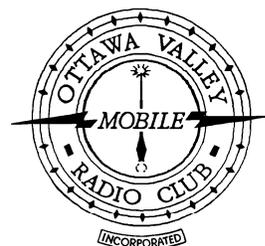


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 48, Issue No 2



Inside...

VE3JW News & Views 1&3

Web Resources 4&5

Yesteryear..... 6

Borrowed..... 7

Jerry Wells Award..... 8

Reminders...

Club Meeting Sep 18

Field Day Report

Election of New Officers

Jerry Wells Nominations

Club Exec. Meeting · Sep 25

Rambler Deadline... Oct 3

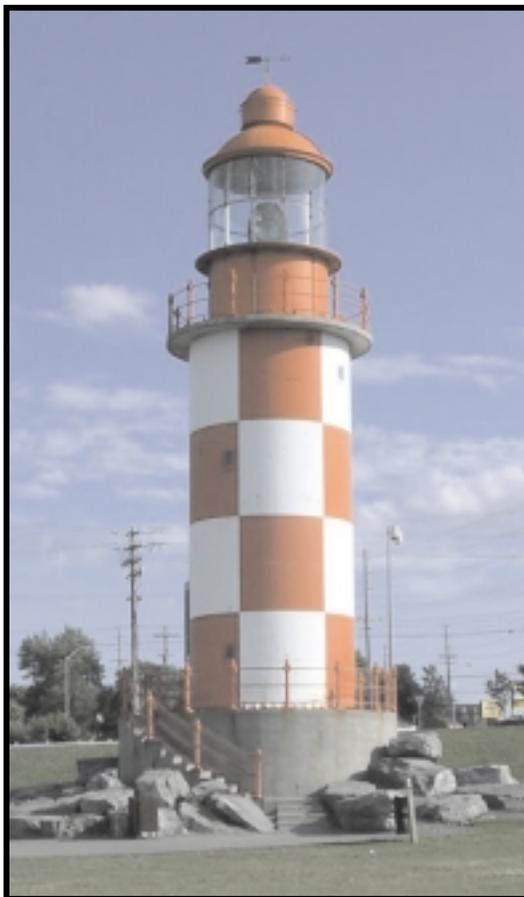
Next Club Meeting · Oct 16

**IT'S TIME
TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP !**

Blank form on back

Or use the online form:

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca/Membership%20Form%20P81.pdf>



Amateur Radio is all about.

Crews have been asked to resume normal operation and are now filling the schedule as per the list that you will find at the OVMRC web page under VE3JW Operations. I am still available to fill in the vacant spots and if you are interested, please let me know and we will introduce you to our current equipment setup and operating procedure, obtain you a Museum Volunteer Pass, and accompany you along till you're willing to go it on your own.

Nothing is perfect and we still have a bit of a problem with the noise level created by the new exhibit when busloads of enthusiastic youngsters funnel through the new maze of giant fibre optic cables. Arrangements are being worked out for a meeting with the Museum Staff in order to find a solution that would allow normal radio communications in a proper environment for the VE3JW station.

When you read this we would have taken part in the International Lighthouses and Lightships Special Event Weekend on the 16 and 17 August. This year, we will mount antennas at the Lighthouse, install a radio inside at the ground level, and operate during Museum opening hours. The Media will be informed and extra tours of visitors will be guided up to the upper level for a short lecture on lighthouses' mechanics and operation. On their way down we will invite visitors to chat with our contacts.

Interesting to note here that the Museum's lighthouse is officially recognized as a bona fide participant in this special event and all contacts with us are good towards obtaining one of the awards. The Canadian list of lighthouses includes us as Cape North, Ontario (originally from Cape North, Nova Scotia) and lists us as CAN#539. Also, the Amateur Radio Lighthouse

VE3JW NEWS AND VIEWS

NORTEL PUTS DAMPER ON RADIO OPERATIONS BUT JW BOUNCES RIGHT BACK.

In the last couple of months we've had to close our Amateur Radio Exhibit at the Canada Science & Technology Museum due to construction taking place in the section where we are located. Nortel and the Museum have been very busy completing a new exhibit showing digital communications, networking and fibre optics.

