsletter. We have made AARA an affiliate club, which means they will be sent a copy of the Rambler for their members to peruse. We hope that they will reciprocate, and send us a copy of their newsletter. The OVMRC currently sends newsletters to 21 affiliate organizations, including other clubs and sponsoring organizations.

Speaking of sponsoring organizations, a big round of applause is due to another new affiliate, Kenwood Electronics Canada, Inc., the suppliers of the door prize at the flea market.

We should also welcome Peter Purdy (VE3NVP), Seaway Communications Co. of Cornwall as another new affiliate. Peter's company has regularly attended the flea market, and this year they chose us over the Peel Regional flea market held on the same day.

As you undoubtedly know, it's membership renewal time! Be sure to send in the slip you received in the last Rambler with your payment. The information on the slip is what ends up in the database – please make sure it's correct! As of 92.04.23, the following good folks have renewed their memberships (listed in order of payment):

Neil Herber (VE3PUE)  
Doug Murray (VE2URA)  
Ken Barry (VE3KJB)  
Gerben Kamstra (VE3SUV)  
Joseph Tondreau (VE2JHT)  
Roger Rose (VE3XRR)  
Ron Clement (VE3UWR)  
Don Morris (VE3RCD)  
Ernie Kerr (VE3KEW)  
Kris Anderson (VE3OWE)  
Al Oldfield (VE3ANO)  
Ted Starr (VE3TGS)  
Rod Pike (VE3ROD)  
Winston Hetherington (VE3WTH)  
Earl Andrews (VE3YOU)  
Larry Woram (VE3WLN)

Bob Sharp (VE3YBC/VE3UAX)  
Ralph Cameron (VE3BBM)  
René Beaudry (VE3JKR)  
Ted Paull (VE3KEH)  
Joe Walcot (VE3PDS)  
John Goatcher (VE3JKG)  
Claudette MacMaster (VE3TCT)  
Bob Gillies (VE3JA)  
Jerry Wells (VE3CDS)  
Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell (VE3SLC)  
Doug Carswell (VE3ATY)  
Mike Kelly (VE3FFK)  
Steve Price (VE3SKP)  
Ed LeBlanc (VE3VLF)  
John Leaker (VE3JOL)  
Steve Middleton (VE3RUU)  
Robert Kenna (VE2RGK)  
Archie McKenzie (VE3NJY)  
Evelyn MacKinnon (VE3OAM)  
Jack Russell (VE3TTX)  
Jeff Hiltz (VE3WWH)  
Les Hiltz (VE3REX)  
Larry Wilcox (VE3WEH)  
Chuck King (VE3PDK)  
Russ Lowe (VE3LOW)  
Tom Tsangarakis  
John Moffat (VE3NJ)  
Ian Kennedy (VE3SNX)  
Jake Guertin (VE2TQX)  
Doug Bannard (VE3SPF)  
Jim Hamilton (VE3GJY)  
John MacSteven (VE3BRP)  
Ed Sieb (VE3RDZ/VE2BAQ)

Thanks folks!