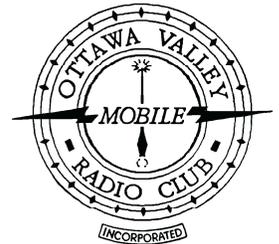


# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)  
Volume 45, Issue No 5



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## OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award

ERNIE JURY, this year's Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award recipient

This year's fierce competition for the coveted Jerry Wells OVMRC AYA, and the anxious wait to hear named the recipient, came to an end on the night of our November meeting when Ernie Jury was awarded the honour. Although the vote took place earlier than the US presidential election, all votes were hand-counted and the results were rendered only a short month later... actually, 28 days!

This time around, Mrs June Knight, who usually handed out the award since her husband Jerry passed away, was not able to do so due to family requirements. She asked that I, the previous recipient of the award, do the honour of reading a short note that she carefully prepared. I would like to share this note with those who could not be present at the presentation.

"I regret not being with you tonight but Maurice-André will do the honour of presenting the OVMRC award for me which was named for my late husband Jerry Wells. As many of you know, Jerry was voted Amateur of the Year in 1997 by his fellow Amateurs.

For those among you who didn't know Jerry I will give you a brief background.

Jerry was very involved in Amateur Radio especially OVMRC where he served on the executive in several positions over the years.

He was active in Field Days, several nets, special events i.e. GOTA and Talk to Santa. He helped run the Amateur Radio course and was a government examiner. He was editor of the Rambler for ten years.

Jerry was chairman of the Seniors' Committee for the radio station VE3JW at the National Museum of Science and Technology. He was given the honour of life membership in June of 1989 and he became a silent key in November 1997. He was an outstanding Radio Amateur in the community for over forty-six years.

I know he would have approved of this years recipient as they worked together over the years on various things. I am pleased to declare the winner this year Ernie Jury. Ernie was very supportive and kind during Jerry's short illness for which the family and myself were very grateful."

Ernie received the honour plaque and the Morse paddle from our Prez Susan, VE3MOG. After the presentations, Ernie gave a few short words of thanks. At first he said: "Don't believe all the lies which were written about me..." (there were no lies Ernie... well deserved honour for your year-round efforts). He thanked June for her kind words and said he was honoured to receive the Award. He said he would definitely use the paddle, "If you hear a mess of dits and dahs, be patient for a while...".

Well done Ernie! Although the nominations are for efforts during the one Club year, Ernie has, for many years, been a stalwart for the Club. Will you be next? ❖

Maurice-André ve3vig@rac.ca

# Merry Christmas

## and a

# Happy New Year





# Rambler

## OVMRC Executive (1999-2000)

<b>President</b>	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG 833-2766, ve3mog@rac.ca
<b>Vice-President</b>	Dan Reardon, VE3GUU 721-3339, ve3guu@igs.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Linda Balke, VA3LJB 737-4003, va3ljb@rac.ca
<b>Secretary</b>	Dan Doctor, VE3XDD 745-9214, ddoctor@magma.ca

## Standing Committee Chairpersons

<b>Amateur Radio Exhibit</b>	Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG 749-9010, ve3vig@rac.ca
<b>Amateur Radio Training</b>	Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, lycott@fox.nstn.ca Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666
<b>Accredited Examiner</b>	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
<b>Field Day</b>	Vacant
<b>Historical</b>	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
<b>Flea Market</b>	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV 521-8910, ve3zov@rac.ca
<b>Membership</b>	Ian Kennedy, VE3MUD 741-6559, ve3mud@rac.ca
<b>Newsletter</b>	Bill Hall, VA3WMH 830-5580, va3wmh@rac.ca
<b>Publicity &amp; Programs</b>	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG 833-2766, ve3mog@rac.ca
<b>Radio Operations</b>	Vacant
<b>Technical</b>	Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, va3tqx@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

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

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The OVMRC website is hosted by Magma Communications Ltd.



### 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 Roger,  
VE3JR,jcr@magma.ca



### Next Meeting

Dec 14  
**Rambler Deadline**  
Jan 5

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](mailto:va3wmh@rac.ca).

## Elections for Director Ontario-North

December 1, 2000

The Secretary of Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. is pleased to announce the results of the 2nd Call for Nominations for the position of Director, Ontario North.

On Friday, December 1, 2000, the Committee of Tellers, consisting of Bill Rothwell, VE3FGW, Hans van den Berg, VE3REL, Gary Hyatt, VE3MJT and George Roach, VE3BNO, met at RAC Headquarters to review the nomination papers received for the position of Director, Ontario North.

