

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 46, Issue No 7



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Reminders...

Club Meeting Feb 21
TXID Night, Jake VA3TQX

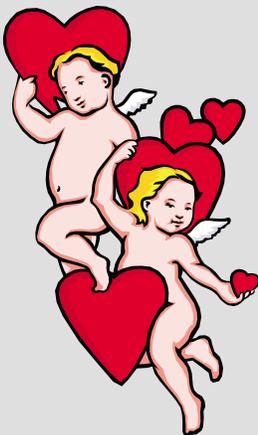
Club Exec. Meeting Feb 28

Rambler Deadline Mar 8

Next Club Meeting Mar 21

Montreal ARC
Fleamarket Apr 13

Dayton Hamvention · May 17-19



Don't
Forget!

TxID Night

TXID stands for transmitter fingerprint identification unit. This unit can identify an individual transceiver by the radio not by the person and also can tell different radios even if they are the same make, model like a RS 202 or Kenwood etc. So bring all your HT's to the Feb meeting we can catalogue them. Then, if your HT is stolen it can be tracked down. For a fun night don't forget to bring your HT's and charged up battery's. Mobile rigs will be an another night later on.

TxID™ Transmitter FingerPrinting System

Carrier operated radio transmitters exhibit a unique frequency versus time start-up characteristic before stabilizing on the operating frequency—even radios of the same make and model. This “FingerPrint” can be captured, stored and analyzed. Our exclusive TxID™ Software, which can automatically Match and Compare FingerPrints, and the patented technology of the TxID-1™ IBM/Compatible circuit board can help you identify the abusers on your radio system or repeater! Or help you keep track of the number of radios per account on commercial repeaters.

An onboard fast squelch starts the FingerPrinting process. The voltage on the receiver's discriminator is sampled, digitized and stored. The leading edge of the carrier is then captured, stored and displayed. Other information about the signal is also captured, including DTMF, CTCSS and DCS signals with separate peak deviation readings, and displayed with the FingerPrint.

The TxID™ System can optionally control a tape recorder, capturing all or part of the transmission on audio tape along with the digitally encoded FingerPrint data. Deviation measurements and Spectrum Occupancy features further enhance the system.

The TxID™ System works with most FM receivers and scanners.



Rambler

OVMRC Executive (2001-2002)

President	Dan Johnston, VA3JAR 830-9565, va3jar@rac.ca
Vice-President	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG 833-2766, ve3mog@rac.ca
Treasurer	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666
Secretary	Harold Hamilton, VA3UNK 722-9180, Hamihar@cyberus.ca

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit	Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG 749-9010, ve3vig@rac.ca
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, lycott@istop.com Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666
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Historical	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
Flea Market	
Membership	Ian Kennedy, VE3MUD 741-6559, ve3mud@rac.ca
Newsletter	Bill Hall, VA3WMH 830-5580, va3wmh@rac.ca
Publicity & Programs	
Radio Operations	
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Emergency Preparedness	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, ve3srs@rac.ca



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

Feb 21

Rambler Deadline

Mar 8

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*:

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

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Welcome to the next edition of Ramblings. Winter has finally arrived bringing with it colder temperatures and a little snow. Might we get a few weeks of cold weather to remind everyone to be thankful when spring and summer arrive?

There has been a change in programming for the February 21st meeting. Due to a conflict with his work schedule, our guest speaker will not be available to present his Enigma machine. Jake va3tqx has stepped in and will make a presentation of the Club's new TXID unit. Jake is asking that anyone with a Handheld 2meter radio bring it in with them on Thursday night. Jake will use these radio's to demonstrate the units capabilities and will also start a registration log of the radio footprints for interested members. Thank you Jake for filling in this gap.

There has been some concern regarding the decision to cancel this year's Flea Market. At the January meeting, a request was again put forward for volunteers to organize this year's event. To this date, I have not had any response. Prior to Christmas, notices were also put into the Rambler reminding members that this Executive Committee position was still available.

At the January executive meeting, a decision was made that since no volunteers had come forward, the event would be cancelled.

