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Dxpedition (+Video)

GOTA Feb 19 & 20

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Mar Club Meeting ... Mar 16



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.

White Cane Week - at VE3JW 6 to 12 February 2000

Last year, Ernie, VE3EJJ, invited a group of visually impaired Radio Amateurs to participate in a week-long Radio event especially designed for them during White Cane Week. Each day, an escort provided transport for one of them and spent part of the day accompanying their guest at the Radio station.

We would like to repeat this event again this year and we are looking for Radio operators for the week of 6 to 12 February. Hours are flexible within the Museum opening times of 9 am to 5 p.m.. Arrangements with your guest can be made for morning or afternoon during that day.

We already have a list of guests that have shown interest, now we want to match them with an escort/transport/operator.

If you would like to join in please call Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG, at 749-9010 or e-mail at ve3vig@rac.ca ❖

Guides On The Air - at VE3JW 19 and 20 February, 2000

Do you remember your first contact on Amateur Radio? Regardless of the circumstances, I'm sure it was a marking moment in your Amateur Radio activities. Recapture that moment by helping someone else discover the excitement.

On the weekend of 19-20 February, the VE3JW Amateur Radio Demonstration Station at the National Museum of Science and Technology will host, once again, the Girl Guides for their GOTA annual event.

You are invited (for an hour or two or more) to participate in this event by demonstrating Amateur Radio and guiding the "Guides" in completing a first contact with other Guides around the world through the magic of the air waves.

If you're a qualified HF operator and would like to join in the fun, please contact Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG, at 749-9010 or by e-mail at ve3vig@rac.ca ❖



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, ve3vig@rac.ca
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, 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.



Was that January club meeting fun or what? The frank and open exchange between club members and our three panellists regarding operating procedures certainly seemed to stimulate and to engage a lot of people. Perhaps we could use this rather simple, interactive meeting format again some time, and pick another topic that is sure to get us all thinking. If you have any particular ideas to suggest for

another meeting like this, by all means let me know.

An interesting dialogue also took place at the January Executive meeting, a discussion which could actually initiate significant benefits for club members over the long term. Anyone who has ever been to a few OVMRC Executive meetings might tell you that the sausage factory analogy definitely applies – it ain't necessarily a pretty process but the end result can be quite good.

Many of the challenges we face around the Executive table, however, are directly related to the way in which the OVMRC is structured through our by-laws. All corporations, for example, are, by law, led by a Board of Directors, which acts on behalf of the shareholders or members of the organization. The Board's primary role is to direct and to protect the organization. Directors are also legally liable for anything that happens as a result of the organization's activities.

While the Board's role is generally to determine *what* to do, based on input from the shareholders or members, a Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director (with assistance from an Executive Committee or staff) normally decide *how* to do it. The word executive, after all, comes from the root execute, which means *to carry out*, or *to do*. And from my experience (limited though as it might be), it seems like a really good idea to separate the decision-making process into those two parts: first, let's decide what to do, and second, let's decide how to do it.

One of the most common problems with meetings – especially when attended by more than seven people or so – is a tendency to wade into long discussions about relatively minor administrative details that might be important to just one or two people around the

table. While the discussion might seem worthwhile to the few people involved, it rarely does anything to move forward the objectives of the organization or the group as a whole.

The main benefit, after all, of bringing several people in to sit around the table is to collect the expertise, experience and vision together and to aim it towards the primary objectives of the organization. If only one or two people have any real input on each item of the agenda, much of the talent you've put around the table has been wasted. Thus, a certain level of frustration results.

The OVMRC by-laws and our common practice, however, enshrine the procedure that Executive meetings are to be attended by both the Board of Directors (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary), as well as the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees. While on one hand it is a good thing to get such a big group together face-to-face, it also means that the agenda see-saws back in forth between *what* to do, and *how* to do it, involving fifteen people with differing levels of responsibility, who might or might not have something to contribute for each item.