Now that the dust has settled, we have cleaned, repaired, and put back into operation our jewel station. So, this notice is to advise you that we are now fully operational to provide you with training, offer you a chance to operate our many modes, or if you would like, demonstrate to the public what

Rambler

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.
P.O. Box 41145
Ottawa, Ontario
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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.jr@magma.ca



Next Meeting
Sep 18
Rambler Deadline
Oct 3

OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron VE3BBM

Doug Carswell VE3ATY

Gerry King VE3GK

Doreen Morgan VE3CGO

Ed Morgan VE3GX

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

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VE3JW

Society (ARLHS), the most complete list of lighthouses in the world, has us as CAN#865 M (for Museum).

Also this year, for a first time, we will be presenting VE3JW at the OARC Hamfest in Carp on Aug 30. We will display VE3JW with the help of large write-ups on boards, with photographs, and with a computer based presentation of our station, inviting the whole Amateur community to come and benefit from what is now known as our National Amateur Radio Station. The Museum recognizes the part played by Amateur Radio in service to the public and has provided us with passes to allow access for licensed Amateurs coming to VE3JW to fill any one of the station's intended purposes: Training, Operation, Demonstration.

RAC has also recognized the contribution that VE3JW brings to Amateur Radio as we are more and more representative of RAC's objectives.

Recently, I heard Peter Gamble VE3BQP, our regional emergency preparedness coordinator, mention on 2m about the tremendous efforts contributed by Radio Amateurs in times of distress, and he was encouraging everyone to continue training.

Knowing the situation in BC with the forest fires, I checked the APRS network on the Web and looked up the Kamloops area. APRS stations are set up in a network sending periodic Alert messages to Control stations. There was one station about 140 kilometres North East of Kamloops reporting that the group had no electricity and was operating on batteries. The report said that the group might be able to hold one more day.

This, I think, is what Peter was talking about. At VE3JW we have all the tools to allow you to develop or to keep up your skills. Pay us a visit, we would be glad to see you.

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG
Amateur Radio Exhibit Group
ve3vig@rac.ca ❖

Given the common features of technology and communications it is not surprising that hams have taken so well to the Internet. From the Internet Repeater Linking Project (IRLP) to just simple home web pages, there are a wide range of resources. These include technical e-mail reflectors, on-line ham stores, dedicated amateur sites, on-line museums and electronic QSLing being some examples. The amount of information available to amateurs is quite immense and can be very helpful in our projects, problem solving and shack building. One good example is that you may be reading this Rambler on the web.

Being a new ham I have often found myself using the web as I learn more about this wonderful hobby. I have shared the addresses of these websites with others and believe that a regular forum where club members can point out useful web sites for amateurs would be useful. So I am aim to commit to trying to regularly produce a section in the Rambler that includes websites and related information that may be of interest to club members. I would encourage you to let me know of any sites that you use and think would be interesting, or perhaps you have your own web pages, if so let us know.

In this first section I would like to give information on some of the bigger amateur sites and towards the end I will follow-up with some links to a couple of the topics covered in the club presentations last year.

First, what I consider to be some of the bigger sites for amateurs.

www.eham.net

Here is a magazine-style site that I visit often. Here you can find news (with views), regular articles, question and answer forums, product reviews and much more. I particularly like the product reviews, which are written by owners and can give you some insight into individual views and experiences with equipment. See the yellow panel on the left that lists all the links to the sections.

This site is quite comprehensive, for example I counted nearly 30 forums which include 'boat anchors', 'QRP', 'RFI', 'Satellite' and 'Youth' to name a few. The most popular forum is the 'Elmers' which at the time of writing this has over 9,000 topics and 45,000 messages. That is a lot of questions and advice.

There is much more to this site, check it out, even if it is to look at the posted pictures of ham shacks (see the right hand side of the main page).

www.qrz.com

This is similar to eham.net but perhaps not as comprehensive. Carry out call-sign searches here, look at the news related to amateur radio and read lots of comments.

www.rac.ca

As Canadian licensed amateurs this site is worth watching. For Canadian news see www.rac.ca/news/canada.htm. One item here of current interest is the result of the RAC Morse survey that was conducted in August, see www.rac.ca/news/mresults.htm It seems that from the response of over 1300 amateurs 2 out 3 are in favour of having the Morse requirement dropped. A similar number are in favour of changing the Basic exam. A full analysis of the results can be seen at the last link listed.