We are not trying to issue ultimatums by informing members that if no volunteers come forward by a certain date, the event will be cancelled. Some events do require a certain amount of planning and cannot be put off forever. The Flea Market committee is a standing committee. This means that we should have a chairman starting at the beginning of the fiscal year. This committee chairman is an integral part of the executive with voting privileges. Please consider who might be the right person to vote for this spring to run next year's Flea Market.

Jake va3tqx has asked to organize a Junk-In-The-Trunk sale this year. Jake will keep us informed as to developments on this project.

Ken ve3srs has informed the executive that he will be organizing a similar Field Day event to last year. Very low key, in the bush somewhere. Please see Ken if you are interested in singing up to operate.

June is only a few months away and it will again be time to elect a new executive for next year. Please start thinking about who you want to lead this club next year. I would like to see EVERY position filled this year. This club is an important part of the Amateur Radio community in this area. Please consider volunteering some time to help keep this club the best in Ottawa.

73

Your President,
Dan va3jar

January 2002 General Meeting

January 17, 2002

Dan, VA3JAR called meeting together at 19:35. Dan welcomed everyone to the meeting. New members or new visitors: Libor - OK2KMI

Dan asked if anyone was looking for assistance. Andre asked if anyone knew anything about packet on International Space Station (ISS). Jacques, VE3TSC, indicated he has heard nothing. Larry, VE3WEH, indicated a more permanent station to be put on ISS.

A presentation on the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) was given by Cary Honeywell (VE3EV). He provided us with a bit of the history of the project including the fact that it was developed by a Canadian Amateur (VE7LTD). In September 2001, there were 182 "nodes". In January 2002 (before the meeting), there were over 300 "nodes". Cary also gave an idea what is required to set-up an IRLP "node". The presentation ended with a lively question and answer period. Dan thanked Cary for the presentation.

After the presentation, Dan thanked Ken Barry (VE3KJB) for organizing and running the 2001 Variety Show. Dan notified us that no food or drink is to be permitted in the auditorium — the museum has changed the carpet and insists that we ensure no food or drinks are brought into the auditorium. The March meeting will highlight the fact the club was incorporated 40 years ago. Dan is looking for some ideas from the membership. If you have any ideas, contact Dan. Organizers are required for Flea Market and Field Day. Contact Dan if you are interested. Coffee is being organized by Miles and Margaret (VA3COA, VA3COB) — Thanks.

Winner of 50/50 Draw - Jim Haskel : VE3SPK

Winner of Door Prizes

Orleans Chiropractic Gift Certificate \$25.00 - Ian: VE3MUD Radio Shack Gift Certificate \$25.00 - Jim: VE3GJY St. Johns Kit - Ernie : VE3EJJ

Motion to reallocate \$250 from Repeater Capital Budget of \$2000 to repair of Willen Web (DF Antenna) presented. Passed by those present.

Jake, VA3TQX, informed us that TXID unit has arrived and has been tested. He outlined various uses for the unit. He will organize a time and place for those who like to have their radio "fingerprinted".

Meeting closed at 21:15.

Once again, we have a Gremlin sneaking into this column! As a result, I know you have been reading this column because several people commented and teased me at the last General Meeting. However, I did not send "BREAD" to our editor as an attachment for my last column! I checked the WordPerfect file which I sent to Bill Hall VA3WMH and it was definitely "BREAK" which appeared in item 3) on page 5. However, I take credit for the "ALL WAYS" shown in item 5, even though that is the way it appeared in the February 1992 issue. Let's see if the Gremlin returns in this issue!

I hope you are enjoying this exceptionally mild winter and also hope we don't have to pay for the mild weather with an extended and cold spring. The way the weather is behaving lately, we never know what to expect.

MARCH 1992 RAMBLER

The cover story this month featured our immediate Pas-President, Jeff Wilson VE6RCI, calling "CQ CQ CQ" from the Twilight Zone. Our Editor, Charles King VE3PDK, had received Jeff's message via the bulletin board at VE3NAV and covered it on the front page.

