

# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)  
Volume 46, Issue No 9

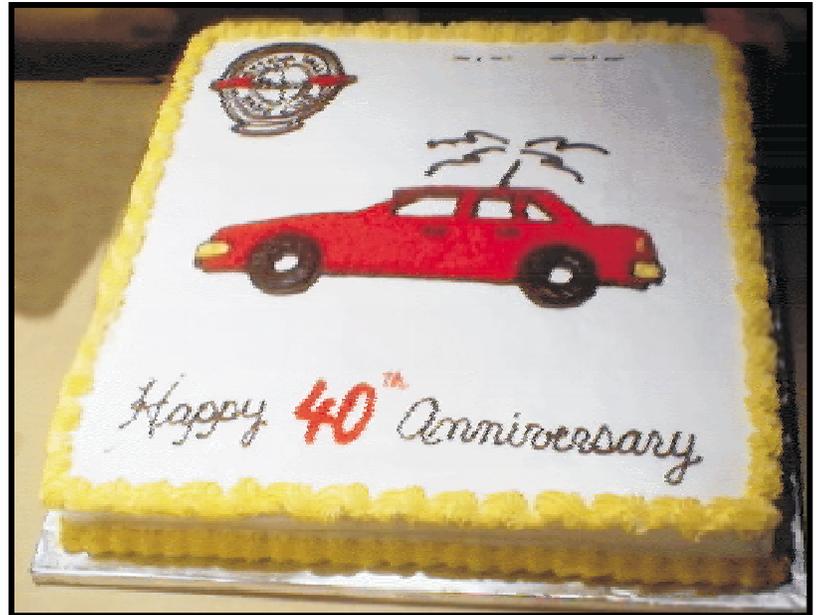


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The OVMRC 40th Anniversary cake enjoyed by all in attendance at the weather delayed meeting.



A fine memento of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OVMRC



# 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>	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, ve3srs@rac.ca
<b>Historical</b>	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
<b>Flea Market</b>	Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, va3tqx@sprint.ca
<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 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

**Apr 18**  
**Rambler Deadline**  
**May 3**

## 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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Welcome to April's ramblings. I was happy to see lots of people at our anniversary celebration evening in March. Even with the complication of having to re-schedule due to weather, we had a great turnout. Lots of fun was had by all. It was a pleasure to see some of the original members of the OVMRC from 1958 at the meeting. Jerry Erland, the first OVMRC president was also in attendance. Thank you all who attended for making this a special evening for everyone.

A reminder that the Time Capsule will still be open at the April meeting for mementos and reminders. The executive will be sealing the time capsule at the April executive meeting.

April's meeting will be Home Brew Night. Please feel free to bring along any item that you have built or that someone built for you. We will be setting up tables on the stage to display all our wonderful items. If you would like, you can prepare a few words to describe your home brew items to the members. Prizes might be awarded.

April is also time to put the nominating committee together. We need three volunteers from the membership to create a list of potential nominees for next year's executive. If you are interested in volunteering for this important task, please see one of the current executive members at the meeting, or call me at 830-9565. I would also like everyone to start thinking about who they want leading this club through the next fiscal year. If you would like to put your own name forward for a position on next year's executive, please see me at the meeting. If you have any questions regarding what is involved, any of this year's executive will be glad to answer them. This club has come a long way in the past 45 years and I look forward to being a part of it 45 years from now.

May the sun keep shining and the waves keep carrying ham radio signals to the far ends of the earth.

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## The ARRL Letter Vol. 21, No. 12 March 22, 2002

### ARRL ASKS FCC TO ELIMINATE, "REFARM" NOVICE CW BANDS

The ARRL has asked the FCC to eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand the phone allocations on 80 and 40 meters. In a Petition for Rule Making filed March 22, the League requests that the FCC revise its Amateur Service rules in

accordance with the modified Novice band "refarming" scheme the ARRL Board of Directors okayed in January. The Petition has not yet been put on public notice for comment.

