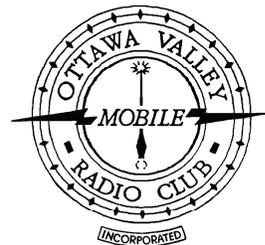


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 48, Issue No 8



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OVMRC MARCH MEETING

Regional Radio Amateurs are all invited to the 18 March 2004 OVMRC meeting to see and hear GERRY KING, VE3GK, present his newest inventions. Gerry will talk about and show his recently developed and built "ILLEGAL ANTENNAS" ...! and you will be able to watch and hear some of the distant contacts completed with them.

Come and enjoy this fine presentation as Gerry still has his ability to make you laugh, always full of humour.

Maurice-André, VE3VIG ❖

SPECIAL EVENT DAY VE3JW 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Last October, the OVMRC celebrated 35 years of association with the Museum of Science and Technology, which started in 1968. And, on 19th March 1974, VE3JW was officially opened. In order to celebrate VE3JW 30th anniversary, OVMRC will hold a Special Event Day on Friday, 19th March 2004, at the Amateur Radio Exhibit Station VE3JW.

As the station is dedicated to Jim W Cotter, first blind Radio Amateur, the Cotter family will be invited to participate. Also invited are all regional or visiting Amateurs. The object is to have each participant complete at least one radio contact. Those doing so will be awarded a special commemorative certificate with a colour picture of the VE3JW station, inscribed with your name and call and with the coordinates of the contact. So join us through this special day, during Museum hours, 9am to 5pm.

- Date:** Friday, 19 March 2004
- Time:** 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
- Event:** VE3JW 30th anniversary
- Objective:** One completed radio contact
- Award:** Special commemorative card

For information please call or contact:

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

ve3vig@rac.ca - tel. 749-9010 or 991-6949 ❖

SILENT KEY

It is with extremely sad feelings that I regret to inform you of the passing of Tom St-Julien, VA3OFD.

Tom was a member of our Amateur Radio Exhibit Group and former Membership Chairman. He will be deeply missed.



Rambler

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

Mar 18
Rambler Deadline
Apr 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:

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.

2 METRE CONTEST

OVMRC 2m FM Simplex Contest

Date & Time

Saturday 8th May 2004 from 12 noon to 4pm *local time*.

How to participate

Using the 2m simplex frequencies (check the RAC band plan) and avoiding the 2m calling frequency of 146.520, make contact with as many stations as you can. Call "CQ OVMRC contest" or "CQ contest" or work stations making such calls.

Pre-arranging contacts by use of repeaters, telephones or otherwise is not allowed, nor in the spirit of the contest.

Once you have logged a particular station you cannot log it again, **unless** it is a mobile station which has moved to a different city location (see details of what is a 'location' in the next section). Mobile stations calling CQ may want to indicate their current location.

Note, there is a **condition on a repeat logging**. A repeat logging cannot be made if it results in a station being the same consecutively in the log. For example, if contact 6 is with VA3STL you cannot log that station again as contact 7, even if the station is mobile and moved to another location. Work another station first and then it is possible to make a repeat contact but only if the mobile station is in a different location to the earlier logging(s).

If you decide to call CQ, listen first to see if a frequency is in use. Remember, just because you cannot hear anything does not mean that a QSO is not going on, you may not be in range of one of the stations but you could be within the other's range. Follow good operating practice; listen, ask if the frequency is in use and listen again, then repeat the process until satisfied it is not in use.

What to exchange

When a contact is made you need to exchange the following information: callsign, contact number, location (use the city electoral ward or district for this) and whether or not you are a OVMRC club member or if you are operating a club station. Mobile stations give their current location. The location is important for the location multiplier and longest distance QSO award.

Maps of the wards or districts of Ottawa and Gatineau can be found, at the following web locations;

Ottawa

http://atlas.city.ottawa.on.ca/mapping/atlas/maps/wards/Ottawa_Wards_Councilors_Urban_Photos.pdf

Gatineau

http://www.ville.gatineau.qc.ca/gatineau/pdf/districts_nouveauxnoms.pdf

Stations outside Ottawa and Gatineau use the local town, eg. Carleton Place

Do not feel that this is all you should exchange, you are encouraged to talk to the other station if you want - find out how long they have been a member, for example.

Record each contact on a log sheet and number it sequentially.

Example 1

VA3NEK from VA3STL, please copy number 4, Osgoode member.

