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Brian, VE3XA & the ZL9CI
Dxpedition (+Video)



Meeting Cancellation Policy

Please note that if a club meeting needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather this winter, notification will be made on the hour and on the half-hour on the club repeater, VE3TWO, 147.300 (+), starting at 4:00 pm on the day of the regularly scheduled club meeting. Notification will also be made via e-mail to all members on our e-mail list. For more information, contact President Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, at (613) 833-2766.

Welcome Mat Net has new Manager

Thank you again Patrick for taking over my position as one of the Net Managers for the Welcome Mat Net. Patrick, VA3CMD is one of the graduates of the OVMRC 1998-1999 Amateur Radio Course and showed an early interest in this net during my training session last year. I am very pleased he had the interest and has accepted the responsibility to take my place.

I have enjoyed working with Steve, as one of the original Net Managers, and have very much enjoyed each and every net that I controlled over the last seven years. I will still be available to provide any assistance or advice to either of you. I wish both of you success in continuing the Welcome Mat Net into the new century.

Patrick and I conducted the last net of 1999 on Wednesday evening December 29th. He has been Net Controller on 5 or 6 nets to date and is very capable and dependable. I am confident he will do a very good job in my place. He joins Steve, VE3RUU in continuing the Welcome Mat Net into the new century.

Statistically, during the last seven years, dating from the first net which was held on June 2, 1992 and ending Dec. 29th 1999, the Welcome Mat Net, under the sponsorship of the OVMRC, has:

- Held a total of 397 Nets;
- Was on the air for a total of 425.01 hrs; and
- Has had a total of 7,418 amateurs check-in to the net for an average of 18.6 amateurs per net.

Not bad eh! The Welcome Mat Net has proven itself to be a very popular net over the past seven years!

Patrick has decided to be the Net Controller and to conduct the first net in the New Year on January 5, 2000. You are all invited to check-in and give Patrick a warm welcome during his very first net as a Net Manager.

I will continue to assist David VE3UES or Graham VE3GBD when they want to control the net and expect to be a net controller on occasion also.

73 and I wish all of you a healthy, prosperous and "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Larry, VE3WEH



OVMRC Executive (1999-2000)

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	Dan Doctor, VE3XDD 745-9214, ddoctor@magma.ca

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	Glenn McLeod, VE3GLN 746-3776, glenn.mcleod@crc.ca
Historical	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
Flea Market	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV 521-8910, ve3zov@rac.ca
Membership	Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD 747-9577, va3ofd@rac.ca
Newsletter	Bill Hall, VA3WMH 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	Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, vatqx@magma.ca

OVMRC Life Members

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

Note: Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC no longer exchanges newsletters with other Amateur Radio Clubs. The *Rambler* is available on-line at the club website:

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

Sponsors

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OVMRC code phone

Practice your CW
737-0197



OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)
53.030/52.030 MHz



OVMRC web page

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>
Webmaster: John Rodgers,
VE3JR,jcr@magma.ca



Next Meeting

Jan 20
Rambler Deadline
Feb 4, 2000

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.



Wow, can you believe we are already past the halfway mark of the 1999-2000 club year? It's tempting to look back on how we've fared thus far, but I'm not sure we can really spare the time when there is so much to plan for in the near future!

I must, however, thank Ken Barry, VE3KJB, for all of his great work and enthusiasm in planning last month's

Annual Variety Show. What a wonderful opportunity for all of us to sit back and to enjoy an evening of music, laughter, prizes and goodies – and for free to boot!

I would also like to thank Tom, VA3OFD, for taking the initiative and writing the rules for the OVMRC Millennium Contest. Have you noticed the increased activity on our repeater? Seems to me that the contest, which encourages club members to work each other on VE3TWO, has had the desired effect in triggering more usage of the repeater.

I, for one, find myself monitoring 147.300 a lot more these days, both at home and in the car, just in case I hear fellow club members identify. If you haven't started collecting points yet, it certainly is not too late as we all have until the end of March to work as many other club members as we can.

Volunteer endeavours like these by Ken, Tom, and many others within the club, have the best chance of success and widespread appreciation when they are done out of joy, interest, curiosity and/or excitement, as opposed to pressure or sense of obligation. Individuals driven by an idea, a dream or a vision really do have the uncanny ability to inspire and to motivate people around them, and to soldier on in the face of skepticism, negativity, or doubt in the minds of others.