"The opportunity to eliminate the Novice and Technician-Plus telegraphy subbands and the reapportionment of those inefficiently deployed segments will allow alleviation of significant, sometimes critical, overcrowding in the popular Amateur HF allocations," the ARRL said in its Petition.

The ARRL also cited "substantial advancements in the use of digital techniques" in the HF bands—such as PSK31—to bolster its assertion that a refarming plan for the underutilized Novice HF subbands "cannot wait longer and must proceed now." The refarming plan adopted was based on the recommendations of the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee following a survey of the amateur community last year. Under the proposal, no operator class would lose privileges, and most would gain.

If the FCC approves the plan, current Novice and Technician Plus (ie, Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees would be permitted to operate on the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter General-class CW allocations at up to 200-W output. For General and higher class operators, the ARRL wants the FCC to implement changes in the 80, 40 and 15-meter "phone" bands.

On 80 meters (3500-4000 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 3725 kHz for Extra, at 3750 kHz for Advanced and at 3800 kHz for General—another 25 kHz for Extra and Advanced operators and another 50 kHz for Generals. On 40 meters (7000-7300 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 7125 kHz for Advanced and Extra and at 7175 kHz for General—25 kHz more for Extra and Advanced operators and another 50 kHz for Generals. On 15 meters (21,000-21,450 kHz), phone privileges would begin at 21,200 kHz for Extra, at 21,225 kHz for Advanced and at 21,275 kHz for General—no change for Extra and Advanced but 25 kHz more for General. On 10 meters, the ARRL has recommended no changes other than to accommodate CW, RTTY and data by Novice and Tech Plus licensees at 28.0 to 28.3 MHz.

The ARRL suggested that its proposed configurations strike the right balance between the need for additional phone spectrum and the important goal of encouraging further development of narrowband data modes in the CW segments.

The ARRL's "omnibus" petition also asks the FCC to permit amateurs to use spread spectrum on the 222-225 MHz band; expand the pool of special event call signs beyond the 1x1 format to include identifiers for US territories and possessions that do not provide for mailing addresses; clarify its rules to indicate that modulated CW (MCW) is permitted for repeater station identification; and to incorporate into its rules a 1990 FCC waiver authorizing amateurs in certain areas of Colorado and Wyoming to operate on certain segments of the 33-cm band. The League invited the FCC to consolidate its omnibus petition with other pending Amateur Radio-related petitions now before the FCC.

A copy of the ARRL's complete Petition for Rulemaking is available on the ARRL Web site.

## March 28, 2002

Dan, VA3JAR, opened meeting at 19:30.

He welcomed everyone to meeting. This included the first president of the OVMRC, and other founding members.

Vistors/Guests:

- Ed - VE3MJY
- Bob - VE3CGG
- Gerry - VE3BBY : OVMRC 1st President

Life Members Present:

- Bill Wilson - VE3NR
- Doreen Morgan - VE3CGO
- Ed Morgan - VE3GX

Doreen Morgan (VE3CGO) and Ed Morgan (VE3GX) gave a presentation outlining how the OVMRC came about, some early year activities and highlights:

- 1957 - OVMRC started
- 1958 - 1st general election held
- 1959 - Pot Hole Net initiated
- 1961 - club logo contest held and club logo created
- 1962 - OVMRC incorporated

They also provided a few antedotes from the early years:

- Club Callsign VE3RAM - Radio Amateur Mobile (or 1st three letters from newsletter title)
- One amateur drove with skates on when a radio event was to be followed by skating on the canal

Dan thanked those involved with the club's early years for starting the club.

Ernie gave a brief update on original directors and others instrumental in the club's formation.

