



Inside...

Ramblings

Words from our President 3

Meeting Minutes

From our June 17th Meeting 4

Executive Meeting 23 June 5

Operation of VE3JW

Annual Report 6

Award Nomination

Jerry Wells OVMRC 10

Amateur of the Year Award
Nomination Form 11

Lighthouse Activity Weekend 12

HAMNOT 13

OVMRC Membership
Application 14

Reminders...

Renew your Membership NOW!

Lighthouse Event Aug 21-22
NMST

OARC Hamfest Sep 4
Carp Agricultural Fair

Next Club Meeting Sep 16
NMST

“WHAT A FIELD DAY!”

By Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Other than the intense heat, it was a nearly perfect weekend for Field Day! This year really proved our abilities to set up our equipment and operate under Emergency conditions! We had fewer participants than last year, daytime temperatures throughout Saturday and Sunday of around 30 degrees Celsius with very high humidity and we encountered and overcame some other minor problems.

For those of you that have never been to a Field Day or those that could not attend this year, you missed a good one! It takes a lot of effort to have a good Field Day. In addition to the planning and training sessions arranged by our Field Day Coordinator, Charles Morrison, VE3TCM, much effort was spent in preparing for Field Day. As soon as the rain stopped early Friday morning, Jake Guertin VA3TQX, Tom St Julien VA3OFD and yours truly, measured up the site and staked out locations of the towers, tents, antennas and the generators. Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, joined us later with his station wagon and trailer and we all drove over to Jake's parent's home at Aylmer, Quebec. We loaded up and moved about a ton (at least we thought so when we were finished!) of antennas, coax, electric cables, tents, towers, guy stakes, ground stakes, signs, ropes, lights, radios, and all sorts of other equipment to the National Museum of Science & Technology for overnight storage. We also made a trip to my home to pick up a BBQ, a tent and other stuff. About fifteen of us met at the site early Saturday morning and started setting up all the equipment. With Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ's able direction, the HF tower was assembled and the three element TH-33A Junior HF beam for 10-15-20M was mounted. Unfortunately, when the tower was raised to about 30 degrees, the lower section of the mast bent under its strain and came down onto Maurice-Andre's, VE3VIG (Very Instant Groaning!) shoulder! He has broad shoulders and fortunately, he suffered no injury. The bent mast was removed and replaced and the tower was raised again and guyed firmly into place under Ernie's cautious eye.

Jake's thirty one-foot, VHF 2M beam, was assembled and attached to the mast. His 6M Ringo Ranger vertical was

Continued Page: 8

Rambler

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



OVMRC Executive (1999-2000)

Affiliated Clubs

President Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG
833-2766, ve3mog@rac.ca
Vice-President Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS
837-3261, kenh@intranet.ca
Treasurer Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW
745-0608
Secretary Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC
748-6597
Assistant Secretary Dan Doctor, VE3XDD
dan.doctor@takeone.com

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

Algoma ARC
Augusta ARA
Border City ARA
Chatham-Kent ARC
Calgary ARC
Comox Valley ARC
Heritage ARC
Kingston ARC
Lambton County ARC
London ARC
Ottawa ARC
Pioneer ARC
Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)
Renfrew County ARC
Rideau Lakes ARC
Scarborough ARC
Sudbury ARC
Saskatoon ARC
Thousand Island ARC
West Island ARC
Winnipeg ARC

Sault Ste Marie, ON
Augusta, ME, USA
Windsor, ON
Chatham, ON
Calgary, AB
Comox, BC
Coburg, ON
Kingston, ON
Sarnia, ON
London, ON
Ottawa, ON
Nepean, ON
Ottawa, ON
Pembroke, ON
Smiths Falls, ON
Scarborough, ON
Sudbury, ON
Saskatoon, SK
Brockville, ON
Dorval, PQ
Winnipeg, MAN

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG
749-9010, vig@takeone.com
Amateur Radio Training Bob Shaw, VESUY
737-944, lycott@fox.nstn.ca
Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ
728-3666
Gilles Morin, VE3VGW
824-0018
Field Day Charles Morrison, VE3TCM
228-3480, morrich@navcanada.ca
Historical Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
747-5565, larry.wilcox@takeone.com
Flea Market John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV
521-8910, ve3zov@rac.ca
Membership Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD
747-9577, tom.st.julien@takeone.com
Newsletter Bill Hall, VA3WMH
830-5580, va3@wmh@rac.ca
Publicity & Programs Don Raymond, VE3DRO
737-7740, ve3dro@chatcan.ca
Radio Operations Ken Barry, VE3KJB
746-4823, kennan@storm.ca
Technical Open

Sponsors

The **OVMRC** 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

OVMRC Life Members

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

The *Rambler* is produced using Corel's Ventura 8 Publisher.