That is why I was particularly happy and encouraged to hear from Glenn McLeod, VE3GLN, who informed me that he is willing to take the lead for Field Day 2000. As you all know, organizing Field Day is no small task, and finding somebody to take this giant bull by the horns is not always easy. As a matter of fact, not only does Glenn wish to assume this role, but he is thinking big! Glenn has a wonderful vision of a special Year 2000 Field Day, inviting clubs across the region to participate, and involving several tents, multi-band and mode coverage, corporate sponsors, substantial publicity, VIP guests, and much much more.

Does this vision sound ambitious? Sure it is! Could we do it? Sure we could, if we want to! It would be so tempting to start listing all
Rambler, January 2000

the reasons why a massive Field Day effort this year could fail. When someone comes up with a big idea, it's human nature to point out the problems, or to throw up barriers. Maybe it makes us feel smarter to be able to point out flaws or gaps or potential pitfalls. And for sure, there will be challenges ahead as we sink our teeth into this massive project.

But hey, how about just this one time – sort of like a tribute to the Year 2000 – we commit to working with Glenn, and each other, to make it happen. Let's resolve not to start sentences about this (or any) club project with, "It will never work because...". Rather, let's put our heads together and say, "We could help make it work by...". This tiny shift in our thinking pattern could make a huge positive difference to the club, and to Amateur Radio in the Ottawa area for 2000 and beyond. Are you in?

Happy 2000, and see you at the next meeting! ❖

Technical Manuals

Len, VE3LGZ, collects and sells technical manuals for older test equipment on behalf of the OVMRC. The manuals are sold through the Internet and have become a good source of revenue for the club, making sales internationally.

The OVMRC thanks the estate of Mailes Dier, VE3MD, (SK), and his son Andrew, VE3MD and VE3BCO, for making Mailes' extensive collection of technical manuals available to the Club. The donation of this collection is very much appreciated.

Len acknowledges, and greatly appreciates, the assistance he has received from Larry, VE3WEH, and Ernie, VE3EJJ, in the transport, and cataloguing of the collection, the arranging of additional space in his basement and the procurement and erection of shelving on which to store it.

This project benefits both the OVMRC and other radio amateurs who are owners of older test equipment. ❖

Home Brew Night?

Do you have a special project to present for Home Brew night on March 16, 2000? If so, contact President Susan, VE3MOG, on or before Thursday, February 3 with a brief description of your project and your availability to participate in Home Brew Night on March 16, 2000. ❖

AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE

Satellite Intro - continued

OK, you're interested in working amateur satellites. But first, you must answer a few questions for yourself and make a decision on which satellites you are going to pursue.

What kind of equipment do you intend to use in this pursuit? The different modes of operation and transmission/modulation are listed below to help you make a choice according to the type of equipment you have now or intend to procure for satellite work.

You can work satellites with a scanner on UHF and a VHF radio. But then, expect to have limited results on only one or two low-orbit satellites operating mode J/FM. An all-mode VHF/UHF radio would give you better results as you would have more choice of modes of operation (B, J, JA, JD, JL) and also more choice of modes of transmission (CW, SSB, FM, FSK, PSK)

To help you make your choice, three logical steps are suggested: a) decide on whether you want to operate CW/SSB or Packet; b) choose between high or low altitude satellites; c) pick your mode of operation and satellites.

Keep in mind that the low altitude spacecraft have limited windows of availability, from horizon to horizon. The high altitude ones are available for a much longer period but usually required better antennas and a higher level of power. When the high altitude Phase 3-D goes up in the spring, it will provide a much stronger signal and will receive lower level signals.

When you have made your decision, start first with the set up of the receiver to familiarize yourself with satellite operating procedure and satellite tracking. Then set up the transmitter.

You can pick up some good pointers on how to operate RS-13 (on the list below) at AC5DK Web Site:
<http://www.qsl.net/ac5dk/rs1213/rs1213.html>

Here are some of the active amateur satellites with modes and frequencies.

SATELLITE	(Orbit)	UPLINK/DOWNLINK(MHz)	Mode
SSB/CW AMSAT-OSCAR 10	(High)	435.030-435.180/145.825-145.975	(B)
Fuji-OSCAR 20	(Low)	145.900-146.000/435.800-435.900	(J)
Fuji-OSCAR 29	(Low)	145.900-146.000/435.800-436.900	(JA-JD)
RS-13	(Low)	21.260-21.300/29.460-29.500	(KA)
		145.96-146.00	
RS-15	(Low)	145.858-145.898/29.354-29.394	(A)

PACKET 1200 BIT/S (FM FSK uplink, PSK downlink)

AMSAT-OSCAR 16	(Low)	145.90, .92, .94, .96/437.0513	(JD)
LUSAT-OSCAR 19	(Low)	145.84, .86, .88, .90/437.125	(JD)

PACKET 9600 BIT/S (FM FSK uplink and downlink)