Jeff sent his greetings from Calgary and bragged about waiting for winter to arrive. On Feb 1st the temperature got up to about 12 degrees C, with more than 45 days of above normal temperatures and no snow on the ground. His new job was keeping him very busy and would travel to Beijing, China for two weeks in late March. He wrote about Canada's largest Amateur Radio Club, the Calgary Amateur Radio Association (CARA) which had 388 members and membership was still climbing. CARA had two amateur radio classes with about 65 students on course but they were not teaching Morse Code as part of the course. Jeff liked the way the OVMRC has code practice during classes and was going to suggest this to the CARA training committee. He explained due to the size of CARA; they hold meetings each Monday night for a different interest group. The 1st Monday of the month is for DXers, the 2nd for Digital, the 3rd for VHF/UHF and the 4th Monday was their General Meeting. He ended by mentioning the morning and evening rush hours were a good time to read the mail on repeater VE3RYC, 146-850-, with many interesting technical topics and tips on raising teenagers, etc.

It seems like everyone was writing about the weather in this issue. President, Jerry Wells VE3CDS (SK), writing in RAMBLINGS, noted we have had more snow in March than we have over the last several years. (Maybe we will get a repeat in March 2002!) He gave a status report on our Amateur Radio Course, with the code practice sessions at the 12 wpm level and several students very close to 100 percent copy and most of the other students were doing well at 5wpm. On the theory side, he could not foresee any trouble for the majority of the students. The practical sessions had gone over very well, including an outstanding presentation by Jim VE3JPC, who showed the students a few tricks of the trade on installing coax connectors.

Jerry noted how impressed he was with the turn out of more than 100 at the February 1992 General meeting. Harold McFarlane VE3BPM gave an interesting talk on antennas and towers which was not only informative, but very entertaining. Brice Wightman VE3EDR and his video of his Caribbean trip the year before, with

other local amateurs as crew members, left many of us quite envious.

The Flea Market was well under way with Ken VE3KJB making things hum in preparation to hold it at Canterbury High School on April 11, 1992. As I recall, we had a tremendous snow storm which really caused us all a lot of grief! The Flea Market raffle was for a nice 2m rig.

Jerry asked us to start thinking about Field Day and Club elections to be held in June and to give a bit of your time and help to maintain the momentum of growth and success that our Club had enjoyed over the past few years. Jerry noted there were 266 members consisting of 189 regular members, six life members and 54 associate members!

The Minutes of the Feb 29, 1992 General Meeting was taken by Larry VE3WLN for Secretary Ted Paull (this is the correct spelling of his family name) VE3KEH. Bryce's trip to the Bahamas included noted sailors Ian Kennedy VE3SXX, Paul Cooper VE3JLP, Robert Herr VE3SXD, Richard Adams VE3EIT, and Laurence Bradley VE3CRX. Ports of call visited by the crew included Freeport and Nassau. They learned the fine art of making conch salad, a favourite of the islands. Their Ottawa link, Ken Barry VE3KJB, maintained regular CW contacts and the video included one of their QSO's with Ken. A highlight of the video was seeing the other end of the contact made last year by Jeff VE3RCI (VE6RCI) at a club meeting with Gerry VE3GK who demonstrated his TS-850SAT.

Questions from the floor for Harold MacFarlane's presentation on antenna and tower installations varied from, "How do you keep birds from perching on your antenna?" to "How do you lower the SWR on an older TA33Jr?" Harold's vast experience was of great benefit to many and he was kept busy with many questions long after the meeting adjourned.

Acting Secretary Larry documented the following visitors to the meeting: Mike Pilon VE3BUP, Jack Russell VE3TTX, Roger Belanger VE3KKR, Wil Warren VE3XMT, as well as new members Jake VE3TQX, Elie Zaydan VE3EKZ, Andre Pilon VE3CLW, Wil Warren VE3XMT, and Jack Russell VE3TTX. Marc Joly, one of the students on the OVMRC course won an ARRL Antenna Handbook which was donated by Harold MacFarlane VE3BPM. John Moffat VE3NJ won an OVMRC licence plate frame and Ken Barry VE3KJB won the February issue of CQ magazine donated by Ed VE2RDZ.

Ken Barry VE3KJB wrote about "The Great OVMRC Flea Market" to take place on April 11, 1992. He noted 27 tables were reserved \$8.00 for private vendors and \$20 for commercial vendors and Admission was FREE! There were three demonstrations of fast-scan TV scheduled and involve Norm Hall cruising around town with a video camera and transmitting them to a receiver manned by Bill Westbrook at the Flea Market. Ken ended by inviting all to come out to the biggest and best Flea Market event of the year.