OVMRC code phone

Practice your CW
737-0197



OVMRC Repeater

147.300 Mhz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)



OVMRC web page

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>
Webmaster: John Rodgers,
VE3JR, jrودger@takeone.com



Next Meeting

Sep 16, 1999
Rambler Deadline
Sep 3, 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 or by e-mail to: va3wmh@rac.ca.

Ramblings

by Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG
President, OVMRC

At the June Executive meeting, I asked the assembled group what they thought of the vision, values and goals I had outlined at the June Annual General Meeting (AGM). I knew it was all very well for me to enthusiastically explain what I was about and where I was hoping the club could go this year, but when you're talking about a club, centred around a hobby, and run by volunteers, you're not going to go very far unless you have at least a few other people pulling in the same direction!

So I wrote the following on a flip chart:

Vision: OVMRC is *the* club to join!

Values: Integrity, Accessibility, Openness to Change, Positivity, & Order/Organization

Goal areas: To create entertaining/stimulating meetings; to increase the club's on-air activity; to be ready and available for public service; to provide a forum for social interaction, and to educate and to attract new entrants to the hobby.

One member immediately reacted that the vision, values and goal areas I had outlined were "meaningless ... words on paper," and another likened my corporate management theory-inspired platform to something approaching the likeness of bovine excrement.

And they were absolutely right.

Every speech I could spew or policy I could postulate would be completely meaningless — if not misleading and deceitful — if there were no follow-up, no action, no due diligence done. Progress requires words plus action, and shortly after accepting this position as President, no action had yet been taken.

The platform above, though, is only a starting point, a map, as it were, to let you know where I'd like to go with the club this year, and, if you're interested, it is an invitation to join us as we embark on a new club year.

I certainly hope that you'll join us because I don't want you to miss what is going to be a busy and interesting year. The club meetings, in particular, might seem a little different to you as we try our best to deliver the kinds of programs that will appeal to most, if not all, of our members.

To help focus efforts to organize meetings you're not going to want to miss, I asked the Executive why they think members come out to meetings in the first place. The answer, in large part, was threefold: to socialize, to be entertained, and to learn something about Amateur Radio.

I am sure this answer comes as no great revelation, and that all previous club presidents have tried to deliver the fun and educational meetings all members would enjoy. But one thing that seems to interfere with this intention to have great meetings — and one criticism of the OVMRC that I keep hearing from both within and outside the club — is our tendency to address a fair amount of club business at general meetings.

As a not-for-profit, incorporated club, sure, we need to make decisions about spending money and policy and procedures and the like, but is participation in those discussions and choices the primary reason people join the club and come to meetings? My guess is no. What do you think?

More on club meetings next month. Before I close, I wish to thank: my predecessor, Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, for his time and energy on behalf of the club last year; all the volunteers who made this year's Field Day a success; the current Executive for its ideas and support; and our new *Rambler* Editor, Bill Hall, VA3WMH, for taking on what I know to be a substantial undertaking!

Take care, and enjoy the rest of the summer!

OVMRC Annual General Meeting Minutes

JUNE 17/99

Vice President Jacques Choquette opened the meeting at 1940 hours by welcoming members to the Club's Annual General Meeting. Ziggy Bernhoff, VE3RY, asked for help in finding approximately 150 feet of coax cable.

Treasurer Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW, presented the membership with the proposed 1999- 2000 Club budget. He reviewed listed item providing rationale and explanation for each. Considerable discussion ensued concerning the segregation of club's bank account into two funds; one for club activities and one for the amateur training course. It was moved by Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, seconded by Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, and approved that the budget allocation for the Rambler be increased by \$500 to cover the possible cost of engaging someone to edit the newsletter. Treasurer Peter Hafichuk moved, seconded by John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, and approved to adopt the amended budget for 1999-2000.

Charles Morrison, VE3TCM, provided a report on field day plans. Charles explained that we will be having HF, UHF, VHF, 6 meters, in CW and Phone . He asked for those interested in operating during field day to sign up on sheets which were available. He also asked for volunteers to help with set-up on Saturday morning and takedown on Sunday afternoon. It was pointed out that an invitation had been extended to the members of PARC to participate in our field day operations. PARC will again this year loan us their generator.

Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reviewed the various paragraphs of our Bylaws which apply to the election of officers. A major requirement being that a minimum of 15% of the Club's membership must be present to officially conduct the election. Forty-two members were present which is more than required. Dan presented the slate of officers and declared the Executive Officer elected by acclamation. He pointed out that Standing Committee Chairpersons are not elected but are appointed by the President.

EXECUTIVE

President - Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG

Vice President - Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS

Treasurer - Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW

Secretary - Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC

Assist. Secretary - Dan Doctor, VE3XDD

STANDING COMMITTEES

Amateur Radio Exhibit - Maurice Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG

Radio Course - Bob Shaw, VE3SUY

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

Gilles Morin, VE3VGM

Delegated Examiner - Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ

Emergency Response - Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS

Field Day - Charles Morrison, VE3TCM

Flea Market - John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV

Historical - Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Membership - Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD

Bruce Mallon, VA3BWM

Publicity & Programs - Don Raymond, VE3DRO

Newsletter - Vacant

Radio Operations - Vacant

Technical - Chair is Vacant

Arthur Smith , Assistant, VA3BIT

Jacques Choquette handed President-Elect Susan the President's gavel and "key to the Executive Washroom". Bob Campbell, VE3KLLK, provided an amusing historical account of how the gavel and "key" came into being.

Susan then addressed the membership and listed her vision for the Club citing her "values" and "goals". She said she wanted the **OVMRC** to be a thriving and dynamic organization with a positive attitude. Emphasis will be placed on the "This is our Club" rather than this is your club. Susan concluded by thanking the executive for their hard work.

The door prizes were won by Ziggy Bernhoff, VE3RY and Jim, VE3JGY. The 50/50 draw was won by Bill Monuk, VE3BDK. The meeting was adjourned at 2105 for coffee and cookies and ragchew.

OVMRC Executive Meeting Notes

June 23/99

Opened 1905 hrs:

Maurice-Andre - Commented that with the quick, early departure of the Past President Doug Carswell that nothing had been done to thank him for his efforts. He should be commended for what he had done for the club and possibly asked to return for other taskings.

This was tabled for future thought.

Jacques - Moved that the June executive meetings be approved. Seconded by Tom

Susan - Went ahead with the presentation of her goals and vision/values for the club's future. I.e. - create entertaining and stimulating monthly meetings, increase on air activity, be ready and available for public service, provide a forum for social interaction, educate and attract new people.

Most of those present were in agreement with her ideas for the club to follow. A variety of subjects were presented with several ideas on how to improve them:

a) Meetings - technical, emergency, APRS, digital modes, nets. b) How suggestions be put forward - suggestion box, thru the Rambler, to Programs chairperson. c) Club outings - Montreal visit to Teleglobe, DXpeditions, emergency power sources, airport tour, use of test gear, weekend radio trip, new equipment familiarization, operating procedures. d) School programs - some presentations, in what manner? Noted that we must have approval of the school boards before we are allowed to do anything. Contact Bryce Wightman or Gerry King for ideas.

Ken - Some slight changes to be made to the Radio Ops Public Assistance Policy: make a rotating list of net operators (i.e. - Pot Hole Net), get up to date net controllers. He volunteered to form a group to assess what is required at the repeater site.

Ken - Repeater status: what improvements to be made, system can last for awhile if adjustments and care done. Books and spare receiver to be retrieved from John Pope

VE3ACI and who would fill that position? Rick VE3IHI had done excellent work in the past on the repeater. Possible that for future use tones be taken off.

Possible club contest - "Worked All OVMRC". Any club member could participate to receive a certificate. Modes: HF, VHF, base, mobile.

Ken - Ref Y2K: do a weekend exercise to give net controllers and participants a couple of hours of experience. Larry to give him a hand with this. Maurice Gervais who builds J-Poles has offered one for club emergency use.

Public awareness - how do we approach people, ensure volunteers are ready. To make the public aware of us use cable, newspapers, etc.

Secretary - requires 8.5 x 11 sheets and envelopes with club logo.

Dan - moves that position be allowed to purchase 500 sheets and 500 envelopes. Ken seconded. Approved.

Club coffee service - The Copelands are back but to be aware that they leave to go south during winter (Nov or Dec) and replacements are required.

OARC fleamarket - A table was offered to us. For what use? Len Gelfand VE3LGZ and Ernie could possibly use for manuals and equipment.

