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Best Wishes  
for the  
New Year!

## The Internet Radio Linking Project in Ottawa

146.340/146.940

VE2CRA through VE3EV link system

Ottawa Node 204

### Facts

Overall: 200+ nodes and 7 reflectors covering 11 time zones (9/27/01)

- 73 in Canada, 78 in the U.S., 2 in the Caribbean, 21 in Australia, 4 in England
- 20+ new nodes per month — coming soon: Italy, South Africa, Antarctica,
- International Nets (biweekly), AMSAT net.

Ottawa's 1st IRLP node, sponsored the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club and VE3EV, 1 46.34194 repeater VE2CRA linked through Node 204 at VE3EV Open node to all but suggest membership in the OARC to support the project.

### How-To

IRLP use differs a bit from conventional FM repeater use. As with any linking system, it is subject to slight delays. The most important guidelines to remember are to **listen** longer before use, and to leave a **pause** both **before transmitting** and **after pressing the PTT**. By pausing before you speak and between transmissions you:

- 1) give other nodes a chance to disconnect,
- 2) allow for IDs you may not hear but which are playing on other nodes, and
- 3) allow users on other nodes a chance to check in.

*Continued on page: 8*



# Rambler

## OVMRC Executive (2001-2002)

<b>President</b>	Dan Johnston, VA3JAR 830-9565, va3jar@rac.ca
<b>Vice-President</b>	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG 833-2766, ve3mog@rac.ca
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666
<b>Secretary</b>	Harold Hamilton, VA3UNK 722-9180, Hamihar@cyberus.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@istop.com Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666
<b>Accredited Examiner</b>	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
<b>Field Day</b>	
<b>Historical</b>	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
<b>Flea Market</b>	
<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>	
<b>Radio Operations</b>	
<b>Technical</b>	Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, va3tqx@sprint.ca
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, ve3srs@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

## Club Website

The OVMRC *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*:

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON  
Elkel Ltee, Trois-Rivières, QC  
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON

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The OVMRC website is hosted by Magma Communications Ltd.



### OVMRC Repeater

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



### OVMRC web page

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



### Next Meeting

Jan 17  
Rambler Deadline  
Feb 8

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).

I trust that everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday season. A new year is upon us again, and it is time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. The past year has brought us a new executive, new and renewing members, new students, and new friends. I hope that this upcoming year will bring more of the same.

I would like to thank Ken Barry and his team in organizing another wonderful Variety Show this year. Once again, we had some wonderful talent and tasty treats. Thanks to everyone who helped out. I would like to thank the following companies for donating door prizes.

**Place D'Orleans Family Chiropractic Clinic**  
2- \$125 Gift Certificates

**Radio Amateurs of Canada**  
New RAC Operating Manual

**Canada Museum of Science and Technology**  
5- Family passes to the museum

**Craftwood**  
1- Certificate for a free Call Sign or Name plate in wood

**OVMRC**  
\$50 Robbie's Restaurant Gift Certificates.  
First Aid Kits  
Christmas with the Blackburn Chorus CD

On December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, we had our annual Talk To Santa event at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology. Over the two days, more than 140 children spoke to Santa up in the North Pole as he prepared himself for his annual trip around the world. Band conditions were crystal clear with little, if any, QRN or QRM. What a wonderful sight it is to see children's faces light up when they hear Santa's reindeer bouncing around and ringing their bells at the sound of their names. Thank you Santa for taking the time to speak to the children again this year. And thank you to all the volunteer operators who took the time to help us out with this wonderful event.

What do we have to look forward to this year? IRLP, new modes? Exciting meetings with guest speakers !! Another graduating class of new amateurs !! More bunny hunts !! Contests? Special events? Field Day? Flea Market?