This included:

Original Directors

- Gerry Ireland
- Doreen Morgan
- Graham Ide
- Ken Cogan - Pierre Fort, Quebec
- John Gilbert
- Norm Hutler - Calgary, Alberta
- Mitch Powel - London, Ontario
- Lyle Ward - Silent Key

Others

- Ed Morgan
- Tom Hayes
- Glen Park - BC
- Gordon Grant
- George Burnett
- Dan Walters - Halifax (??)
- Ken Scrimpens
- Bob Knapp
- Gerry Habottle - Silent Key

- Harry Hayes - Silent Key
- Gerry Wells - Silent Key

John Gilbert (VE3CXL) showed us a thank you letter for an Civil Defence Activity in 1961 - Project Toxin. He had a picture from Field Day 1961, but he did not who was in the picture. He also read an email from Mitch Powel.

Morse Code Mania

CW Receive

Four contestants. Speed started at 15 wpm and concluded at 28 wpm.

- Winner: Keith - VE3DBG, Prize: Limited Edition DieCast Radio Shack Tractor/Trailer
- Runerup: Cary - VE3EV, Prize QCAT Barcode Scanner

QLF (Left Foot Transmit)

Four contestants

- Cary - VE3EV
- Ernie - VE3EJJ
- Susan - VE3MOG
- Betty - VE3ZBB

Transmit "Mississippi" with left foot. Judges - Ed (VE3GX) and Doug (VE3XK) Winner: Ernie - VE3EJJ, Prize: Chiropractor Gift Certificate

Dan indicated a time capsule had prepared and would be availabe at this meeting and the April meeting for us to put items in it. The time capsule would be passed on to subsequent executives with instructions to open in 10 years.

Items included so far:

- FD2000 CD (Dan - VA3JAR),
- Club Highlights (Ed - VE3GX),
- Badges and Pictures of Talk to Santa (Patricia - VA3PUR)
- QSL Card (Susan - VE3MOG)
- Civil Defence Letter, FD'61 Picture, Mitch Powel letter (John Gilbert - VE3CXL)

Various Door Prizes:

- Jake - VA3TQX
- Ernie - VE3EJJ
- Anthony - VE3ZAF
- Jim - VE3GJY (?)
- Gaetan - VE3IET
- One other (name/callsign not available)

50/50 Draw: \$31.50 - Ted (VE3LV)

Meeting closed at 21:10

Current executive members and Doug (VE3XK) - RAC Director handed out 40th Anniversary Incorporation Mugs. Cake, cookies, and refreshments were enjoyed by all in the lobby.

# Stories

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## A welcome slice of Ham

Amateur radio operators provide crucial links during emergencies  
Fri, Mar 22, 2002  
By Federico Barahona,  
Winnipeg Free Press, Fri 22 Mar 02

They are the backbone of emergency responses, some of their radios so powerful they can even reach astronauts in outer space. This is what Winnipeg lawyer Don Mackinnon emphasizes as he walks through the second floor of an ambulance station in St. Vital. Behind the doors Mackinnon unlocks are high-powered radios that can access thousands of frequencies, various transmission modes (including Morse code), a number of voice models, television and various computer-related digital codes — and it's all equipment that's been used during times of disaster. "During any emergency situation, the normal lines of communication get overloaded," says Mackinnon, who is responsible for Manitoba's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) — the emergency service arm of nationally organized amateur radio, Radio Amateurs of Canada. "We are usually the ones that can establish communication the quickest," he says. "In an emergency situation, there might not be phone lines, or they could be overloaded." That's because the equipment used by amateur radio operators — who are also called "Hams" — can work independently of central communication systems that are often disrupted by natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. "We can usually set up really quickly," adds Mackinnon. "All it takes is one of our guys setting up on a roof, and we're set — we can start talking."

