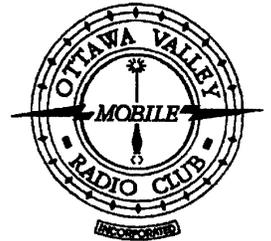


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club, Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 43, Issue No. 9
April 1999



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Unsung hero helps blind Amateurs

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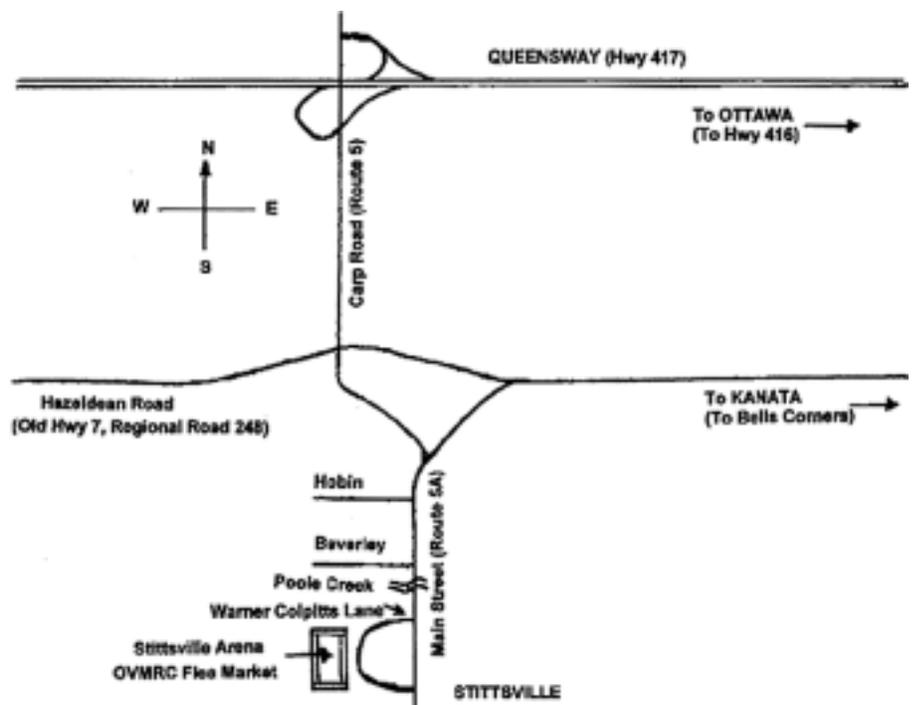
VE3JW turns 25!

Special Event Station
helps mark VE3JW's
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Remember OVMRC Flea Market & Vintage Radio Auction Saturday, May 1, 1999!

Date:	Saturday, May 1, 1999
Location:	Stittsville Arena
Vendor admission:	7:00 a.m.
General admission:	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Vintage Radio Auction:	10:30 a.m.
Private Table:	\$10.00
Commercial Table:	\$20.00
Admission:	\$3.00
Talk-In Frequency:	VE3TWO, 147.300 (+), (Back-up repeater: VE3TEL, 147.030 (-), only if above repeater fails
Contact:	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV
Phone:	613-521-8910
Fax:	613-523-7889
E-Mail:	<ve3zov@rac.ca>



Rambler

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.
P.O. Box 5530, Stn. F
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 3M1



OVMRC Executive (1998-99)

President	Doug Carswell, VE3ATY 829-7167, ve3aty@takeone.com
Vice-President	Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC 748-6597, chinook@takeone.com
Treasurer	Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW 745-0608
Secretary	Patricia Rowan, VA3PUR 521-2014, patricia.rowan@takeone.com

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Amateur Radio Exhibit	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666, ve3ejj@cyberus.ca
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, lycott@fox.nstn.ca Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
Delegated Examiner	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ (see above)
Emergency Response	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, kenh@intranet.ca
Field Day	Charles Morrison, VE3TCM 228-3480
Flea Market	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV 521-8910, ve3zov@rac.ca
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Publicity & Programs	Open
Radio Operations	Evan DeCorte, VE3DEC 722-8929, pebd@cyberus.ca
Technical	John Pope, VE3ACI 989-3629, pope@sce.carleton.ca

OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM	Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY	Ed Morgan, VE3GX
Gerry King, VE3GK	Fred Noble, VE3BAJ
Bill Wilson, VE3NR	

Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC is pleased to exchange newsletters with the following Amateur Radio Clubs across Canada and the United States.

