

# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)  
Volume 48, Issue No 11



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## Reminders...

**Club Meeting . . . . . Jun 17**

**Club Exec. Meeting . Jun 24**

**Field Day . . . . . Jun 26/27**

**Rambler Deadline . . . Aug 6**

**Time to Renew your membership !**

## Oops ... Sorry!

Well! I guess I screwed up last meeting! Seems WAY backup in September I signed the contract with the Museum and there were, not one BUT two dates that were changed.

By the time we got to May I had forgotten and was on the road with work.

It is not an acceptable excuse but that is what happened. I forgot.

The Museum called me and reminded me at about 2:00 pm. I immediately emailed the Executive with hope of help. Adam, our Membership Chairperson, was fast on line and replied that he was going to email everybody.

ME! ME! I was having a FIT!!!!!!

I had asked Adam for a membership list about a month ago and actually had it with me.

About 15-20 minutes after my discussion with the Museum I had emails on their way to all of the members that I had on the list and was calling the members that did not have email addresses listed.

I think that I had it all covered by 2:45.

Did I get everybody? I doubt it!

To those that I forgot or missed I apologize!

I am sorry!

To the whole OVMRC, I apologize!

Sometimes it is tough but there is no excuse, I screwed up and should have remembered.

I apologize.

Ken McKenzie VA3NEK, President, OVMRC

# Rambler

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



## OVMRC Executive (2002-2003)

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>      | Ken McKenzie, VA3NEK<br>829-4884, <a href="mailto:va3nek@rac">va3nek@rac</a>         |
| <b>Vice-President</b> |  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Ken Gill, VA3KJG<br>748-0218,  |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Patricia Rowan, VA3PUR<br>744-1814, <a href="mailto:va3pur@rac.ca">va3pur@rac.ca</a> |

## Standing Committee Chairpersons

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Amateur Radio Exhibit</b>    | Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG<br>749-9010, <a href="mailto:ve3vig@rac.ca">ve3vig@rac.ca</a>                          |
| <b>Amateur Radio Training</b>   | Bob Shaw, VE3SUY<br>737-9443, <a href="mailto:lycott@istop.com">lycott@istop.com</a><br>Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ<br>728-3666 |
| <b>Accredited Examiner</b>      | Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ<br>225-6785, <a href="mailto:ve3osz@rac.ca">ve3osz@rac.ca</a>                                     |
| <b>Field Day</b>                | Adam King, VA3PIP<br>831-9970, <a href="mailto:va3pip@rac.ca">va3pip@rac.ca</a>  |
| <b>Historical</b>               | Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH<br>747-5565, <a href="mailto:ve3weh@rac.ca">ve3weh@rac.ca</a>                                     |
| <b>Flea Market</b>              | Vacant   |
| <b>Membership</b>               | Adam King, VA3PIP<br>831-9970, <a href="mailto:va3pip@rac.ca">va3pip@rac.ca</a>  |
| <b>Newsletter</b>               | Bill Hall, VA3WMH<br>830-5580, <a href="mailto:va3wmh@rac.ca">va3wmh@rac.ca</a>  |
| <b>Publicity &amp; Programs</b> |  |
| <b>Radio Operations</b>         | Patricia Rowan, VA3PUR<br>744-1814, <a href="mailto:va3pur@rac.ca">va3pur@rac.ca</a>                                   |
| <b>Technical</b>                | Jake Guertin, VA3TQX<br>253-3732, <a href="mailto:va3tqx@sprint.ca">va3tqx@sprint.ca</a>                               |
| <b>Emergency Preparedness</b>   | Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS<br>837-3261, <a href="mailto:ve3srs@rac.ca">ve3srs@rac.ca</a>                                      |



### 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](mailto:jcr@magma.ca)



### Next Meeting

Jun 17

Rambler Deadline

Aug 6

## OVMRC Life Members

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Ralph Cameron | VE3BBM |
| Doug Carswell | VE3ATY |
| 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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# QCWA International Convention

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## Convention time in Ottawa on October 15, 16, 17!

The Quarter Century Wireless Association's International Convention is being hosted by QCWA Chapter 70. **All Radio Amateurs** and their friends are invited to attend. QCWA is association composed of a membership of Radio Amateurs who have held their license for a minimum of 25.