"Membership Mumblings" a full page article written by Neil Herber VE3PUE, currently the Illustrator and Online Editor for The Canadian Amateur, notes how exhausted he was from the last meeting with so many people joining up! He noted our guest register was looking very feeble because just about everyone who

comes as a guest joins up at the end of the meeting. Neil listed the names and call signs of eleven new members. He pondered "The Fear of Success" with a huge membership and whether it would mean impersonal meetings where you get lost in the crowd, whether we should limit the numbers, whether we should split into two smaller clubs, or into special interest groups? His opinion though, was the larger the membership, the greater the opportunity to meet the objectives of the club as spelled out in the Bylaws. He noted, "One thing we should do is to have special interest groups within the club," and he added, "So if you have a special interest that is covered by an existing committee, join it. If there is no existing committee, form it! Once again, your friendly Executive can show you how."

Neil Herber VE3PUE, B.S. (Bachelor of Stupidity), with tongue in cheek, had the last say in the March 1992 RAMBLER. His last page article, "Stupid Ham Tricks," pointed out our use of terminology which Neil referred to as Ham Stupidity or HS, including our use of the word "destinated" and "queue tea aitch" and our overuse of the word "roger," unless of course we are talking to Roger! Neil included a special note for new Amateurs, "Don't be shy about asking for help with any aspect of amateur radio. There are no stupid questions, just stupid answers. For example, "Where are you?" is not a stupid question, but "I'm here" sure is a stupid answer. So enjoy, participate and talk. But watch out for HS."

The April 1992 RAMBLER will bring you the final report by Bill Wilson VE3NR on the ITU's WARC 1992 and a dandy article CAVEAT EMPTOR - LET THE BUYER BEWARE by Larry Worm VE3WLN. I think I include most of his articles because it will be of assistance to the new crop of Amateurs currently on course. See you next month and please adjust your driving speed to take into account our winter weather, road and traffic conditions. ❖



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
(SUDAM bus 100)

Royal Canadian Legion
7771 Bouvier
Lasalle
(SUDAM bus 100)

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 \$10)
Table rental includes one admission

OUVERTURE: 7h30 VENDEURS, 8h30 PUBLIC
Prix de Présence Stationnement Gratuit Casse Croûte
GUIDAGE: 147.270+ (VE2RED)
FRAIS D'ADMISSION 4.00\$
LOCATION DES TABLES 8.00\$ (2 pour 10.00\$)
Une entrée avec location d'une table

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

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

Dayton Hamvention

May 17 - 19, 2002
Dayton Hara Arena Complex
P.O. Box 964
Dayton, Ohio 45401
937-276-6930

www.hamvention.org

This is the world's largest amateur radio and electronic gathering! It includes 5 indoor buildings and an outdoor swap meet that will take at least a day maybe two to see everything.

Editor's Note: I received an e-mail from Mike Kennedy, VA3TEC who indicated he was very interested in attending the Dayton Hamvention. His e-mail address was Mike.Kennedy@crc.ca and his work phone number was 998-2539.



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

Industry Canada Amateur Centre

Voice 1-888-780-3333 (toll-free)
Fax: 1-613-991-5575
Email: spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca

Web: <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/spectrum>

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.

Contest Calendar

February

ARRL Inter. DX Contest,	CW	0000Z Feb 16
CQ 160-Meter Contest,	SSB	2200Z Feb 22
REF Contest,	SSB	0600Z Feb 23
UBA DX Contest,	CW	1300Z Feb 23
High Speed Club	CW	0900Z Feb 24 1500Z Feb 24
North Carolina QSO Party		1700Z Feb 24
CQC Winter QSO Party		2200Z Feb 24

March

ARRL Inter. DX Contest	Phone	0000Z Mar 2
World Wide Locator Contest		0000Z Mar 9
SARL Field Day Contest		1000Z Mar 9
RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW	1000Z Mar 9
North American Sprint	RTTY	0000Z Mar 10
UBA Spring Contest	CW	0700Z Mar 10
Wisconsin QSO Party		1800Z Mar 10
Alaska QSO Party		0000Z Mar 16
BARTG Spring RTTY Contest		0200Z Mar 16
Russian DX Contest		1200Z Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party		1800Z Mar 16
Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint		0000Z Mar 25
CQ WW WPX Contest	SSB	0000Z Mar 30
.		

