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Your article could have gone here!

On the pages that don't exist.

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Congratulations to the new Executive of OVMRC for 2003/04.

Thank you Ken, VA3NEK, for standing as our new President. There is a lot of work ahead but we will be behind you to help the Club along in housekeeping and into new projects. We are happy to welcome Peter, VE3DPN, into the ranks of the Executive and to welcome back Patricia, VA3PUR.

We also want to thank those members who have offered to continue as Directors or Executive Officers.

In the picture we have:

VA3NEK, Ken Mckenzie, Pesident

VE3DPN, Peter Noel, Vice-President

VA3KJG, Ken Gill, Treasurer

VA3PUR, Patricia Rowan, Secretary

In addition, Patricia will fill the Radio Operations position

Also in the picture we have:

VE3SRS, Ken Halcrow, Emergency Preparedness

VA3PIP, Adam King, Membership, also Field Day

VE3VIG, Maurice-André Vigneault, Amateur Radio Exhibit

Missing are others filling the slate as reported in the last Rambler:

VE3EJJ, Ernie Jury, Amateur Radio Training

VE3OSZ, Bob Kavanagh, Accredited Examiner

VE3WEH, Larry Wilcox, Historical

VA3WMH, Bill Hall, Newsletter

VA3TQX, Jake Guertin, Technical

May the coming year be the best yet.

(photo courtesy VE3VIG) ❖

Rambler

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



OVMRC Executive (2002-2003)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| President | Ken McKenzie, VA3NEK 829-4884, va3nek@rac |
| Vice-President | Peter Noel, VE3DPN 774-0185, ve3dpn@rac.ca |
| Treasurer | Ken Gill, VA3KJG 748-0218, |
| Secretary | Patricia Rowan, VA3PUR 744-1814, va3pur@rac.ca |

Standing Committee Chairpersons

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Amateur Radio Exhibit | Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG 749-9010, ve3vig@rac.ca |
| Amateur Radio Training | Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, lycott@istop.com Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666 |
| Accredited Examiner | Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca |
| Field Day | Adam King, VA3PIP 831-9970, va3pip@rac.ca |
| Historical | Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca |
| Flea Market | Vacant |
| Membership | Adam King, VA3PIP 831-9970, va3pip@rac.ca |
| Newsletter | Bill Hall, VA3WMH 830-5580, va3wmh@rac.ca |
| Publicity & Programs | |
| Radio Operations | Patricia Rowan, VA3PUR 744-1814, va3pur@rac.ca |
| Technical | Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, va3tqx@sprint.ca |
| Emergency Preparedness | 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.jcr@magma.ca



Next Meeting

Dec 18
Rambler Deadline
Jan 2

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:

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

The Rambler is produced using Corel's Ventura™ 8 software.

The OVMRC website is hosted by Magma Communications Ltd.



The Rambler is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. and is published 11 times a year (monthly, except for July). Opinions expressed in the Rambler are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC Inc., its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited. Submit articles to the editor or by e-mail to: va3wmh@rac.ca.



December 2003

I want to thank all the members of the Ottawa Valley Mobile radio Club for their support. I realize that there was a huge slate of candidates for me to defeat in my quest for the Presidency but it has been heartening to hear the comments of support that I have heard.

It is tough times for Amateur radio and it is not an easy choice to take on the responsibility of this historical group. We have

just celebrated the thirty fifth year of VE3JW, it is the forty second year of the club's existence and our membership is dropping about ten percent each year.

Challenging times to say the least! The Internet, walkie-talkie cell phones that will let you talk from Quebec City to Victoria, FRS watch radios that need no license. All of these things are taking away from the perceived value of Amateur Radio. The fact that we are no longer looked at or required as the line of first response for communication issues in an emergency.

All of these and the aging Amateur population are contributing to the decreasing numbers of people being interested in Amateur radio.

Amateur Radio has never been an easy thing, you have to study and write exams for every privilege that you obtain. All of the above other things come easy, buy the computer and hook it up, pay for the service and you are set. Amateur Radio is and has always been something that an individual could be proud of and should be but times have changed. Many young people don't know what an Amateur is and why would they want to go through the trouble, Blackberry, SMS and Mike are all their methods of communication these days. They know nothing of SSB, PSK and FM is where the good music is.

So how do we deal with this challenge!

I don't profess to have any answers but I have an idea. Let's try and make it fun!

Nobody REALLY wants to work all the time and Amateur Radio can be work. Many of us find it fun and enjoy the challenge, so if we can learn to make things fun and enjoyable we might be able to interest others into joining our Club and Amateur Radio.

I don't have any magic answers but I do know that we have a wonderful group of people in the OVMRC, people who share a passion for Amateur Radio and if we can pass that passion along to others we can make our hobby grow. How can someone pass up having fun!

Got an idea? Think of something that maybe fun? Pass it along, we have a group of interested people who maybe able to help and we need your support and help. ❖



The Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award

I am pleased to be here tonight to present this award but have been asked to give you some background on why it is called The Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year Award.

Jerry was voted the Best Amateur of The Year in 1997 by his fellow Amateurs.

He was very active for many years in Amateur Radio, mostly with OVMRC. He was licensed in 1951 and kept the same call sign VE3CDS until becoming a silent key in 1997.

He was one of the instructors in the radio course, teaching Morse code, he was also a government examiner. He was publisher of the Rambler for ten years; he regularly assisted with Field Day, Flea Markets, GOTA, Talk to Santa and other events.

He also served on the Executive of OVMRC in several positions over the years. He was given the honour of life membership in June of 1989.

