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## Reminders...

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| Club Meeting       | Nov 20 |
| Elections          |        |
| Club Exec. Meeting | Nov 27 |
| Rambler Deadline   | Nov 28 |
| Next Club Meeting  | Dec 11 |



## Elections! Elections!

Well, we have finally come up with a slate of officers to be voted on at the next meeting. Unfortunately there are still holes but we have enough volunteers to keep the club going. As of my writing this, there is only one candidate for each office, so you may not be voting for the people but rather expressing as to whether or not you want this person to hold that office. In addition the ballots have place for write-in candidates, this will allow for all of you last minute volunteers to jump right in and join the crowd.

The Executive can use help, there are several people who are trying to do multiple things and this can cause considerable stress. Each one of us really wants to do our best for the group and the historical club that we belong to. This causes us to become annoyed when we can't find the time to do all the things that we would like.

So we would like a little help!

Now I know the arguments that are given, I am too busy, I have done my time, I am too old, I am too sick and all these are good reasons. When you consider that we just celebrated 35 years of association with the Museum and the Club is in it's forty second year and we have 16 positions to try and fill, we would have had 672 members fill those positions.

The Club's membership runs about 100, so we would have used almost 7 times the membership over the years.

Let's face it, the ranks of Amateur Radio are not growing as they have in the past, the instant communications worldwide over the Internet as well as the popularity of computers has taken over many of the things that made Amateur Radio popular. Instant messenger programs let people communicate live between Europe and Australian with voice and pictures. Computers are fun to play with and a techie guy doesn't really need to get a license or pass a test to go and play with computers or programming of them and it can be lots of fun.

Amateur Radio is still a challenging hobby for people. It requires a degree of dedication to get your license and even more to have learned your Morse as well.

Interestingly enough for some Amateurs it has become difficult again. Although the Morse requirement may be going away some Amateurs, like myself, will have to go and be re-tested if we want our new Intermediate License to operate below 30 MHz. New guys just have to write the basic exam, get an 80 and they are done.

Although the requirements are changing, they are still pretty stiff requirements to join the ranks of Amateur Radio, this means that our ranks are not growing but rather shrinking.

Finding a way for us to support the obligations that the founders of the Club wanted is the challenge of the future. Whether this is reducing our obligations by elimination or merging with other groups or clubs or finding some way to increase involvement in Club operations, it is the most important challenge that the Executive will face.

This could be the most important challenge of any Executive that the club has had.

A suggestion has been made that instead of having one person take on the responsibility of a position, we arrange for people to share the responsibilities.

Some of the positions, the Directorships, can not be shared but the Standing Committee Chair positions might be shared. In some ways this seems strange, we can not get enough people to fill the positions that we have now and we are suggesting that we want more people.

*Continued Page 3:*

# Rambler

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.  
P.O. Box 41145  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1G 5K9



## OVMRC Executive (2002-2003)

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>      |  |
| <b>Vice-President</b> |  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Ken Gill, VA3KJG<br>748-0218,                |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Ken McKenzie, VA3NEK<br>829-4884, va3nek@rac |

## Standing Committee Chairpersons

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Amateur Radio Exhibit</b>    | Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG<br>749-9010, ve3vig@rac.ca                       |
| <b>Amateur Radio Training</b>   | Bob Shaw, VE3SUY<br>737-9443, lycott@istop.com<br>Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ<br>728-3666 |
| <b>Accredited Examiner</b>      | Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ<br>225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca                                  |
| <b>Field Day</b>                | Adam King, VA3PIP<br>831-9970, va3pip@rac.ca                                     |
| <b>Historical</b>               | Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH<br>747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca                                  |
| <b>Flea Market</b>              | Vacant   |
| <b>Membership</b>               | Adam King, VA3PIP<br>831-9970, va3pip@rac.ca                                     |
| <b>Newsletter</b>               | Bill Hall, VA3WMH<br>830-5580, va3wmh@rac.ca                                     |
| <b>Publicity &amp; Programs</b> |  |
| <b>Radio Operations</b>         | Vacant   |
| <b>Technical</b>                | Jake Guertin, VA3TQX<br>253-3732, va3tqx@sprint.ca                               |
| <b>Emergency Preparedness</b>   | Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS  |



### 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**  
Nov 20  
**Rambler Deadline**  
Nov 28

## 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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## September 18, 2003

Meeting was opened by Ken McKenzie, VA3NEK, Secretary.