Still with the RAC web site I notice that you do not need your RAC membership number to get into the site. So if that was putting you off going to this site then take another look. This is an informative site run by volunteers who are doing a great job. There are plenty of resources here for Canadian amateurs, for example if you are designing your own QSL card on your computer then take a look at the logos available to you at <http://www.rac.ca/logos.htm> of course you have to be eligible to use them (you are a RAC member aren't you?).

www.odxa.on.ca

Perhaps not a big ham web site but nevertheless useful to Canadian amateurs is the web site of the Ontario DX Association. The emphasis is on broadcast DXing but there is a section for amateur radio, as well check-out the propagation forecast by Ottawa local Jacques d'Avignon, VE3VIA, www.odxa.on.ca/propagation.htm. His forecasts are quite famous and his name was familiar to me when I was a shortwave broadcast DXer in Britain.

The ODXA runs the Ontario QSO Party and this years results are available at www.odxa.on.ca/oqpscores2003.html even my own humble (tiny!) score is in there.

WEB RESOURCES (Cont'd)

If you find the ODXA pages informative consider joining and supporting the organizations.

www.eqsl.cc

Earlier I mentioned QSL cards. Well, this is the site to send QSLs electronically. You can use this site for free, although donations are encouraged, just design your own electronic QSL card and send and receive them at a potentially significantly faster rate than via a bureau. If you have a printer linked to your computer you can print the cards to the usual QSL card sizes for your collection. If you enjoy chasing awards the site has its own award schemes too.

By the way, the “.cc” at the end of the web address is not a mistake.

www.arrl.org

This is the site of the national organization of our fellow hams to the South. If you are a member you can get access on-line to plenty of information. If you are not a member then some of the information is ‘locked’ away from you. This is another good site for news and technical information.

Take a look at the information on the potential interference threat of broadband over power lines (BPL) and other threats to amateur radio at www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/

I promised some links to some of last year’s club talks.

Camp X. We had a fascinating talk at the beginning of the last club season on Camp X, the top secret World War II intelligence site. Check out <http://webhome.idirect.com/~lhodgson/campx.htm> for more information.

Enigma Machines. For those that enjoyed, or missed, the excellent talk on the Nazi Enigma coding machines check out the BBC resource at www.bbc.co.uk/history/war/wwtwo/enigma_01.shtml

There are also lots of links there to related topics for those interested in WWII.

The common link between the Enigma and Camp X is Bletchley Park, the British Camp X. There is a web site at www.bletchleypark.org.uk/ dedicated to the mansion house’s role in WWII. There is even a section

on the site for kids who may be interested in codes. Take note that you can visit Bletchley Park, if you are heading to the UK soon.

Emergency Preparedness. We had a talk on this topic by a government official and the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIEP) have their web site at www.ociepc-bpiepc.gc.ca/info_pro/self_help_ad/index_e.asp

With the recent black out, 9/11 and the fires in BC, we should all be well aware of the need to be prepared. This government site has self-help brochures on the web at www.ociepc-bpiepc.gc.ca/info_pro/self_help_ad/index_e.asp, which covers a number of topics including preparing for the unexpected, Winter blackouts, floods and Winter driving. Check them out and perhaps let others know about their existence (or give them a printed copy if they do not have web access).

Last but not least, there is the Club’s web site, just in case you do not know it: www.ovmrc.on.ca/

Do not forget to let me know of any web sites you think are worth mentioning to other club members and I will put them in future articles. Next month I will try and collect some more interesting links and perhaps focus on CW, the mode that is in the amateur news so much at the moment.

73

Alan Steele, VA3STL
va3stl@rac.ca❖

Pot Lid Net (PLN)

The Pot Lid Net (PLN) is a slow speed informal CW NET (8-12 WPM) resumed operation Sunday 7 September 03 at 11.00 AM (local) on 3.620 MHz. It meets every Sunday at 11.00 AM (except July and August) and is a good source of CW practice for beginners and old timers alike! February 2004 will mark 31 years of continuous operation.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the Net!

The Net Manager is Ed, VE3GX, 613-733-1721 if additional information is required.