There are about 40,000 amateur radio operators in Canada, and more than 300 of them live in Manitoba. Mackinnon says ARES exists in every Canadian province, every American state and almost everywhere in the world. During a disaster, ARES will respond through the Manitoba Emergency Management Organization. During the 1997 flood, ARES teams were stationed in various communities along the Red River, providing backup communications, and helping the city communicate with various sandbagging sites. Mackinnon says as many as 130 volunteers put in almost 7,000 hours of volunteer service during that incident. But he stresses the operators are "amateurs" only in the traditional sense of the word. "That doesn't mean we don't know what we're doing," says Mackinnon. In fact, he's quick to say the opposite is true — "amateur" radio operators must pass rigorous federal testing to operate their equipment and take to their airwaves. And as if that wasn't enough, ARES personnel are also required to take courses in emergency management. "But we're just not allowed to be paid," adds Mackinnon, who says that international conventions stipulate an operator's work has to be on a volunteer basis and unpaid. In exchange, the federal government gives Hams in Canada access to thousands of frequencies, which they can use to communicate.

That kind of access often allows amateur radio operators to hear sensitive information. "But the access doesn't mean we're allowed to pass on the information," warns Mackinnon. It was almost a month ago when RCMP Const. Mike Templeton was shot in the face near Portage la Prairie. Something that irks Mackinnon is that initial reports had an amateur radio buff intercepting and recording the call Templeton made after the shooting — the call was later supplied to the local media, who broadcast it. Mackinnon is quick to say that conversation was not intercepted by one of his guys — he's worried about the perception that it might've been. "Obviously, we're very sensitive to that," he says. "That fellow was not a Ham. This causes us some concern. Arguably, it's illegal. I would hope our guys know better than to pass on that kind of information."

Although many amateur operators take to the airwaves as a hobby, Mackinnon says it's their work during times of disaster that makes amateur radio most memorable. Hams were among the first to establish communication with Manhattan only minutes after the attacks of Sept. 11 — as conventional phone lines became overwhelmed. Amateur operator John Agar remembers the first hours after the World Trade Center was levelled as frantic, with countless people all over the world wanting to know if their loved ones were OK. "We couldn't radio that first day," says Agar. "The guys in New York were so busy." He says the operators in New York were literally directing traffic, telling other operators what they needed and when to talk. "That particular day, you could not disturb them," he adds. "They passed along a lot of data." Agar remembers that during the 1997 flood the roles were reversed — then it was Winnipeg ARES operators controlling the flow of communication, telling other Hams around the world what they needed. Agar says

## AS FAST AS ANYONE CAN SEND

The code tests run at the club's last meeting reminded me of something that happened to an old friend. George Gould enlisted in the permanent force Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in the early '30s. After suitable training in conducting short-wave wireless telegraph communications, he was sent, as a signalman, to work on the then recently installed Mackenzie River radio telegraph system. Before signalmen left for the north Col. W. Arthur Steele, the founder of the RCCS, promised them an additional stripe for each time their code transmitting and receiving speed increased by 5 words per minute. When George went north he was doing 15 w.p.m. After some years he cleared 35 wpm and, of course, was promoted to company sergeant major. Well war was declared, and since he had done his time in relative isolation, he retired, came south and found that the CBC had opened its short-wave receiving station at Britannia Heights just west of Ottawa. The CBC quickly employed George as an operator at their Britannia station. But George enjoyed his time in Signals and to help he joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Signals RCCS NPAM in Ottawa and was made regimental sergeant major. Since it met only one night a week it was quite compatible with his CBC employment. George was an excellent teacher and under his tutelage I got my signal sergeant stripes.

One day when George was at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Div Sigs barracks checking out some equipment, an older gentleman with one arm wandered in and when George asked him what he wanted he said he would like to join the Signal Corps and serve in Europe. With one arm? George told him it was not possible and asked him just why he thought he could serve. He replied that he could operate radio equipment and knew the code. George decided to give him a try and asked him how fast he could receive. His answer was, "As fast as anybody can send." George picked up a bit of plain language text and took him to the room where we practiced our code, seated him at a table and started sending as fast as he could.