There was one guest present, Eric Burn.

Adam King, VA3PIP, presented the results of Field Day 2003. The total points were 1528, with 166 contacts made.

Adam awarded Field Day pins to all the participants.

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, presented a slide show of the pictures that he had taken at Field Day.

Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS, presented a report concerning the trailer project. Ken noted that the project required the assistance of a carpenter. If you are able to help, please contact Ken at ve3srs@rac.ca or 837-3261.

Ken also reported that Civil Air Search & Rescue has expressed an interest in participating as a group. He also presented a video on the Ice Storm.

There were 33 members present.

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, presented a series of RAC announcements.

He requested a motion to donate \$100 on behalf of the OVMRC to the RAC Youth Education Program. This is in response to a challenge by the Almonte club challenging all clubs to match their donation.

Motion to donate \$100 to the RAC Youth Education Program was moved by VA3TQX, seconded by VA3KER and the motion was carried.

Larry noted that VE3KJB, Ken Berry, is seriously ill but is improving.

Larry presented a Jerry Wells nomination, nominating Maurice-Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG, for the award.

VE3CLW donated a satellite receiver as a door prize and the was won by VE3KLLK.

Graham, VE3GBD, won a license plate holder.

The 50/50 of \$25.50 was won by VE3MVK.

Ken McKenzie, as Secretary, noted that a slate of candidates had not been prepared for election. There had been various personal and technical problems over the summer. Due to this he moved that the existing executive be allowed to continue in their present capacity for an additional two months to allow for a slate of candidates to be found. Motion seconded by VA3GLT, motion carried.

In addition a plea for candidates was expressed.

Meeting was adjourned.

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There is an old proverb about many hands making light work, if you think of the idea as a job share or that you have company in dealing with things it might work.

The other idea is that things must become fun. Amateur Radio has a history of being a responsible hobby, a history of community service and service in times of crisis. Amateur Radio still has a place in community service and crisis management but we are no longer the first responders. In addition we have other hobbies to compete with for those disposable dollars and, more importantly, hours.

Making things interesting and, Yes, fun may go a long way to increasing both interest in Amateur Radio and participation in clubs like ours.

## October 16, 2003

The meeting was opened by Ken McKenzie, VA3NEK, Secretary.

The usual question concern guest was not asked as there were many guests in the audience. This was a very special meeting honouring the thirty five year history of the VE3JW and the OVMRC's association with the Museum of Science and Technology.

Members of Jim Cotter's family and Jerry Wells family were present as well as Claude Faubert, Director General, Suzanne Beaulne, Volunteer Coordinator, Museum of Science & Technology.

Maurice-Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG, The OVMRC's Amateur Radio Chairperson gave an excellent slide show with a walk down memory lane and the history of VE3JW.

Due to the nature of the meeting no additional club business was dealt with.

Door prizes were won by;

Paul Jefferson, Museum pass.

Brad Smith, VE3BSM, Museum pass.

Sylvain Bergeron, License plate holder.

Adam King, VAPIP, OVMRC crest

Matt Davis, Museum pass.

John Cotter, the RAC donation.

The 50/50 of \$35.50 was won by VE3GJY, Jim.

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These are just some thoughts, some mine, some of others and I am sure that many of you have additional ideas of how to make things work. The Executive is always open to ideas and suggestions.