Well Field Day is over, summer is still with us and surprisingly, the warm weather is continuing but it won't be long before we step into fall. As I write this, the weather channel is reporting 37.5c in British Columbia where they have experienced devastating forest fires this summer. Bermuda has just suffered a direct hit by hurricane Fabian, the most powerful in 50 years. We have been experiencing very different weather over the last few years, weather patterns around the world are changing and bringing drastic changes in many parts of the world. Locally, our nighttime temperatures are starting to dip into the one digit area, but daytime temperatures seem to be above average. Perhaps "Indian Summer" will last until the end of September.

RAMBLER OCTOBER 1993

The front cover of the October issue featured "Welcome to the World of 6 Meters" by Doug Bannard VE3SPF and four photos of the new 6 meter antenna which he built. On January 9, 1993, the 6-meter repeater VE3RVI, went on the air for the OVMRC repeater site at 580 Booth Street. The original antenna was a 6m Ringo Ranger Cushcraft AR-6, half-wave vertical. The coverage of the repeater was considered to be disappointing with a radius of about 35 miles. Doug Bannard decided to design and build a better antenna based on "two 5/8 waves in phase" fed from one end. It consisted of two sections separated by a phasing network and had an overall length just under 24 feet. Doug's design was rather unique consisting aluminum tubing with 1 inch diameter at the base and tapering to .625 inch in the second last section. The final section was topped off with a 102' CB whip! In addition, all of the tubing was filled with marine epoxy for added strength in the high winds on top of the 21 story building. The matching network necessary to match the vertical radiator to a 50-ohm line was mounted in the base of the antenna in a weatherproof inverted plastic funnel with the spout removed! Four radials were attached to this base also.

The antenna was installed on August 28, 1993 with help from members of the 6Meter Interest Group including VE3's, EPB, FFK, SJU, SPF, WEH and XDD. They had to anchor the antenna through an 18-inch thick concrete and brick wall! This antenna extended the normal coverage of the 6m repeater to greater than 50 mile radius. All members were invited to join the 6-meter Interest Group Net held every Monday evening at 19.30 hrs on VE3TWO. Although this antenna served very well for many years, weather took its toll and it was eventually replaced with a 6m Ringo Ranger.

Wise words from our President Jerry Wells, VE3CDS in RAMBLINGS included an appeal for members to inform him of where they were operating, what modes, what bands, and what contacts they were making. He wanted to know what members were doing and believed we should be informing each other of our activities on the air. He noted "Diversity is one of the real pleasures of ham radio. Don't just sit on one band and operate a commercial rig, explore other bands, build an antenna, learn CW and if you do not know how to do it, as for help because there are a lot of

experienced amateurs who would be pleased to assist you." He encouraged all club members to remember that amateur radio is the finest hobby in the world and to enjoy the magic of radio, enjoy your participation in your club and be considerate of your fellow amateurs.

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on September 16, 1993, recorded a total of 37 students attending the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course. A new vertical R7 Cushcraft antenna had been installed for VE3JW and operators were required to operate on Wednesday evening and weekends. Mike Kelly VE3FFK demonstrated his HF mobile 40 meter rig which was mounted on his bicycle and powered by his portable nicad shoulder battery pack. The Auditor's Report, by W.R. Campbell, VE3KLLK, showed a bottom line of a total revenue of \$11,252.12 and total expenses of \$9,338.18 with an income balance of \$1,912.92.

The "This 'N That" column on the back page of the October 1993 RAMBLER encouraged members to volunteer to assist with the Club's nets, including the Welcome Mat Net on Wednesday night, the Wise Owl Net on Friday evening and the Pot Hole Net on Sunday. All of these nets can still use your help so consider volunteering as a Net Controller.

The rumour mill was churning with news that the Department of Communications were contemplating changing its requirement qualifications for advanced standing so that an amateur with a basic licence and 5 words CW will be granted "grandfather" status and full amateur privileges. However, this was flatly denied by top policy advisors.

Thirty-eight aspiring amateurs had enrolled in the OVMRC's Amateur Radio Course which was underway on September 14, 1993 and would end by the end of March 1994. The course curriculum had a balanced blend of technical aspects, operating practices and procedures, CW and several practical topics including establishing your own radio station, the type of equipment to purchase, home brew construction, etc.

Again, I end my column this month, with an appeal. Our next General Meeting takes place at 7.30pm, September 18, 2003. Since the election was not held during the June meeting, election of members to the Executive will take place at this meeting. I hope you are there and will offer your assistance to serve on the Executive or to Chair or assist with one of the many committees. We have a lot of talented and skilled members in our club and we need you on our Executive in some capacity to help make the OVMRC a successful club in the upcoming club year. If enough people fail to come forward and volunteer to serve on the Executive, the OVMRC as a club will be deeply affected.