Algoma ARA	Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Augusta ARA	Augusta, ME, USA
Border City ARA	Windsor, ON
Chatham-Kent ARC	Chatham, ON
Calgary ARC	Calgary, AB
Comox Valley ARC	Comox, BC
Halifax ARC	Halifax, NS
Heritage ARC	Coburg, ON
Kingston ARC	Kingston, ON
Lambton County ARC	Sarnia, ON
London ARC	London, ON
Metroplex ACA	New York, NY, USA
Ottawa ARC	Ottawa, ON
Pioneer ARC	Nepean, ON
Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)	Ottawa, ON
Rideau Lakes ARC	Smiths Falls, ON
Scarborough ARC	Scarborough, ON
Seaway Valley ARC	Cornwall, ON
Sudbury ARC	Sudbury, ON
Surrey ARC	Surrey, BC
Saskatoon ARC	Saskatoon, SK
Thousand Island ARC	Brockville, ON
Truro ARC	Truro, NS
West Island ARC	Dorval, QC
Winnipeg ARC	Winnipeg, MB

Sponsors

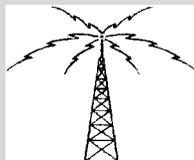
The OVMRC gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities by providing them with courtesy copies of the *Rambler*.

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON
TakeOne Info System, Ottawa, ON



OVMRC code phone:

Practise your CW!
737-0197



OVMRC Repeater:

147.300 MHz (+)
444.200 MHz (+)



OVMRC web page:

<www.ovmrc.on.ca/ovmrc>
Webmaster - John Rodger, VE3JR
<jrodger@takeone.com>



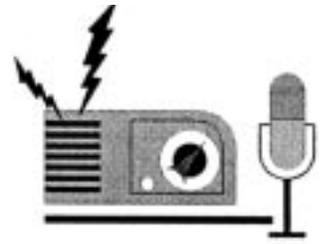
Next Meeting:

☞ April 15, 1999
Rambler Deadline:
☞ April 23, 1999

The *Rambler* is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. and is published 11 times a year (monthly, except for July). Opinions expressed in the *Rambler* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC Inc., its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited. Submit articles to the editor by e-mail to: <ve3mog@igs.net>.

Strays

Comments by OVMRC President,
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY



The Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award criteria was approved at the March meeting with simply a name change being required to obtain approval by those in attendance. The award is now known as “The Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award” and the criteria become part of the club’s bylaws. Nomination of candidates for the award and voting for the winner will now take place in the fall, following the close of the club year.

Much learned about “Top Band” 160 metres

Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, made an interesting presentation at the March meeting on 160-metre operations. We learned about the influence of the ionosphere on 160 metres and “grayline” propagation, as well as transmitting and receiving antennas (including the use of stealth wires and radials!). Bob also talked about the leaders in this mode of operation and played audio tapes containing messages received in CW form. Real pioneering can still be accomplished on this band. Thanks, Bob, for your encouraging presentation and a job well done.

Coffee help needed for April and May

Thanks to Miles Copeland, VA3COA, and his wife Margaret, VA3COB, who have provided us with refreshments after the club meetings. As they have now headed south with plans to return in June, we need assistance with this task for the April and May meetings. If you are interested in temporarily taking this on, please contact me before the April club meeting. I have the coffee equipment at my house and, if contacted by a volunteer, will bring it to the next meeting.

Time for show and tell!

The April meeting is homebrew night. Bring your projects and show us what you have done. Three judges will be selected from the members in attendance at the April meeting who have not entered items for consideration, and prizes will be awarded for up to three of the better projects.

