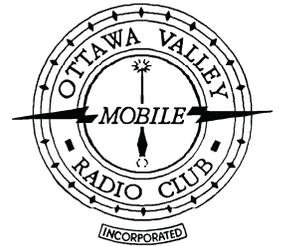


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OV~~M~~R~~C~~)
Volume 45, Issue No 6



Inside...

RAC Bulletins	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Yesteryear	5

Reminders...

Club Meeting	Jan 18
Club Exec. Meeting	Jan 25
Rambler Deadline ..	Feb 2
Morse Course	Feb 13
Next Club Meeting	Feb 15

*Best Wishes
in the
New Year*



Talk to Santa

by Larry VE3WEH

Magic, just plain magic! Watching children's eyes light up as they talked on the radio to Santa Claus at the North Pole! A real treat and just plain magic! The "Talk to Santa" event was held at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology on Sunday afternoon from 1.00 - 4.00 p.m., December 17, 2000 with assistance from Santa (Don Raymond VE3DRO) and his wonderful elves, who were all dressed in red lab coats and their own red hat. The helpful and very courteous elves helping Santa included Tom Johnson VA3WTJ and his wife, Liz Johnson VA3ELB, Patricia Rowan VE3PUR, Dan Doctor VE3XDD, and yours truly. We all walked throughout the museum looking for children and offered them the chance to "Talk to Santa", in either of our official languages. The event was organized by our hardworking Ken Barry VE3KJB who, unfortunately, was unable to attend.

The event was a HUGE success in the eyes of the 78 "young" and "young at heart" children, aged 1.5 years to 53 years, as they had their turn to "Talk to Santa"! Through the magic of a special long distance FM frequency to the North Pole, Santa's loud and happy "HO HO HO's" echoed through the Museum from the Amateur radios of his elves. The sound of Santa's reindeer bells and his call and exclamation of "Well bless my buttons" was heard by many of them as they told him what they hoped for this Christmas. Many of the children wished him a Merry Christmas also and one child with me, with a very enquiring mind, asked, "Is that really Santa at the North Pole?" I said, "Why don't you ask Santa yourself?" This little girl asked Santa the question

Continued on Page: 3



Rambler

OVMRC Executive (1999-2000)

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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 Roger,
VE3JR, jcr@magma.ca



Next Meeting

Jan 18
Rambler Deadline
Feb 2

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.

ARISS School Contact Program

January 5, 2001

Following the recent ARISS meeting at Goddard Space Flight centre, RAC is now encouraging Canadian amateurs to help set up radio contacts between school children and astronauts on the International Space Station.

These contacts will be made when there are astronauts who are also radio amateurs on the ISS. For the time being, the astronauts will use two metre fm transceivers.

To participate, amateurs and teachers must work together to prepare a proposal and fill out an application form.

Daniel Lamoureux VE2KA, the RAC representative on the ARISS school selection committee, will collect the proposals and participate in the selection process.

Similar contacts are being set up for schools in Japan, Russia, the USA, and several countries in Europe.

Details of how schools will be selected for the contacts can be found on the ARISS pages of this web site.

<http://www.rac.ca/ariss.htm> ❖

IC issues 5 wpm Gazette Notice

January 5, 2001

Industry Canada issues 5 wpm Morse Code Gazette Notice

Industry Canada has issued the long awaited Gazette Notice indicating their intent to amend Radio Information Circular RIC-2, to: "Grant Full Operating Privileges in all Amateur Radio Frequency Bands Below 30 MHz to Amateur Radio Operators Holding a 5 word per minute (w.p.m.) Morse Code Qualification".

The purpose of the Gazette Notice is to give all Canadians an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

Comments should be sent to Industry Canada within 60 days.

The full notice can be found on the Industry Canada Web site at:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/sf05327e.html>

An unofficial copy is available on the RAC web site at:

<http://www.rac.ca/12wpm.htm> ❖

Continued from Page: 1

and he responded, "Yes, you bet your buttons this is the REAL Santa at the North Pole!" However, one of the other girls with her said, "That sounds like my Grandfather!" I finally had the opportunity of meeting Santa's Grand daughter!

