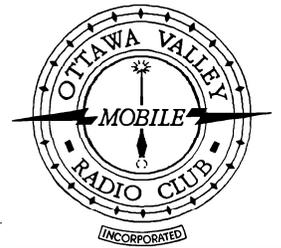


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 44, Issue No. 3



Inside...

Ramblings	
Words from our President	3
Great Circle Map	4
Yesteryear	5
Check-up on Yourself !	5
Meeting Minutes	6
Amateur Radio in Space	7
OARC Joe Norton Trust Award ..	7
Jerry Wells OVMRC	8
Amateur of the Year Nominations	
Get Ready for Y2K	9

Reminders...

Renew your RAC Membership
244-4369

Jamboree on the Air · Oct 16 & 17th

Next Club Meeting

Oct 21
Contesting - Dave Goodwin, VE2ZP

Club Executive Meeting

Oct 28

Oct Rambler Submissions

Nov 5

Nov Club Meeting

Oct 21
Elkel, Ltd., of Trois-Rivières,
show-and-tell



From left to right: Tom St Julien, VA3OFD; Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG; Ken Barry, VE3KJB; Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW; and Don Raymond, VE3DRO.

Amateurs Support Terry Fox Run

Well another Terry Fox run has completed successfully. Our Ottawa Amateurs contributed their time and expertise in the communication part of it. Our thanks to the Amateurs who took part, and especially to Mike Kelly, VE3FFK who jumped into the breach at the last minute when one of our volunteers didn't show up.

Our thanks are extended to the following Amateurs:

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG
Dan Doctor, VE3XDD
Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD
Don Raymond, VE3DRO
Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW
Rick Furniss, VE3IHI
Mike Kelly, VE3FFK.



The Variety show this year will be on the 16th of December as part of our regular monthly general meeting. Anyone who wishes to perform is welcome. Call me, Ken Barry, VE3KJB, at 746-4823 or e-mail me at kennan@storm.ca. Singers, dancers, jugglers, instrument players or any other form of entertainment you may dream up will be given a spot on the program. (Within reason)



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	Sault Ste Marie, ON
Border City ARA	Windsor, ON
Chatham-Kent ARC	Chatham, ON
Calgary ARC	Calgary, AB
Comox Valley ARC	Comox, BC
Des Moines ARA	Des Moines, IA, USA
Heritage ARC	Coburg, ON
Kingston ARC	Kingston, ON
Lambton County ARC	Sarnia, ON
London ARC	London, ON
Metroflex ACA	New York, NY, USA
Ottawa ARC	Ottawa, ON
Pioneer ARC	Nepean, ON
Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)	Ottawa, ON
Renfrew County ARC	Pembroke, ON
Rideau Lakes ARC	Smiths Falls, ON
Saskatoon ARC	Saskatoon, SK
Scarborough ARC	Scarborough, ON
Seaway Valley ARC	Cornwall, ON
Sudbury ARC	Sudbury, ON
Thousand Islands ARC	Brockville, ON
Truro ARC	Truro, NS
West Island ARC	Dorval, PQ
Winnipeg ARC	Winnipeg, MAN

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG
749-9010, vig@rac.ca
Amateur Radio Training Bob Shaw, VESUY
737-944, lycott@fox.nstn.ca
Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ
728-3666
Gilles Morin, VE3VGW
824-0018
Accredited Examiner Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ
225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
Field Day Charles Morrison, VE3TCM
228-3480, morrich@navcanada.ca
Historical Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
747-5565, larryw@magma.ca
Flea Market John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV
521-8910, ve3zov@rac.ca
Membership Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD
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830-5580, va3wmh@rac.ca
Publicity & Programs Don Raymond, VE3DRO
737-7740, ve3dro@rac.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 software.



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, jrodger@takeone.com



Next Meeting

Oct 21, 1999
Rambler Deadline
Nov 5, 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

Thanks to everyone who filled out an evaluation form at last month's club meeting! Out of close to 70 attendees, we received 36 evaluations, giving us a fairly good reading of what you like and don't like as far as club meetings go. Overall, the reaction was positive, particularly with respect to the organization of the meeting and the educational value of the APRS presentation.

Some of the comments include:

- "Keep the meetings technical";
- "Very interesting presentation";
- "I liked the seven minute intro";
- "No more repeater history!";
- "Thanks for starting on time";
- "Didn't participate in card game - not my thing!";
- "I'm thinking of setting up an APRS station and the information was very timely."

My thanks also go out to Marc Pichette, VA3DRV, for helping to kick off the club meeting year on such a high note!

Now, of course, I'm looking forward to the October 21 meeting, at which Dave Goodwin, VE2ZP, is going to give us an exposé on the world of contesting. Please bring your questions!

We are also very fortunate that Elkel, Ltd., an Amateur Radio supplier based in Trois-Rivières, has accepted our invitation to conduct a show-and-tell presentation at our November 18 meeting. With the steady approach of winter and gradually improving conditions, what a great time and opportunity to think about purchasing some new toys for the shack, or to get Christmas gift ideas together for the Amateur Radio operators we know and love.