Susan - Possible we have a joint venture with the other clubs for some social interaction. Picnic?

Mentioned that the description of each of the executive positions be added to the bylaws. This was put aside for debate at another meeting.

Tom - looking for Pentium computer for digital mode use at Field Day

Jacques, VE3TSC

Secretary

Operation of VE3JW

During 1998/99 Club Year

The first event of the year, although not strictly associated with VE3JW, did use some of JW's equipment and was conducted on the Museum site.

It was the Lighthouse event that occurred in the latter part of August, 1998. During the event lighthouses and light ships were activated around the world for a weekend. As there is a light house at the Museum we were able to participate. It was like a mini field day. 20, 40 and 80 metre dipoles were fastened to the upper railing of the lighthouse with the outboard ends supported by the push up field day masts. Thirty-five volunteer operators were organized to man the station, located in the light house for the greater part of the 48 hour period. The event which was organized by Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, was very popular with the public and as a result was a great hit with the Museum Administrators. It is anticipated that it will be repeated again this year, August 21-22. They will be operating during Museum hours only, that is from 9AM to 5PM.

During the summer and fall of 1998 other efforts at the station were mainly devoted to maintenance and building up station hours on the air so as to meet our commitment to the Museum in this regard. Station projects involving the public got under way with the annual Talk To Santa on the afternoon of 13 December, 1998. This has become an annual and expected event at the Museum, being advertised in the Museum news letter to its members. Our jolly Santa on the air was Don, VE3DRO. His elves were: Larry, VE3WEH, Patricia, VA3PUR, Linda, VA3LJB, Bill, VE3NPG, John and Mrs. Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, Dan, VE3XDD, and Ernie, VE3EJJ. There were 86 contacts with Santa by the young museum visitors, (11 more than the previous year). Certificates attesting to the contact were prepared on site by Dan, VE3XDD, with his script typewriter for pickup by the youngsters as they left the Museum. The year to year increase in public participation in the event shows its increasing

popularity. Our thanks to the operators that made the event a success by their energy and enthusiasm.

The next event was something new for VE3JW. It was a tribute to the white cane operators in the area. It took place during white cane week which begins with the first Sunday in February each year. In preparation for this event a voice synthesizer unit was obtained and installed in the station's TS850S transceiver. It gives an aural output of the frequency to which the set is tuned with the push of a button. We arranged for 6 white caners to operate the station during the week. To accommodate transportation the escort operators volunteered to pick-up the white cane operator at their homes and to return them afterwards. The operators involved were as follows:

| <u>White cane operator</u> | | <u>Escort operator</u> | |
|----------------------------|--------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Brian | VE3YI | Ernie | VE3EJJ |
| Roger | VE3NPO | Evelyn Bernie | VE3ECW, VA3JBB |
| George | VE3XS | Ernie | VE3EJJ |
| Ian | VE3PSK | Ken | VE3SRS |
| Duncan | VE3GXU | John | VA3LAR |
| Bob | VA3AAB | Larry | VE3WEH |

It might be noted that Ian ran the Trans-provincial net for an hour from VE3JW. George, a former merchant marine operator, was asked to decipher the morse code signals of the Titanic distress message exhibit close by

Operation of VE3JW

During 1998/99 Club Year (Continued)

VE3JW. This was for a movie or video being made by a Montreal firm that had used the spark gap transmitter display beside VE3JW as a backdrop for one of its scenes. All in all the event was judged to be a success and should be considered another year. Our thanks to the operators and especially to the escort operators who made it run so smoothly.

The annual Girl Guides On The Air weekend occurred on 20-21 February, 1999. The purpose of the event is to let Guides from different parts of Canada and other countries talk to each other via the medium of amateur radio. In the process the girls learn the basic elements of using a PTT microphone, on-air procedure, and get an introduction to the phonetic alphabet. They also become acquainted with the idea of QSL cards. Some 40 girls availed themselves of the opportunity this year. We are most grateful to the following operators who made themselves available to make the event a success. John, VA3LAR, Ernie, VE3EJJ, Patricia, VA3PUR, Ken, VE3KJB, Tom, VE3WTJ, Liz, VA3ELB, Evelyne, VE3ECW, Bernie, VA3JBB.

