

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 46, Issue No 8



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40 Years!



Happy Birthday OVMRC

Greetings one and all. Welcome to another issue of the OVMRC *Rambler*. This month is a special month for the OVMRC. It is the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of our club. 40 years ago, a group of amateurs got together and created what has become one of the best amateur radio clubs around. We have decided to celebrate this special occasion with a fun filled evening on Thursday, March 21st 2002. Several events will take place at this special meeting. We will have our annual CW contest, as well as a time to reminisce about the past and look forward into the future. At the close of the meeting, we will have special anniversary refreshments.

What would we like you to bring? We have created a time capsule to commemorate our 40th anniversary. We would like all members and guests to bring a paper memento that can be placed into the time capsule. A copy of a magazine, an article, QSL card, picture or other memories related to the OVMRC. We will have the time capsule open for the March and April meetings and then it will be sealed for 10 years with instructions that it be opened on the 50th anniversary. Please help us fill this box with memories.

We look forward to seeing everyone there for a fun filled evening.

73, Dan



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, VE3EJ 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, VE3EJ 728-3666
Accredited Examiner	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
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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	
Technical	Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, va3tqx@sprint.ca
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
Mar 21
Rambler Deadline
Apr 5

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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OVMRC February General Meeting February 21, 2002

Susan, VE3MOG, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Visitors: Steve, VE2CYV

Susan asked if there were any comments or requests for information or technical help Request from audience - what were the results of the contest (contacts on the repeater) from two years ago. Susan indicated she had nothing to report but she would forward to the executive. Karl, VE3NBV, looking for information on 16 pin CD22100E IC. Miles, VA3COA, looking for IRLP elmer.

OVMRC Fleamarket is back on - May 4th, 2002. Jake, VA3TQX, James, VA3JPX, Don, VE3DRO, and Frank, VE3YY are the organizers. Info is on the RAC website. There will be changes in setup, design and prizes. Contact Jake - va3tqx@rac.ca for more information. Volunteers will be required, let Jake know if you can help.

Jake was to do a presentation on the TXID unit. He had lots of radios to show how one could use the unit. Unfortunately there were technical problems with the presentation. We were able to see that two radios have different "signatures". Jake informed us that he would have the unit at the Fleamarket for those who would like to have their radio "fingerprinted".

Door Prizes and 50/50 Draw:

- \$25.00 Radio Shack gift certificate - Patricia, VA3PUR
- \$125.00 Chiropractic certificate (Place D'Orleans) - Garth, VE3XTT

50/50 Draw - \$29.50 : Jim, VE3GJY

Coffee was relocated due to construction at the museum.

Next Meeting March 21st, 2002:

- 40th Anniversary Incorporation "Party"
- Time Capsule
- Morse Code Mania

6th Annual Ontario QSO Party

Sponsored by the Ontario DX Association

Starting at 18:00 UTC on
Saturday, April 20th, 2002 until
Sunday, April 21st, 2002 at 18:00 UTC.

The Ontario QSO Party is a fun and friendly amateur radio contest where we try to get Ontario hams to "activate" as many of Ontario's counties, districts and regional municipalities as possible. You can operate from home or like many hams "take to the road" and go mobile putting Ontario counties on the air. Other clubs use the Ontario QSO Party as an "indoor warm-up" for Field Day.

This is a contest...so there are many awards big and small that folks can work on. For example, we award a certificate to the top entrant from each of the 48 "multiplier areas" in the province.

The "OQP" takes place on all of the HF bands (except the WARC bands) both SSB and CW and on the VHF/UHF bands either FM simplex, SSB or CW. There are even categories where hams with their "basic" no-code license can participate and have fun.

Complete rules and information (including logging software) can be obtained from:

<http://www.odxa.on.ca/oqphome.html>

You can also join the Ontario QSO Party "reflector" by sending a "blank" e-mail message to: oqp-subscribe@yahoo.com

If you need any additional information, feel free to drop me a note at ve3sre@rac.ca

73 and hope to hear you all on the bands!

Bob Chandler,
VE3SRE
Contest Coordinator
Ontario QSO Party



OVMRC FLEAMARKET

Saturday, May 4th

Stittsville Arena

***New this year - OVMRC Consignment Table !!!**

For further information please contact Jake Geurtin, VA3TQX, va3tqx@rac.ca

Winter has not been too tough on us this year, other than a few snowfalls and a bit of very cold weather for a few days. We have been very lucky with the warmest winter on record with temperatures averaging 5 degrees above normal. Spring is not far away.