Further, we have had the practice of appointing Chairpersons for several committees, but rarely do any of these committees have members except for the Chairperson. As a result, discussions take place around the Executive table that, in theory, are supposed to take place around the Committee table, which makes all Committee Chairpersons *de facto* members of everyone else's Committee, whether they like it or not!

I think there must be a better way.

With all this in mind, my job now is to carry out some research respecting OVMRC by-laws, and by-laws in general, and to bring forward to the membership recommendations for some fairly significant by-law changes.

We have really good contributors in our club. The members of our Executive Committee work hard to make OVMRC what it is. But certainly, if there are any ways in which we can preserve and refocus the energy of our volunteers towards making this club even better, I would like to find them. ❖

OVMRC Meeting Minutes

JANUARY 20th

President Susan opened the meeting at 1935 hours by welcoming everyone and inviting guests to introduce themselves. There were four guests. Susan explained that due to eclipse of the moon, the museum had scheduled the Astronomy Club into the auditorium and the OVMRC into alternative accommodations for the evening.

Susan reviewed the agenda for the evening and introduced the three panel members who would be discussing "Operating Procedures". In her introduction, President Susan commented that the panel had an accumulated total of 144 years experience as Amateur Radio Operators, which prompted their selection as panel members. The panel consisted of Ed Morgan, VE3GX, Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO, and Rob Ludlow, VE3YE. While Ed Morgan's comments focussed on CW procedures he included some comments on phone procedures. Doreen Morgan spoke about phone procedures and touched upon CW procedures. Rob Ludlow, speaking from a prepared text, covered both CW and phone procedures. All three panel members raised many valid points, some controversial, which generated an excellent exchange with a number of members in the audience. It was suggested that Rob Ludlow's speaking notes, which had universal application, be printed in the Rambler. President Susan thanked the panel members for an excellent presentation, which was supported by an enthusiastic round of applause, by the members.

Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS, provided an update on Y2K emergency measures in Ottawa. He specifically thanked Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, and Rob Ludlow, VE3YE for volunteering to man the EPC Emergency Center in Ottawa. He also thanked Brice Wightman VE3EDR and Arthur Abramovitch, VE3GFB for volunteering to man the Transport Canada Emergency Center. Ken reported that, thankfully, no emergency arose with the introduction of the new millennium.

Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW, provided a financial report, which gave the membership an update on the Club's current financial position. He pointed out that he is looking for a volunteer to audit the Club's books.

Glenn McLeod, VE3GLN, who has volunteered to assume the Field Day Chairmanship, provided a report on his activities to date. He has held a meeting to which all radio clubs in the Capital Region were invited. Twenty persons attended and discussed the possibility of banding together for a large field day event on the museum grounds. While everyone expressed interest in the plan, no final decision was reached. Further meetings are planned at which a consensus and decision, hopefully, will be reached.

Tom, VE3TCG and Russ Lowe, VE3LOW won the door prizes. Liz, VA3ELB, won the 50/50 draw. The meeting was adjourned at 2130 hours for a social hour, coffee and cookies. ❖

Dan Doctor,
VE3XDD

Financial Report 19 January 2000

<u>Income</u>	<u>To date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Membership	2802.00	3000.00
50/50	226.50	
Manual Sales	521.92	500.00
Donations, Misc Revenue	45.00	200.00
Flea Market,	<u>191.98</u>	2600.00
Sub-Total	3787.40	
Course Fees	<u>3600.00</u>	
TOTAL	7387.40	

Expenses - Club

Rambler	992.71 (Dec)	2800.00
Repeater	342.63	400.00
Office Supplies	82.33	80.00
Publicity	40.69	350.00
Name Tags	6.00	30.00
Insurance	810.00	810.00
ARDF Donation	52.50	
J.W. Award	341.60	
Variety Night	250.00	322.00
Post Office Box	<u>77.04</u>	
Sub-Total	2995.50	

Expenses - Course

Phone	156.95
Supplies	<u>12.57</u>
Sub-Total	169.52

TOTAL 3165.02

Petty Cash 167.29

The major sources of revenue and expenditures are presented for your information. Our revenues from 50/50 draws and manual sales are encouraging. ❖

Peter Hafichuk,
VE3LBW

AMATEUR RADIO BANDS

The Cost of the Privilege

The January OVMRC monthly meeting had a very interesting subject: Amateur Radio "On Air" Procedures. You will admit it is a very controversial subject as these so called procedures are not being taught sufficiently at the entrant level and the new Amateur is often left on his own to pick up from more advanced Amateurs the procedures in use on the various radio bands.