UoSAT-OSCAR 22	(Low)	145.900, 975/435.120	(JD)
KITSAT-OSCAR 23	(Low)	145.90/435.175	(JD)
KITSAT-OSCAR 25	(Low)	145.98/436.50	(JD)
TMSAT-OSCAR 31		To be announced/436.923	
TechSat-OSCAR 32		To be announced/435.325, 435.225	

FM VOICE

AMRAD-OSCAR 27	(Low)	145.850/436.790	(J)
Repeater. Daylight passes only			

In addition, three amateur satellites have just been launched in December 1999, JAWSAT on 2m/70cm FM and Packet, ASUSat-1 on 2m/70cm FM Voice repeater, and StenSat a FM repeater. Frequencies will be given when available. The US Navy is presently using a spread-spectrum system on a satellite that will be open to Amateur Radio when the experimentation will be completed.

As most satellites are often switched from the ground to select different transponders, it is necessary to check the AMSAT Web page to find out what mode a particular satellite is operating on and what is the projected schedule of switching. This page will give you the actual operating conditions of a given amateur satellite. It is found at: <http://www.amsat.org>

Have fun!

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG
 ve3vig@rac.ca

P.S. Definitions:

AMSAT - Amateur Satellite

OSCAR - Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio Mode

JA - Voice Mode

JD - Digital Mode

KA - Combination of mode K and mode A ❖

OVMRC Phone Directory Corrections & Additions

Page 4

VA3PUR, Patricia Rowan

Change E-mail address to: va3pur@ve3yy.com

Page 7

VE3NBW, Karel Marha

Change E-mail address to: crs1817@inforamp.net

Page 8

VE3PLT, Sharon Lee Bechthold

Change Membership Number from 130 to 32

Change E-mail address to: sbechthold@cyberus.ca

Additions:

VE3FGW, Bill Rothwell, 729-3338, Mbr. No: 147

VE3GTI, Chris Krepski, 728-3886, Mbr. No: 148

OVMRC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 16th,
1999 OVMRC Regular Meeting (Xmas Variety Show)

President Susan opened the meeting at 1945 hours by welcoming everyone to the Club's special regular meeting which features the annual Christmas Variety Show. Susan made a number of announcements before proceeding with the entertainment portion of the program. The OVMRC is still looking for a volunteer to assume the Chairmanship of the Club's Field Day. Advice and guidance is available to a volunteer. The OVMRC's regular meeting cancellation procedure during the winter months was reviewed. If the weather is inclement, members are advised to monitor the Club's repeater VE3TWO starting at 4:00 PM for meeting cancellation announcements. Commencing January 1st, 2000, the OVMRC will start its 2 meter contact contest using the Club's repeater VE3TWO. President Susan encouraged members to join in this fun contest. The Wise Owl Certificate qualifying run will start in January. Again this year two types of certificates will be available. All amateurs are invited to check-in on the special annual Christmas Morning Net with Sydney on VE3TWO. OVMRC members wishing to have access to the autopatch being installed at VE3TWO are advised to contact Jake, VE3TQX. Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, reported that 15 persons are on the Amateur Radio Course and are doing quite well. Congratulations were extended to Graham Bennet who is this year's winner of the OARC's Joe Norton Award.

At 2000 hours, Ken Barry, VE3KJB, the "Director" of this year's Variety Show, introduce Evan Decorte, the Master of Ceremony for the evening. First to entertain was Garth Hampson. He led the audience in a Christmas carol singsong as well as singing several novelty songs and carols. Roger Norman entertained singing several old "big band" favourite songs. Larry Wilcox and Graham Bennet, assisted by Ken Barry, presented a "Ham and Eggs" skit which demonstrated how not to communicate on 2 meters. Following a short intermission, Jenna and Linda Baggs entertained the group with a song. Garry Mennie, a Celtic musician, had toes-tapping with his violin renditions of Ottawa Valley and Celtic music. June and Barbara, representing the High Horizons Group, sang a beautiful rendition of a Christmas carol. And finally, with Ken Barry at the keyboard and Graham Bennet on the harmonica, they entertained the group with several fast paced favourites. A number of draws interspersed the evening with the winners being Ken Barry, Bob Shaw, Cindy Teevens, Graham Bennet, Larry Wilcox, Don Raymond, Gaetan Piette and Mr. Decorte. The 50/50 Draw was won by Gaetan Piette. The meeting adjourned at 2210 hours. A very special buffet of Christmas goodies was arranged by Ann Asmus and was enjoyed by all.