Example 2

VA3STL from VE3%%%, please copy number 1, Kemptville, non-member.

Example 3

VA3GLT from VE3JW, please copy number 23, Alta-Vista, club station.

Power Limit

For this contest the maximum power you can use is 50W

Scoring

QSO points

| <u>Contact type</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Non OVMRC member | 1 |
| OVMRC member | 2 |
| Club station | 5 |

Club stations are VE3JW and VE3RAM. Note VE3RAM will be the emergency trailer and it will likely move its location during the contest.

Multipliers

This comes in two stages

1. Total number of locations contacted
2. The highest power level you used

| <u>Power</u> | <u>Multiplier</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 10W or less | 2 |
| over 10W to 50W | 1 |
| over 50W | 0 |

Final calculation

Final score = Total QSO points x Locations x Power

Example calculation

You contacted 8 club members, 6 non club members and the club station VE3JW, who were in 5 different locations (some contacts were in the same location) and you used your handie-talkie at 5W of power.
Total QSO points = 1 x 6 + 2 x 8 + 5 x 1 = 27
Multiplier for locations = x5
Multiplier for power = x2
FINAL SCORE = 27 x 5 x 2 = 270

Continued on page: 4

Feb 18th, 2004

After the opening remarks by Ken VE3NEK, it was announced the demonstration by Graham of Bytown Marine, has been postponed to our April meeting. The antennae analyzer will be available at the demonstration station JE3JW for anyone who wishes to use it. Ken announced that the Rambler would be mailed to all members wishing to have a copy.

André VE3CLW gave the answer to the question asked at the Dec meeting "How does one make a magnet with only one pole?" And further posed a second question to puzzle us – "Why does a boat float?" However, he did mention that he does not know the answer to that question. André mentioned that the Space station is using packet radio. He also said that in view of his recent experience, smoke detectors should be replaced after 15 years as their contact become corroded.

We had one person who presented his project for Homebrew night and that was Bob VE3OSZ, made a device for testing the radials of an inverted "L" antennae. He was asked to publish his project for the Rambler. Bob mentioned that he has published in the TCA magazine, the Nov/Dec edition, but would send a copy to our Rambler editor, Bill Hall.

Alan VA3STL, talked about the upcoming 2 meter band contest and said that the rules would be in the Rambler, (see web site). He also asked if anyone would like to share radios, and mention was made of a price of a radio by Durham Radio of \$182.00 for an AI 201. Ward maps are available and would be brought to the next several meetings.

Maurice-André VE3VIG mentioned that he would be hosting the Wise Owl net on Friday Feb 19th and after the net, one could check out his or her reception on Simplex 146.58 from 8 to 9.

Chair Reports.

Larry, VE3WEH, reported that all is well with him and that there is nothing else to report.

Maurice André, VE3VIG, mentioned that VE3JW is open for training, learning to operate various radios, and for demonstrations. The White Cane Week was a great success. Coming up is the Guides on the Air program. For further info .com

Ken Gill, VA3KJG says that all but \$ 68.02 has been spent of this year's income.

Peter Noel, VE3DPN = The Flea Market is scheduled for May 15th at the Stittsville arena. He will be the contact person; however, volunteers are needed for the actual day.

Adam King, VA3PIP, - Field day plans are in progress and will be held at the Museum grounds.

Winners

Door prizes = Gaetan Piette, VE3IET, 2003/2004 Repeater Guide

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, Stealth radio book

Steve Cochran, VE3SBC, OVMRC crest

50/50 draw of \$30.00 to Steve McIvor, VE3MVK ❖

Continued from page: 3

Disqualification

Disqualification will result if stations break the rules of the contest or the rules under which they are licensed to operate.

Some example situations that would invoke disqualification are

- * Use of a repeater to pre-arrange contacts.
- * Using the 2m calling channel 146.52MHz
- * Not following the band plan - do not forget the simplex frequencies are effectively 'channelized'. **Do check the band plan.**
- * Intentional interference to other users, contesters or not.

Awards

Awards will be given to the highest score in the following categories

- * highest scoring base station,
- * highest scoring mobile station,
- * highest scoring newcomer. (A newcomer is defined here as someone licensed in the last 18 months. This allows graduates from the last two OVMRC classes to aim for this award. Note: this award does not preclude the same station from winning any of the other awards.)

* contact over the longest distance (fill in your furthest QSO on your summary sheet).

Awards will be in the form of a certificate.