It is not at all surprising to me that many points of view were given during our meeting. A panel of three more knowledgeable Amateurs addressed and commented on some main points of infraction and answered the many questions from a very captive audience. Susan, VE3MOG, our Club President, was the facilitator between the panel and the audience. She carried a remote microphone so that anyone wishing to contribute a point of view could be heard clearly.

This worked out very nicely. We did not solve the procedures problem but we heard many opinions that certainly helped us reflect on the situation and filled us with good intent to adhere to commonly known guidelines and make an effort to improve on current practices. Nevertheless, many were clearly intent on hanging on to deviations from the correct procedures claiming their way facilitates communications or give them a better chance to be heard. The lively inputs were moderated by recalls of Bill's, VE3NR, "Guidelines for the Radio Amateur", that of being responsible and courteous.

However, I was somewhat saddened by the lack of reference to one of the main reasons that the Amateur Radio community still hangs on to band privileges, a reason that is closely related to Radio procedures.

A privilege, according to my English dictionary, is an advantage or opportunity enjoyed by anyone in a favoured position. What is the favoured position that Amateur Radio holds over commercial and other users of the Spectrum? It is certainly not the fact that we pay some twenty dollars for our license. This fee is to keep order in the Radio ranks and ensure that the issuing and control over licenses is carried out in an orderly manner.

In the past, the favoured position was mainly due to the involvement of Radio Amateurs in research and development of radio electronics through experimentation and operation. Today, the evolution of radio and communications is such that we no longer hold this advantage. What is it then that keeps us in a favoured position?

In order to answer this question, let's have a look at the purposes of Amateur Radio as we know it today. Lately, representation to the US Congress in defence of the Amateur Radio Spectrum listed its purposes as: 1 - emergency communications; 2 - technical experimentation; 3 - recreation. Note the shift in priorities.

Rambler, February 2000

The Amateur Radio community is recognized today for its involvement during disasters by providing emergency communications networks that operate very efficiently. We are also seen as goodwill ambassadors between nations around the world. Also, to a lesser degree, we carry out experimentation, foremost on satellites, in electronic circuitry and antennae.

In order to carry out efficient emergency communications there is a need to establish a common procedure, at universal level, that will reduce the possibility of errors. Learning that procedure and sticking to it should be the priority of every Amateur. That is, if you wish Amateur Radio to retain its "privilege" with regards to Spectrum. THAT, is part of the price, part of the cost of the privilege.

Think about that as you join in the many nets on several bands or make a contact near or far. You are continually practising your procedure in order to upgrade your skill at communication for that eventual call out to an emergency situation.

We can derive a lot of fun from this privilege, and the fun will last as long as we can keep it. Whether you're an F-18 pilot (what a privilege to fly one of those!) or involved in a discipline that brings about a part of pleasure and enjoyment, deviation from set procedures can spell catastrophe in a given situation. Be ready by being steady (on procedure). ❖

Maurice-André Vigneault
ve3vig@rac.ca

Guidelines For the Radio Amateur

The thoughtful Radio Amateur is:

Responsible
using courteous operation practice, complying with regulations and accepted technical standards;

Progressive
striving to develop and improve operating and technical skills;

Helpful
offering assistance, support and encouragement to other Amateurs, especially beginners; and

Public Spirited
offering use of station, knowledge and skills as a public service whenever possible.

W. Wilson - VE3NR, 1997

Well it appears we all survived the Y2K problems! There were a few glitches which I read about in the news, but nothing of any great consequence. Perhaps all the billions of dollars spent on a worldwide basis made a difference. What if they had not spent all that money on the “Big Bug Fix”? Perhaps there would have been all sorts of drastic problems. I’m sure everyone is pleased the rollover into the start of the new millennium was a “non-event” and our emergency services as amateurs were not required.