Dan Doctor, VE3XDD❖

Rambler, January 2000

VE3JW - Rotor Motor Labour

Amateur Radio is sure full of fun...even when it means getting in the nitty-gritty of things. Here it is, Sunday afternoon, just got back from the Museum 48ft tower, and thinking what a great hobby this is and what a great bunch of guys come along when the chips are down.

A week ago, the TH7DX Telex-Hygain antenna decided to stop working. A crew was quickly gathered for Monday morning to do the electrical and visual testing from the control box in the VE3JW station to the rotator up on the antenna tower. We established then, that the problem laid with the rotator. Our climber being on night shift at his regular job, we didn't have time to proceed further.

On Wednesday, with the necessary, temporary support for the antenna, an old Ham-IV rotator that was lying around in the backroom, we took down the faulty unit. It was 2:30PM. I immediately took the rotator to Gregg, VA3ITB, whom I met at Uplands Airport at 3:00PM as he was leaving for Toronto for a 2-day engine flight simulator course. The unit was stored in his locker.

Gregg came back from his course on Friday and immediately set to repair the rotator. Fortunately, he had the necessary parts. The problem was caused by a broken tooth in the main ring gear. The main gear was replaced, the rotator reassembled and lubricated, and the unit was tested and zeroed for North.

Our climbing crew not being available until the next Thursday, we didn't push it. Until Ian mentioned on the 2m repeater that he was available and it was better to attempt the replacement during this nice break in the cold spell of late autumn. Tom agreed, although he was once again on night shift that day.

Forecast for Sunday was 5°C and 100% chance of precipitation. So be it, it's preferable to blowing snow. And you can work without gloves. I got underway early Sunday morning to pick up the rotator at Gregg's in Osgoode, south of Ottawa. The volunteer climbing crew gathered at the Museum and within an hour we were back in business, I mean in operation.

Now, some of you may say it will never work properly because we did not put it up during a heavy snow storm...but I think that only goes for antennas.

Continued on Page: 7

OVMRC MILLENNIUM CONTEST

REPEATER VE3TWO MILLENNIUM CONTEST

When: January 1, 2000 at 00:01 EST
until March 31, 2000 at 23:59 EST

Where: On VE3TWO Repeater 147.300 MHZ (+),
EXCLUDING OFFICIAL NETS

How: Make repeater contacts with other OVMRC
members

Who: OVMRC members only

Point system:

4 methods of contacts

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. My mobile/portable to your mobile/portable | 5 points |
| 2. My mobile/portable to your base station | 5 points |
| 3. My base station to your mobile/portable | 5 points |
| 4. My base station to your base station | 5 points |

(Total points for contact with any one member is 20 points)

Rules: Make qualifying contacts on our club repeater VE3TWO for maximum number of points

The exchange: Look at the membership Roster which came with your December 1999 Rambler. Your membership number for the exchange is shown on the list. For either mobile or portable contacts, place the prefix M in front of the members number, e.g. M1. For base station contacts place the prefix B, in front of the members number, e.g. B1

This is an example of an exchange:

VE3TWO CONTEST VE3TWO OVMRC CONTEST
THIS IS VA3OFD LISTENING FOR ANY
CONTACTS, OVER

VA3OFD THIS IS VE3MOG, OVER

VE3MOG THIS IS VA3OFD MY NAME IS TOM.
MY OVMRC NUMBER IS M29 AND I'M
MOBILE, OVER

HELLO TOM MY NAME IS SUSAN AND MY
OVMRC NUMBER IS B49, AND I AM AT BASE
STATION, OVER

THANK YOU SUSAN FOR THE CONTACT, 73.

THIS IS VA3OFD LISTENING FOR ANY
OTHER CONTACTS, OVER.

MAINTAIN A LOG WHICH INCLUDES:

Date, call sign and name of station worked, OVMRC number, e.g. M12, B45 etc.

WINNERS:

Will be determined by the total points submitted as follows:

1st PLACE: for the highest number of OVMRC members contacted

2nd PLACE: while your mobile/portable, for the most points with other mobiles/portables

3rd PLACE: while your mobile/portable, for the most points with other base stations

4th PLACE: while at your base station, for the most points with other mobiles/portables

5th PLACE: while at your base station, for the most points to a base stations

AWARDS:

A beautiful **OVMRC** Certificate of your achievement with the official Club logo and seal. Certificates will be presented during the 18 May 20:00 General Meeting.

WHAT TO HOW TO SUBMIT TO QUALIFY:

1. Total number of individual OVMRC Members contacted (multiple contacts with same person counts as one member only) e.g. Total equals 85 different members contacted.