To provide a slight twist to the event, Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, is trying to arrange an exhibit on the reach of our radio nets as well as to demonstrate video transmission of our monthly meetings.

Where I’m coming from

Before saying a few words regarding next year’s executive, I would like to relate my background with the club. I first served on the executive as the Vice-president for a year, and then as President for two years. Coincidentally, I found myself looking after training. Prior to taking on these jobs I had attended the other club and found that, at the time, it was run by a clique which tended to ignore its membership. This neglect led to a generally poor turnout and opinion of its leadership.

Thus, when I came on board, then-president Alan Boyce and I determined to make this a members’ club where everyone felt welcome to participate in a variety of jobs. To this end, we rewrote the club bylaws to provide opportunity for the membership to participate in leading the club. We created a number of new committees, headed by chairmen who would sit on the board.

Further, we decided that to prevent the leadership from becoming stale, we would limit the term in office to two years. Subsequently, we found the membership increased quite dramatically.

Nominations process key to club vitality

I am afraid, however, that we have slipped back into some of those old ways and as a consequence, we have lost the vitality that comes when you take on a new job. To help open up this club to its membership, we set up an executive nominations process, now described in the bylaws, calling for the executive to appoint three club members to act as the nominating committee. This nominating committee must be appointed by the end of April.

Strays, continued on page 10

Minutes

February 18 & March 18, 1999
general meetings
taken by Patricia Rowan, VA3PUR



February 18, 1999 General Meeting

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, opened the meeting and welcomed two guests, Les, VE3KFS, and Jim, VE3XJ.

Gliding: Len Gelfand, VE3LGZ, invited all to sign up with the Gatineau Gliding Club for a ride in a glider, possibly May 10-14. Those wishing to participate can call 749-5101 or call Larry, VE3WEH, at 747-5565.

Girl Guides: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, asked for volunteers for the GOTA event at the museum on February 20. He also thanked those who took part in White Cane Week.

Amateur Coastal Station Special Event: Maurice-André, VE3VIG, announced that this event was in honour of the personnel involved in staffing the Coastal Stations and this would take place on April 10-11. The frequency will be published in March. The web site to visit is <http://come.to/rnars>

Emergency Response: our guest speaker was Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS, who gave a presentation of the plans and our responsibilities on this matter. We were once again urged to fill out the survey forms to help formulate our preparedness.

The 50/50 draw (\$32.50) was won by Ian, VE3MUD. The meeting then adjourned for coffee and home-baked cookies. ❖

Next Club Meeting

Win a Prize for your Home Brew Project!

Date: Thursday, April 15, 1999

Time: 7:30 p.m. sharp!

Place: Museum of Science & Technology

Featured Topic: Home Brew Night

March 18, 1999 General Meeting

President Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, welcomed us all to the meeting. The first order of business was the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award criteria. Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, was invited to speak on this subject. He outlined a brief history of the background to the award.

A general discussion followed: Len Gelfand, VE3LGZ, commented that the name of the award was not specific and made a motion to rename the award the Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award. He also suggested that the award have the added criteria of outstanding service to the community, not specifically related to Amateur Radio.

The motion to rename the award was put forward by Len Gelfand, VE3LGZ, and seconded by Don Raymond, VE3DRO.

Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, asked, why the award is restricted to OVMRC members. Answer: This was the choice of the original meeting held by the members.

He also asked if Jerry's widow had been consulted? Answer, yes she was, most assuredly.

The motion to amend the award was as follows: open the award to any licensed amateur in the Greater Capital area, including Hull and the Outaouais, was put forward by Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, and seconded by Glen McLeod, VE3GLN.

Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG, asked, "Is the paddle paid for by the OVMRC?"

Answer: Yes, it is.

Minutes, continued on page 5

March *Minutes*, continued from page ④

Paul Dugay, VE3NPD, asked: Are Amateurs from the Hull and Outaouais region eligible for the award? Answer: Not at present.