73 de Larry Wilcox

VE3WEH❖

HF Radios for Newcomers

posted on June 10, 2003 on eHam.net

If ham radio is as important to you as it is to me and we want to retain all of our frequencies, we all have to do more to populate the airwaves with newcomers. Newcomers come in many shapes and sizes: he/she can be an experienced ham trying out a new mode, or a recently upgraded ham who now wants to try the HF bands, or someone who is completely new to the hobby - licensed or not.

When I first started in radio, "elmers" were easy to find. They were nice, helpful and enthusiastic people who readily shared their hobby with others. Of course, life seemed simpler back then. SSB was the "new" mode when CW and AM ruled the day. FM was virtually unheard. Radio sets were full of tubes and large discrete parts - in a word - easy to operate and fix (because you could read the markings on the parts - actually the parts were fairly large and my eyes were much younger back then).

While I certainly don't yearn for the good old days (mainly because ham radio was a relatively expensive hobby in the 1950's), I do think our hobby has less fascination and wonderment today. Wanna talk to someone far away? Just pick up the telephone (long distance calls are so cheap today), or if you're outside use your cell phone, blackberry, pager, or FRS radio. Almost forgot, use the Internet to chat, email, send pictures, even videophone (Old word for web cam). And, one more thing, you can do all this with your battery operated laptop sitting in a Starbucks connected to their WI-FI HotSpot high-speed Internet connection while you drink your \$3.00 coffee beverage.

Fortunately, I think I can solve one part of the problem. I want to make it really easy to transition hams from VHF to HF by helping out with their first "real" radio.

There are several objectives to overcome:

- ✘ Getting started on HF for little money
- ✘ Getting equipment that is easy to operate and works well
- ✘ Putting up that first antenna "cheaply"
- ✘ Not getting stuck if HF is not their thing.

I believe that any experienced ham can do this in his spare time. It's simply an extension of the hobby and it's fun. Here are the steps to get started as an HF elmer. It requires you to tie up a few hundred dollars in a radio until it's bought by the new HF'er.

☞ Decide what type of HF transceiver radio you feel is best for a newcomer. It's probably one that you owned at one time, like an IC-735 or a TS-130S or better. I suggest a radio that is 100% solid state as tuning up a PA with tubes is more complex. Also newcomers will probably think a TS-520, TS-820S, or FT-101 is too old because it has tubes.

☞ Look for a good transceiver. Hunt it down in QST, eHam.net, eBay, qsl.net, qrz.com, estate of a SK, your local ham club or hamfest. Challenge yourself to buy it as cheaply as you can. Certainly less than \$250.00. I bought two very nice TS-130S transceivers for under \$250 each and found Radio Shack switching power (25 amps) supplies for \$60 new.

☞ Build a simple dipole for 40 meters. If you find an antenna tuner for less than \$50.00 attach ladder line to the dipole. Otherwise use coax and a PL-259.

☞ Advertise to your local ham clubs that you have a good basic HF radio for sale and if a newcomer buys it, you will sell it for what it cost you with the following money back guarantee: use 30 days, 90% back; use less than 2 years, 50% back.

☞ Help a newcomer get on the air and do it again if you had fun and made new friends.

That's it.

73, Dick, K3DML,
PS I have 4 radios ready to go. ❖

RAC Morse Survey Results

The RAC web site survey page was set up on August 3rd, and continued except for the Ontario power blackout, until August 31.

Over 1400 responses were received, with over 1300 of these being valid and worth retention. The remainder were duplicates, responses from outside Canada, clubs, or multiple call signs for the same amateur, invalid call signs etc. Some responses were incomplete and therefore unusable.

A detailed report has been prepared for the RAC Board of directors, to help them in reaching decisions on how to advise Industry Canada on the Morse issue.

All comments (over 150 pages in total) have been forwarded to the Board, and to the group working on possible revisions to the examination content and structure.