2. Mobile/portable to mobiles/portables
e.g. 25 stations times 5 points = 125 points

3. Mobile/portable to base stations
e.g. 30 stations times 5 points = 150 points

4. Base station to mobiles/portables
e.g. 40 times 5 points = 200 points

5. Base station to base stations
e.g. 50 times 5 points = 250 points

Total points submitted
Total points = 725

Happy New Year and welcome to the year 2000! I sincerely hope all of you had an enjoyable time with your family at Christmas and have a healthy and safe new year. It seems so strange to type 2000 after spending my entire life typing in the 1900's.

We continue with the August 1989 RAMBLER. The National Museum of Science and Technology made a commitment in a letter dated July 26, 1989 from Gordon Bruce, Acting Director of the Museum to President Doug Carswell, to incorporate an amateur radio station (VE3JW) in the new Communications exhibit scheduled to open in 1991 or 1992. Mr. Bruce noted that "the focus should be on an operating station with as much interaction with the public as possible." and he also confirmed the availability of the auditorium for our regulars meetings on the third Thursday of each month. In addition, the Museum was prepared to make available a classroom for the Amateur Radio Course beginning in September, 1989.

With Field Day discussions currently underway, it is very appropriate to cover the June 1989 Field Day report by Field Day Coordinator, Jeff Wilson VE3RCI. It was a joint effort by members of our club and the OARC from the National Capital Commission field on the west side of Mooney's Bay. What a location to hold field day! It was an excellent weekend, no rain, no wind, and just a few mosquitos! There were over 30 participants helping with setup, operating, logging, and Craig VE3KKU and his friends provided a BBQ on Saturday night. Keith VE3GFI served up a great Sunday breakfast. Tents were provided by the Department of National Defence. Eleven members from the OVMRC, nine from the OARC and four from other amateur clubs, operated under callsign VE3JW in the 2-A category using 80 and 40 metre dipoles, a three element beam and a GEM quad. The 3 kW generator had to be shut down several times for about 90 minutes due to overheating. They operated CW, SSB, Packet radio, and on 2m simplex using bicycle generated power! Jeff gave thanks to the ten CW Operators: VE3s...EDR, VLF, RMM, DBG, OWD, OM, JLP, K KU, KTU, BUP and the 14 SSB Operators: VE3s...JDB, RCI, VLF, PFX, RMM, CDS, MJV, RCS, FWT, OCU, MDL, LNH, NJY, PXB and Loggers: VE3s...NVL, PDE, GSA, FFK, GVV, OFM, JMC, and ADZ. With a claimed score of 2674 and bonus points of 800, their total score came to 3474 points! Jeff received many positive comments on the success of the joint OARC/OVMRC effort and many expressed an interest in doing it again, saying it was one of the best Field Days they can remember! Has it ever been done since?

Discussions for Field Day this year are underway. It is proposed to hold another combined Field Day with participation from any of the amateur radio clubs in the region that may be interested. What a wonderful way to mark the year 2000! Hopefully, members from the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC), the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC), the West Carleton Amateur Radio Club (WCARC), the Club de Radio Amateur de l'Outaouais, the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club (PARC), the Grenville/Lanark

Amateur Radio Club (Manotick) and others, will come forward with positive enthusiasm, lots of good old fashioned amateur radio spirit and genuine cooperation to put together a combined Field Day operating under one call sign, perhaps VE3RAC, with their assistance and agreement. We could make it happen! Many hands make light work, so let's all contribute our efforts to make it happen at the National Museum of Science and Technology and have a really great, field day! Let's show the rest of Canada how well the amateurs in the National Capital Region can cooperate and demonstrate our abilities operating under Emergency Field conditions! ❖

Closed Phone Patch

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC) announced that the phone patch on its repeater would be available only to its members. This puts it in the same position as most other local Amateur Radio Clubs.

Radio Amateurs who aren't members of a club having a phone patch on its repeater, including visitors to the Ottawa area, will continue to be restricted to the phone patch on the repeater belonging to the Canadian Police College.

National Capital Region Radio Amateurs belonging to the Canadian Police College, like their counterparts who operate VE2RED (Montreal Amateur Radio Club), seem to place the welfare of Amateur Radio above an attempt to reduce what I perceive as the rare occurrence of phone patch abuse.

In fact, they may realize that restricting the phone patch to club members does little, if anything, to reduce an already minuscule problem.

Despite all the pressures causing Amateur Radio's decline, I believe that the OVMRC has seen fit to add to them. By adding another obstacle in the path of a rapidly shrinking hobby, the OVMRC continues Radio Amateurs' widespread practice of impeding rather than facilitating a person's entry and continuation in the hobby.

Len Gelfand, VE3LGZ ❖