Ken Barry, VE3KJB, asked: Should a club award be open to all Amateurs?

Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, commented that the criteria should be for one year as opposed to many years. Ian Kennedy, VE3MUD, commented that there are other awards, and that this one should be for the OVMRC members only. John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, agreed that the club award should be kept in the club.

There was a motion by Paul Duguay, VE3NPD, to vote by a show of hands. The amendment to open the award to any licensed amateur in the Greater Capital area, including Hull and the Outaouais, was voted upon and defeated.

The motion to rename the award the Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award was then voted upon and declared passed.

A motion to vote on the published criteria and nomination form was proposed by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, and seconded by Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, voted on and passed. Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, thanked Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, and then asked for volunteers for the Nomination Committee.

Rob Ludlow, VE3YE, said that he has acquired a large quantity of surplus of RG-213 coax in 20-ft. lengths and had some in the back of his vehicle available to anyone who wanted it.

Brice Wightman, VE3EDR, spoke about a recent visit to a Grade 3 class. He had presented a talk about Morse code and it was very well received. He commented that it was "Sowing seeds for the future." He invited others to do the same.

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, spoke about the upcoming 25th anniversary of the station, VE3JW. Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG, Ken Barry, VE3KJB, and Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, will be manning the station and a special card will be issued. Ernie reported on the recent White Cane week event and the GOTA special event.

Doug, VE3ATY, announced that Ken Halcrow would be in charge of Emergency Preparedness and volunteers would be welcomed to that committee.

Our guest speaker, Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, spoke on DX on 160 metres. He spoke of Stu Perry, a well-known expert on this band. Bob became interested in 1951 and worked his first contacts in England and Ireland in 1952. He recommended some books on low-end DX and showed some of his trophies. Bob played some of his recording of the transmissions and invited us to decipher the DX call signs.

Doug, VE3ATY, thanked Bob for his presentation and announced that a volunteer for the refreshments was needed for the next two meetings. He also congratulated Graham Bennet, VE3GBD, for his exam success and in acquiring his licence.

The 50/50 prize of \$35.00 was won by Gordon Charland, VA3III, and the door prize of a Pen Pad was won by Keith Gowanlock, VE3DBG. The members then adjourned to the foyer and enjoyed coffee and cookies. ❖

Gliding for Radio Amateurs

Amateurs wishing to watch or participate in gliding can do so at the Gatineau Gliding Club's Pendleton gliderport May 10-14. Bring your own food for the BBQ! Introductory flights are \$30. Contact Len, VE3LGZ, at 749-5101 or Larry, VE3WEH, at 747-5565. ❖

Check into the Pothole Net!

Schedule: Sundays, 10:00 a.m. local time
Where: 3760 kHz (LSB)
Format: Ragchew, often including discussion of topical Amateur Radio issues, and informal "swap" opportunities
Controller: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

Local Hams Celebrate 25th Anniversary of VE3JW

by Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG

Friday, March 19, 1999, marked the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the VE3JW radio station in the National Museum of Science and Technology at Ottawa. I had never seen the station so busy!

Renovations at the Museum in 1995 moved the radio station into a new area. Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, a recent silent key, along with other Amateurs and Museum staff, deserve much credit for the excellent modern exhibit, layout and equipment, in use now.

The Museum itself had been very busy all week.

Paula, the Museum Special Events Coordinator, met me early when I showed up to open the radio station. She wanted to know if we had any special requirements for the day and whether the station was going to be manned continuously. During the week, 3,500 visitors were recorded and, on this Friday, many more were expected.

I started by calling on the 20 m band. "This is VE3JW Special Event Station celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Radio Station VE3JW at the Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa, the Capital of Canada." I was surprised to hear the many stations responding, so early in the morning, to congratulate us. One of the first callers was a station in Moscow, Russia, and it was followed up by many other stations in Europe.

By that time, Colin, VA3CSG, had arrived and was

busy setting up the Amateur TV equipment for a demo to the public. He also took time to open up the packet station and launch a bulletin announcing the anniversary. He kept an eye on the packet monitor and answered many messages of congratulations.