George told me, "He didn't pay any attention to me. Instead he took out a package of tobacco and cigarette papers, balanced them on his knee, proceeded to roll himself a cigarette with one hand and light it." After several minutes of this off-handedness, George, a little miffed, quit sending. Whereupon this one-armed-would-be-signalman picked up a pencil and with a cigarette dangling from his lips wrote out an errorless copy of the text that George had sent him. George was speechless! In telling me of this afterwards he said that it was very difficult to convince this gentleman that he could not serve in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

Bill Wilson, VE3NR  
Ottawa, March 31, 2002.

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE OVMRC

What a party! What a celebration! What class! What a beautiful Time Capsule! What a nice surprise for all those attending to receive a large white coffee mug with the official club crest, Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated and the words "40 Years" written below the crest! What a cake! I hope you were one of the 55 people attending our history making General Meeting held on March 28, 2002 when we celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the Incorporation of the OVMRC. It was a very memorable occasion to say the least. Congratulations to all those involved in preparing this meeting! Our President and Vice-President's ingenuity in putting together a memorable and appropriate celebration was impressive.

Many of our honoured Life Members were in attendance. President Dan Johnston VA3JAR, honoured them and invited them to stand and introduce themselves. Many other guests were also acknowledged. We were especially honoured to have Jerry Erland VE3BBY, the first President of the OVMRC, attending. Dan invited Jerry to stand and paid tribute to him as one of the founding members of the OVMRC. Our club is not the oldest Amateur Radio Club in the world but what club can claim fame to having their first President in attendance more than forty years later. You will notice I have spelled his name with a "J" rather than a "G" as I have seen in various documents, including our web page. When I greeted Jerry, I read his name and Callsign on his gold, Quarter Century Wireless Association name tag. His name is spelled with a "J" and he is listed officially as Jerzy Erland on the Canadian and QRZ Callsign data bases.

The CW Contest and QLF (Quick Left Foot!) competition was one of the highlights of the evening with many participants under the watchful eyes of the judges. Dan's choice of text for the contestants was unique, reflected our club's objectives, paid tribute to the founders of the club, and the current Executive. Nice touch Dan!

The Time Capsule, a very beautiful wooden box made especially for the occasion, was on stage to receive mementos from the past 40 years. President Dan Johnston Many members contributed various items including life members Ed Morgan VE3GX and Doreen Morgan VE3CGO, President Dan Johnston VA3JAR, Vice-President Susan Mogensen, Patricia Rowan VA3PUR, yours truly and others. Remember, if you have anything memorable for the Time Capsule, bring it to the next general meeting before it is sealed for 10 years. The Time Capsule will be opened by members of the Executive on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation. If you were unable to attend, I video taped the meeting and a copy of the video tape will also be added to the Time Capsule before it is sealed. Another copy of the video tape will be available for loan to any members that were unable to attend and would like to see the celebrations. Just let me know if you would like to see it and I will get it into your hands on a first come first served basis.

Congratulations to all the members for contributing to this club for more than forty years! Hopefully, your investment of time and assistance in future years will keep our club viable, vibrant and maintain the OVMRC through many more years to come. As former President and current Vice-President Susan Mogensen VE3MOG always says, "It's your club, make it what you want it to be, participate."

## MAY 1992 RAMBLER

The front page article "May I Repeat?" by Ed Sieb VE3RDZ consists of a Report of the Technical Committee. Ed noted the status of our repeater, VE3TWO, was examined and an in-depth report describing the specific costs, phasing and the features an upgrade might include were presented to members at the April General Meeting. He wrote our club is the largest in the area with the highest growth rate, our profile in the Amateur Radio community is very high and this suggests that our repeater should keep pace with our growth and the demand for more "air-time" on 2-Meters. It was considered inappropriate that our members not have access to modern, state-of-the-art repeater facilities. His Committee determined that serious upgrading of VE3TWO was urgently needed and had proposed three Phases to accomplish the task. Phase 1- Immediate purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art repeater controller to provide for all present and future anticipated needs. Phase 2 - Move the repeater to a new site to provide increased range as well as other anticipated future expansions, such as UHF, 6-Meters, links, et. Phase 3 - Purchase new RF hardware for the new site. Install old RF equipment as a back-up service at the old site (580 Booth Street).

