

# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club Inc. (OV~~M~~R~~C~~)  
Volume 45, Issue No 7



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## Reminders...

**Club Meeting** ..... Feb 22  
History of Communications Technology  
Dave Lawrence, VE3ORP

**Club Exec. Meeting** · Mar 1

**Rambler Deadline** · Mar 2

**Morse Course** ..... Feb 13

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## Appointments...

- Emergency Readiness · Ken Halcrow
- Flea Market · Jake Guertin
- Field Day · Ken Halcrow



Bunny Hunt Winners!

## Winter Bunny Hunt

By Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH  
Photos by Mike Kelly, VE3ZY

Another Capital Area Region Bunny Hunt Association (CARBHA) transmitter hunt was successfully held on January 21st from 10:00 a.m. till 13:00 p.m. Planned and hosted by David VE3ZZU and yours truly, it wasn't an easy hunt but rather a challenging one, both for the two furry Bunnies and for all the sly Foxes.

An email was sent out a few weeks before the event to the most avid hunters and interested "wanna be" hunters, and a follow-up reminder the day before the hunt, produced only two positive responses. The hunt was also announced on local 2m nets. David and I wondered about this hunt. Was it too cold? Are Amateurs afraid to get out and DF in the sub-zero winter weather? We were not sure and had some doubts about how many participants would check-in on our repeater VE3TWO at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday and try to find us at our Winter Wonderland Wacky Wabbits' freezing cold lairs.

However, we were very pleased to have a total of eight participants, two teams in three vehicles, check-in during 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All vehicles met at and started out from the VE3TWO repeater site, in the parking lot at 580 Booth Street. The two different "Transmit Frequencies" were announced during the check-in. The Foxes were informed that the power levels would vary and so would the type of antenna. They were advised that Team co-operation and triangulation would be the most successful method to find the two Bunnies. The two Bunnies started their transmissions at 10:30 a.m.

It was a beautiful, sunny, but rather cold day. Team one consisted of two vehicles: Vehicles "A," with Dan VA3JAR driving his new 4x4 and was accompanied by Susan VE3MOG and Gaetan VE3EIT, Vehicle "B," with Don VE3DRO driving his passenger van and accompanied by Patrick VE3CMD. Dan and Don drove south from the departure point to the "Winter Wonderland Wacky Wabbits' Lair" by taking two different routes, DF'ing and triangulating as they went along. Amazingly, Don arrived at Bunny #1's location, at 12:24 p.m. and Dan arrived at 12:25 p.m., just one minute apart

*Continued on Page:4*



# Rambler

## OVMRC Executive (1999-2000)

<b>President</b>	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG 833-2766, ve3mog@rac.ca
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<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
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<b>Historical</b>	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
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<b>Webmaster</b>	John Roger, VE3JR 747-6577, ve3jr@rac.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>

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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

Feb 22  
Rambler Deadline  
Mar 2

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**H**ello all! Please accept my apologies for not “rambling” much lately. Life has taken a busy turn and I’ve been struggling to keep up with all of my commitments. I dare say the *Rambler* is none the worse for wear without the President’s column, but I do wish to pop in to make a few brief comments this month on a few current events.

First, thank you to everyone who helped make last year’s Variety Show a success. Led by Ken Barry, VE3KJB, I know it’s a tremendous job to pull all the details together and make everything run smoothly. As President, I enjoy the opportunity to just sit back and watch the show, even if they do make me get up on stage once in a while!

Second, thank you to Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS, who has stepped up to the plate to manage this year’s Field Day event. No, we’re not trying for 45 A ON this year (!), but with Ken at the helm, we can quite happily look forward to an enjoyable Field Day weekend.

Third, together with Treasurer, Linda Balke, VA3LJB, Jake Guertin, VA3TQX has come forward to help us with the OVMRC fleamarket this year. Managing the fleamarket is another weighty undertaking that must be led by someone and rather than see it get cancelled this year, Jake has graciously volunteered his time to help make it happen, with Linda supporting Jake on the financial management side.