There are so many things that we would like to accomplish this year, but to do this, we need volunteers. We need people willing to donate of their time and expertise to help the club organize these events. At this time, we do not yet have a co-ordinator for Field Day or for the Flea Market. These are events that have been a tradition for the OVMRC. I trust that someone in our club wants to see these traditions continue and will come forward to volunteer their services. More than one person is required for each of these events, so please don't assume that someone else will take care of it. Please talk to any of the executive members if you are able to help out.

Upcoming meetings are coming along smoothly.

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** will bring us a presentation on IRLP by Cary Honeywell-VE3EV who set up the OARC IRLP Project.

Larry-VE3WEH is working hard on the **February 21<sup>st</sup> SPY NIGHT**—come prepared to be spooked.....

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** will be our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration night? I still need volunteers to help plan this event. Please contact a member of the executive if you have any suggestions for activities you would like to see on this special occasion.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting. ❖

84 Reid Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario.  
K1Y 1S9

12 July, 2001.

To whom it may concern:

As a member of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, I have recently completed the audit of the financial books of record of the Club for the period July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001.

The information contained in the records is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and reflects the financial position of the Club. A few arithmetic errors were found in the claims submitted by club members. These were in the Club's favour and have been corrected.

It is suggested that, as an assistance to future audits, a cheque register be instituted that will show the number of each cheque, the date of its issue, its amount and the date that it passes through the Club's bank account.

The Treasurer for the period of the audit is to be complimented for setting up a simple, effective and traceable system for payment of amounts owing to club members and suppliers.

Ernie Jury,

**Audit Report of Financial Records of OVMRC**

**2000-2001**

Happy New Year to all of you! I'm sure many of you enjoyed the great musical entertainment at our "Christmas Variety Show 2001." To say the least, it was a very entertaining evening with an excellent lineup of local talent. Our next meeting promises to be an informative venture into IRLP - Internet Radio Link Project. If you haven't heard of it yet, you can learn all about it at this month's meeting. It is one of the fastest growing methods of Amateur radio communication today. So it is a meeting not to be missed, mark your calendar today.

I expect some of you have had an opportunity to check our web page () and have read some of the Club's history that has been posted there. I haven't received any email from anyone, so presume all is well and look forward to any contributions, corrections, or comments. When I have the opportunity, you will see more information added and posted there. This month we continue YESTERYEAR with the next couple of issues of the RAMBLER.

## FEBRUARY 1992 RAMBLER

This issue of the Rambler was 10 pages long again. It seems people had more time to write 10 years ago and we had more contributors to the newsletter. "Going to Ground - Quick and Easy" was the feature article on the front page written by Fred Taetz VE3PAA. He described a simple and effective grounding system for all four of his antennas and provided a nice diagram to illustrate what he built from his junk-box collection. I wonder if you are still using it Fred and whether or not your system was struck by lightning? Hopefully, the answers are "yes" and "no." At the bottom of Fred's article, the editor noted, "It has been said that a direct lightning strike on radio equipment gives new meaning to the term solid state." Very good article Fred and a good solution to the grounding problem and constant need to the problem of connecting and disconnecting antenna coax to avoid damage by lightning.

In the February 1992 RAMBLINGS, President Jerry Wells VE3CDS, noted we were probably used to writing 1992 on our cheques and putting 42 cents (cost of one stamp) on our envelopes to pay our bills. Today, ten years later we are only paying five cents more. Jerry wondered about what changes would arise from the 1992 World Administrative Radio Conference. Ken Barry had nailed down the Flea Market for April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Canterbury High School. Field Day was being looked after by Vic VE3BSV and Jerry invited members to let Vic know they would participate.

Jerry also mentions the OVMRC radio course students were just about at the 10 words per minute code speed. During a practical session at eh Museum on a Saturday morning, under the guidance of their practical instructor John VE3ACI, the students built successful crystal sets and for some, this was the first time they had ever soldered anything. Jerry completed RAMBLINGS, with a query about former President Jeff and whether anyone knew if his new call sign was VE6RCI.