LF Signal heard in VE1

New Zealand amateur LF signal heard in Nova Scotia! Another new low-frequency distance record is being claimed. New Zealand DX tests coordinator Bob Vernall, ZL2CA, reports that on December 15, John Currie, VE1ZJ, in Canada, managed to receive and positively identify 136-kHz signals from ZL6QH, in New Zealand. ZL6QH, the Quartz Hill club station, is run by the Wellington Amateur Radio Club. The path from ZL6QH near Wellington to VE1ZJ in Sydney, Nova Scotia, has been calculated at 15,645 km -around 9700 miles. VE1ZJ detected the ZL6QH transmission using a PC and ARGO DSP software. An Amateur Radio LF signal spanned the Pacific for the first time on June 30, 2001, when Steve McDonald, VE7SL, of British Columbia, Canada, detected a 184-kHz signal from ZL6QH. The feat was repeated in September. Vernall said the next test from ZL6QH in the 136-kHz band likely would occur in mid-January. The ARRL has petitioned the FCC to authorize Amateur Radio allocations at 136 kHz and in the 160-190 kHz band. The petition is pending. ❖

VE3BBN Spark Gap heard

Spark gap signal heard for hundreds of miles: David Wilson, VE3BBN, reports his commemorative spark gap transmissions December 12 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marconi's 1901 transatlantic experiments were heard hundreds of miles away. Wilson, who lives near Niagara Falls, Ontario, built a low-power rotary spark transmitter and secured permission from Industry Canada (that country's FCC equivalent) to use it briefly on 80 meters. He transmitted "MARCONI S" twice a minute and said he got more than 450 reports but estimated that only about 60 of them were valid. "The best distance was Kansas City," he said - Some 850 miles away. He noted that the majority of the reports were in the 200 to 400-mile range. Additional information, photos and audio of what his transmitter sounds like are available on the "Spark Gap Transmitter Signals for Marconi Centennial" Web site: <http://www.qsl.net/g4rfr/marconi.htm> ❖

Grid Squares, What are they?

By Derek, VE4HAY

The grid square system also known as the Maidenhead Locator System is a method of dividing the world into squares that measure 1° latitude by 2° longitude and measures approximately 70 X 100 miles. The system was conceived by the European VHF managers in the early 1980's. A grid square is indicated by two letters (the field) and two numbers (the square) as in EN19 the grid square that encompasses Winnipeg. Each sub-square can then be designated by the addition of two letters after the grid square for more precise locators, as in EN19LU. These more precise locators are used as part of the exchange in many UHF/SHF contests. They measure 2.5 minutes latitude by 5 minutes longitude, roughly corresponding to 2.5 x 3.5 miles for a latitude of approx. 50°.

So how do you determine your Grid Square? This all depends to some extent on whether you want to know your 4-digit grid square or your 6-digit grid square. Finding a 6-digit grid square requires considerably more precision in latitude and longitude. The 4-digit grid squares covers a pretty big area, while the 6-digit grid square is fairly small. The actual size of a grid square depends on the particular location, as the 1° of longitude represents different distances at different latitudes; longitude lines are closer together at the Earth's poles than at the equator. The first step, then, is finding your latitude and longitude as accurately and precisely as you can. The simplest way to determine a grid square is with a GPS that is capable of converting degree's to the Maidenhead system. Other than that the use of a grid square map is required. If you know your precise co-ordinates, you can also determine your grid square manually with the use of tables and charts or with the aid of a computer that will do the conversion for you.

So why use grid squares? Well for contests of course. Many VHF, UHF, SHF contests grid squares as part the exchange requirements. Grid squares are also used for determining many of the awards that are available.

Useful links:

<ftp://ftp.arrl.org/pub/contests/ln9404.pdf>
<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/toys/gridconv.html>
<http://pages.infinit.net/ve2pij/gridqra.html>