From my position at the HF radio, I glanced over my shoulder and saw myself on the ATV monitor! I knew immediately that Colin was successful in setting it up and I wondered if he was transmitting my picture all over the world! The camera was on a tripod behind me and focused on the HF position so that visitors could see what I was doing while being

able to listen to the contacts that I was making with different parts of the world.

While Colin took care of the packet station, Patricia, VA3PUR, came in to say hello and I paused operation on HF to talk to visitors. Then, Colin went to 2 m FM transmission and logged many congratulatory QSOs from local stations while I was explaining satellite communications with

the help of the computer software.

Shortly after noon, Ken, VE3KJB, and Larry, VE3WEH, came in and prepared to take on the Trans-Provincial Net on 40 m as control station from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Announcing the Special Event, they got a flood of well-wishers. They were so busy that even the spectrum analyser display that we had connected to the transceiver seemed to have difficulty keeping up with Larry's vocal oscillations!



Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG, runs Special Event Station, VE3JW on its 25th anniversary.

After my "tour of Europe," I turned the TH7DX beam towards Eastern Canada and called "CQ Canada East" to cover the Eastern Provinces. Following the TPN, I directed the beam towards Western Canada and started calling. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC responded while an unusual amount of visitors were filing through the exhibit.

I finished up on the 15 m band, at the tail end of its usability, with some interesting contacts from Spain, Scotland, England and Eire, all wishing us well on this special day. At the end of the day, we had worked 2 m FM, 2 m packet, 10, 15, 20 and 40 m SSB and CW, while demonstrating ATV, computer-assisted satellite tracking and MIR space station trajectory and overpass.

Colin Guillas, a 16-year-old newly licensed Amateur, demonstrated outstanding radio Amateur qualities in providing valuable assistance while showing eagerness, enthusiasm, determination and ability. Ernie, VE3EJJ, prepared a special event sticker for our QSL cards, which were eagerly requested from the many callers. Unlike a contest or a DXpedition, we took time to chat with each contact and answered many questions from visitors.

The activity at the VE3JW station on its 25th Anniversary would have caused Jim and Jerry to be jubilant. ❖



Colin Guillas, VA3CSG, at the mike.

How did VE3JW get started?

by Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

The call sign, VE3JW, was originally held by Jim W. Cotter, an early radio Amateur who did not have the gift of sight because of an unfortunate childhood accident. He became a silent key in 1969 at the age of 67. Jim was a personal friend of Ed Morgan, VE3GX, who had the job of erecting an antenna for him whenever he moved. His transmitter was a Johnson Viking II, which he operated with the aid of an audio output device, developed by Ed, that was used in parallel with the panel meters of the transmitter and antenna matcher.

When Jim's call sign became available, Ed had the idea of a demonstration Amateur station in the communications section of the National Museum of Science and Technology in Jim's memory and that of early radio pioneers.

Ed had to reserve the vacated call sign, sell the idea to the Museum's exhibit curator, and get an equipment supplier on board, all of which he was able to accomplish after getting the go-ahead from the club.

The equipment supplier was Heathkit, who made a long-term loan of the following kits that were assembled by club members: HW-101 transceiver, HP-23B power supply, SB-600 speaker, HDP-21A microphone, SB-610 monitor scope, SB-200 linear amplifier. A 30' tower with a Mosley 3-element tri-band beam was installed on the roof of the Museum by club members.

Station operation was inaugurated on the evening of March 19, 1974, with Jayne Arbuckle, the 9-year-old granddaughter of Jim Cotter, sending the first signal with a 10" spark coil transmitter, the sort used by the first transatlantic station, VAS, at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia (and similar to the unit located in the display beside VE3JW). The station operated in this configuration for several years until the communications exhibit was revamped over a period of about three years.