Our Acting Membership Chairman, Neil Herber VE3PUE, welcomed a whole batch of new members, including Hans Van Den Berg VE3REL, Paul Duguay VE3NPD, Owen Dowd VE3POD, Peter Meads VE3BBR, John Goatcher VE3JKG, Mike Miskell VE3HRT, Scott Murchison VE3PDR, Rod Riley VE3BLB, Blair Conlin VE3SHG, Al Barnes VE3GHE, Dan Henwood VE3TVZ, Ernie Kerr VE3KEW, Darcy Grant VE3TYK and Lou Auriat VE3ACL. Neil noted there were 63 people that braved the -41 C temperature to attend the January meeting.

The Secretary's Minutes written by Ted Paull VE3KEH, recorded a total of 82 attending the December 19, 1992 general meeting with visitors Cyril VE1AFB, Scott VE3PDR, Rod E3BLU, Jeff VE3WWH as well as David and Martin. Thanks were given to Leo VE3NVL, Bob VE3YBC, Paul VE2AKB, Joe VE2JHt and to Mark who was on the radio course for their help in making "Santa Day," a great success. The club voted to spend up to \$805 to upgrade the PC AT computer to a PC 386 with a new mother board and another four Meg of RAM. This was required in order to run Corel Draw Version 2.0 which was donated by Corel Systems Corporation, in order to produce schematics, illustrations, and graphics for the club's manual, *Amateur Radio for Beginners*.

Bryce Wightman VE3EDR, gave a brief talk about his adventures combining sailing to Nassau and the Bahamas on his Arlberg 37 sloop with operating amateur radio during the voyage. Steve VE3SXN, Dick VE3EIT, Larry VE3CRX, Paul VE3JLP and Bob VE3SXD joined the cruise and explored Aleuthra. Bryce maintained daily contact with family and friends in Ottawa via CW.

Whenever I type the names and call signs of amateurs in this column, I often wonder if these people are still living in the area and how many of them are still active in radio somewhere.

This issue also contained the Secretary's Minutes for the General Meeting of Jan 16, 1992 by Ted Paull. President Jerry welcomed visitors Lou VE3ACL and Darcy VE3TYK and new members Dan VE3TVZ and Ernie VE3KEW. Jerry also asked members to inform him if they were planning to attend the Club's annual dinner for wives, husbands, friends and family would be held Saturday Feb 15, 1992 at Robbie's Restaurant, 7p.m.

Ted VE3KEH informed the members about the International Students' Space Simulation (ISSS) project, an upcoming "space mission" involving 50 or more schools, including Lisgar Collegiate Institute and the Highland Park High School. The students built a "biosphere capsule" representing a lunar habitat. These student "astronauts" throughout North America and Japan, would enter the capsule for 72 hrs during Feb 17 - 21, 1992. Vic VE3BSV (OVMRC Field Day Chairman), then in grade nine at Lisgar Collegiate was designated as the overall mission communications coordinator. He was to attempt communications with as many of the participating sites as possible and to demonstrated VHF/UFH, HF, packet, slow scan television, fast scan television (or ATV), and satellite operation. The Ottawa site at the Sir John A. MacDonald Resource Centre in Nepean was open to the public during the mission from 2-8pm. I wonder how many of the modes they were able to use - sounds like they needed the current day VE3JW setup.

The Minutes also noted the VE3JW Museum Exhibit Committee Chairman, Cy Webster VE3SIY, informed the members the new target date for the re-opening of the VE3JW exhibit station at the Museum was October 1993. Cy and his committee were going to apply for a New Horizons Grant, given by Health and Welfare Canada in support of senior citizen activities and initiatives. The potential outcome could be the acquisition of one or more grants of \$7000 which would be used to equip the museum station.

Bob VE3YBC reported the 6-metre Repeater was almost together and to stay tuned.