With the Radio Amateurs of Canada RAC 2002 (second) National Radio Conference coming up this summer, July 26-28, 2002, in British Columbia and the next International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) being held in Caracas, Venezuela, from June 9 to July 4, 2003, it is quite appropriate to reflect upon the ITU's WARC 1992 final report written by Bill Wilson VE3NR in the April 1992 issue of the RAMBLER.

Anyone interested in current information, can get access to lots more and read about the ITU Radiocommunication Sector on their web page: Today, the ITU-R Sector plays a vital role in the management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits, finite natural resources which are increasingly in demand from a large number of services such as fixed, mobile, broadcasting, amateur, space research, meteorology, global positioning systems, environmental monitoring and last but not least, those communications services that ensure safety of life at sea and in the skies.

APRIL 1992 RAMBLER

Bill Wilson VE3NR, one of our seven OVMRC Life Members, wrote the cover story this month, "International Telecommunications Union's World Administrative Radio Conference 1992 Final Report WARC'92." Bill was a member of the Canadian Preparatory Committee for WARC'92 and had followed the proceedings of the Conference held in Spain during 1992. He summarized the ITU's Official Report as it affects Amateur radio. Bill noted that no additional 40-meter spectrum would be allocated to HF broadcasting and consequential changes to the 40-meter band would not be made. This means Amateurs in the Americas ITU Region 2 (that's us) would continue to hear broadcasting from Regions 1 and 3 in the 40-meter band for some years yet. However, the Conference adopted a recommendation to correct that situation some time in the future. It was proposed by Mexico and supported by Canada and several other countries, that sharing of the 7 MHz band by the broadcasters and Amateur Services is undesirable and should be avoided. The conference concluded by recommending that a future WARC should consider the possibility of aligning the spectrum allocations to the Amateur Service around 7 MHz on a worldwide exclusive basis.

paying due regard to other services. This recommendation was sent to the ITU's Administrative Council for action. There were a number of future WARC's being planned and the Council would have to figure out on which agenda it should be placed. Bill informed us that perhaps we would know which WARC would make the realignment after the spring Council meeting. However, we are currently still listening to and avoiding the HF broadcasting stations on 40-meters so I doubt that the matter has been dealt with yet and wonder whether it will be dealt with during the conference scheduled for 2003.

Bill reported that WARC'92 did do something for the HF broadcasters. Ten bands, not near any Amateur bands and totalling 790 kHz, were reallocated to HF broadcasting for SSB use effective April 1, 2007. Another WARC would be given the task of planning the use of the existing HF Broadcasting bands and these new SSB bands. At this conference, the European countries and the United States wanted more spectrum for HF broadcasting but the smaller countries would not agree. The USA did not think that enough spectrum was provided below 10 MHz. As a result, in signing the Final Acts of WARC'92, the USA served notice that it would take the necessary steps to meet its own spectrum needs for broadcasting. The result would be continually increasing pressure on the Amateur and other HF services from European and American HF broadcasting stations operating out of band.

World Radiocommunication Conferences were held in 1995 (WRC-95), 1997 (WRC-97) and 2000 (WRC-00). Perhaps Bill has followed these conferences and may be able to give us an update if realignment and removal of the broadcast stations from the Amateur portion of 40m is planned for consideration during the WRC-03 or whether or not this will ever take place.

The April 1992 issue contained a dandy article, "CAVEAT EMPTOR - LET THE BUYER BEWARE" written by Larry Woram VE3WLN. His article is still very relevant to the new students currently on course. Larry provided some very sensible advice for anyone wanting to purchase equipment. He cautioned we should educate ourselves and become well informed about equipment before deciding on what to purchase. Does it meet your budget and personal requirements? Swap nets and magazine ads are excellent sources to determine current prices of equipment. When you have decided what is within your budget, you can start your homework. Larry provided a list of HF transceivers which were reviewed and published in QST magazines during the period 1976 to 1990. The list is too lengthy to include here, however, they cover Collins, Drake,

Yesteryear (Cont'd)

Heathkit, Icom, Kenwood, Swan, Ten Tec, and Yaesu radios. These reviews provide the reader with the specifications of HF transceivers, explain the features of the unit and provide the author's overall impression. QST magazines should still be available at the main Ottawa Library, 120 Metcalfe at Laurier Ave. You can also obtain reviews of new equipment from sources such as The Canadian Amateur magazine. The March/April 2002 issue contains an excellent review of the Yaesu FT-817 by Gerry King VE3GK, another of our Life Members - great review Gerry!