The 25th anniversary of amateur radio at the Museum was celebrated on 19 March, 1999. In preparation, an article was written for the Rambler giving some background on the development of VE3JW and operators were arranged for the full time that the Museum was open. A total of 69 HF contacts were made beginning with Paul, W4LFP, in Jacksonville Fla. at 14:10 UTC and ending with Peter, G3ZKL, in Manchester, at 21:43 UTC. The HF contacts included 27 checks-in to the Trans-provincial net on 7.055 MHz which was run from VE3JW in the 19:00 -20:00 UTC time slot. On 2 metres Colin, VA3CSG, made 23 packet and local contacts including some in PEI, Holland and

Germany. QSL cards bearing a notation of the 25th anniversary at the Museum have been forwarded to all contacts made.

The final event of the year was undertaken to honour the 100 years of service the coastal stations around the world have provided to the safety of ships at sea. The technology of satellite communication has overtaken that provided by the coastal stations and they are scheduled to be phased out of service and shut down. VE3JW represented the marine station at Prescott and operated during the 10 - 11 April, 1999, event using the call sign CF3QRT. The event was organized at VE3JW by Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, who also was instrumental in obtaining the temporary special call sign.

At the beginning of the year each of the volunteer station operators was contacted personally to ascertain whether they wished to continue as qualified operators. Four were added to the list and 6 were removed. There are currently 44 operators on the list, although several are not active. The Club's agreement with the Museum for the use of its facilities for meetings and classes is that we will operate VE3JW and explain its workings to Museum visitors for a minimum of 500 hours each year during the period 1 September to the following 31 August. To the end of June this year the station has been operated for 598 hrs. All in all, we have had a very busy and successful year at VE3JW and we continue to meet our obligation to the Museum. I am sure I can count on you to support my successor, Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, as you have supported me in this worthwhile endeavour. May I take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteer VE3JW operators.

Ernie, VE3EJJ.

Field Day *(Continued)*

mounted to the very top. The tower was raised and guyed without incident. Our 40M dipole was mounted between the towers with some help from "Murphy." Just before the 2.00 p.m. start-up time, the centre connector came apart and the coax fell to the ground! Quickly, under Bob Shaw's guidance, the dipole was lowered to the ground, found to be "beyond repair" and a standby 40M dipole was lifted into place.

Our two thirty-foot high push up poles were erected and the 80M dipole was pulled into place. Coax cable and generator power cables were rolled out. The CW tent, Phone tent, combined VHF/UHF and Publicity tent, Satellite tent, Cook's shelter and tables and chairs were set up.

Jim Dean, VE3IQ, assisted Clare Fowler, VE3NPC, setting up his Satellite station and Clare's newly designed home brew antenna array. Clare even used an old windshield wiper motor to drive his home brew elevation system! Gord Grant, VE3DY lent a hand and steered the VHF/UHF antenna array during each pass of the satellite. They also had a square 10M antenna mounted on short poles just above waist level. After much experimentation with all kinds of 10M antennas, Clare has found the best to be the 10M square. The 4 Kilowatt generator belonging to the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club (PARC) was set up on the north east side of the berm to help lower the noise level at the operators' tents. Thanks to PARC once again for allowing us to use their generator during Field Day. It was looked after very dependably by Don Morris, VE3RCD. Thanks again to Don for a job so well done. We appreciate your assistance! Thanks also for the loan of your club's large tent.

In spite of the best efforts from those setting up, we didn't have enough help on hand to complete the set-up prior to 2:00 p.m. and could only get one station on the air by 2:00 p.m. Band conditions were not the best with a very high static noise from a solar flare which occurred the day before. However, we made up for that over the weekend. We had an unexpected amount of participation from our ladies and gentlemen who kept

our three stations operating most of the time. We were also forced to operate the phone station as a QRP station because of a failed power supply. In the true spirit of an emergency, Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG went home and brought in his power supply.

Recently licenced Graham Bennett, VE3GBD, attended his second Field Day and this year assisted in the Publicity tent. He demonstrated his special voice synthesized, dual-band, Yaesu radio, and informed our visitors about his efforts getting his amateur radio licence.

Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, our extraordinary chef, provided meals that were the envy of many! Delicious hamburgers and hot dogs, with all the fixings', fruit, cookies, and litres and litres of soft drinks, coffee and water! Dan served us his delicious homemade stew for the Saturday evening meal. With Jake's small generator, he "got the coffee brewing" Saturday morning and used it for making toast on Sunday morning to go along with the superb, bacon and eggs. Thanks Dan for all your work and effort in providing such great food to such a hungry bunch!