Following the contesting presentation on October 21, the Executive wishes to get the club's input regarding two decisions it has made regarding first, purchasing an upgrade package including an autopatch module for the repeater, and second, waiving OVMRC membership fees (in lieu of an honorarium) for volunteer committee chairs and Executive officers as of the 2000-2001 club year. If you have any questions about the proposed autopatch, please contact the Technical Committee Chair, Jake Guertin, VA3TQX.

While I support the club's interest in approving or rejecting decisions made by the Executive, I want to echo my comments in last month's *Ramblings* concerning keeping the club business portion of meetings to a minimum. I still get the sense that club members come to meetings more for social reasons than to get involved in debates about how to run the club. My challenge, therefore, is to balance the membership's ability to have input, without sacrificing the overall objective of creating enjoyable and stimulating meetings.

Taking a look at the club by-laws, I can now see why we continue to be faced with this challenge. The OVMRC by-laws actually contain many well-meaning but highly restrictive *policy decisions* put into place over the years. While intended to be a legal document establishing the basic structure of the organization, it looks as though our by-laws have become a bit of a vessel into which we have inserted many policy decisions. The impact of placing policies within by-laws is much like it would be if all

federal legislation were somehow written into the Canadian Constitution: it gradually narrows the decision-making ability of all successive Executives and the club generally. Maybe we should take a close look at the by-laws, and consider putting together a policy manual, thereby separating those decisions regarding the structure of the club we feel should be difficult to change, from those that the club or Executive of the future should be allowed to amend at its discretion by a simple majority vote. Have any thoughts on that? Let me know, and see you at the next meeting!❖

NOTICE TO AMATEURS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA (RAC):

Have you got a dime and a little time? Do you want to ensure you have access to current frequencies allocated to amateurs for your ragchews, contesting, emergency use and experimentation?

Then think about this: Whether you are a member of RAC or not, they are representing YOUR interests at National and International levels. It is a shame but only about 20% of licensed amateurs are members. RAC is fighting to preserve YOUR access to existing amateur radio frequencies. Commercial interests are very interested in using our HF, VHF, and UHF bands and ARE willing to pay for them. We need our current allocated spectrum for Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, i.e., Ice Storm 98, Public Service uses for community events and to educate the public about amateur radio, so why don't you support RAC?

We NEED a strong, central organization to represent OUR needs and RAC is it! You SHOULD support YOUR national organization by becoming a member of RAC. It will cost you LESS than 11 cents a day! What a bargain to ensure our bands are protected. And you receive 6 magazines chock full of up-to-date news, feature articles, technical information, current issues, contesting, and all sorts of other interesting information. If you don't join, who will do the job? Can you do the job alone?❖

73
Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

POT LID NET

Sunday 11:00 AM (Local)
on 3620 Khz.

We especially like to welcome newcomers to
Amateur Radio!
Of course old timers are always very welcome!

If you have any questions about the NET and it's
operation please do not hesitate to call.

Ed Morgan, VE3GX - Telephone # 733-1721

Great Circle Map

Due West to Australia ?

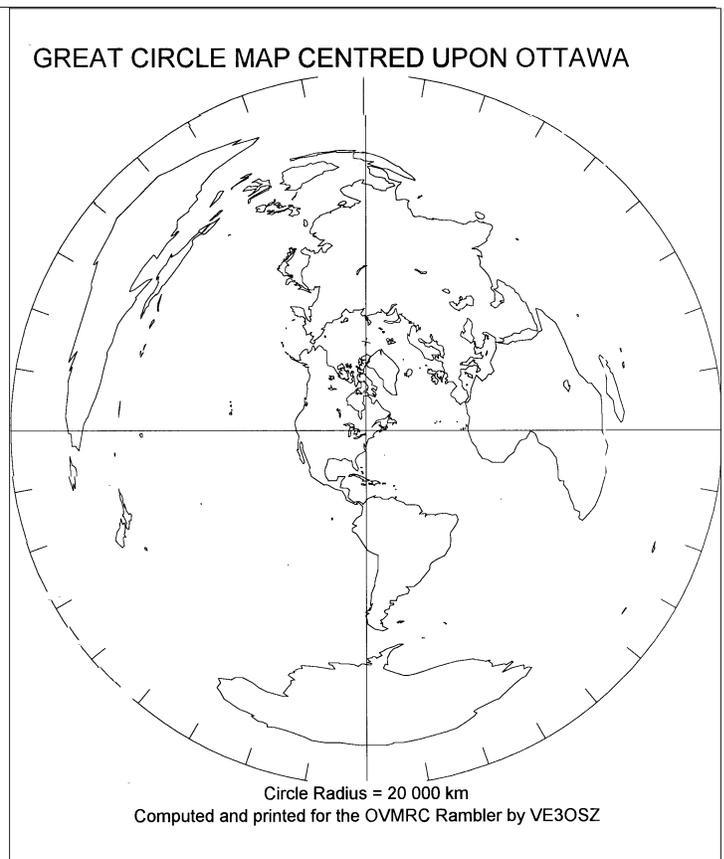
The map to the right is a great circle map centred on Ottawa. Great circles are the circles you would obtain if you were to cut the earth into two halves through its centre in any direction. A great circle joining two points on the earth's surface defines the shortest path on the surface between those two points.

In using this map, the distance from Ottawa to some other point on the earth can be determined by measuring the distance on this map and using the given scale. The markers around the circumference of the circle are at 10 degree intervals and using these you can obtain the bearing of any place on the earth relative to Ottawa.