Phase 1 would begin immediately upon Club approval and a new controller would be purchased for approximately \$2800.00. The new controller would allow for an Autopatch, autodial of up to 240 numbers, reverse patch, talking S-meter, voice mail and mailboxes, voice bulletins, link interfaces, remote programming by computer and many other features. This controller was considered to be the most advance in the industry.

Ed invited the members to provide their reaction to the three phase proposal at the next General Meeting. He wanted to know if the membership would agree to proceed with the three-phase plan to improve the repeater or whether the repeater should just be left the way it is? He invited members to make their feelings know to the Executive by mail or phone or in person at the General Meeting in May and that the Club's decision would be based on their reaction.

The Secretary's Minutes, by Ted VE3KEH, record the names of the graduates of the 1991/1992 Radio Course including, Dave Murphy, Ron VE3UWR, Roger VE3XRR, Steve VE3RUU, Bob VE3UUH, Bob VE2RGK, Alan VE3TYJ, Pat VE3TZR, Jeff VE3WWH, Larry VE3WEH, Margaret VE3WIR and Lorraine.

The annual OVMRC Flea Market, Canterbury High School, April 11, 1992 was an unqualified success and more than \$1200 in profits were made. The event was thoroughly covered in a report by Ken Barry VE3KJB and Chuck King VE3PDK. They called it "A Super Event" with new equipment from ten commercial vendors and shack goodies from ninety private vendors. Despite a raging blizzard and atrocious driving conditions, four hundred or more eager shoppers showed up for the event. They noted that planning was the key to this successful event and it was started on April 12, 1991, the day after last year's Flea Market. Winston Hetherington VE3WTH operated the talk-in station on our club repeater VE3TWO.

Test-Bench a Big Attraction: Ralph Cameron VE3BBM operated a test bench and with his wide range of expertise and \$30,000 worth

of test equipment, gave buyers an idea of the state of health of equipment they wanted to buy.

Live Fastscan Amateur Television Demonstration: Bill Westbrook VE3EKA manned the fixed station while the camera crew consisting of Norm Hull VE3JDJ and Ian McIntyre VE3CZ, produced full colour motion pictures with sound from a roving vehicle. The images of drifting snow, slippery driving and traffic snarls were impressive.

PacketCluster Demonstration: Ron Schwartz VE3VN and demonstrations, explaining the TNC set-up, operations modes, and network features and advantages of this packet system.

Commercial Vendors: Several unique commercial vendors were there. Cipher Systems Design was selling computer hardware. World View Tim Inc. represented by Dwight Darling, was selling world clocks and Affir Motif, provided caps with machine-sewn names and Callsigns. Door Prizes included the Kenwood TH-77A dual band HT donated by Kenwood Electronics Canada Ltd. and Larry Woram VE3WLN was the lucky winner. Also an SWR meter donated by Bytown Marine was won by Dan Stanton VE3RDG. A subscription to The Canadian Amateur, donated by the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation, was won by Gerry Wells VE3CDS.

In closing, I hope to see you at our Flea Market, Saturday, May 4, 2002, at the Stittsville arena. Our Flea Market Chair, Jake Guertin VA3TQX and his committee consisting of James Poulin VA3JPX, Frank Stratton VE3YY and Don Raymond VE3DRO are still working hard to make it a grand success.