I spent more than 24 hours at the site and slept four hours in the small tent so saw much of what went on. Although we started out short of operators, we had a lot of volunteers who pitched in to fill the many operating vacancies. For instance, Ed Morgan, VE3GX and his affable wife, Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO, came over and operated CW on Saturday and Sunday. Bill Monuk, VE3BDK ("Broken Down Kenwood" from the Happy Valley) and his nephew Garry Monuk, VE3VFH, came over Saturday evening for a thirty minute visit. When I crawled into the small tent for some sleep at 1.45 a.m. Sunday morning, I fell asleep to Bill's call "CQ CQ Field Day, VE3RAM." When I awoke at 5.45 a.m., much to my surprise, I could still hear Bill calling "CQ CQ Field Day, VE3RAM!" Garry and Bill were still there!

Many other "Operators" and "Loggers" contributed to our score, including: our Field Day Chairperson, Charles Morrison, VE3TCM, Bob Shaw, VE3SUY,

Field Day *(Continued)*

Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, our new Rambler Editor Bill Hall VA3WMH, Larry Kearns, VE3WSB, Dan Doctor, VE3XDD logging for yours truly, Jake Guertin VA3TQX, VE3VFH, Gord Charland VA3III, Miles, VE3COA and Margaret Copeland, VE3COB, Graham Bennett, VE3GBD, Doug Leach, VE3XK, Ken Barry, VE3KJB, Tom St Julien VA3OFD, our President Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, and her husband Rob Ludlow, VE3YE, and others I may have missed.

Notably, Jake VA3TQX and Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, had some distant 6M contacts with: Nova Scotia, Florida, North and South Carolina, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri and with VY00 located on an island in James Bay, Nunavut.

Field Day visitors included the “New RO” TV and they spent about 30 mins late Saturday afternoon as the sun set. They interviewed and video taped several members operating and they gave us a very nice but short 70 second feature on their 11pm news. One of the visitors was a man who wants to take the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course next year. We also had visits from some local amateurs including Liz Johnson VA3ELB and Tom Johnson VA3WTJ, Phil Robinson VA3PR (our elder statesman), Nick Donnelly VA3NJD, one of our class graduates and youngest operator this year with his father tagging along. Nick usually operates on CW and for the first time in his life, he had his first phone contact at Field Day with guidance from Doug Leach. We also had visits from Rene Beaudry, VE3JKR, Ian Kennedy, VE3MUD who was on his way home from work, Patrick Tunney, VE3ZKG and no doubt, some others I did not see.

When the last contact was made at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, we gathered for the customary group photos. Jake VA3TQX did an excellent job of briefing the crew on lowering the towers and taking the antennas and towers apart. Everyone helped lower the two towers under Jake’s watchful eye and guidance. The two towers and other equipment was loaded into pick-up trucks belonging to Jake VA3TQX and Randy Nelson VA3RDN. We left about 4.30 p.m. for the trip to Randy’s home to store the equipment. Don Raymond, VE3DRO was kind enough to stay at the Field Day site to guard Jake’s equipment until we returned to load it up about 6:00 p.m.

I’m sure you are all curious about our score. Well, the total score has not been determined yet, but unofficially, we had a total of:

| Band | CW | Phone |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| 6 Metres | 0 | 23 |
| 10 Metres | 0 | 4 |
| 15 Metres | 33 | 5 |
| 20 Metres | 10 | 91 |
| 40 Metres | 60 | 82 |
| 80 Metres | 0 | 107 |
| TOTAL | 103 | 312 |

Plus 12 contacts on Satellite. Clare proudly announced he had managed to conduct a QSO through all six satellites.

Editors note: The claimed score was 1060 points + bonus points for 100% emergency power, publicity, location in a public place, information booth, and satellite.

Overall, I believe we had a very successful Field Day when you consider the limited turnout for this year. Congratulations and thanks to all of you for making it such a success! Special thanks to Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ who could only assist during the setup. Also special thanks to Tony MacDonald VA3KAM, who showed up for both the setup and tear down but was unable to attend during the rest of the weekend. We need more of his kind of help.

The business of storing, transporting, assembling and setting-up all the required equipment for such a large Field Day operation is a lot of work for the same people from year to year. Next year, we might operate without the towers and beams and simply go “back to basics and use dipoles in the trees.” Perhaps we could combine our efforts with the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC) or even several of the local clubs to put on an even larger Field Day!