Here is the list of the Executive positions are the volunteers who will be standing for office;

### Directors

|                       |              |        |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|
| <b>President</b>      | Ken McKenzie | VA3NEK |
| <b>Vice-President</b> | Peter Noel   | VE3DPN |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Ken Gill     | VA3KJG |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | <i>Open</i>  |        |

### Standing Committee Chair Persons

|                                 |                         |        |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| <b>Amateur Radio Exhibit</b>    | Maurice-Andre Vigneault | VE3VIG |
| <b>Amateur Radio Training</b>   | Ernie Jury              | VE3EJJ |
| <b>Accredited Examiner</b>      | Bob Kavanagh            | VE3OSZ |
| <b>Field Day</b>                | Adam King               | VA3PIP |
| <b>Historical</b>               | Larry Wilcox            | VE3WEH |
| <b>Flea Market</b>              | <i>Open</i>             |        |
| <b>Membership</b>               | Adam King               | VA3PIP |
| <b>Newsletter</b>               | Bill Hall               | VA3WMH |
| <b>Publicity &amp; Programs</b> | <i>Open</i>             |        |
| <b>Radio Operations</b>         | <i>Open</i>             |        |
| <b>Technical</b>                | Jake Guertin            | VA3TQX |
| <b>Emergency Preparedness</b>   | Ken Halcrow             | VE3SRS |

Ken McKenzie, Secretary  
VA3NEK

## We all need one.

Whether it be folded, inverted, named after somebody, on a farm or shaped like a square, 'V', 'L' or 'J', we all need an antenna. This month I will point out some antenna related sites. Now this is probably the number one topic of amateur radio web sites, so if I miss a good resource then let me know and I will share it in a later article.

If I had to point people to one antenna web site I would direct them to site of L. B. Cebik, W4RNL.

<http://www.cebik.com/radio.html>

This site covers many of the popular and some of the not so popular antennas. Most of the information is detailed and supported by modelling results. Look down through the site and you will see the antenna designs broken down into HF and VHF/UHF as well as types; horizontal, vertical, arrays etc. This is a good resource. For example, if you are interested in the J-pole, then you can find a four part analysis of this type of antenna starting at

<http://www.cebik.com/jpl.html>

There is information on transmission line and antenna modeling too. If you are interested in doing some antenna analysis there are details of modelling programs on the website at:

<http://www.cebik.com/nec.html>

I have mentioned the J-pole. This antenna can be a good performer with on VHF/UHF. There are plans on an emergency J-pole for a HT at

<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/j-pole.html>

If you have a HT and only used the supplied antenna with it you may want to try the J-poles at the website which are made of TV twin feed. You may have all the parts in a junk box, if not it should cost just a few dollars to buy the parts.

The J-pole plans are provided on the website of the radio station of the national hurricane centre WX4NHC (formerly W4EHW). Check out their pages for links about the centre and their radio station at

<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>

A popular HF antenna is the G5RV, named after the call sign of its inventor, Louis Varney. Take a look at

<http://www.radioworks.com/Varney/G5RVmain.htm>

Here you can see photographs of Louis Varney and his own antenna farm, as well as details of the extensive number of call-signs he has used. Unfortunately, Louis is a silent key and the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Club has a memorial website for him at

<http://www.g0mwt.free-online.co.uk/eventfold/g5rvfold/g5rv.htm>

If you want details on the G5RV antenna there are many sites with information, one is

<http://www.g3ycc.karoo.net/g5rv.htm>

QRP has been an area of amateur radio that has been increasing in popularity. Because of the portability of the equipment this has given rise to many portable antennas for use when camping or outdoors. One example of a new commercial unit is the Buddipole. This is turning into a range of products and details can be found at

<http://www.buddipole.com/>

However, if you like to build your own antennas then check out the PAC-12, portable antenna described at

<http://www.njqrp.org/pac-12/index.html>

This page is on the New Jersey QRP Club's website, which has plenty of information if you are interested in QRP.

One other QRP originating resource is a collection of antenna related discussions (amongst other topics) that have been compiled from the QRP-L e-mail reflector by WD8RIF and placed at

<http://www.qsl.net/wd8rif/archives.htm>

If you want to see more discussions on antennas then there is the Tower Talk forum on eham.net

<http://www.eham.net/forums/TowerTalk>

Earlier I mentioned Louis Varney who has an antenna named after his call sign. Another antenna named after the inventors is the Yagi-Uda. You can find some historical details at the IEEE history center

[http://www.ieee.org/organizations/history\\_center/milestones\\_photos/yagi.html](http://www.ieee.org/organizations/history_center/milestones_photos/yagi.html)

If your interest is emergency HF or local contact then you may be interested in the web pages on near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) and how antennas can be made to generate this type of propagation (for once you do not need to get your antenna as high as possible!)