For those interested in knowing how this map was plotted, a data base of about 3500 points located on the edges of continents, islands, lakes, etc. was entered into a Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet. The distance and bearing of each point from Ottawa was computed using the formulas contained in Lotus 1-2-3. Then the result was plotted using the spreadsheet plotting feature. Similar maps centred on any other location on the earth's surface can easily be plotted.

For those of you who chase DX, this map will help you to know where to point your beam and how to determine the distance to that other station. Happy hunting !

Bob Kavanagh , VE3OSZ ❖



Editors Note: A full page copy of this map can be obtained by e-mail by dropping a note to the editor at va3wmh@rac.ca

Just a Reminder

Hello everyone! This is just a reminder that this Sunday, and every Sunday, the OVMRC Pot Hole Net convenes on 3760 kHz at 10 a.m. All stations are welcome to call in and join the net. This net is co-ordinated by Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, and Ken Barry, VE3KJB.

Ken has been working up a rotating roster of net controllers to ease the load on Ernie. Controller for Sunday, Sept. 26 is Rob, VE3YE in Cumberland.

Also, don't forget the Pot Lid CW Net convened by Ed Morgan, VE3GX, on 3620 kHz at 11 a.m. It's a slow-speed CW net offering good code practice and on-air experience for newcomers and old-timers alike.

Of course, shortwave listeners (SWLs) are also always welcome to tune in and listen to either net!

73,

Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG
President, OVMRC ❖

For their ongoing support OVMRC Inc. thanks:



BML Communications

(A division of Bytown Marine Limited)

5 Corvus Court, Nepean, ON, K2E 7Z4
Tel: 613-723-8424 Fax: 613-723-0212
Email: gwalker@bml.ca
Web: www.bml.ca

Yesteryear

by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

This month we feature a few tidbits on a variety of subjects from three issues of the RAMBLER. In light of the current new privilege of operating on 10 metres, in January 1989 RAMBLER, Leo Desjardins VE3NVL, wrote about the early 1960's. At that time, the Department of Transport was the agency responsible for Canadian amateurs. The amateur radio examination fee was 50 cents and you had to pass a three part test: morse code at 10 wpm, a written technical exam and an oral examination before you were issued your Amateur Radio Operator Certificate. The License fee was \$2.50 per year and you were permitted to operate CW on all authorized amateur bands and phone on bands above 50 MHz. After six months of CW, you were granted an endorsement to operate phone on 26.960 - 27.000 and 28.000 to 29.700 MHz. To obtain your Advanced Amateur Radio Operator Certificate, you had to pass 15 wpm test, more difficult oral and written examination. Maximum input power to the final stage of transmitter was limited to 750 watts.

The Feb. 1989 RAMBLER features "Shack of the Month" shows a nice photo of Russ Low VE3LOW with his FT-101E, Kenwood TS-140S and Yaesu 2-metre rig. Also his Hygain TH3 and 11 element 2-metre beam mounted on an old farm windmill with tower sections extending to the 70 foot mark. It is quite co-incidental that I happen to be at this particular issue of the RAMBLER and I was recently treated to a drive by of Russ's home with Len Gelfand VE3LGZ. I was impressed by Russ's antenna farm, nicely painted red and white, in such a small area and it still looks the same as the RAMBLER photos!

Alan Boyce VE3LNH wrote in March 1989 Ramblings and encouraged the members of the VE3JW Committee for their "professional quality and thoroughness of their work which belies the amateur status of the members", Bob Baillargeon VE3MPG, Chairman, and members Archie McKenzie VE3NJY, Chuck King VE3PDK, Leo Desjardins VE3NVL, Henry Greenway VE3OMU, Ed Leblanc VE3VLF and Jeff Wilson VE3RCI (licensed February 9, 1989) "deserve to be recognized and thanked for their services." Bob's EDITORIAL consisted of a report following the second planning meeting. Color Slow Scan TV, and Fast Scan TV, were introduced as new high ideas for the station with Bill VE3EKA and Norm VE3JDJ demonstrating the capabilities of Amateur TV. Jeff Wilson VE3RCI was investigating an alternative power source using Solar panels and deep cycle RV type batteries.

The Origin of "73" was covered by Leo Desjardins VE3NVL in the April 1989 RAMBLER. He wrote, "The origin of the expression "73" goes back to the days of the landline telegraph. The use of this traditional numerical code was an indication that the end of the signature of the message was coming up. The National Telegraphic Review and Operator's Guide, published in April 1857, first used 73 to mean "my love to you". In 1859 the Western Union Company set up the standard "92 code", a series of phrases numbered from one to ninety-two, used by telegraph operators and 73 changed to mean "accept my compliments." From 1859 to 1900, many variations appeared in telegraphy manuals. In Dodge's manual "The Telegraphy Instructor" 73 appeared simply as "compliments". In a 1908 edition of Dodge's manual, the present version of "best regards" can be found and it is widely used today as a friendly greeting exchange between amateur radio operators in many parts of the world." PLEASE NOTE: 73 is a single number and means "best regards", so it is not necessary to say or use 73's when talking to more than one person.