If you would like to see photos of Field Day, please visit our Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Web Page:

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca/ovmrc/>

Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award

The **OVMRC** Inc. established the Jerry Wells Award in 1997 in recognition of Jerry Wells VE3CDS, 1928-1997, a life member and Silent Key. Jerry received the "Amateur of the Year Award" in June 1997 for his contribution of time, effort and devotion throughout the year to the Amateur Radio Course, his work as Delegated Examiner and his management of Amateur Radio Station, VE3JW, at the National Museum of Science and Technology. The Award was subsequently renamed the "Jerry Wells **OVMRC** Amateur of the Year Award" in his honour.

Please read the Award Criteria before completing the nomination form.

Selection Criteria and Process

The submission of nominees and selection of the award winner will be based on the following criteria.

1. Each nominee for the award must have been a fully paid up member of the OVMRC and a licenced Radio Amateur during the most recently completed club fiscal year starting July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 1999 (Award Year).
2. Nominations must be received in writing, in the required format (as shown), prior to, or during, the regular September meeting. Each nomination must be supported by not less than two Full Members who were in good standing during the Award Year, and must include a short narrative description of the nominee's contribution to Amateur Radio as specified in criterion 3, which follows.
3. To be eligible, nominees must have made a significant contribution during the Award Year to further any of the objectives of the OVMRC by:
 - a) contributing to the interest, study and progress of the science and art of Amateur Radio with particular emphasis on mobile operations;
 - b) cooperating with and assisting the civil authorities to the fullest extent possible in any emergency; or by
 - c) fostering good will and understanding among Radio Amateurs.
4. The eligibility of nominees will be verified by the Executive.
5. The names of the nominees and the short narrative descriptions provided by the nominators will be published in the October issue of the Rambler.
6. The Award winner will be determined by **SECRET BALLOT** by all members attending the regular meeting held in October. Two Full Members in good standing who are not nominees or nominators will be appointed by the President to scrutinize and tabulate the ballots.
7. The "Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award," consisting of a suitably engraved plaque and an engraved chrome plated iambic paddle keyer, or equivalent, will be presented to the winner at the November regular meeting.

Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year

Nomination Form

Please read the Award Criteria before completing this nomination form.

Please print

We wish to nominate: _____, Call Sign: _____,

for the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award. We believe the above-named Amateur deserves to be honoured with this award for the following reasons:

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

Signed: _____

Print Name & Call Sign: _____

Signed: _____

Print Name & Call Sign: _____

Lighthouse Activity Weekend

Excellent news for all radio amateurs in the Ottawa-Hull area.

I obtained permission to hold the Lighthouse Activity Weekend from inside the NMST Lighthouse. Hope you'll all be around for the weekend of 21-22 Aug. We will be operating during Museum hours only, that are from 9AM to 5PM.

As most of the contacts were logged on the 20m band last year, and as it was the main band in use during the day time, we will be using only one antenna, on the 20m band.

I am now drawing plans for the set up at the Lighthouse and looking forward to some help on the Friday afternoon preceding the event. We will be mounting the single 20m dipole antenna, running a coax to the tower, and setting up a table and a couple of chairs inside.

The Museum will provide, again this year, the confirmation cards and certificates, some tickets for coffee breaks at the cafeteria, and will consider any further needs in order to make a success of this special weekend.

The tour guides will be notified that, during their presentation on the first level of the Lighthouse, there will be no operation of the radio unit. That will provide time for the operators to get ready to give a two-minute talk on Amateur Radio and distribute information pamphlets after the initial talk by the tour guide.

When the tour is finished visiting the upper structure of the Lighthouse and passing through the first level again, the radio operators will invite the willing visitors to talk with some contacts on the radio. Those visitors who venture the experience will be issued with a confirmation of contact certificate.

We hope this plan will necessitate only minimum effort and provide maximum fun for all involved. As we are an official Lighthouse Station on the air that weekend, many amateurs around the world will be seeking our contact in their ongoing quest for the required number of lighthouse contacts in order to be able to obtain a special certificate from the organizers of the event.

I will keep you informed of any further development, and I hope that you will provide me with your preferred operating times early enough so that I can make up a schedule that would be available ahead of the special weekend.