Results

The important overall results of the survey are:

- Two of three Canadian amateurs responding to the survey (66 %) wish to see Morse Code dropped as a requirement for access to the HF bands.
- Two of three, (69 %) want to see changes to the Basic Exam.
- 9% reported that they are not currently active, but 67 % of these also said they favored dropping Morse.
- Less than 1% said they were not interested
- 58 % have the Advanced qualification
- Of those who have the Advanced qualification, 57 % say drop Morse and 75 % say change the basic exam
- 59 % have a Morse qualification
- Of those who have the Morse qualification, 51 % say drop Morse testing, 77 % say change the basic exam.
- 47 % have both Morse **and** Advanced.
52 % of this group favour dropping Morse, and 77 % are in favour of changing the basic exam.
- 63 % say they like to operate VHF and 66 % of these say drop the Morse qualification for HF
- 78 % say that they like to operate HF or would like access to the HF bands and 66 % of these say drop Morse

(From the RAC News Website: www.rac.ca/news.) ❖

JERRY WELLS AWARD - OVMRC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The OVMRC Inc. has established the Jerry Wells Award in 1997 in recognition of Jerry Wells VE3CDS, 1928-1997, a live member and Silent Key. Jerry received the “Amateur of the Year Award in June 1997 for his contribution of time, effort and devotion throughout the year to the Amateur Radio Course, his work as Delegated Examiner and his management of Amateur Radio Station, VE3JW, at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. The Award was subsequently renamed the “Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award in his honour.

Please read the Award criteria before completing the nomination form.

Selection Criteria and Process

- The submission of nominees and selection of the award winner will be based on the following criteria.
- Each nominee for the award must have been a fully paid up member of the OVMRC and a licensed Radio Amateur during the most recently completed club fiscal year starting July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2003 (Award Year).
- Nomination must be received in writing, in the required format, prior to, or during the regular September meeting. Each nomination must be supported by not less than two Full Members who were in good standing during the Award Year, and must include a short narrative description of the nominee’s contribution to Amateur Radio as specified below:
- To be eligible, nominee must have made a significant contribution during the Award Year to further any of the objectives of the OVMRC by:
 - Contributing to the interest, study and progress of the science and art of Amateur Radio with particular emphasis on mobile operations;
 - Co-operating with and assisting the civil authorities to the fullest extent possible in any emergency; or by
 - Fostering good will and understanding among Radio Amateurs.
- The eligibility of nominees will be verified by the Executive.
- The names of the nominees and the short narrative descriptions provide by the nominators will be published in the October issue of the Rambler.
- The Award winner will be determined by SECRET BALLOT by all members attending the regular meeting held on October. Two Full Members in good standing who are not nominees or nominators will be appointed by the President to scrutinize and tabulate the ballots.
- The “Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award,” consisting of a suitably engraved plaque and an engraved chrome plated iambic paddle keyer, or equivalent, will be presented to the winner at the November regular meeting.

Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Nomination Form

Please read the Award Criteria before completeing this nomination form.

Please print.

We wish to nominate: _____, Call Sign: _____, for the
Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award. We believe the above-named Amateur deserves to be
honoured with this award for the following reasons:

NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

Signature _____

Signature _____

Print
Name & Call Sign _____

Name & Call Sign _____

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club



P.O. Box 41145
Ottawa ON K1G 5K9

MEMBERSHIP FORM

- * The Membership year starts in July and runs to June 30th of the following year.
- * Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.
- * Associate membership is open to all radio enthusiasts.
- * The family rate is for second and subsequent members of the same family living at the same address.
- * One form per member.

RENEWAL	NEW	CHANGE	OVMRC NAME TAG (Cost \$7.00)	Yes	No
Call Sign		Surname		Preferred First Name	
Mailing Address					Apartment Number
City		Province		Postal Code	
Home Phone		Work Phone		E-mail Address	

Date

BBN

For Office use only

One year membership. Regular or Associate. Includes mailed Rambler
 One year membership. Regular or Associate. Without mailed Rambler
 Family membership. For family of current members. No mailed Rambler

- \$25/year
 - \$20/year
 - \$5/year

Amount Enclosed

\$

Cheque Cash

My Interests are:

VHF/UHF Phone	VHF/UHF Digital	VHF/UHF CW
Satellite	HF Phone	HF Digital
		HF CW

Current Occupation:

If retired, Former Occupation:

Skills: *(Please list them all)*

COMMENTS

--- ✂ -----

OVMRC NAME TAG — ORDER DETAILS

First Name

Call Sign