One of my weaknesses as club president, perhaps, is my reluctance to burn up the phone lines calling people to ask them to volunteer their time to help with these tasks and others on behalf of the club. I prefer to see people come forward willingly to do something for the club because they want to do it, not because they feel somehow pressured.

At the same time, it’s always a good idea to encourage new people to help. That said, if you ever feel like donating some time to the club to help with anything under the sun, please contact me at 833-2766 or by e-mail and I’d be happy to work something out. Hey, it’s *our* club, remember? ©

Some of the volunteer opportunities with the club include providing coffee and refreshment service at our meetings, Radio Operations, writing articles for the *Rambler*, working at VE3JW, and teaching

subjects through the radio course. But we are also quite happy just to see you attending our meetings, making other people feel welcome at meetings, using the club repeater or e-mailing members of the Executive Committee with your ideas.

And the January club meeting was an excellent example of club members coming together to participate in the decision to keep the repeater’s autopatch open for now, at least. It’s important to me as President to make sure the Executive comes as close as possible to making decisions with which the membership at large would agree. Therefore, I’m glad we were able to get a good sense of what members’ thoughts and feelings on the repeater are, and I feel confident that the members made the right decision in the end.

Speaking of club meetings, please remember that the next meeting is scheduled for February 22 because of a space availability issue with the Museum. The March meeting will be held March 15 and we are currently inviting anyone with a Home Brew project to submit their item for presentation at that meeting.

That’s all for now. See you February 22!



## Italian Festival Donation Good News for Guide Dogs

At its recent Executive meeting, the OVMRC Executive Committee decided to donate the \$300.00 contribution it received from the Italian Festival last June to the

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind (CGDB) charitable organization. According to its web site, the CGDB “works to assist visually impaired Canadians with their mobility by providing and training them in the use of professionally trained guide dogs.”

The OVMRC received \$300.00 from the Italian Festival as a thank you for providing the festival with radio operations support. Amateurs, however, are not permitted to accept money in exchange for radio service, and as such the Executive was asked to choose a charitable organization to which it could donate the Italian Festival proceeds.

The OVMRC also recently donated \$1000.00 to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF), and is pleased to provide ongoing support to community organizations through Amateur Radio service supplied by its members. For more information about the CGDB, please visit [www.guidedogs.ca](http://www.guidedogs.ca).

# Bunny Hunt (Cont'd)

AND they each drove an identical distance of 42.1 K's! Congratulations to the winners!

What a formidable hunt by Mike VE3ZY, Peter VE3EPB, and Al VE3ZTU who was directing the hunt from the back seat! They won the right to conduct the next hunt and get "bragging rights" and possession of our Bunny mascot, VE3BNE. They traveled the shortest distance in Peter's and Mike's trustworthy but old, pale blue, antenna-festooned wagon and also found both Bunnies in the shortest time. Mike, using his usual approach, ran through knee high deep snow and "tagged" Bunny #1 at 12:07 p.m. They traveled a total distance of 35.405 K's and were the first to find Bunny #1 and then Bunny #2 about 10 minutes later. We are proud to say that all of the Foxes found both Bunnies with more than 30 minutes to spare before the 1:00 p.m. completion time. This is an indication of their excellent skills at Direction Finding and map reading.



The Foxes had to be coaxed but finally, they all posed rigidly in spite of the cold for the group photo at Bunny #1's location. Then we all drove to a local restaurant for some much needed food, lots of discussions and to take the "Winners" photo.

What does it take to plan, arrange, and host a Bunny Hunt? This was David's first time as the Bunny and he had most of the ideas including the site location. In the weeks prior to the hunt, we spent many hours on the phone in the planning stage and many more hours were spent checking out the site to ensure it was accessible to the public, snow plowed, and in setting up our equipment and making test transmissions from the site to ensure our signals could be heard at the departure point in Ottawa. During the hunt, we transmitted on two different VHF 2 metre Bunny frequencies and communicated with each other during the hunt on a UHF Intercom simplex frequency.