All the children were presented with an outstanding green, red and blue, bilingual, certificate entitled, "Season's Greetings from the North Pole Radio Station". Dan VE3XDD, was listening on his HT and typed up each of the certificates for the children. The certificate confirmed that each child spoke directly with Santa at the North pole and they were signed by Dan and carried the club's callsign VE3RAM which is used for Field Day and special events. Dan handed out their certificates along with a candy cane, compliments of the museum.

As I write this, Dasher, Dancer, Blitzen, Donner, Comet, Cupid, Prancer, Vixen, led through the snowy night sky by Rudolph the Red nosed reindeer, are racing around the world delivering Christmas presents to these and millions of other children. And what a load it is this year! Most of the children were quite modest in their demands upon Santa Claus but asked for quite a variety of toys, including: an Airplane, Barbie Dolls, Blue Whales, a new Bike (guess he was afraid of getting another hand me down!), Computer, Game Boys, Hamster, Hushabye Babies, Nintendo 64 games, Orca the Whale, Play station 2, Pokeman, Sewing Machine, Scooter, Skate Board, Truck, Videos and even a World Globe! Santa was kept busy writing his long list of requests and always said "I can't promise you I can get everything you ask for but I will try my best! And he wished all of them and their families a Very Merry Christmas!"

On behalf of Ken, a big thanks to Santa and all of his elves that made this such a successful event! I enjoyed working with all of you and you certainly deserve the credit for making "Talk to Santa" such a popular event. The Museum appreciated your help and were very pleased with the turnout. ❖

OVMRC Meeting Minutes

Dan Doctor
VE3XDD

Thursday, December 14th, 2000

The regular December meeting featured the annual OVMRC's Christmas Variety Show.

A delightful program of music and song was very much enjoyed by the membership and their guests. The mother and daughter team of Linda and Jenna Baggs got the evening underway with a duet rendition of "Can't Fight That Feelin". Celtic singer Garrie Mennie sang a medley of Irish songs, encouraging the audience to join him in the singing of some familiar songs. Jenna Baggs then took centre stage and vocalized "I'm All Right". In a change of pace, Connie Sullivan, a member of the Irish Canadians Group, sang a western favourite, "Coal Miner's Daughter". Connie was accompanied by Graham Bennett playing his harmonica. Closing out part one of the program, well known local amateur operator Frank Stratton had the audience tapping their toes with his rhythmic 5 string banjo and songs.

Part two of the show opened with a medley of music by Graham Bennett on the harmonica and Ken Barry of the piano keyboard. Canterbury High School's Orion Duet, Tamsin Johnston and Emily Shapiro, entertained the membership with their clarinet and oboe selection. The Canterbury High School Double Trio captivated the audience with their whimsical song and costumes. Capping an outstanding evening of entertainment, well known singer Garth Hampson captivated the audience as he had them singing along with him as he sang his medley of songs.

In between acts, Larry Wilcox provided a history of amateur radio in which he detailed its humble beginnings and its development over the years.

A number of door prizes were awarded with the major prize of a \$100 gift certificate from Durham Radio was won by Linda Baggs.

The 50/50 draw of \$45.50 was won by Steve Middleton.

The curtain came down on the evening of music, song and prizes at 2130 hours and was followed by a sumptuous buffet of Xmas goodies arranged by Ann and Ken Asmus. ❖

Volunteers Required:

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

Morse Code Training

The OVMRC Training Course will be presenting their Morse Code training commencing on 13 February, 2001. This course will be presented on Tuesday evenings from 7-10 pm in the classroom at the Museum of Science and Technology.

The cost of this course will be \$50.00 per student. Students MUST have a PC computer to run the SuperMorse program, which will be used for daily practice. The program will be available for download by email, or on 3 1/4" floppy disks if you do not have email access. Students are expected to practice at least two 15-minute sessions PER DAY for the duration of this course. The goal of this class is 12 wpm sending and receiving.

The course fee includes the final examination to be held towards the end of March or early April. There will be multiple opportunities for trying the exam.

We recommend that you do NOT prepare for this course ahead of time. We prefer that you learn the code from SOUND ONLY, NOT FROM WRITING! This is very important to achieving performance beyond the 5 wpm mark.

To register for this course, please contact Brice Wightman, VE3EDR by email () or by telephone 745-1192 by 1 February, 2001. ❖



OVMRC Amateur of the Year, Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

Welcome to the Real Millennium! This is a special year for all of us! I hope you all received your special Christmas surprises from Santa Claus, like a brand new Yaesu FT1000MP Mark V or the FT920 or perhaps the new Kenwood TS-2000!