He was an outstanding and dedicated Amateur in the community for over 46 years.

Many of you knew he was Chairman of the Seniors Committee for the radio station VE3JW here at the Museum of Science and Technology. Many of you who were here at the last meeting will have seen the exceptional presentation of the radio station VE3JW celebrating 35 years of being at this museum.

It is my pleasure to make this prestigious award to a man who has been very active with OVMRC putting in countless hours; writing extensively for the Club newsletter Rambler. Under his guidance and leadership VE3JW has obtained grant funds to make it first-class, state of the art radio demonstration station.

You can all be justly proud of VE3JW which has developed through Maurice-André Vigneault's effort, devotion and labour of love.

It is my pleasure to award Maurice-André Vigneault the Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of The Year Award; I might add that this is the second time he has won this award.

The money that would have been used for the purchase of the key, Maurice-André has requested be donated to the Radio Amateurs of Canada Youth Program.

June Knight ❖

RAC Canada Winter Contest 2003

Period: 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, 27 December 2003

Bands and Modes: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 metres, CW and phone (SSB, FM, AM, etc.)

Suggested frequencies: CW - 25 kHz up from the band edge; SSB - 1850, 3775, 7075, 7225, 14175, 21250, 28500 kHz. Check for CW activity on the half-hour.

<http://www.rac.ca/downloads/RACWinterRules3.PDF>

CASARA Ottawa Fact Sheet

The Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) is a national volunteer organization formed in 1986 to promote aviation safety and to provide trained, safety-conscious crews and aircraft to augment federal and provincial search and rescue (SAR) forces. Its objectives are to prevent accidents by promoting aviation safety and a heightened awareness of best practices, and for those accidents that can't be prevented, to provide faster rescue of distressed aviators by using locally based aircraft and crews. CASARA volunteers are trained pilots, navigators, search spotters, ground electronic homing crews, and administrative staff who work in support of primary agency search and rescue (SAR) missions. CASARA's primary role is to support the military in searches for missing aircraft, as tasked by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centres (JRCC) in Halifax, Trenton and Victoria. CASARA personnel fly their own aircraft and crews on search taskings, as well as flying as spotters on military aircraft.



CASARA's federal sponsors, Transport Canada and the Department of National Defence, contribute financial support that provides complete insurance to CASARA members for personal accident, hull and liability while on CASARA operations.

In addition to CASARA's primary work with the military, local agreements have been established with the provincial and territorial authorities responsible for terrestrial SAR. In the case of CASARA Ontario, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to permit CASARA support of provincial ground searches.

CASARA is also active in promoting aviation safety amongst the general aviation community, and heightening awareness of best practices.

CASARA Ottawa is one of ten units in Ontario. Ottawa's primary area of responsibility is the region from the US border to Pembroke, and from the Quebec border to Peterborough.

A presentation to OVMRC by CASARA Ottawa will be made on Thursday, December 18 at our monthly meeting. Be sure to come out and hear how Amateur Radio is being used to support this very important Aviation Search and Rescue (SAR) organization. ❖



Articles in column two are from the *The Newscaster*, WARC, December 2003.

WIA "Welcome to HF" QSO Party

On New Year's Day 2004 Australian radio amateurs will gain access to the High Frequency (HF) bands using licences that don't require the passing of Morse code telegraphy tests. The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) invites the world's amateur radio fraternity to join an on-air celebration of this special occasion.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) has been campaigning for more than three years to have code tests removed as a licence requirement to operate on amateur bands below 30 MHz, and for Australia this will happen on the 1st of January, 2004. To celebrate the event, there will be a "WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party" beginning at 0001 Australian Eastern Daylight Time and conclude at 2400 UTC on New Year's Day - a total of 35 hours.

The VK radio amateurs appearing on HF bands for the first time can be identified by three-letter VK callsign suffixes that begin with the letters H, T, U, X, Y and Z. (for example VK2Z**, VK4T**, etc.) Official WIA amateur stations will be on air to join the HF QSO Party, and these have two-letter callsign suffixes "WI" or three letter suffixes starting with "WI" (for example VK3WI). Listen for the call "CQ WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party". Further information may be obtained by e-mail to: Jim Linton, VK3PC, "WIA Welcome to HF QSO Party" Organiser at hfgsoparty@wiavic.org.au ❖

Quebec to begin trials of Internet over power lines

The CBC reported on Friday, that Hydro-Quebec is planning to offer high-speed internet service over its power lines. Users of short wave radio such as radio amateurs and broadcasters have expressed concern that the signals on the power wires could interfere with radio reception.

But the Hydro Quebec spokesman thought it would not be a problem, and pointed out that interference doesn't occur over cables that provide both television and internet service. (None of the "experts" seem to realize that television signals are on a different frequency than the proposed high speed Internet signals, while amateur radio and shortwave broadcasting share the HF band with the proposed service).

German utilities started offering Internet service over power lines the summer of 2001, and in Sweden service is also available. In both countries, tests have shown that interference can be as high as S9 in some locations. Many other tests are underway in Europe, the USA, and some parts of Asia and the South Pacific.

As reported here a couple of weeks ago, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is looking into the potential interference caused by various approaches to Broadband Information Transmission over Power lines, with a view to possibly imposing regulations setting acceptable levels. The International Amateur Radio Union is participating in the studies.

Hydro-Québec is reported to have said that it will start testing in January 2004 and hopes to offer the service in a few years. Without a doubt, Industry Canada will be monitoring the tests closely to measure the interference levels and decide if they are unacceptable. Radio Amateurs in Quebec should also monitor and report cases of interference. — (RAC) ❖