Larry recommended you ask other Amateurs for opinions on their equipment. It also makes good sense for a first time buyer to invite an Amateur along when you are ready to make your purchase and, if possible, to test the equipment before you buy. Larry suggested when shopping at a flea market for used equipment, it is an advantage to know the seller, especially if he or she is from the local area. For the most part, Amateurs are honourable people and will not intentionally lead you astray. But he cautioned, there are no guarantees, unless the seller gives you his personal guarantee and you know him to be an honest person. Most local Amateurs will not want to blacken their reputation for the sake of a sale and will usually back up their word. His article ended with a final piece of advice. If you buy a piece of equipment at a "really good price" when it is advertised "as is," you have all the more reason to keep the maxim in mind CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Speaking of Flea Markets, ours will be held Saturday, May 4, 2002 at the Stittsville hockey arena again and it should be a dandy! Lots of interesting and new ideas are being developed by the Flea Market Chair, Jake Guertin VA3TQX and his committee consisting of James Poulin VA3JPX, Frank Stratton VE3YY and Don Raymond VE3DRO. For instance, if you have a single transceiver or other item that is clean, in good shape and working but don't want the bother of renting and staying at your table to sell it, you can place it on a new OVMRC Consignment table and for a small fee, it will be sold for you. They are also talking about having a demonstration of IRLP, iLINK, APRS, an electronic test table where you can check out equipment and who knows what else. To learn more and stay up to date, tune in to the local 2M nets to learn more about what is happening with our Flea Market this year.

I hope to see a record number of members at our March 21, General meeting to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the OVMRC which was Duly Incorporated, on March 16, 1962. It promises to be an exciting meeting with all the plans underway. ❖

INTERNET RADIO LINKING PROJECT

Equipment maintenance has been put on hold while I tend to other activities. As far as I can tell, from listening on the way to and from work, the IRLP is functioning. I'm still not happy with the quality of the audio and will probably take the time during the Ski Marathon to make some quality adjustments.

Yes. Ethel and Al are the IRLP voices at the moment but that will change very soon. Bob Knapp, VE3CDG, ex of the CBC, recorded a set of announcements for the node. This will replace both Ethel, Al and myself as the "Voice of Node 204". There has to be some confused Amateurs on the other side of the link. Whenever the link comes up on a remote node, listeners there hear my voice come on and identify VE3EV Node 204. That will soon be changed to "VE2CRA Node 204".

I have added a few functions to the local link which can be access by tough-tone. Dialling 411 gives information on the Node and the OARC meetings. Dialling 2040 (*note 204 is our node number*) results in an announcement regarding the status of the node. The announcement should tell you what node is attached at the moment or if the link is enabled but not connected to a remote node. Also, there is a "Call Waiting" announcement that comes on if another node is trying to link to 204 while you are linked elsewhere. I will shorten the announcement a bit because I think it is too obtrusive. I'll do that later though.

Of course the weather and sticky relay's have been a nuisance lately. As Mike mention in his column, George had to make several trips to the repeater to disconnect a recalcitrant relay. Last weekend, during the height of a weather event down here in the city, George went up the hill again to attend to a repeater that didn't know when to quit. He spent the time re-wiring the beast and that seems to have done the trick. While he worked on the controller, he wired the receiver to the transmitter and kept the repeater on-air. Underneath that clear signal I could just make out the voice and music from a local commercial FM station. I wish I could have identified it as it might be the other half of the intermod signal that is hitting the repeater.

The weather hit the remote link by way of a "Mother-Nature" antenna rotator. The high winds on Friday night broke the lock on the mast and swung the beam due north. Monday, the lock broke again and swung the beam due south! I replaced the lock and used a big whopping "C" clamp to ensure it wouldn't move again.

I'm still not convinced that the beam is pointed at the repeater even after flying over the house and doing a visual. I need a better map. Anyone willing to loan me one of those Satellite picture maps?

Cary, VE3EV ❖



RAC 2002 National Convention

Vernon, BC
July 26, 27 & 28 2002

An Invitation
To all Members of
Radio Amateurs of Canada
to attend the
Annual General Meeting
to be held on
Saturday, July 27, 2002
at 1:00 pm at the
RAC 2002 National Convention
in Vernon, British Columbia

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.



Hamfest Montreal Amateur Radio Club

Amateur
Radio Flea Market

Marché aux Pêches
Radio Amateur

Saturday April 13,
2002

Le Samedi 13 avril 2002

Royal Canadian Legion
7771 Bouvier
Lasalle
(SICUM bus 109)

Royal Canadian Legion
7771 Bouvier
Lasalle
(autobus SICUM 109)

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: 7h30 VENDEURS, 8h30 PUBLIC
Prix de Présence Stationnement Gratuit Casse Crôte
GUIDAGE: 147.270+ (VE2RED)
FRAIS D'ADMISSION 4,00\$
LOCATION DES TABLES 8,00\$ (2 pour 15,00\$)
Une entrée avec location d'une table

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

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

National Capital SWAPNET



<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.