This month I'm going to cover the next four issues of the RAMBLER published 10 years ago and bring us up to January 1991.

OCTOBER 1990 - Amateur Radio restructuring and the new regulations dominated this issue. The September meeting guest speaker Brian Williams VE3QS, from the Department of Communications, spoke to the 80 members and guests. He noted the new regulations would go into effect on October 1 and included the "No Code" Basic Qualification, 100 questions multiple-choice examination with a pass mark of 60% and access to bandwidth above 30 MHz. The regulations established the new 5 WPM and 12 WPM Morse Code tests as endorsements to the Basic Qualification and the Advanced Examination which permits Amateurs to build and operate their own homebrew gear with output power of 1KW in all modes. October 1, "A" Day, all amateurs with 10 WPM under the old system were "Grand fathered and Grand mothered" into the new system and deemed to hold an Advanced Amateur Radio ticket with 12 WPM. Charles King VE3PDK, RAMBLER editor published the new band plan. This restructuring of Amateur Radio was considered to be a turning point in Canadian Amateur Radio History. One item on the program agenda for the coming year was a proposal for a 2meter transmitter hunt, complete with prizes. An anonymous member of the Executive suggested burying the transmitter in the ground with the antenna sticking out! A new By-Law Committee, consisting of Alan VE3LNH, Pat VE3KJQ and Chuck VE3PDK, was given the task to prepare revisions for consideration by the membership. Jeff Wilson VE3RCI was awarded the annual Joe Norton Trust Award and an amount of \$690 by the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club in September.

Pat Brewer's column noted Dave Parks VE3GSA was looking for help in producing the Directory of Amateur Radio Club Members for the 1992 National Capital Region and it was produced, I have one. Heathkit had shut down all their Canadian outlets and the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club (PARC) applied for a grant to establish a video repeater. The Sudbury ARC established a link between their repeater VE3RVE into Southern Ontario using the Toronto FM Communications Society (TFMCS) link system via repeaters located in North Bay, Dwight and the Haliburton hub, located in Uxbridge and finally into repeater VE3RPT. The link system is still very much alive and in active use. The TFMCS have pioneered VHF/UHF Amateur Radio since 1965.

NOVEMBER 1990 - According to Al VE3LNH, VE3JW was operating as a packet repeater on 144.910 MHz into the NAV Bulletin Board and was getting into everything around his house so he was looking for a better location. Gerry VE3AGU won the competition for the selection of the call letters VE3RAM meaning Radio Amateur Mobile. Chris Bisailion VE3CBK, owner of the WHISKEYTOWN WIRELESS COLLECTION of wireless radio equipment from World War II, was the guest speaker and displayed his collection of No 19 Sets and a "spy" radio from WWII. The No 19 sets served faithfully in the Canadian Army from 1942 until as late as 1963 and were used primarily in tanks and armoured vehicles and as a ground station. This radio could provide long range communications from 2MHz to 8 MHz on CW, modulated CW, and AM Phone; short range communication between vehicles on 230 - 240 MHz; an intercommunication amplifier for communications among crew members in a vehicle; and had a Control Unit to allow re-broadcast facilities. Quite a versatile radio to say the least! You can see one on the back of the jeep located in front of the Amateur Radio Demonstration Station VE3JW at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology. Ed VE3VLF, Technical Advisor was preparing an inventory of all club equipment and trying to find the location of all equipment. A cheque for \$150 donation was mailed to the Radio Defence Fund on behalf of the club. A \$580 bill for Insurance for the radio site was received. A letter was sent to DOC requesting accreditation of Pat Brewer VE3KJQ and Gerry Wells VE3CDS as Delegated Examiners. Bob Shaw VE3SUY, our current OVMRC Amateur Radio Course Director, was a student on the 1990 course. There were 35 members on the Radio Course and they needed mentors to help them with station set-ups, etc. Larry Woram VE3WLN, provided a list of tariff items and rates of duty for the more popular Amateur radio items which could be imported from the United States.