Rambler, October 1999

Leo also wrote about "The Wise Owl Net" had its debut on January 23, 1980 as the result of an executive meeting where it was decided a two-metre net would be a good medium to bring club news to the local ham fraternity, especially to those who were not able to check in to the Pot Hole Net. He noted the net was originally run on Wednesday night at 20:00 hours but due to re-scheduling of the former net manager's study program, the day was changed to Friday. In the early days, interest was low but the average number of check-ins grew to 18. The poor initial interest may have been due to the location of the VE3TWO repeater at VE3JW at the National Museum of Science and Technology. It was later moved to the tower of Energy, Mines and Resources (now Natural Resources Canada NRCan) at 580 Booth Street. ❖

Check-up on Yourself !

Call Sign Database to Show Qualifications

Official Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Data Base Amended to Show Qualifications

Effective 01 October, 1999, the official Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Data Base on the Internet has been amended to display the qualifications held by individual Canadian radio amateurs.

The new Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Data Base is a collaborative development by Industry Canada, RAC and Information Gateway Services in response to requests from individual amateurs, clubs and Delegated Examiners across Canada to have the qualification data included in the call sign data base on the Internet.

The new Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Data Base is derived from the new Industry Canada data base called the ACCS (Amateur Callsign Certification System)/ SGIC (Système de gestion d'indicatifs d'appel et de certification amateur) formed by merging information from the Department's existing, separate certificate and automated licensing system data bases. This was not a trivial task. Many amateurs will recall receiving a letter early this year from Industry Canada in February or March requesting verification of information. The new data base has been made as accurate as possible, but some errors may exist. Industry Canada has requested that all amateurs check their information and report any errors or omissions to the Industry Canada Amateur Radio Service Centre at the phone numbers or addresses listed below. Clubs should verify the currency of the information for their club station sponsor and report any changes.

All amateurs who obtained the former Amateur or Advanced Amateur Certificate of Proficiency in Amateur Radio prior to 1990 should be shown as holding Basic, Advanced and 12 WPM Qualifications.

The new Canadian Amateur Radio Call Sign Data Base is available on the RAC web site at <<http://www.rac.ca/callbook>>. Further information will be posted on the web site as it becomes available.

Contact the Industry Canada Amateur Radio Service Centre at:

Phone: 1-888-780-3333 (toll free)

Fax:(613) 991-5575

E-mail: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca ❖

OVMRC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16, 1999

President Susan opened the meeting at 1930 hours by welcoming everyone and expressing thanks and appreciation to a number of members who had volunteered their services during the summer months. Specifically, she thanked Bill Hall who volunteered to assume the editorship of the Rambler; Maurice Andre Vigneault for organizing and supervising the Lighthouse Event; Ken Barry for organizing communications for the Gloucester Girls Soccer Tournament; John Rodger for his outstanding work in producing and maintaining the OVMRC Web Page; Jake Guertin for volunteering to assume the Chairmanship of the Technical Committee; Ken Halcrow for his outstanding work in the Emergency Preparedness Program; Charles Morrison and a number of volunteers for their work and participation in Field Day; and finally, a large number of volunteer operators who man station VE3JW who have operated the station for over 1000 hours, double the number of hours we have contractually promised to the museum.

President Susan asked members to interview one another and get responses to a set of questions she provided. After several minutes, a number of members were called up to introduce the members they interviewed using the answers to the questions provided. This part of the program proved to be fun and enjoyed by all.

President Susan called upon Mark Pichette, VA3DRV as the guest speaker for the evening. Mark made an extremely interesting and informative presentation on Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS). A color slide presentation explained what APRS is and how it works. Mark then turned on his portable system on line which connected him world wide. However, he concentrated his demonstration and explanation to local coverage and operations. His presentation was followed by a questions and answers period. He invited members to join him after the meeting to view his equipment.

President Susan, on behalf of the membership, thanked Mark for his most interesting presentation.

Ken Barry announced that the Pot Hole Net on Sunday mornings needs Net Controllers. Volunteers must have HF privileges and at least 5WPM. Ken also announced that the OVMRC Xmas Variety Show is looking for volunteer entertainers. Persons interested are asked to contact Ken.

Jake Guertin provided some history of the OVMRC repeater VE3TWO. He also gave an update on adjustments which have been made to the repeater. He asked that if any member heard intermod or packet bursts on the repeater to note the time and date and advise him of it.

Rick Furniss, on behalf of the OARC, invited members to attend their next meeting on the first Wednesday of October to hear a most interesting guest speaker, the originator of the Canwarn system. He also advised members of the availability of the Joe Norton Award which is open to Amateurs with two years or less experience. Applicants must submit a essay of 600 to 900 words outlining their amateur radio goals for the next year. Applications must be submitted before November 10th.

President Susan reminded members that Jerry Wells Award nominations must be submitted by the close of the meeting tonight.

Registration for the next Amateur Radio Course will be the first Tuesday in October.

Anthony Fitzgerald, VE3ZAF, won the door prize, while Bill Wilson, VE3MBE, won the 50/50 draw.