Neil Herber VE3PUE, wrote a half page article entitled "ETIQUETTE IS WHAT IT IS." He wrote an enlightening and sensible to the point, "Herber's totally personal guide to repeater operation." Neil provided five rules of operation which bear repeating here. In a nutshell, the rules are:

- 1) Use common sense. If someone is talking, don't interrupt. Courteous repeater users will pause once in awhile and ask if anyone needs to use the machine. That's when you can pipe up.
- 2) Leave a break for others once in awhile when you are using a repeater.
- 3) The word "BREAD" should only be used in emergencies to request repeater access. If it's not an emergency and if they are not leaving any gaps, you can jump in by giving just your Callsign.
- 4) If you hear someone having trouble with the patch or using questionable operating practices, DO NOT CUT THEM OFF. It may be someone in distress who is panicking. Calmly offer to help them out. Button pushers will ignore you, but someone having trouble will welcome your offer.
- 5) ALL WAYS identify yourself. If you "kerchunk" the repeater to see if your HT battery is working without identifying yourself, there is no way to tell you from a jammer. All it takes is "VE3PUE testing."

This month's edition of the RAMBLER featured a half page article by Bob Shaw VE3SUY which pointed out a problem with his Yaesu FT-470 and a Lambert 12 volt power supply he adapted to increase the output power of his radio for packet use. However, he learned the Lambert power supply was susceptible to 2m RF energy which caused the voltage to increase significantly to about 15.5 volts. He suffered no damage to his transceiver but gained a lesson in RF emissions. He also noted that the speed of his tape cassette recorder increases in the presence of RF while it is within a foot of the FT-470.

The IMI feature column by Ron Clement and Roger Rose in the February 1992 RAMBLER reported on the progress of the Class of 92. About 10 members of the class showed up to visit Jerry VE3CDS in his radio shack at his invitation. They were treated to an explanation of his Kenwood TS830-S and watched him respond to a call from Switzerland which Jerry couldn't resist. They had a look at his antennas and learned that you can stretch an 80m antenna over your neighbour's yard! Pat VE3KJQ, gave them a few sermons on the rules of the game and told them in more ways than one to mind their "Qs." The second class of 92 was cancelled due to miserable weather with a record breaking - 30.1 C.

Four corrections are required to my column from last month. I typed (or is that called keyboarding now?) the names of twelve students that passed their 5 wpm Morse Code test, including Bob Kennan, Bob Calder, Life Quesnel, Gerry Stirrup, Jeff Hilt, Kevin Jones, Allan Barnes, Jim Robinson, Ron Clement, David Morph., Dared Brk and Chris Grace. First of all, Bob Kennan should read Bob Kenna, secondly, Life Quesnel should read "Lise." Thirdly, Gerry Stirrup should read "Stuuroop." And fourth and final correction, Jeff Hilt should read "Jeff Hiltz." Please accept my apologies, spell checker does not catch such difficult typos.

Well, that's it for this month. It is difficult to accept that our snowfall to date is a little more than we had last year. Be careful, don't over exert yourself shoveling during the next snowfall. Please slow down while you are driving this winter and adjust your speed to the road and traffic conditions. I wish you all a safe, healthy and a "HAPPY NEW YEAR." ❖

73 de Larry VE3WEH

**OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC.  
PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
1 July, 2000 to 30 June, 2001**

**INCOME**

Uncategorized	455.00
50/50 Draws	416.75
Course	2,995.00
Donations	7,600.00
Flea Market (total)	2,786.98
Interest income	454.17
Manual sales	956.54
Membership fees	2,364.25
Misc. revenue	<u>64.63</u>