Two nominations were received. The candidates for the position of Director, Ontario North are:

Douglas E. Leach, VE3XK  
Ronald E. Walsh, VE3GO

The Committee of Tellers declared that the paperwork for both candidates was in order. A balloted election will shortly take place. Ballots will be mailed to all full voting members in the Ontario North Region (postal codes "K" and "P") on or before January 1, 2001. The return deadline for this election is noon, Friday February 16, 2001. The successful candidate will commence office immediately, completing the term to December 31, 2002. ❖

## Phase 3D Launched!

November 15, 2000

The Phase 3D satellite was successfully launched from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana at 2000 UTC on November 15. Preliminary telemetry indicates that the launch went perfectly. Much work needs to be done before the satellite becomes available to the general amateur population. More information is available on the AMSAT website at [www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org) ❖

## New Basic Question Bank Issued

November 23, 2000

The second edition of RIC-7 was issued by Industry Canada earlier this month.

This circular contains the questions that will be used effective January 01, 2001, for making Basic Qualification examinations for the Amateur Radio Operator Certificate. This early release is intended to enable course providers' sufficient time to prepare course material for future Amateur Radio Operator Courses. Until this time, examinations will be compiled using the existing question banks.

The question bank can be downloaded from the Industry Canada website at:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf01900e.html>

The RAC Study Guide for Basic Exam, 6th Edition fully covers the new questions. ❖

## First Canadian LF QSO on 136 kHz

Date: July 22, 2000

Poor to medium conditions, but at 1400 GMT - July 22, VA3LK and VE3OT accomplished a 2-way QSO on 136 kHz - a first in Canada. The distance was 431 km (268 miles). Method was with QRSS at 0.4 wpm, using the sweep second hand to count the dots and dashes.

VA3LK - using an IRF540 final ( 18V @ 4A) on 137.710 kHz and with a 270 ft tower. VE3OT - G0MRF rig (at 200 watts) on 137.780 kHz on a 50 foot Marconi with an 80 ft tophat.

Larry VA3LK's coordinates are 44:40N 76:25W and Mitch VE3OT's coordinates are 43N 81:15W

(Larry and Mitch have special authorisation from IC to operate on 136 kHz) ❖

# OVMRC Meeting Minutes

Dan Doctor  
VE3XDD

Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2000

President Susan Mogensen opened the meeting at 1930 hours by reviewing the agenda for the evening.

She then divided the 66 members present into groups to inspect the various radio equipment members had brought to the meeting. The owner of each piece of equipment was asked to provide an explanation of the history, components, etc., to the other members of the group.

The Show and Tell of "old" radio equipment proved to be of considerable interest to the membership as each group experienced active discussions and questions and answers.

President Susan introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Cliff Element, VE3CFE, who has been an amateur for the past twenty-two years.

Cliff's presentation traced the history and development of radio from Marconi to the late 1940;s. Adding to the interest and informative nature of his talk, Cliff had home brew examples of antiquated pieces of electronic equipment he had constructed. The equipment he had on display had been constructed during the past seven years when he first became interested in vintage radio. Again, membership interest was demonstrated by the number of questions asked about components, costs, sources of parts, etc.

President Susan thanked Cliff for his very interesting and informative presentation.

Susan announced the winner of the Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of Year, 1999-2000 Award was Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ. Ernie was presented with an engraved plaque and chrome plated paddle keyer. Maurice Andre Vigneault, last year's winner, read a letter of congratulations from June Knight, Jerry Wells widow who was unable to be present. In accepting the award, Ernie thanked those who nominated him and the members of the Club who voted for him.

It was announced, as a reminder, that our next meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup> and will be the Christmas Variety Show. One of the door prizes will be a \$100 gift certificate from Durham Radio.

Volunteers are required to assume the Chairmanship of the Flea Market and Field Day 2001. Additionally, volunteers are required for the winter months to make the coffee for after meetings social hour.

Susan announced that the next Bunny Hunt will be on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. She and Don Raymond will be the "bunnies" and will be hiding within an easily defined area. The hunt will start at 1030 hours and conclude by approximately 1230 hours

For the time being, the telephone auto patch is operating on an open basis. The Club will have an opportunity at its January meeting to decide whether it should remain open, or be closed to members only..

Renovations to VE3JW are progressing. Volunteers are required to change the various video tapes being played as well as to talk to the public about amateur radio. A satellite tracking station will be installed.