I was Bunny #1 located in a public parking lot just off the roadway. I transmitted for 3/4 of an hour using about 35 watts through a large, portable, home-brewed, 3/4 inch boom, copper water pipe, a five-element 2m beam, which was built by Will Warren VE3XMT (now AB9U, working and living in California). We wanted to ensure the Foxes had a good signal in Ottawa, about 30 Kilometres away from our lair at Long Island Lock, a short distance from River

Road on the Rideau River. David was Bunny #2 and during the first part of the hunt, he transmitted five watts through his large mobile mag mount in the centre of the roof of his car located in the parking lot down the hill and around the corner from Bunny #1. Later, as the Foxes closed in, he reduced power and eventually left the car and using a 1 inch tall "peanut" antenna, transmitted 1/2 watt with his handheld, freezing his fingers in the process, and walked around on the ice on the river and even hid in an "ice" fishing hut but was eventually found.



Was the ice hut a public place? The question was asked and still remains to be answered. But with such a good bunch of Foxes, they accepted the location as an ingenious place to hide! Sometimes it is difficult to be right on with our "public location - not on private property," there are gray areas and differences of opinion. With such a large search area, Highway 417 (Queensway) to the North, Regional Road 8 (Mitch Owens Road) to the South, Greenbank Road to the West and Hawthorne Road to the East, the search was certainly not easy. In order to have a safe hunt, unpressed by time, the winners were determined by the shortest distance traveled. It was hoped this would also encourage team co-operation and it did! In the event of a tie, the deciding factor would have been the shortest time taken to find the Bunnies.

Mike VE3ZY and his crew have decided to hold the next hunt on March 4th to "Welcome Spring." With the warmer weather, perhaps more people will "spring" into action and participate. Remember, you don't need a lot of sophisticated equipment to get involved and you are welcome to play. You don't even need a car! Any of the seasoned Foxes will welcome you on board and teach you everything they know! You will learn lots about Direction Finding, FM reflections, how to hunt, what equipment can be used and also see some very sophisticated DF gear. Not to mention, all the comradery and the coffee, donuts, or your favourite meal at a local donut shop or restaurant following the hunt.

Join the fun next time, join the hunt!

73 de  
David, VE3ZZU and  
Larry, VE3WEH

# OVMRC Meeting Minutes

Dan Doctor  
VE3XDD

## Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

President Susan opened the meeting at 1940 hours. She explained the membership had been broken into small groups for the evening to gain maximum input in the evenings major questions.

President Susan provided background on VE3TWO's telephone auto patch. When the patch was initially installed in November, 2000, it was decided to leave it as an open patch for a few months to test operational compliance. It was now time for the membership to express its wishes as to whether the patch should be open or closed. Each group was asked to develop a list of 3 benefits/concerns of an open or closed patch. This led to a lively, constructive discussion. It was moved by Dan Johnson, seconded by Linda Balke, that the patch be left "open". Carried.

It was announced that there would be a Bunny Hunt on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Starting point will be the Booth Street parking lot.

The next regular meeting will be held one week later than usual, Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The featured guest speaker for the meeting will be Dave Lawrence of Kingston. Members were encouraged to promote the meeting as Mr. Lawrence is an excellent speaker and has a very interesting presentation.

President Susan invited Debbie, from the RAC office, to join her at the dias where Susan presented her with a cheque for \$1000 for the Amateur Defence Fund (this had been approved by the membership last year when they approved the budget). Debbie, on behalf of RAC, expressed appreciation for the donation.

Maurice Andre Vigneault advised that February 4 to 10 is "White Cane Week". Sight impaired persons are being invited to VE3JW to operate. Volunteers are needed to pickup and return these invitees.

Maurice Andre reminded the membership that GOTA ( Girl Guides On The Air) will be held on February 17 and 18 at VE3JW. Volunteer operators are required. Anyone interested in assisting is asked to contact Maurice Andre.

The 50/50 draw was won by Ken Halcrow.

The meeting adjourned at 2105 hours.

### Volunteers Required

- ✓ Radio Operations - See Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG
- ✓ Amateur Course Instructors - See Bob Shaw, VE3SUY

## COMMENTS FROM ONE OF THE FOXES

by Mike, VE3ZY

Great hunt! It was in the best tradition of the winter hunts that have been held over the years. We made it difficult on ourselves by lending out our best equipment to the competition. We were going to be contesting all weekend from VE3GRQ's place, but that fell through in the last week before the hunt, so we decided to do both the contests and the hunt from the van. (We never did get around to the VHF contest, as the other two activities filled our quota of fun.)