**Total Income** 18,093.32

**EXPENSES**

Bank charges	56.31
Code phone	286.75
Course supplies	1,173.92
Door prizes	405.03
Field day	275.00
Flea market	2,141.63
Gifts (donations)	1,535.58
Insurance	810.00
VE3JW capital improvements	6,875.82
VE3JW maintenance	144.85
Repeater Council levy	10.00
Membership drive	57.00
Miscellaneous	84.75
Name tags	39.68
Office supplies	224.05
Jerry Wells Award	255.82
Rambler	1,714.36
Repeater capital improvements	1,398.81
Speakers & gifts	50.00
Variety show	<u>362.10</u>

**Total Expenses** 17,901.46

**Total income less total expenses** 191.86

**Profit and Loss Statement of OVMRC  
2000-2001**

## Costa-Rica DX-pedition

**(Andy Rugg -VA3TEE, and SVARC Secretary-Treasurer recently went down south to Costa Rica, and submits the following story of his 'Ham Radio Vacation' trip.)**

I had always wanted to operate as a DX station in a major contest, but never had the chance to do it. Back in 1993 I did obtain a temporary permit to operate from Greece in Europe, but was unable to make the trip because of a silly crisis at work.

My previous trips to Latin America had been an enjoyable "change of scene" and I was always looking for an "excuse" to go back there. Back in June, I read an article by Bob-N4CD, who took a "ham radio vacation" at the rural, hillside location of Henry, TI2HMG. He owns the small "Hotel Valle del Sol" outside of San Jose, the Capital of Costa Rica in Central America. I really liked Bob's story and spent much time contemplating the possibilities.

The library had videos and books about Costa Rica, which I checked out. Their low-price tourist "off-season" in November includes the CW "CQ WW" contest, one of my favourites. In August I reserved a one-week trip near the end of November. The "bring your own equipment" deal was fine. The events of September 11 only increased my determination to make the trip. They also prevented me from bringing my gear in a "carry-on" bag. Instead, it went in a check-in bag. Four (4) protective layers of bubble-wrap and clothing cushioned all my equipment during the flights.

I intended to go south on November 20 and return on November 28, giving me a week to operate and do some sight-seeing. (Costa Rica has some neat volcanos, a day-trip from San Jose.) A last minute schedule change by LACSA, a Costa Rican airline, bumped my southern leg to November 22, squeezing me to 5 days "ham radio vacation" and almost no sight-seeing time.

My brother drove me to the Toronto airport early the morning of November 22, and I found myself near the front of the waiting line. Many of the other passengers were returning to Latin America,

with huge suitcases and cardboard containers full of consumer goods. My one bulky bag was relatively small-by-comparison, and I got "bumped" to "express" check-in.

Security questions were routine. I made a voluntary disclosure of "Personal Electronics - Fully Documented"; the girl couldn't have cared less. Then I went through Airport Security and their X-ray picked up the SONY-2002 portable in my carry-on bag. I turned it on, "it had lights" and that was all they wanted to see. My uneventful flight reached San Jose on time at 3:05pm C.S.T.

Over 90% of the passengers were Latin-American, which sensitized me to my new digs, although my Spanish was very rusty. Arrival was smooth and at 3:30 I was out of the airport. A waiting taxi got me to the rural hotel by 4 pm.

Henry, TI2HMG, the owner, took me to my room, next door to the ham shack. His 5-band "Lightning Bolt" Quad on a 50 foot tower that covers 10-12-15-17-20 meters, plus a dipole for 30-40-80 M, are way up a hillside, too! I quickly unpacked my ICOM-706, Switching Power Supply, memory keyer, mobile antenna tuner and CW paddle, and had everything connected and up-and-running in a jiffy!

The hotel is in a small neighbourhood of "Barrio la Trinidad de Ciudad Colon", about 25 km. west of San Jose. Henry and family are fluent in German, Spanish and English. Most of the guests are German and stopover at his 7-room hotel before-and-after taking nature tours with his neighbour, Guillermo. You can visit Henry's site on the web at [www.qsl.net/TI2HMG](http://www.qsl.net/TI2HMG). Henry insisted that I could go on the air immediately ("nobody cares") and he'd FAX my license request the next morning. I decided to give my Quebec call, VE2EM, a workout, and quickly made 6 contacts on 20M CW as TI2/VE2EM. Then I went to my room and got good reception of news from home on (shortwave) Radio Canada International on my SONY-2002 portable. I caught up on my sleep and was ready for action on Friday morning.