The door prizes were won by Larry Kearns, VE3WSB, John Rogers, VE3JR, and Patrick Tunney, VE3CMD.

The 50/50 draw was won by Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, \$46.50.

The meeting adjourned at 2115 hours for a social hour. ❖

## Friends and Fellow Radio Amateurs:

I want to thank you all sincerely for the honour you have bestowed on me by voting me the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award. It is indeed a great honour and one that I am not sure I deserve when my accomplishments are compared with those of the man for whom the Award is named. Too, I feel that there is another who has made an even greater contribution this past year that has given the OVMRC exposure in the international amateur radio community. There should be some formal recognition of this effort as we will not likely see a similar field day for years to come, if ever.

The Bencher paddles are a real show piece in my station, the best piece of equipment there, and I am learning to use them albiet slowly. It seems I still have to get the habit of unconsciously knowing which way to move the hand to get a dot or a dash. I am sure it will come with practice. The paddles are remarkable in that they cleanup sloppy sending. Once a dot or a dash is started the timing is correct as is the spacing between successive dots or dashes. The plaque is on the wall of my shack and is very impressive.

May I humbly thank you all for the honour you have given me.

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ.

## SEPTEMBER 1990

This month was the first time the OVMRC membership held their meeting at the Multi-service Centre, 1480 Heron Road. Official notice from the Museum that it would be closing for a year for major renovation was received and announced during the June meeting. This also closed Amateur Radio station VE3JW. A notice in the RAMBLER noted VE3JW would be back on the air in December 1992 when the Communications Exhibit was completed. Ernie Decoste VE3RIM, was in charge of this project. With the start of winter weather just around the corner, it seems appropriate to write about the sunny south. The September 1990 RAMBLER cover featured an article "OVMRC GRADS MARITIME MOBILE" written by Brice Wightman VE3EDR. Brice wrote an interesting story of his dream to own a sailboat and go blue-water cruising. His dream came true in 1986 when he and his first mate, Teresa, took their 37-foot yawl "Peregrina," from Lake Ontario through the Intra-Coastal Waterway to Florida, 1500 miles away. Each year thereafter, Brice would leave with assistance from local Florida sailors for the Bahamas, 55 miles off the coast of Florida.

However, in 1990, there was a distinct difference. Brice left from Peregrina's home slip in Melbourne, Florida with the assistance of six Amateurs including Paul Cooper VE3JLP, Tom Ling VE3KKO, Bill McLeod VE3LOZ, Dan Eakins VE3WCS, and Gaston Bruneau VE3SDR. Brice maintained a daily sked with Ottawa via CW with Ken Barry VE3KJB.

Paul and Brice took Peregrina south down the coast to Palm Beach which was their staging point for the crossing to the Bahamas. They entered the harbour after midnight and were met by a Coast Guard launch. The Coast Guard illuminated their boat with a powerful search light and they were questioned and then allowed to continue on their passage. Brice noted every inlet in southern Florida is under constant surveillance by radar for boats running drugs from the Bahamas. They set sail from Palm Beach the next day at sunset, and headed east across the Gulf Stream, the largest "river" in the world. The current in the middle can be as great as five knots (six MPH) which requires estimating the average current and then calculating the angle by which to "crab" into the current. They stuck to their calculated course and made a good landfall at West End on Grand Bahama Island at dawn.

Brice explained in detail the rig, antennas and ground system used for their contacts to Ottawa. He used a Kenwood TS-440SAT with an automatic antenna tuner.

Paul had arranged a sked on phone with VE3LOZ but they could not work him even though they could hear him. The innovative solution to overcome the high impedance on 20m was simple. Brice open up the antenna tuning unit and slipped a pocket screwdriver into the plates of one of the variable capacitors to create an "L" network which provided a match. Thereafter, they stayed on CW and reports were not always good with QSB present.

After delivering the boat to Marsh Harbour, their base of operations in the Bahamas, Paul flew back to the farm to make hay while the sun shone. Ken Barry VE3KJB, took over as base operator with Paul assisting at times. They agreed to an 8am local time sked. Ken is an ex-Navy "sparks" and was absolutely reliable, never missed a sked and was key-down right on the CHU time check. Brice worked full break-in so Paul could throw in a "p" to indicate his presence. In a seven-week period, they held 106 QSOs with Ken and also logged ES3XV ( a Soviet Prefix coming into use), WA9SQN/K4 from the US Virgin Islands, UB4XWB, W30DC/VE3 Howard near Perth, OK2TDO and 4X1EL. Signal reports where from 569 to 599. In order to avoid pileups, Brice used his full Callsign VE3EDR/C6A/MM, a real handful when using a straight key! He noted C6A is about halfway down the DX rarity list and MM - Marine Mobile - does not qualify for awards so avoided the pileups by using his full callsign. He worked a few QRP stations including a VE2 who was using one watt!