## 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@yahogroups.com](mailto:oqp-subscribe@yahogroups.com)

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

DOORS OPEN

Stittsville Arena

Vendors: 06:30

Admission: \$3.00

General Public: 09:00

**Raffle for two RigBlasters**

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

**For further information please contact:  
Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, [va3tqx@rac.ca](mailto:va3tqx@rac.ca)**



# A Brief History of the Early Years

Ed Morgan  
VE3GX

## INTRODUCTION

The intent of the following is to depict only the “Historical Highlights” of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Incorporated from conception to date. It is hoped that the history of the Club will be continued by virtue of supplements to this document.

NOV 1957:

The Club was formed by a group of mobile radio amateurs after a series of informal meetings. Gerry Erland, VE3BBY, was elected Chairman to serve until the first general election could be held.

The following were among the pioneers that conceived and formed the Club:

Gerry Erland	VE3BBY	Tom Hayes	VE3ABC
Eric Bodley	VE3AK	Glen Pack	VE3CGP
Ian McIntyre	VE3DMT	Gerry Harbottle	VE3AGU
Gord Grant	VE3DY	Harry Hayes	VE3BEB
George Brunet	VE3BZI	Doug Burrill	VE3CDC
Doreen Morgan	VE3CGO	Don Waters	VE3DEL
Ken Scrivens	VE3AFO	Ed Morgan	VE3GX
Gerry King	VE3BST	Doug Metcalfe	VE3BON

JAN 1958:

The first general election was held. Gerry Erland, VE3BBY, was elected President. Club membership was 69. Most members were mobile on 75 and/or 10 meters with a few on 6. 1958 was also the year that the Club became affiliated with the ARRL.

MAY 1959:

The Club Monitoring Service was initiated on 3760 kHz to provide an outlet for emergency/general traffic for mobiles and out of town stations. Doreen VE3CGO “manned” the facility using MARS PBV equipment loaned by K5IJV/VE3.

MAY 1959:

The “Pot Hole Net” was initiated on 3760 kHz as the official Club Net conducted every Saturday and Sunday Morning at 10 AM local time. The name of the net was derived from the numerous “potholes” prevalent at the time in Ottawa and which were frequently the topic of mobile conversation! The Net was duly registered with ARRL who indicated strong objections to the name! They were promptly informed by K5IJV/VE3 (the 1959 President) of the circumstances and acquainted with the fact that it was our prerogative to select an appropriate name!

Note: The Club Monitoring Service and the Pot Hole Net were suggested and introduced by Mike Larson K5IJV/VE3.

JUN 1959:

The first Club Field Day was held. The first of a continuous series.

SEP 1959:

The Club call sign VE3RAM was selected by the membership. The letters “RAM” have a dual significance. They are the first three letters in the name of the Club bulletin the “Rambler” and in addition stand for “Radio Amateur Mobile.” The call sign VE3OMC (Ottawa Mobile Club) was the second choice.

OCT 1959:

The first of many Social Evenings were held. The format was simple. The facilities of a reserve military mess were rented complete with bar. The members, XYL/YLs spent a pleasant evening chatting, dancing and in general getting to know each other better. The music was provided from records owned by the members. A light lunch and door prizes were supplied from the modest charge at the door. In deference to the XYL/YLs, it was an unwritten rule that amateur radio discussions were taboo. This tradition has been continued down through the years at functions of a social nature.

JAN 1960:

The first of many adult skating parties were held. After a few laps of the rink all hands repaired to a rec room for appropriate beverages, conversation, dancing and lunch.

JUN 1960:

Second Club Field Day held. We placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the two transmitter class.

JUL 1960:

Club Monitoring Service equipment on 3760 kHz replaced by VE3GXs highly modified 19 Set. This was necessary due to the departure of K5IJV/VE3 for his homeland.

JUL 1960:

Supplied communications for the Capital City Regatta on 50.4 MHz. 100 sailing craft participated. Two “marine mobiles” were temporarily installed on two of the boats and operated in conjunction with a fixed station at the Boat Club. The following day three “marine mobiles” were operational. This was a two-day event and 7 Club members operated the equipment.