DECEMBER 1990 - Dave Harris VE3KMV gave us a front page story on Cordless Telephones. He wrote about "Channel Sharing" with immediate neighbours to ensure you avoid hearing them on your phone and vice versa. He expressed his views on "Privacy," there is none! He suggested analog voice scrambling could be applied to cordless phones just as low bit-rate digital speech would be deployed in the next-generation of cellular phones. The Executive agreed on holding a bunny hunt in May. Gerry King VE3GK suggested a three-phase hunt with worthwhile prizes awarded, that the entire amateur community be invited to participate and perhaps to conclude with a BBQ. Dave VE3KMV with assistance from Ed VE3VLF and Pat VE3KJQ, were developing a plan to put the UHF repeater back into operation and considering an autopatch for the repeater also. The old club climbing belt was stuck of the club inventory for safety reasons. Gerry King VE3GK, wrote about "The Man in The Three-Piece Suit." Gerry recalled his experience in constructing his first

Yesteryear (Cont'd)

3-over-3 stacked array for 20 metres. He didn't have the strength to lift the 85-pound beam up onto the top of his 90-foot tower so he installed a set of pulley blocks on a gin pole at the top. The rope came down the tower through another pulley across the roof, down and along the lawn to the curb. He put on his safety belt, climbed up and anchored himself securely to the tower with his safety belt. He attached the antenna beam to the bottom pulley, secured the down rope and released the beam so that it hung on the block and tackle at his shoulder height. Then he waited. Finally, he saw a very well dressed man in a three-piece suit walking down the street with a brief case in one hand. As this man walk within earshot, Gerry gave a shout and asked if he would mind giving the rope "a little pull!" The man obliged and with complete trust in this unknown man, Gerry started climbing up the tower with the beam balanced on his back. He placed full confidence in his man and thought, "After all, what kind of a fellow would let go in a situation like this?" About 30 minutes later, after securing the beam in place, Gerry climbed down from the tower and thanked his perspiring assistant for his help. Gerry still claims to this day that he has never seen this gentleman on his street since!

JANUARY 1991 - Exactly 10 years ago this month, the Repeater Committee, consisting of Dave VE3MKV, Russ VE3FSN and Ed VE3VLF, were giving serious consideration to using a sub-audible tone on VE3TWO Repeater to counteract the increasing intermod appearing all over the city. The featured front page article by Dave Harris VE3KMV, "Transient Protection - The Fundamentals" covered the types, origin of and hazards of transient energy to Amateur radio equipment. He noted a direct lightning strike typically average 20,000 amperes and may run as high as 200,000 amperes giving a new meaning to the term "solid state." He recommended the most effective protection is to isolate equipment from the power line and to physically pull the plugs from the wall and not to rely on switches that only switch one side of the line. Mike VE3BGP informed members attending the December 20th Meeting that membership was unchanged at 180. Marg McKinley VE3EQE President of Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association (CLARA) was the guest speaker. She explained the objectives of CLARA and its work, and the nets they run and the membership requirements. This issue of the RAMBLER contained a "Notice of Motion," moved by Ed Sieb VE3RDZ, seconded by Chuck King VE3PDK, that the Executive be authorized to sell or auction the Club's surplus equipment and use all the proceeds to purchase equipment of special interest to Amateurs.

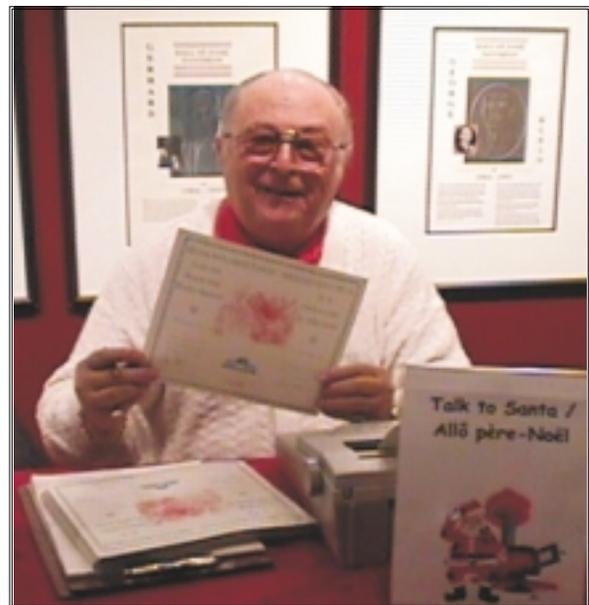
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a "Safe, Healthy, Prosperous and Happy New Year." ❖



Santa and his Helpers



Memories in the making



Certificate Maker