Dan VE3WCS ("West Coast Sailor") and Gaston VE3SDR ("Sailors Drink Rum"), both students on the OVMRC course and lieutenant-commanders in the Royal Canadian Navy, eventually arrived at the Abaco group of Islands to assist with the return to Florida. Brice complimented them for their knowledge, skill and judgment and for their salty tales of Navy life. Dan took on several of the skeds and prepared wonderful cuisine dishes from the canned food on board. Their weather was hot in the low 90's F every day, with variable winds except for gigantic daily afternoon rain squalls. Wind squalls of 30 to 40 knots were a problem. They got caught in a squall with the main sail up, eased the mainsail until it was just flogging and were doing more than 6.5 knots, the maximum speed for the hull! Gaston was fighting the helm trying to bear off enough to take the strain off the helm without capsizing the boat. The squall didn't let up and during the first "lull" Dan and Gaston went forward and lowered the main sail quickly. They kept close plots on hurricanes "Arthur" and "Bertha" also.

# Yesteryears (Cont'd)

After each day's sail, they dropped anchor in the shelter of a bay, went for a swim, and held a happy hour in the cockpit followed by one of Dan's five star dinners. They anchored at the edge of the Little Bahamas Bank, where the water is only about 6-12 feet deep for miles around. The name "Bahama" is derived from the Spanish "Baja mar," meaning "low sea." They weighed anchor at sunset and headed back across the Gulf Stream, trading four-hour watches through the night. "Bertha's" skirts gave them some foul winds and a 90-db warbler siren from the high-water bilge alarm! All hands were on deck in an instant. It turned out the automatic float switch had stuck and the bilges were filling with water. They quickly overrode the automatic with the manual switch and pumped the bilges. Just after dawn, as they approached Fort Pierce, Florida, they radioed Ken VE3KJB to notify their XYL's of their safe arrival. The yellow quarantine flag was raised as they entered the inlet and Brice spent two hours with the bureaucracy making their formal entry for the ship and crew. Finally, he was able to head for the Marina, for a much wanted shower and the comfort of air-conditioning and a seafood supper overlooking the Atlantic. The Peregrina finally lies quietly in her berth waiting for next year's crop of radio operators and crew.

Brice made more sailing trips to the Bahamas with other Graduates from the OVMRC over the next few years. I was invited and had the opportunity as a graduate of the 1992 course. Coincidentally, I went for breakfast at the Bridge Restaurant with my sister who lives in Sarnia and met a couple of sailors that were going with Brice. I still regret not going when I had the opportunity.

This issue of the RAMBLER also featured a new column NOVICE NEWS by Ken Barry who was a graduate of the 1989/90 OVMRC Amateur Radio Course. Ken passed his examinations and morse code tests in February 1990 and encouraged students not to get discouraged, to treat the course like a school subject, to put in enough study and you cannot fail. It seems appropriate to mention this at this time because the current students are "cramming" and studying hard in order to write their exam before the end of December. They will be making history by being the last students on the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course to take the "old" exams prior to the "new" requirements which become effective January 1, 2001.

The "New Basic Question Bank", RIC-7 (Radiocommunication Information Circular #7), second edition, was issued by Industry Canada earlier this month. It contains the questions that will be used for Basic Qualification examinations for the Amateur Radio

Operator Certificate, effective January 1, 2001. The early release is intended to enable course providers sufficient time to prepare course material for future Amateur Radio Operator Courses. The question bank can be downloaded from the Industry Canada website at:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf01900e.html>

The RAC Study Guide for Basic Exam, 6th Edition fully covers the new questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a "Happy, Healthy and Safe" Christmas and New Year. ❖

**Don't forget the Variety Show.**  
**We have a great show for you.**  
**Come and bring your family and friends for an entertaining evening of laughter and song.**

**Also, don't forget to bring food items such as finger food, cookies etc. Give them to Anne Asmus at the food counter on show night.**

## **Volunteers Required:**

- ✓ Field Day Coordinator - See Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG
- ✓ Flea Market Coordinator - See Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG
- ✓ Amateur Course Instructors - See Bob Shaw, VE3SUY