The September RAMBLER was only a one page Special Notice of September 21st general meeting, “The World of Amateur Radio”, an evening devoted to introducing amateur radio. Members were urged to bring along their friends and neighbours to let them see what amateur radio is all about. There were many displays including the National Museum of Science and Technology Station VE3JW, a slow-scan TV, packet radio and digipeater, a public service display, QSL display and a general information table. The October 1989 minutes note that eighty five members and guests attended. Maybe we should plan another one, with assistance from lots of our members and invite the general public to attend.

The October 1989 RAMBLER editor, Chuck King, VE3PDK, wrote about two Emergency Preparedness Courses held at the Canadian Preparedness College in Arnprior, Ontario. The courses provided simulated emergencies and provided students with an opportunity to co-ordinate all the services needed to protect and care for the population. Students also had an opportunity to practice their communications skills and traffic handling. The courses consisted of a cross-section of people from every Province in Canada, representing Provincial emergency measures planners, municipal mayors, police and fire services, City managers and engineers, health and social services and transportation managers. The Amateurs who took part gained valuable emergency communications experience. They were also able to demonstrate to the authorities attending the courses, the value of including Amateur Radio Service in community emergency plans. The College paid for round-trip transportation and provided meals and overnight accommodation to the participants.

Pat Brewer VE3KJQ, noted in his monthly feature about other clubs “News and Views From Here and There”, that local Pioneer Amateur Radio Club member Bill VE3EKA was making a big push for a fast-scan ATV repeater. He was the guest speaker at our September meeting and pointed out the advantages fast-scan TV could provide for live coverage of public service events such as the Triathlon.

Jeff Wilson VE3RCI, gave encouragement in his first monthly column “DX de YOU” for all members to forward their best DX catches, any mode, any band (yes VHF and above, too!) Some of Jeff’s contacts: CEOFFD Easter Island, XT2CW Burkino Faso, JY9SR Jordan, and 5B4TI Cyprus. Turning to the November 1989 RAMBLER, Paul VE3JLP reported 20m DX catches on CW:

3B8CF Mauritius, HL4SF Korea, and on 10m SSB, TA5C Turkey. Lee VE3OWD reported CW contacts on 10m with ZK1CQ South Cook Island, 6WI0B Dakar, Senegal and FS/KCIF St. Martin. Jeff VE3RCI reported his first packet connections with AL7IN, DJ3BH, OH2NIB all on the October 14, 1989 and G4GVQ on 28.098. Jeff noted ten metre conditions over the weekend were the best yet and the A and K indices were zero!

However, on Oct 20th, a solar storm made things difficult for the Scouts “Jamboree on the Air” (JOTA).

Moving along to the November 1989 RAMBLER, the minutes of the October General Meeting mention a total of 27 students on the amateur radio course. Sounds like a record number to me! Noteworthy also is the fact that 1989 marked the 60th Anniversary of the first TV broadcast which took place in the United Kingdom in 1929. George Roach VE3BNO was the speaker at the October meeting. His subject of AM Stereo radio broadcasting was very informative. FM radio started in the late 30’s or 40’s and the first FM stereo broadcast occurred in 1960 with AM Stereo following a few years later. Locally, stereo broadcasts started with CJSB in the spring of 1983, followed closely by CFRA in October. CFGO came on line in 1988, followed by CKOY in 1989. Commercial AM Stereo stations installed vertically polarized antenna components to accommodate many AM Stereo car sets which were using whip antennas. George’s presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all and he faced many questions from members.

Merge the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club and the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club? Next month you will read about the “Editor’s View” on this subject in the December 1989 RAMBLER. ❖

OVMRC Phone Directory Additions

Additions:

VE3CFE, Cliff Ellement, 591-770,ellement@home.com
Mbr No: 149

VE3RKW, Eric Levin, 727-1444, elevin@regent.cc
Mbr No: 150

Page 9:

VE3UZU, Colin Finlayson
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