The meeting adjourned at 2110 hours for a social hour. ❖

Resources for Mark Pichette's Presentation

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

<http://www.rac.ca/infodig.htm>

<http://www.arrrl.org>

<http://www.tapr.org>

SOFTWARE:

DosAPRS

<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/aprs.html>

Windows (3.1/95/98/NT), Mac, Linux

<http://aprs.rutgers.edu/index.htm>

Linux

Aprsd v. 2.1.0 (Internet gateway server)

<http://www.wa4dsy.radio.org/aprs/Welcome.html>

Xastir (early beta, but functionnal and shows promise)

<http://www.eazy.net/users/fgiannan/linux/>

Palm OS 3.0 (ie Palm III and equivalents)

pocketsAPRS v0.98

<http://www.pocketaprs.com>

MAPS FOR CANADA

<http://www.peel.com/aprs>

<http://www.qsl.net/ve2aw>

Good general information sites in addition to the above:

<http://qsl.net/kd4rdb/aprs.htm>

Excellent overview of all things APRS.

<http://www.dididahdidit.com/> Excellent source of practical information, How-to's, etc.

<http://joe.mehaffey.com/> Excellent GPS information site.

LOCAL LINKS

<http://ontario.aprs.net> Whats happening with APRS in Ottawa? Also includes a link to the local aprs mailing list. Local Ottawa weather is also available here.

<http://www.qsl.net/orag> Another great resource for Ottawa area

APRS'ers.

<http://www.canaprs.net> See local area activity with any java enabled browser.

Where am I?

<http://map.aprs.net:8000/va3drv-9> Substitute my callsign for any other active callsign in the Aprs network. Try ve3mpc or ve3rc.

If you would like further information or assistance, please email me at va3drv@rac.ca or at marc@ontario.aprs.net. ❖

AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE

A SATELLITE INTRO

Last month, we presented a project for the Museum VE3JW radio station that would enable us to do satellite communications. Amateur satellites have been circling the globe since Dec 1961 when the first one was sent aloft at a cost of \$26. Rockets were so powerful that NASA was adding weight along with commercial and governmental satellites being launched. The Amateur community approached the governmental agencies and proposed that we add on some of the required weight.

We have been allowed to “piggy-back” on the launches ever since, mainly because we are active in emergency communications, we are involved in technical experimentation and we provide education from our space communications projects. For instance, the first video pictures sent to a space shuttle was accomplished using ATV and, today, many commercial ventures in space communications have benefited from our space communications experimentation on the various amateur bands. Universities around the world combine their efforts to experiment on Amateur satellites. The latest being the Sunsat (SO-35) built by a South African University and launched in Feb 1999.

Amateur satellites have been categorized according to their operational duration and their orbit in space. The Phase-1 satellites were of a very short duration; the Phase-2 satellites have circular orbits at a distance of 400 to 1200 kilometres above the earth. Phase-3 satellites have a high orbit, shooting out to around 35,000 kilometres at the apogee of their elliptical path.

Some of the older Phase-2 low orbit satellites are still operational, albeit, at a reduced capacity, but they can still be worked. Their limited footprint (coverage area on the earth) allows us a limited time of usage on each of their successive passes. The Phase-3 satellites, however, at high altitudes cover a larger area and provide for much more distant contacts. They are available for 10 to 12 hours at a time.

The latest Phase-3 amateur satellite is known as “Phase-3D”. It is ready and awaiting final arrangements for launching which we hope to be in a month or so. P3D is a combined effort of many AMSAT organizations around the world, AMSAT-NA, North America; AMSAT-DL, Germany; AMSAT-LU, Argentina; AMSAT-JA, Japan, etc. It cost a lot of money (i.e. Germany’s \$9M) but is the most complex amateur satellite ever to be produced. It will accommodate many modes on many bands and, its transmitters being more powerful and receivers and antennas more efficient, it will allow access to satellite communications for the less exotic ground stations.

The Phase-4 satellite is only a remote idea for the new millennium. It would be geostationary and would encompass such advanced modes as spread spectrum and high-speed digital communications.

Next month, we will provide a list of available amateur satellites, their operating modes, and their working frequencies.

You can visit the AMSAT-NA web site at: <http://www.amsat.org>

Maurice-Andre Vigneault ve3vig@rac.ca ❖

OARC JOE NORTON TRUST AWARD

The OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. awards annually the Joe Norton Trust Award for the advancement of amateur radio. The amount of this award is approximately \$500.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible, a candidate must:

1. Be a resident of the National Capital Region as defined by the official federal government map.
2. Have received a Certificate of Proficiency in radio from Industry Canada during the period June 1, 1997 to June 1, 1999.
3. Send a written submission of no less than 600 words and no more than 900 words to the executive of the OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC., setting out his or her interests, achievements and plans to contribute to the advancement of amateur radio.
4. Present him/herself for an interview if so requested by the judges.

RULES

1. Entries must be received on or before November 10, 1999. No entries received after that date will be considered.
 2. The club will send an acknowledgement in writing upon receipt of an application.
 3. A panel of judges appointed by the executive of the OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. will evaluate all entries.
 4. Finalists may be interviewed by members of the executive of the OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC., the panel of judges, or both.
 5. Submissions will not be returned.
 6. If the judges do not select a candidate in any year, no award shall be made in that year and the monies shall return to the trust fund.
 7. All decisions of the executive of the OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. are final.
 8. The winner will be notified on or before November 19, 1999.
 9. The winner will notify the OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. of his or her acceptance of the award no later than November 26, 1999.
 10. The award will be made during the regular meeting of the OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. in December.
 11. The winner agrees to have his or her name, photograph and address published in club bulletins, trade papers and magazines, and on the airwaves.
- Send your entry, to be received no later than November 10, 1999 to:

Joe Norton Trust Award
OTTAWA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC.
Box 8873
Ottawa, ON K1G 3J2 ❖

Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award

Nomination No: 1

We wish to nominate **Maurice-Andre Vigneault** Call sign **VE3VIG/VA2MA** 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.

OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB

WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE AT NOMINATING OUR FELLOW AMATEUR FOR THE JERRY WELLS OVMRC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

September 23rd, 1999

Volunteer at the Museum of Science and Technology, demonstration station. Spends several mornings and sometimes afternoons explaining our hobby to visitors.

Organized the first and second National Museum of Science and Technology Worldwide Lighthouses and Lightships Activity Weekend. And Lighthouse weekend. This was not an easy task, many hours of hard work Lighthouse Event a Resounding Success!

Participated in the 25th anniversary celebration of the station VE3JW

Field Day participant, set up, operator, pull down crew. Shoulder injury during set up. Look out below, its coming down.

OVMRC Fleamarket public address operator, great help to the vendors, great public speaker. Looked after prize draws and announcements

Runs the National Capital Region 10 meter net. Started this net and keeps it running smoothly. Encourages CW prior to the net, now a great chance for people with 5 WPM to get practice time. Maurice-Andre has a great fist. (He has been asked if he uses a computer to send, not a chance)

Mobile operator, VA2MA (marine active), he does it from his cabin cruiser, HF and VHF. Want to know about packet radio, go see Maurice-Andre. He will always find time to help fellow amateurs.

Participates in all the nets, TPN net, Capital City FM, Net, Military Net, Welcome Mat Net, etc. too many to mention. He has also taken on the task of net controller on several occasions.

Amateur Radio Exhibit Chairperson VE3JW many hours spent at the Museum station. Always promoting our hobby and making improvement to our demonstration station.

At our club general meeting always there to lend a hand to assist with set up, prior to our meeting.

Has written several articles for The Rambler and The Radio Amateurs of Canada;

Radio Communications is my hobby, Ottawa Goes "Coastal", It's a Small World, After All. Local Hams Celebrate 25th Anniversary of VE3JW, Zedeline Bug is Going Around, Contests, who needs "em!", Campbell Island: An Invasion from Inner Space, Ten is Alive? Museum Lighthouse Comes to Life!

International Maritime Coastal Station (IMCS) Special Event. This event was organized by Maurice-Andre. Call sign CF3QRT

O.V.M.R.C. VE3JW represented the VBR St. Lawrence Seaway station at Prescott.

Did someone say BUNNY HUNT, he takes this very seriously. VE3BNE great fun, he has been the bunny on a few occasions. Don't laugh he knows a lot of tricks, they don't always work. But he sure puts a lot into it.

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

VA3OFD Tom St Julien
VE3WEH Larry Wilcox



Nomination No: 2

We wish to nominate **Maurice-Andre Vigneault** Call sign **VE3VIG/VA2MA** 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.

Maurice-André organized a number of Amateur Radio activities on behalf of the club during the Award Year, including the Lighthouse Event, the Amateur Coastal Station Special Event, and the 25th Anniversary of VE3JW. Through his leadership, he developed a good working relationship with the Museum, promoted awareness of Amateur Radio and encouraged many other club members to participate in these activities.

Maurice-André was also a regular contributor to the Rambler, submitting a variety of thoughtful and informative articles of interest to members.

In addition to being the primary organizer for the above mentioned events, Maurice-Andre also volunteered to assist with many club and other outside events, including: (1) the very important position of Chairperson for our National Amateur Radio Demonstration Station VE3JW; (2) the public announcer at the OVMRC Fleamarket; (3) assisting with the set-up, operation and takedown of our Field Day; and (3) providing communications for the annual National Capital Ski Marathon.

Maurice-André has been a great ambassador of our club to the Museum and the general public, and an inspiration to other members to participate and contribute in a similar helpful and positive spirit.

Nominated by:

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH,
Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG



GET READY FOR Y2K

If Y2K is as bad as some predict, there could be no electrical power for a period of up to several days. Many of us experienced this situation during the great ice storm. In anticipation of such an event, I looked for ways to power a 2m hand held in a pinch from items often available around the home. The first to come to mind were the "c" or "D" cells usually used in common flashlights. These can be either of the primary type (throw away) or the secondary type (rechargeable). Physically the secondary "D" cell is the same size as the primary cell, so the same holder will do for both. The 1 amp hour secondary "D" cell is often available at discount houses such as the Price Club at only a small premium over the cost of a primary cell. Mind you the primary cell has more capacity, but only once. With this in mind I set about designing a convenient holder that would accommodate either primary or secondary "D" cells. The following design is by no means unique, but it may get you thinking of ways to use what you have available.