VE3JW, continued on page 10

Joe, VE3BAD, Does Good Turn for Blind Amateurs

by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Joe Blanchette, VE3BAD, an unsung hero from the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club, has been teaching Amateur Radio to many visually impaired and blind Amateurs over the last 10 years. Thanks to Joe, all of these students with special needs have taken the Amateur Radio test with successful results. He takes very little credit for his accomplishments but, rather, obtains a great sense of satisfaction from teaching Amateur radio in his quiet, unassuming manner.

George Horne said, "Patience strengthens the spirit, sweetens the temper, stifles anger, extinguishes envy, subdues pride, bridles the tongue, restrains the hand, and tramples upon temptations." Joe fits this description to a "T" and his most recent graduate, Graham Bennett, VE3GBD, agrees.

Over the years, Joe has developed a unique program for teaching Amateur Radio to the visually impaired. He has created his own series of 11 cassette tapes which provide the basis for students to learn electronic and radio theory. He also uses some special circuits which he built along with magnets, speakers, and an oscillator, to demonstrate various electronic theories.

Joe devotes himself to the teaching task and spends many hours on the telephone or in person, explaining and providing examples to reinforce what the student is learning. More importantly, he is very patient and gives positive encouragement to every student. He never thinks any question from a student is silly or insignificant, and will provide an answer and further direction.

His students listen to each tape for a week or longer. Joe asks questions based on the tapes to determine what they have learned. Joe tailors his course to each individual and, depending on the individual's capabilities, the course may take 18 weeks or longer to complete. Rather than a written examination like you had to undertake, Joe's students are given a verbal examination.



Graham Bennet, VE3GBD, (at left) is congratulated by Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD.

Graham, VE3GBD, passed the examination administered by Wayne Poulter, VE3WDP, Delegated Examiner. He very proudly obtained a score of 100% for Rules and Regulations and 97% in electronic and radio theory!

The following Friday, Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, and I drove Graham down to the Industry Canada office and he obtained his call sign.

We were also present with Graham at the National Museum of Science and Technology Amateur Radio Station, VE3JW, when he checked in to the Trans-Provincial Net and proudly informed Grace, VE3HZB, Net Control Station at Elliot Lake, of his accomplishment. With Tom's assistance, his next HF contact was with Herb, W2ET (KR2G), on Haderis Island. He also had a nice QSO with Paul, VE3NPD, and received congratulations from all.

Congratulations to all the others as well as to Graham – welcome to the Amateur community! He has already had many enjoyable QSOs with his new friends and I'm sure he will enjoy meeting people around the world once he obtains his Morse Code qualification and moves onto the HF bands. ❖

Yesteryear

A look at *Ramblers* past,
by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH



The 25th Anniversary of VE3JW was a very successful special event! You can read more about it elsewhere in this issue.

Speaking of VE3JW, Bob Baillargeon, VE3MPG, *Rambler* Editor, noted in the January 1989 issue of the *Rambler* that VE3JW would be shutting down on January 27, 1989 for a few months. The Museum had plans for renovation work in several areas of the museum.

Membership reaches new heights

The Minutes of the December 15, 1989 meeting noted Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ, reported membership stood at 149 members – a new high. He asked for an indication of interest in a name badge and would try to have a sample for the next meeting.

Field Day results in *QST* showed VE3JW in 3rd place for its class.

A history of the daily Communications Ontario Net (COMSONT) on 7.074, was given by speaker Bob Campbell, VE3KLK. Its purpose is to have operators available in case of emergencies anywhere in the province.

Towns and cities are called in alphabetical order by the controller and hams are invited to check in. There have been 256 Amateurs in 143 municipalities. Total check-ins for a year are about 16,000, with a daily average of about 45. Bob was looking for a replacement Net Manager after serving for nine years.

Following the meeting, coffee and refreshments were provided by Evelyn MacKinnon, VE3OAM.

Primer given on history of integrated circuits

Russ Pastuch, VE3FSN, submitted an article by Gina de Miranda of Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas in the November 1988 issue of *Canadian Electronics Engineering* magazine, which paid tribute to Jack Kilby, who invented Integrated Circuits (ICs) 30

years earlier. Jack was an engineer with Texas Instruments. When transistors replaced vacuum tubes, the world searched for a method to connect configurations of components inexpensively.