Thank you for your cooperation and participation,

Maurice-Andre Vigneault
ve3vig@rac.ca
Tel.: 749-9010

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club
is pleased to announce its 3rd Annual

HAMFEST

Saturday, September 4, 1999
Labour Day Weekend
Building Opens: 10 am until 1 pm

Carp Agricultural Fair Grounds
3970 Carp Road (at Falldown Lane)
Carp, Ontario
Hwy 417 East to Carp Road Exit
North to the fairgrounds



For further information or reservations
contact:

Jim Cummings, VE3XJ
Tel: (613) 446-1225 (H)
e-mail:

fleamarket@oarc.net

Web address:
<http://oarc.net/fleamarket>

Talk-in on VE2CRA, 146.94

HAMNOT

Radio Communications is my hobby

We've all heard about the clumsy comedian who "hams" it up on stage. Any person trying to imitate a pro is a "ham". A clown is also known as a "ham". A Radio Amateur who lacks proficiency on the Morse key is a "pig-fisted operator" or a "ham".

I think it is time that we clean up our act. With the high ability and proficiency in communications that Radio Amateurs have achieved over the years, time has come to "show a little respect" to the hobby.

Yes, we all like to clown around from time to time to release a bit of steam, and a hobby is a hobby equating to high interest and fun, but ours has an added value. That of developing a responsible attitude when faced with an emergency situation.

In presenting a new bill to protect the Amateur Radio spectrum, a US Congress member's opening comment in a letter to his colleagues was: "Organized volunteer radio amateurs...step forward to provide emergency communications services when regular channels are disrupted by disaster".

Elsewhere, in the May 99 QST issue, the purposes of the hobby are enumerated as such: 1. emergency communications; 2. technical experimentation; 3. recreation. This is how Amateur Radio is presented to the US Congress. Notice the order. We have a similar description of the hobby here in Canada.

Now, do you entrust emergency communications into the hands of clowns and amateurs? Would RAC and IC protect our spectrum were we to exhibit amateurish or inept behaviour? Would the IARU continue its efforts were we bunglers or strutters?

Shortly after the Jan '98 Ice Storm (not again..) I had a 2m QSO with a local "radio professional" (I guess we can use the term since we also use "radio amateur") praising the way the "Amateur" community conducted itself during that disaster. His comment was: "After such display of professionalism, I don't see how you're called amateurs".

In fact, the 1998 ARRL "Humanitarian Award" was presented to a group of radio communicators in the Montreal, Quebec, region. (See the May '99 RAQI bulletin) And the '99 Award might go to the Nova Scotia region for their efforts during the crash of Flight 101 at Peggy's Cove. (TCA and QST articles)

Let's not forget the Manitoba floods, the Florida fires, the Mid-west hurricanes and tornados, and the California disasters. All in praise of radio professionalism in the public service tradition which

required integration with non-amateur public systems and inter-agency response.

What prompted me to write this letter is an editorial in the Jun '99 CQ VHF magazine. The article points to the lack of interest young engineers and technicians have in radio, in a country that is becoming increasingly dependent on wireless technology. In order to prevent the country from falling behind, it suggests "awakening that all important impulse that drives good designers and techs to want to know how and why things work" by presenting Amateur Radio in schools as a multidisciplinary educational tool where you not only learn about things but you learn to do things.

The flaw in the editorial is the repeated word "ham" which is, as we've seen, a derogatory term. How are you going to "awaken that all important impulse" by inviting students to aspire at becoming a clown, a pig, a fake, a lackie? To present radio communications to schools we must get rid of the term "ham".

The evolution of words through time and changes in societies brings new meanings. The term "ham" has also evolved and taken on new meanings. Nowadays, some go as far as saying it means an undesirable radio operator, compare it to a bad CB operator, and even go as far as identifying a LID. Under this new description, I could name a few in this area that would qualify as "hams" or real "jambons".

In a previous issue of QST, where homage was paid to a most famous silent key, King Hussein of Jordan, he was never referred to as a "ham", and I suspect it was out of respect. I think every radio communicator in this hobby deserves the same respect unless proven otherwise.

Some of us have long careers in communications, and some of us have high ambitions and expectations as they embark in this field, as with young Colin, VA3CSG, who intends to work toward a degree in electronics engineering. I'm sure we can find a more appropriate term to define us as radio communicators with various levels of operating and technical knowledge.

As for me, after a 38-year career in communications and electronics followed by 10 years in this hobby, I suggest that before you call me a "ham", check my fist on the 10m Net. I was asked a few times if my text sending was done by machine. Now, don't call me a ham "cause hamnot!"

Although... I remain a ham at heart. "I don't take me seriously!"

Maurice-Andre Vigneault
VA2MA/VE3VIG
ve3vig@rac.ca