All scores will be published in the Rambler.

Not got a 2m FM transceiver?

In the spirit of having fun and meeting club members it is encouraged that club members that would otherwise operate solo (base or mobile) team up with a member who has not got 2m capabilities. A pair operating as a team can submit a single entry form under both names/callsigns. To help with log checking though please use only one callsign for QSOs.

A list will be kept of club members willing to share their station with another member, or members looking for a station to operate with. These lists will only contain club members.

Finally...

Have fun and if you are a mobile unit be safe on the road.

For further information or questions see

Alan Steele VA3STL (va3stl@rac.ca) or Gerry Trottier VA3GLT (va3glt@rac.ca)

A logsheet and an entry sheet is printed in this Rambler. Additional logsheets may be photocopied or printed by going to the on-line version of the March Rambler at the OVMRC Website:

[:http://www.ovmrc.on.ca/rambler.htm](http://www.ovmrc.on.ca/rambler.htm)

and printing the logsheet page . . ❖

CanCon

When I prepare these articles I usually try and make sure that there is at least some Canadian content in each edition. I am still conscious that I may not be making an acceptable CanCon quota. So with my citizenship application in I thought I had better do some flag waving for the country I have chosen to be my home. Therefore, all the websites here have Canadian content.

If you want to check what the CanCon quotas are for TV and Radio check out the CRTC's website at

http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/INFO_SHT/G11.htm

First, to some of the major sites of the organisations that are involved in Canadian amateur radio.

We may not visit their web site often but they do have control over us. The website for Industry Canada's amateur radio information is at

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/h_sf01709e.html

You can get information on licensing and an exam generator if you are studying for an amateur exam. Perhaps most important resource here is the documents.

<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/sf05478e.html>

When was the last time you read ? It was last updated May 2001, so you may want to check its contents if you have not looked at in a while.

There are the major amateur radio organizations in Canada, such as RAC

<http://www.rac.ca/>

and Radioamateurs du Quebec,

<http://www.raqi.gc.ca/>

RAC is a member of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC), which is an association of associations with interests in the use of radio frequencies. Other member associations include manufacturers, users and government depts. If you are interested in seeing what the organisation does check out

<http://www.rabc.ottawa.on.ca/e/aboutRABC.cfm>

Another important Canadian radio organisation is CFARS

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/gunslinger/cfars.htm>

You can find out much more about CFARS, their history and an online application form if you are interested in joining and have the necessary qualifications and equipment.

Canadian retailers have their own websites and some of the major ones in Ontario and Quebec can be found at:

<http://www.durhamradio.ca/> for Durham Radio;

<http://www.elkel.ca/> for Elkel;

<http://www.radioworld.ca/> for Radioworld;

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/radiohf/> for Radio HF;

<http://www.mapleleafcom.com/> for Maple Leaf Communications;

<http://www.macfarlaneelectronics.on.ca/home.htm> for Macfarlane Electronics

I have also recently come across a Canadian manufacturer of antennas. The company is Z antenna systems and they make compact HF antennas. Their website is at

<http://home.cogeco.ca/~zantenna/>

Of course there are many specific interests groups within amateur radio. Specific Canadian ones are

<http://canaprs.net/>

This site is specifically for those interested in APRS. You can even check out regional APRS activity, although you will need to have the java plug-in in your browser. More locally there is an Ottawa Region APRS group. There is a link to their site from CANAPRS but if you want to go direct then the URL is

<http://www.qsl.net/orag>

Check out their map section to see the location of the local active APRS stations.

QRP is another popular activity and there is a dedicated site for Canadian QRPers at

<http://www.rac.ca/qrpcan>

Here you can find details of the 'Run with RAC' QRP contests, if you like to operate at 1W or lower. There is also details for an e-mail reflector that links Canadian QRPers.

Locally there is a new QRP club, the Ottawa Valley QRP Society, whose website can be found at

<http://www.qsl.net/va3ovq>

They have an informal club structure (common with QRP clubs) and meet monthly at a local resaurant. Check their website for details.

There are also websites targetted for Canadian YL's and teenage operators.

YL Radio is a great site that has information about amateur radio with a focus for YL's in Western Canada. Their site has details of an IRLP based YL net as well as some YL stories. There are some good homebrew antenna details too. Find the site at

<http://www.qsl.net/ylradio/index.html>

The national organisation that links Canadian YLs is the Canadian Ladies Amateur Radio Association. Their site is at

<http://www.qsl.net/clara>

Young Canadians are active in amateur radio too as shown in the website devoted to teenage Canadian hams.