<http://www.qsl.net/wb5ude/nvis/>

Some amateurs have done an excellent job at compiling links to other ham related sites. One of the most impressive is AC6V's site. His collection on antennas can be found at

<http://ac6v.com/antprojects.htm>

Another site with many amateur radio links is XE1BEF's

<http://members.fortunecity.com/xelbef/>

I have given the URL for his main page as it has links to many more sections than just antennas. If you want the antenna links look down the left hand panel and they are listed by type and band.

I started with L.B. Cebik and I will finish here with another site he is connected with. Antennex is an antenna magazine which carries many of Mr Cebik's articles. Check out their website at

<http://www.antennex.com/>

Well that has probably just scratched the surface of the antenna related sites out there. Let me know of any good ones I have missed.

The usual caveat on all this information - exercise the necessary caution when using services or information from the web.

73

Alan

VA3STL  
va3stl@rac.ca

## Great turn out for OVMRC meeting

The 16 Oct 2003 OVMRC meeting was a special meeting to celebrate 35 years of association with the Canada Science and Technology Museum. The main presentation was "VE3JW History".

We had invited the family of Jim W Cotter, first holder of the VE3JW callsign and to whom the station is dedicated, Museum Staff, and early planners and builders of the Exhibit Station.

To our surprise and delight the list of guests present was plentiful. Ed and Doreen Morgan, who pioneered the station, attended along with some early operators of the station. Cy Webster and five members of the Jerry Wells family were attending. Jerry contributed greatly to the expansion of VE3JW, and Cy obtained a Federal Grant to help it along.

The Director General of the Museum, Mr Claude Faubert, accompanied by the Museum's Volunteer Coordinator, Suzanne Beaulne were present, as well as a great number of Radio Amateurs, members and guests.

But the big surprise was to have the pleasure and honor to welcome twelve members of the Cotter family, starting with John, son of Jim, and Clark, grandson of Jim, and several other family members who were present at the opening ceremony of the initial VE3JW station on 19 Mar 1974.



Here is a picture of these notable guests. On the left are OVMRC and Museum representatives, with ED, Doreen and Cy, then the Jerry Wells family. On the right is the Cotter family.

A special cake and refreshments were enjoyed by all at the conclusion of the presentation. The cake, compliment of the Museum, was decorated with an edible graphic image of the Museum's logo and the OVMRC crest joined by an inscription indicating 35 years.

We had the pleasure of hosting the Cotter family again when the Jefferson family, Jim Cotter's daughter, visited the VE3JW station on the following Sunday.

It is planned to once again invite notable guests and the Cotter family when we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the opening of the VE3JW station on 19 Mar 2004 with a special event day.

Maurice-André Vigneault,  
VE3VIG  
Amateur Radio Exhibit Group OVMRC at CSTM

## Welcome Mat Net

### 10,000 check in recorded !!!

November, 2003

In totalling the statistics today, I noticed that we have had 10023 amateurs checking in to the net and the **10,000** check in occurred on Oct 22nd during the net held by Patrick VA3CMD. This net has been on the air a total of 35,129 minutes or 585 hours and 48 minutes.

I have now taken over the manager duties for the Welcome Mat Net, sharing the hosting of the net with Steve VE3RUU. Please feel free to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on VE3TWO/ 2 meter band/ 147.300 fm. As you all know the net was begun on June 3rd, 1992 by members of the "Class of 92" from the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club. I do want this net to continue and your continuing interest is much appreciated.

I have found the name of the amateur who was our 10,000 check and I propose to Award him a Special Certificate at the next OVMRC meeting.

Patricia E. Rowan,  
VA3PUR

## RAC Bulletin 03-020E News Section Back on RAC Website

After a period when no volunteer was available to write the material, we are delighted to have a website news section again, with lots of current amateur radio news. A News button will be added to the home page. Meanwhile you will find it at <http://www.rac.ca/news>

## *RAC Board recommends that examinations be revised and mandatory Morse testing dropped*

Following the change, in July 2003, of the international regulations governing the requirement for Morse testing as a prerequisite for access to the amateur bands below 30 MHz, the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada established a small ad-hoc committee to review the results of consultations with Canadian amateurs, and to make recommendations as to appropriate action. The Ad Hoc committee, composed of Chair Jim Dean VE3IQ, and members Brice Wightman VE3EDR and Bob Kavanagh VE3OSZ submitted their report to the RAC Board in September.