With the knowledge that the other team had both the best of equipment and a second vehicle to help, we didn't think we had much hope of getting there first in either time or mileage (Even in mileage hunts, we still like being first in, being the kids that we are.) From the parking lot, we realized that we had a better signal once we could see around the building from the South. So we set up at the East end of the lot before reading our mileage, intending to go south on Bronson until we got enough signal to tell us whether we should be bearing east or west (the other team did a fair amount of driving around in the parking lot AFTER recording their mileage - a tactical error). We only spent a little time trying to find out where the other team went to once they left 146.505, and never did re-acquire their signal.

Anyway, as we went south (with one little navigational miscue) the toys we had still indicated South. At Hunt Club bridge we had a "coin toss" decision to make about which side of the Rideau we should take. The consensus was that there were more likely spots on the West side, so we took it. Larry's signal stayed about the same as we went South. This puzzled us, since David's signal seemed to be climbing, and we decided, based on Larry's retransmission of David's signal, that the two of them were quite close together. We eventually figured out that we were looking down the barrel of a gain antenna.

As we neared Manotick, about at the end of Woodruffe, the trip wire rig on Larry's frequency fired, but a check soon showed that we were likely on the wrong side of the river. We watched both signals closely as we went to the southern limit of the search space to get a bridge back to the East side. As we came back up River Road, we watched the signal come to life again, and we closed in for the end game. What a relief to see those stuffed bunnies on Larry's roof. As soon as we saw those, we stopped the van (to stop the odometer) and went over to collect our "ticket." We spotted David from up the bank on the West side, but decided we had better drive back around, than to brave the untracked ice on that side of the river. We were dismayed to see the other team coming up to Larry as we were driving away from David's spot, but were unable to hide at that point. At least they were behind us, and not ahead of us. Then all we had to do was get the mileages to compare and declare a winner. It was a tense drive back up to Ottawa, as we had not recorded our start point mileage in the van, so couldn't figure out who won until Larry announced our mileage up at the restaurant. What a relief. See you March 4.

mk

“I put ‘poor planning’ as the cause of my accident. I am an amateur radio operator and was working on the top section of my new 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items using a pulley.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded tools into a small barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the accident report that I weigh 150 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep in the pulley. I regained my presence of mind, and was able to hold on to the rope in spite of my pain. At the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools so only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope....”

## *Nets of Interest*

DAY	TIME	BAND	FREQ MHZ	MODE	NAME - COMMENTS
Sunday	11:00 AM	80 Metres	3.620	CW	Pot Lid Net - Low Speed CW
Sunday	9:00 PM	80 Metres	3.755	LSB	Ontario ARES Net
Week Days	7:00 AM	80 Metres	3.755	LSB	ONTARS
Sunday	10:00 AM	80 Metres	3.760	LSB	Pot Hole Net OVMRC Sponsored
Monday	7:30 PM	80 Metres	3.775	LSB	Quebec Net
Sunday	3:00 PM	40 Metres	7.150		Ontario ARES Net
Tuesday	9:00 PM	2 Metres	144.250	USB	Two Metre SSB Net West Carleton ARC except 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday
Monday	8:00 PM	2 Metres	146.940	FM	Capital City Net - Swap Net - Repeater - VE2CRA
Thursday	8:00 PM	2 Metres	147.030	FM	VE3QCWA Chapter 70 Net Repeater - VE3TEL
Thursday	8:30 PM	2 Metres	147.150	FM	CPC Net Repeater - VE3MPC
Tuesday	8:00 PM	2 Metres	147.300	FM	Military Net Repeater - VE3TWO
Friday	8:00 PM	2 Metres	147.300	FM	Wise Owl Net Repeater - VE3TWO

Please submit corrections, additions and deletions to the Editor [va3wmh@rac.ca](mailto:va3wmh@rac.ca).