<http://www.qsl.net/taroc>

This is a well put together site and it shows that there are many young and skillful operators out there in Canadian amateur radio. If you do not believe me check the site and have a look at the members list. There you will see teenagers with their advanced qualification and HF privileges.

Another national organization with an interest in amateur radio is the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Details of their interest in amateur radio can be found at

<http://www.cnib.ca/eng/national/amateurradio>

For shortwave listening and DXing there are two Canadian organizations that provide members newsletters and information like DX reports. The Ontario DX Association (ODXA)

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

and the Canadian International DX Club (CIDXC)

<http://www.anarc.org/cidx>

On the ODXA's web site there is a 'Website of the Week'. At the time of writing this Resource it was <http://www.radiojamming.info> a site dedicated to radio jamming.

The CIDXC has on-air activities ranging from contributions to RCI's Maple Leaf Mailbag, ham stations in contests and a 2m net in Montreal. For details see

<http://www.anarc.org/cidx/onair.html>

Of course the many Canadian amateur radio clubs have websites. One that caught my eye is the Marconi Club of Newfoundland. This is a club routed in major radio achievements in the past and today is active in new developments, such as 60m experiments and a low frequency beacon. You can find their site at

<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~jcraig/mrcn.html>

Finally, lets finish with two local websites. First is the site of Gerry King, VE3GK, an OVMRC club member. The web pages at this site are a wealth of information on antennas and other aspects of amateur radio, including copies of Gerry's articles that he has contributed to TCA. Check the site at

<http://www.ve3gk.com>

Maurice-Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG, informed me about Gerry's site. Of course Maurice-Andre is the organiser behind VE3JW, which has its own site at

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Here you can see the equipment that is available for you to use, details of upcoming special events and the names and photos of current regular operators. If you want to operate from this wonderful station I am sure Maurice-Andre would be happy to hear from you.

Well as you can see there is plenty of Canadian amateur radio activities and groups to get involved with in amateur radio. The radio scene in this country looks active.

If you have a site that you feel others should know about, let me know by e-mail.

Till next month.

73

Alan

VA3STL
va3stl@rac.ca ❖

SYSTEM FOR CHECKING CURRENTS IN RADIALS

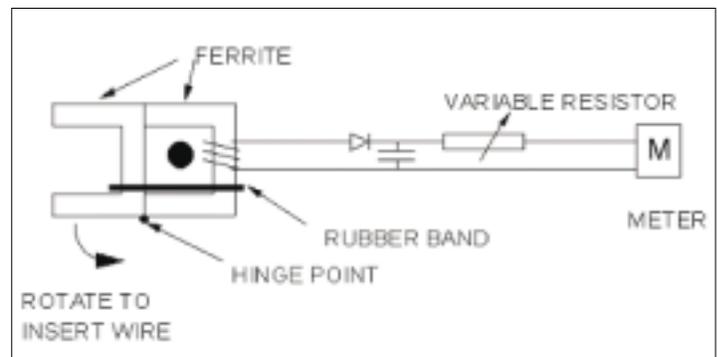
By: Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ

My home-brew project this year is a system, which I have developed for checking whether there is any current flowing in the radials of my 160 metre inverted-L antenna. This type of antenna is critically dependant upon the existence of a good ground system. I have about 30 radials of various lengths. Some are partially buried in the lawn, two run through my garage, others run over the property of neighbours. Those, which are partly buried, are at risk of being accidentally cut by digging in the garden. Others may have become detached from the base of the antenna without being noticed. Rodents may have chewed through some of them.

If the radials are intact, an R.F. current will flow in them when power is supplied to the antenna. So, if a means is available for checking whether current is flowing in each radial (towards its far end) while my transmitter is on, then it can be determined whether the radial is connected to the antenna.

My project consists of two parts. One is a remote control system for switching my transmitter and and off from a location outside the shack. This system is described in my "Technophile" article on page 54 of the November/December 2003 issue of The Canadian Amateur. So, I won't repeat that description here.

The second part is the simple radio frequency clamp-on current measuring device, which I built for checking the status of each radial. A diagram showing the nature of this device is shown below.