In this case there was a piece of unused 1 1/2" OD polyethylene (PE) pipe available that the "D" cells would just nicely slip through. This is the sort of pipe used by plumbers for drains. The important feature is that the cells to be used will slide through it without binding or wobbling too much. The voltage selected for use was 7.2 as this happens to be the lowest voltage that my HTX 202 will operate on, and the 202 has an effective low battery indication at this voltage so that the secondary battery, of nicad cells, cannot be ruined by excessive discharge. A second consideration was the length of the finished item as it would likely be worn on the belt in field use. The matter of battery connections was the next consideration. For this I found two 1 1/2", what I will call ledger bolts. They are 1/4" in diameter, of metal, with a flat head about 3/8" in diameter on one end and a threaded hole in the other end for a short bolt with a head to match that on the formed end. These bolts are available in stationary stores. Their length is critical, if too short they will compress the plastic pipe and prevent the cells from sliding to make contact with them, and if too long they will not provide a good electrical contact with the conductor that carries the current from the string of cells. The best approach is to get the piece of pipe and then get ledger bolts of suitable length. Next we must consider the length of the pipe.

In my case for six cells it was 19 1/2" long, but this will depend on the number of cells you plan to use, type of pipe cap you choose and the width of your belt. To determine the length you need, measure the length of the cells you will be using when they are laid out end to end touching each other, add 1" at one end (to be the bottom end), and 5/8" plus 1" plus the width of your belt and 1/4" plus sufficient length to accommodate the pipe cap you will be using. The cells will be mounted in the holder with the positive terminals down, against the bottom ledger bolt. At the top, The 5/8" space is space for a conical spring between the top of the battery stack and the top ledger bolt. The spring is of type found at the back end of flashlights. It is necessary so as to maintain the electrical contact between the negative terminal of the battery and the ledger bolt when there is vertical bouncing induced by walking. The spring is put into the tube so that the base of the cone is against the top ledger bolt and the apex against the negative end of the top cell. The compression of the spring keeps it in place in operation. The next inch is a matter of providing clearance for the top end of the battery from the belt hanger arrangement. The belt width plus 1/4" is self-explanatory. The pipe cap chosen should have a flat top as the battery connector

will be mounted there. In my case I hold the cap in place with three short flat head self-tapping screws around the circumference. For the battery connector I chose to use one that matched the external power connector of my 202. Now to actual construction.

Drill a hole that will just clear the ledger bolt screw, completely through the pipe 1" from one end. This is the location of the bottom terminal. Rotate the pipe 90° and mark the location for the top ledger bolt, allowing for the length of the battery stack and the 5/8" for the conical compression spring. Again drill a hole completely through the pipe that will just clear the screw of the ledger bolt. (The 90° rotation is so that the battery will not be shorted if the holder is set down on a metal surface when in use). Next, enlarge the hole on one side of the pipe at each end so that it will just clear the body of the ledger bolt. Now for the belt hanger. I used a double loop of 3/32" nylon cord by drilling two 1/8" holes spaced 3/8" apart at the top and bottom of the belt hanger location, the two sets of holes aligned one above the other. The cord was fed into one of the bottom holes and then out of the hole beside it. The last bit requires skill with needle nose pliers or forceps and patience. The two ends of the cord are then fed into the corresponding upper holes and tied together inside leaving a double loop on the outside to accommodate the passage of the belt. Tying the knot inside the pipe again requires some skill and patience. The use of dental picks may be helpful. Two 1/8" holes were drilled through the wall of the pipe about 1/2" and 1" from one of the lower belt hanger holes along the same circumference to allow passage of the wires connecting ledger bolts to the connector into the pipe. No. 18 insulated wire was used. At the ledger bolt ends of the wires crimp-on terminals that would fit snugly over the body of the bolt were used and placed under the bolt heads on the outside of the pipe. The connector was of the panel mount type, secured in the cap on the top end of the pipe. In my case 2-56 bolts were used. In this location space is limited and care must be used to get the connector properly located. In connecting the leads from the battery it is suggested that the same polarity be used as that in the HT so that either end of the connecting cable can be used in each connector. The connecting cable was made up of 3' or 4' of #18 insulated wire with suitable connectors on either end, again being careful about polarity. If separate conductors are used they can be held together with short pieces of heat-shrink tubing spaced about 6" apart. The conductor to the bottom ledger bolt was taped to the pipe with scotch tape at 5" intervals, leaving the bottom 4" free so as to allow for the withdrawal of the bottom ledger bolt as the loading of cells into the pipe is accomplished there. As a precaution against the accidental shorting of the battery stack externally the upper ledger bolt ends were covered with a layer of scotch tape. This has been a rather long and tedious description - I promise the next one will be much shorter.

My second thought on emergency power sources for an HT revolves around the cordless drill found in many homes. Any cordless drill battery with a voltage of 7.2 to 13.8 could power my HT 202. In my case the available voltage is 12V. The battery has three terminals, two are used for power by the drill, all three are used by the charger. The connecting cable in this case was simply a piece of lamp cord with a suitable connector for the HT on one end and a short piece of brass tubing soldered to each conductor at the other end. The brass tubing used was half of the round grounding pin recovered from a no longer useable 120 vac plug. The bits of brass tubing are held against the appropriate battery

GET READY FOR Y2K (Continued)

terminals with a heavy elastic band that arrived in our establishment holding a bunch of broccoli together. In a pinch anything will do that can keep a tension on the tubing to keep it against the battery terminals.