DEC 1960:

The first annual Children’s Christmas Party was held complete with Santa Claus (Gerry King) presents, cartoons, games and eats. This event became one of the most popular of our annual activities.

JAN 1961:

The January issue of the Rambler (Volume 4 Number 1) was written by the new editor, Ed Morgan, VE3GX. The former editor was Gord Grant, VE3DY.

# A Brief History *(Cont'd)*

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FEB 1961:

This issue of the Rambler announced a contest for the design of a Club Emblem or Crest. The W.O.M. (Worked Ottawa Mobile) Certificate was also announced. The certificate was awarded to out of town stations for working 5 Club members mobile at the time of the QSO. There were endorsement stickers available in increments of 5.

APR 1961:

Issue of the Rambler announced that VE3BCL and K9YZA/VE3 were tied in first place as winners of the Club Emblem Contest. The judges decided to combine their respective designs into a composite. The result gave birth to our present Club Emblem. This issue also introduced "Pot Hole Net Certificates" for regular call-ins to the Net.

APR 1961:

The Club held its first genuine Road Rally. It was a simplified course and the family car served in lieu of the proverbial sports car. Most of the entrants brought their families along to enjoy the event.

MAY 1961:

Joint picnic held in conjunction with the Montreal Emergency Communications Corps at the Long Sault Park near Cornwall. We also had a tour through CJSS TV studios.

JUN 1961:

Mobile whip tune-up held at the Billings Bridge Shopping Center.

JUN 1961:

Entered the three transmitter class during Field Day. We came 1<sup>st</sup> in Ontario, 4<sup>th</sup> in Canada and 28<sup>th</sup> in North America in a field of over 200.

APR 1962:

The Club became a duly Incorporated Limited Company and was officially recorded as such by the Provincial Secretary of Ontario, 27 April 1962. Incorporation protects the Club members from law-suits incurred by other members. For example, if a Club member on his way to a meeting, field day, family picnic or any other Club activity became involved in an accident, the other party could sue him as well as each and every member of the Club! When a Club is Incorporated, the person can only sue the Club to the extent of its liquid assets. Of course the member that was involved

in the accident can still be sued, but the rest of the membership is protected. A secondary benefit is that an Incorporated Club commands more respect from commercial and governmental agencies. Hence we became the "Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Incorporated."

MAY 1962:

This issue of the Rambler announced a 2 meter AM mobile transmitter/receiver contest and contained scoring details.

JUN 1962:

We came "first" in Canada in the two transmitter class. We gained extra points by using the "under 30 watt" multiplier. We were 18<sup>th</sup> in North America in a field of 228. Only had 8 operators participating. Our very first "first!"

MAY 1965:

The Club sponsored and operated our first Spring Auction. All previous auctions were jointly sponsored by our Club and the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club.

JUN 1965:

This issue of the Rambler enclosed the white cardboard Club Emblem for use on the member's windshields.

June 1965:

The Club sponsored SWAP NET, operating on 3760 kHz as part of the Pot Hole, was launched. Jack Whittingham, VE3YC conducted the SWAP NET every Saturday at 10 AM.

JUN 1965:

Another "first" in Canada in the two transmitter class. Our "second first" in the Field Day rise to fame.

MAR 1966:

Club initiated a new service to Ottawa area Radio Amateurs. The P.O. Box 6161 QSL bureau under the management of VE3YC.

JUN 1966:

The Club purchased a Heathkit HW12 complete with home-brew power supply from VE3BRE to replace the 19 Set used by the Monitor Station.

# Announcements



## 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



## 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  
(Sud-Ouest bus 100)

Royal Canadian Legion  
7771 Bouvier  
Lasalle  
(Sud-Ouest 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 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>

## Dayton Hamvention

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

[www.hamvention.org](http://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.



<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](mailto:spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca)

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

*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.*

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).