The most important component is the pair of U-shaped pieces of ferrite. These actually come from a clamp-on ferrite core which is usually used for eliminating R. F. currents in cables, wires etc. In their normal configuration they form a rectangular shape and they are held together by a plastic frame. In this application, one of the U-shaped halves of the rectangle has been turned around from right to left giving the arrangement as shown above. The two halves are now held together by a rubber band as well as by part of the original

plastic frame. The left half can rotate about the hinge point shown. This enables me to insert the radial wire under test. That wire is the solid black circle shown in the diagram.

A coil of about a dozen or so turns is wound on the fixed ferrite U-shaped part. What we now have is a simple R.F. transformer. Current flowing in the radial creates a magnetic field in the ferrite and this, in turn, induces an R.F. voltage in the coil. The rest of the circuit consists of a diode, a capacitor, an adjustable resistor and a milliamp meter as shown in the diagram. The voltage in the coil causes a current to flow in the circuit. This is rectified by the diode and filtered by the capacitor. The resulting current in the circuit has a d.c. component, which causes the meter needle to deflect. The adjustable resistor is used simply to prevent overload of the meter. The ferrite halves and the other components are all mounted on a scrap piece of LEXAN.

To check my radials I take this measuring device, together with the garage door opener transmitter (see TCA article), to a location where I can clamp the ferrite halves around the radial. I press the switch on the garage door transmitter, this switches on my 160 metre transmitter, and if I see a deflection on the meter I know that the radial is working properly. Then I press the garage door opener switch again to switch off my rig. No deflection would mean that there is a break in the radial wire somewhere. This procedure is repeated for each radial. I found that I could run reduced power (about 50 watts) and still get a clear meter reading. It is only necessary to have the rig transmitting for a few seconds to check whether there is current in a radial. Every now and again I go back to the shack and identify with my call sign.

Using this system last summer I found that all of my radials were functioning properly. I plan to check them again every year or so. When I do, I shall again have to negotiate with my XYL about the use of the car during the testing period. Either we leave the car outside the garage or we leave the garage door open all the time. Removing the garage door receiver while the car is in the garage is not considered to be acceptable! ❖

Let the Seller Beware!

I recently posted a number of items on the VE3GUU Swap Shop and although most sales have been concluded satisfactorily I did receive one, which may be of interest to readers because it seems innocuous enough but could really be a scam. Perhaps it has been done to others or could be in future - so be forewarned.

Here is the text of the inquiry I received by e-mail;

20 Nov 2003

From: Charles Bradford(charles_i@sify.com)

“Hi I run a procurement outfit out of europe, so do a lot of travelling, I will be coming to the States but that will be later on. I am always very busy as my schedule is very tight so I will like you to exercise some patience with me as regards this transaction. i'm intrerested in buying your FT676GX with MD-1 mike for \$700. I have a client in the States , owing me \$4,900, so I will instruct him to issue out a certified cashier's check, drawn from an American bank in your name. When you cash the check, deduct the amount due for your item, and send the remaining funds to my shipping agent via moneygram money transfer or western union money transfer, whom will then come over to arrange for shipping and take care of all shipping issues. If you are allright with this arrangement , provide for me the following info:

- 1) Name as to be written on check
- 2) Full address
- 3)Phone #

I also want you to provide me with any other info I need to know pls get back to me asap so we can seal this transaction.

Regards

Charles"

Needless to say I did not respond to this request. First of all the originating service provider is in India. Secondly, once I had cashed his "certified cashiers check" deducting the amount of the sale I could probably make this scam succeed for how do I know the check is genuine? I could also end up in jail.

I thought the response was unusual insofar as the originator suggests he is in Europe and would entertain purchasing a used piece of equipment from a "Swap Shop" where it would be sight unseen. I wonder how many others he's scammed in similar fashion?

Don't get taken to the cleaners by a con artist.

73

Ralph Cameron
VE3BBM ❖

OVMRC 2m Simplex Contest Entry Form

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Do you class as a newcomer? **Y** or **N**

If a team, name and call of partner _____

Type of station? **Mobile** or **Base**

Scoring Summary

Total QSOs non-members _____ x1 _____

Total QSOs OVMRC members _____ x2 _____

Total QSOs Club Stations _____ x5 _____

Total QSOs _____ Total pts _____

Total number of locations contacted X _____

| <i>Power</i> | <i>Multiplier</i> |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 10W or less | 2 |
| Over 10W to 50W | 1 |
| Over 50W | 0 |

Power level multiplier X _____

Final Score _____

Furthest Contact

From: _____ To: _____ With station _____

Estimated distance _____