This arrangement has a couple of potential problems. First, the polarity of the power in the connection plug must be checked every time a battery is attached to the cord. Second, if a battery voltage greater than 7.2v is used the voltage of the battery must be monitored closely during operation to ensure that it does not fall below 1v per cell. Otherwise, there is the danger of destroying some of the battery's capacity. On the plus side, many of the cordless drill batteries can be recharged in about 1 hour with the appropriate charger, a very useful feature in an ongoing emergency situation. Further, in my limited experience I have found that cordless drill batteries hold a charge for up to a year or more. Another problem that arises with the cordless drill battery is its awkward shape. I got around this by prevailing on my XYL to make a small stout cloth bag to hold the battery that has a double drawstring closure at the top and a strong loop on the side for passage of a belt.

I hope these musings have given you food for thought. Let the creative juices flow and let's hear your thoughts on innovative items that could be of use to the amateur.

73

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ. ❖

A Plea for Information

The way to get into the public eye is to get out on the road and participate in activities that are widely publicized. To do that we only need to attach ourselves to some organization that is doing charity work that everyone is in sympathy with such as these walks that raise money for different charitable groups, such as the recent Terry Fox Run in which we had nine amateurs providing communication duties. These amateurs were not all from the OVMRC, however we are trying to promote appreciation of all radio amateurs, not only the ones in the club we belong to.

Now this article is not a plea for volunteers, I have sufficient on tap, but a plea for information. The sort of information I am looking for can be found in the newspapers, by word of mouth, and from the radio and television. That information is the notices that are posted about coming events such as walks or any other events which would require radio communication. In addition to getting into the public eye we would have the satisfaction of contributing to some worthy causes.

If you see one of these non profit events advertised, please let me know as soon as possible and I will send the organizers a form letter informing them of our availability and the services we can perform.

Cheers...

Ken Barry, VE3KJB
kennan@storm.ca@storm.ca ❖

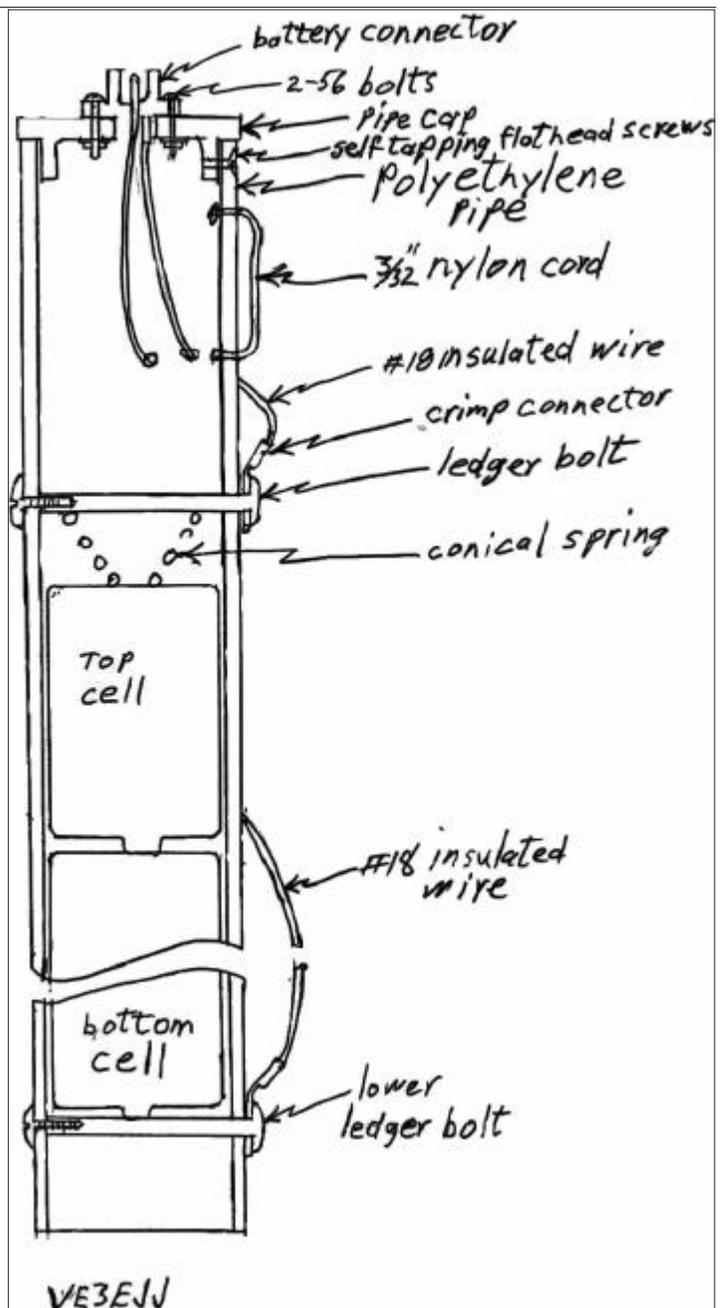


Figure 1. Ernie's Y2K battery holder

NEXT CLUB MEETING

Date: Thursday, October 21st, 1999

Time: 7:30 p.m. Sharp!

Place: Museum of Science & Technology

Topic: Dave Goodwin, VE2ZP, is going to give us an exposé on the world of contesting.