Once I figured out Henry's German-language monitor screen (you click "Senden"), it was easy to e-mail the news of my safe arrival to Ontario. Henry knows how to get a visitor's license there and FAXED my application in Spanish once the Radio Control Office was up-and-running after 9am. Canada and Costa Rica have a reciprocal licensing agreement. To support my FAX, they only needed my passport number and a copy of my Canadian license. My

*Continued on page: 8*

# Announcements

## VE3CFL Amateur of the Year 2001

The RAC Board of Directors take great pleasure in announcing their election of Charles Leggatt, VE3CFL of Toronto, as the Canadian Radio Amateur of the Year for 2001.

Charles served in the Royal Corps of Signals, 1941-1945, and came to Canada in 1953. He worked as an assistant chief engineer with a US company which worked on the Avro Arrow project. After that project was scrubbed in the 1960s Charles sold insurance and trained salespeople. He is also a sailor and writer.

Charles' contributions to amateur radio are many and earned this award for his tireless work in providing instruction and training so others may become radio amateurs. Because of his work over the past 12 years some 200 persons have become licensed radio amateurs. Charles has served as a relay station for the Mississauga Maritime net for the last 13 years. In April 2001 Charles received the prestigious "Yachtsman of the Year" sail trophy recognizing his safety at sea contributions through amateur radio.

An engraved silver tray, will be presented to Charles by Bob Cooke VE3BDB, RAC Ontario - South Regional Director. ❖



## Hamfest Montreal Amateur Radio Club

Amateur  
Radio Flea Market

Marché aux Pûces  
Radio Amateur

Saturday April 13,  
2002

Le Samedi 13 avril 2002

Royal Canadian Legion  
7771 Bouvier  
Lasalle

Royal Canadian Legion  
7771 Bouvier  
Lasalle

TIME: DEALERS - 7:30 AM PUBLIC - 8:30 AM  
DOOR PRIZES FREE PARKING SNACK BAR  
TALK-IN: 147.270+ (VE2RED)  
GENERAL ADMISSION \$4.00  
TABLE RENTAL \$8.00 (2 for \$15)  
Table rental includes one admission

OUVERTURE: 7:30 VENDEURS, 8:30 PUBLIC  
Prix de Présence Stationnement Gratuit Casse Croûte  
GUIDAGE: 147.270+ (VE2RED)  
FRANS D'ADMISSION 4.00\$  
LOCATION DES TABLES 8.00\$ (2 pour 15.00\$)  
Une entrée avec location d'une table

Information - Reserva-  
tions  
Jim HAY 514-697-7205  
E-mail: jrhay@haya.qc.ca  
<http://www.marc.qc.ca>

Renseignements - Reserva-  
tions  
Jim HAY 514-697-7205  
E-mail: jrhay@haya.qc.ca  
<http://www.marc.qc.ca>

## OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC. BALANCE SHEET As of 30 June, 2001 in Canadian dollars

### Assets

Cash in OVMRC chequing account 5,937.83  
Cashable GIC due 17 June, 2002 10,000.00

**Total Assets** 15,937.83

### Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities 0.00  
Equity 15,937.83

**Total Liabilities & Equity** 15,937.83

## Balance Sheet of the OVMRC 2000-2001



<http://www.igs.net/~swap/>

All Amateurs are invited to submit articles for publication in the OVMRC Rambler. Articles may be submitted electronically to the editor, Bill Hall, VA3WMH at [va3wmh@rac.ca](mailto:va3wmh@rac.ca).

Continued from page: 6

license would be ready for pickup on Monday (it was !); I could operate immediately.