The RAC Board approved the report and it was presented to Industry Canada at the fall meeting of the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board, held in Ottawa on October 23 2003. Industry Canada has subsequently asked RAC to submit a formal proposal.

In particular, the report recommends that:

Morse proficiency cease to be a mandatory requirement to qualify as a radio amateur, although an optional Morse test should be retained for Canadian amateurs who may need it to qualify for operating privileges abroad.

To maintain an adequate standard needed for HF privileges, the report also recommends an increase in the examination pass marks.

The result of these changes would be a progressive, three-tier, scheme of qualifications: Basic, Intermediate (replacing the present Basic + Morse) and Advanced.

Finally, the report recommends certain enhancements to the privileges granted to holders of the Intermediate Qualification.

These recommendations are such that the authors believe they could be implemented by Industry Canada relatively quickly and would not prejudice a possible restructuring of the system of qualifications which might be contemplated for the future.

The report also examines, in a preliminary way, other aspects of the system of qualifications and examinations. In particular, it suggests that consideration be given to replacing the present Basic Qualification by a new entry-level qualification. This would resemble the entry or foundation levels existing or planned in other countries to encourage the entry of new people, particularly young people, into Amateur Radio while maintaining a high standard of proficiency.

It also suggests that the Intermediate syllabus, in future, would include increased emphasis on operating procedures and on modern technologies.

Because these concepts will require further time and effort to refine, the authors suggest that the report be considered to be an interim report and that the ten specific recommendations contained therein be acted upon forthwith. They also suggest that the ad hoc committee be authorized to continue its efforts concerning these matters of qualifications and examinations with a view to submitting a further report in due course.

The complete report (17 pages) can be downloaded from this web site in MS Word format, or in pdf format by clicking on the addresses below.

[http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse\\_report.PDF](http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse_report.PDF) or  
[http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse\\_report.doc](http://www.rac.ca/downloads/Morse_report.doc)

## *Industry Canada to auction Spectrum in the 2300 and 3500 MHz bands*

According to Industry Canada, an auction will take place in January 2004 to facilitate "the implementation of new and innovative wireless services in urban and rural areas".

The auction will provide access to spectrum for Wireless Communication Services (WCS) in the 2305-2320 and 2345-2360 MHz bands, and Fixed Wireless Access services (FWA) in the 3475-3650 MHz band.

How will this affect Amateur Radio?

Our 2300 MHz amateur band extends from 2300-2450 MHz. It is a secondary allocation, with many primary users from which we must accept interference. We have two areas of usage where interference could have been a problem. According to the current RAC band plan, we use 2303.8 to 2304.4 for weak signal and moon bounce communications. We use the band 2400-2450 for Amateur Satellite communications. The bands identified for auction will not directly impact either of these important uses, although we will need to watch for splatter from signals just above 2305 MHz.

The 3300 MHz amateur band extends from 3300-3500 MHz. Once again, it is a secondary allocation and we must accept interference from many other primary users. We use 3400-3450 for amateur satellites, and have set aside 3450-3500 for weak signal operations. Within the weak signal band, the critical international calling and beacon frequencies identified in the RAC band plan, fall in a narrow band in the vicinity of 3456 and 3457 MHz. Once again, the auctions will not overlap these critical bands. A narrow band around 3400 MHz is used by some European amateurs for weak signal operation, and this also falls outside the auctioned spectrum.

RAC has been following the development of Industry Canada plans in this range for several years, and have been consulted on our use of the bands. We have every reason to believe that our concerns have been taken into account in planning the current auction, but it is clear that all of the spectrum in this range is very valuable, and it is only a matter of time before new auctions will overlap areas we use for weak signal work. When this happens, we will either have to adapt to the increased interference, or move up to higher frequencies.

Details of the auction can be found on the Industry Canada web site at:

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneralInterE/sf05472e.html>