Kilby's invention of the IC solved the problem. He set out to build an integrated circuit, and using a sliver of germanium mounted on a glass slide, he built a phase-shift oscillator. On September 12, 1958, he connected a power source to his device and applied 10 volts. A sine wave flickered across the screen of an oscilloscope. The age of ICs had begun.

Invention takes off

His breakthrough was followed by IC computers in 1961. A computer for the US Air Force was built. It was 6.3 cubic inches in volume, weighed 10 ounces with fewer than 600 parts and proved that ICs were practical and had a potential. Built conventionally, the same computer weighed 480 ounces, had a volume of 1,000 cubic inches and consisted of 8,500 individual components!

However, designers and engineers accustomed to hands-on design work with plug-in components were unsure how to work with ICs. This new invention then, too small to see or work with, would have to wait.

Texas Instruments President, Pat Haggerty, challenged Kilby to create a calculator that would be powerful and small enough to fit in a short pocket. In 1967 they demonstrated a hand-held calculator capable of the basic four functions and it soon became apparent that ICs were important.

Over the next 30 years, ICs became specialized for unique functions such as digital signal processing, video random access memory and voice synthesis. We owe a lot of thanks to Jack!

Next month: "In Defence of QN" by Charles King, VE3PDK, and other interesting history! ♣

VE3JW, continued from page ⑦

During this period, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS (SK) took responsibility for the station and, along with a few others, designed the current station configuration. Then, with Cy Webster, VE3SIY, he arranged for a New Horizons grant from the Department of Health and Welfare to purchase the equipment that we enjoy today: a Kenwood TS-850 transceiver, Ameritron ALS-600 linear, Cushcraft 7-element tri-band beam, and a multi-band vertical antenna, to name the major items. The station log shows that it does very well in DX operation, regularly reaching European and African countries, and occasionally Australia and New Zealand.

VE3JW is staffed on a volunteer basis, mainly by members of this club, although as a national demonstration station, it is available to any licensed Amateur.

A few years ago, the OVMRC undertook to operate the station for a minimum of 500 hours per year in exchange for the use of the Museum's facilities for our monthly meetings and course requirements. So far, we have successfully met this obligation. ❖

Strays, continued from page ③

By surveying the membership to find people willing to take up the challenge, the nominations committee then presents a list of executive candidates to the June meeting for consideration by the members in attendance.

Getting nominated made easy

The bylaws also allow members to come forward and stand for election, their candidacy simply requiring a signed statement indicating a willingness to take on the position and nomination by two members in good standing. Nominations must be received by the nominating committee two weeks prior to the June meeting.

This mechanism is designed to prevent someone being excluded because of any biases that may exist. All offices are open and anyone can come forward and put his or her name forward for consideration by the membership. I am calling now, then, for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. Please let any member of the executive know at the next general meeting that you are willing to give a hand on this very important committee. ❖

Notice of Motion for April 15

Criteria for Provision of Communications Assistance

All applicants requesting radio communication assistance from the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC) must:

- a) be a publicly recognized, not-for-profit organization known to be contributing to the public interest;
- b) have submitted an application written and addressed to the OVMRC;
- c) send the request at least four weeks prior to the event in which radio communication assistance is required.

Any requests considered to be emergencies by the

OVMRC may be exempt from subsection c).

All submissions not meeting the above criteria are to be denied radio communication assistance from the OVMRC.

All submissions received by or on behalf of the OVMRC should be passed to the Operations Chairperson, or his or her designate, for consideration and decision using the aforementioned criteria.

The OVMRC Executive is to be informed of any decisions made by the Operations Chairperson regarding any requests made to the OVMRC and the reasons therefor.

All applicants for radio communication assistance from the OVMRC are to be answered with the decision of the OVMRC within two weeks of receipt of the original request. ❖