Costa Rica is fairly rare on CW, so all I had to do was send "CQ DX CQ DX de TI2/VE2EM TI2/VE2EM" once or twice on a clear frequency. A few stations would start calling; two minutes later it seemed like a dozen !! My first such CQ on 10M CW yielded 22 contacts; on 15M CW I made 12; my first CQ on 20M CW provided 22 QSO's, including 4Z4DX and VK6AJ calling me! After 95 contacts, and a delivery from Pizza Hut, it was time for a "siesta" before the big contest.

The (CW) "CQ WW" contest proved to be a real blast ! Central America / Zone 7 usually is semi-rare, but this year it was very rare; TI5X was the only other station heard. The rarity must have added 2 S-units to my signal. I worked a few stations to test out my signal. Then I found a clear spot around 21075 kHz and sent a single "CQ TEST". The response was amazing! It took 3.5 hours to work through a pileup of 275 QSO's. (Later on, I had two other pileups of over 200 contacts.) Some times there were so many stations calling non-stop that I felt I was in a bare-knuckles brawl. I quickly managed to control the mobs and make many QSO's. Most were from eastern U.S.A. and Europe, with a surprising number from the all-water path to the excellent operators in Japan.

I had planned a leisurely effort of 20-25 hours with an "upside" of 1,000 QSO's. However, the excitement of "rare zone 7" stretched my efforts to 31 hours and 1,490 contacts. 10, 15 and 20 meters were the most productive, but I did make 62 QSO's on 40 CW and 12 on 80M CW. From Cornwall, VE3ARF and VE3XAT made it into the log. The contest ended too soon and I caught up on sleep.

Monday, November 26, I ran the radio in the morning, and went into San Jose in the afternoon to sightsee and pick up my back-dated visitor's license. Too late, my rusty Spanish was starting a dramatic improvement. Tuesday, the 27th, I made another 178 contacts, finishing the whole trip with 1,864 QSO's. At 0025 UTC, November 28, the signals stopped calling. TI2/VE2EM went silent and I re-packed my bags. It was all over, too soon.

I savoured my Wednesday morning coffee on the hotel balcony in the 70 degree sunshine. Only 31 hours later, I descended from a VIA RAIL train into the freezing rain in Cornwall. ❖

Continued from page: 1

Remember: anything you do on an IRLP reflector can be heard on the participating linked repeaters around the world. Please listen to observe how others do it before you give it a try.

- Pause between transmissions, listen for others,
- Hold your PTT for about 1 second before talking to allow all nodes time to rise
- Make sure your signal is good enough
- No local rag-chews when on a reflector
- Do not kerchunk — which causes all other nodes to key up
- Do not discuss IRLP codes on the air — refer inquiries to a local control op or request a supporting membership

### LINKS of Interest

Global IRLP node maps: [maps.irip.net](http://maps.irip.net)

Live IRLP audio on the internet:

<http://www.live365.com/stations/253404>

## RAC CANADA WINTER CONTEST 2000 Results

**Dave Shipman VE7CFD**  
**RAC Winter Contest Manager**

Some interesting data to share with you all:

	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>Entrants</b>	213	331	55%
<b>Email Entries</b>	47	135	26%
<b>Canada</b>	129	163	26%
<b>RAC</b>	5	9	80%
<b>DX</b>	44	96	118%
<b>US</b>	42	69	64%
<b>Total Q's</b>	52,354	68,540	31%

### Six New Records!!

Todd VE5MX(at VE6JY) broke the Single Op All Band record by some 348k with his new record of 1,344,180. Sam VE5SF set a new Low Power record 32k points above the old one. John VE3JC improved the QRP record by 80k. Alan VA2ADB set a new 6 meter record with 568 points. Frank VE7AV improved on the 20 meter record by 15k. Vitaly VE6JO moved the 40m record up by 918 points. Congratulations to our new record holders!