The following sessions and speakers are on the agenda for Friday and Saturday -

| <u>Sessions</u>                                     |           | <u>Speakers</u>                |
|---|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Software Defined Radios for the Masses              | · · · · · | Gerald Youngblood <b>AC5OG</b> |
| Noise in Receiving Systems                          | · · · · · | Dave Conn <b>VE3KL</b>         |
| Top Band Reversible Beveridges                      | · · · · · | Bert Barry <b>VE3QAA</b>       |
| Living with Your Neighbours or EMC(101)             | · · · · · | Ralph Cameron <b>VE3BBM</b>    |
| Rechargeable Batteries                              | · · · · · | Dick Bonnycastle <b>VE3FUA</b> |
| Field Day 2000                                      | · · · · · | Brice Wightman <b>VE3EDR</b>   |
| What's That Racket - HF Digital Modes 101           | · · · · · | Ken Asmus <b>VA3KA</b>         |
|   |           | Richard Bandla <b>VE3CVG</b>   |
| Truth and Untruth about Electrically Small Antennas | · · ·     | Jack Belrose <b>VE2CV</b>      |
| Amateur Satellites; Past, Present and Future        | · · · · · | Clare Fowler <b>VE3NPC</b>     |
| Moonbounce, Basics and Beyond                       | · · · · · | Ken Oelke <b>VE6AFO</b>        |
| Super-Regenerative Receivers                        | · · · · · | Lea Barker                     |
| Forums: QCWA – QCWW – RAC                           |           |                                |

For those who just want to see more of our Nation's Capital or are non-Amateurs, they too will find arrangements have been made for their enjoyment. The Lord Elgin Hotel, newly renovated and located in downtown Ottawa, is a great location situated just steps away from the Canadian Parliament Buildings. Within walking distance are the National War Memorial, the Centennial Flame, the Rideau Canal Locks and the National Arts Centre. Shoppers have a choice of walking to the Sparks Street Mall, the enclosed Rideau Centre Mall or the Byward Farmers' Market. The Market is also the centre of Ottawa's night entertainment district, with restaurants, nightclubs, bistros, etc. On Friday, there is a bus tour of the city followed by a Meet & Greet evening. Saturday begins with a buffet breakfast and concludes in the evening with the Annual QCWA Banquet. Astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk **VA3CSA** may be our guest speaker.

Travel back in time on Sunday after brunch by taking a trip on a steam engine train. A short bus ride to the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, then all aboard for 4 ½ hours of entertainment while viewing the colourful countryside along the Gatineau River with a stop in quaint Wakefield. Enjoy the camaraderie of others in our hobby. QCWA invites you to join us in Ottawa at the QCWA International Convention!

**Place:** Ottawa ON Lord Elgin Hotel, 100 Elgin St. - Reservations 613-235-3333 QCWA Guest

**Registration:** Amateur \$20, Spouse/Guest \$5

Pre-registration required to attend the following -

Sat. buffet breakfast \$15; Sat. Banquet \$42; Sun. Brunch \$25; Friday City Bus Tour \$15;

Sunday Steam Train, 4 1/2 hr. up the Gatineau River Valley, Quebec \$53 (from and to hotel).

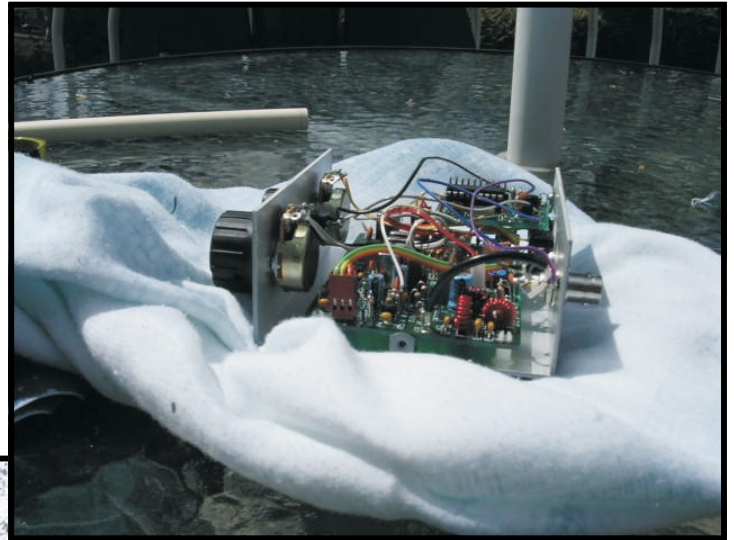
**Talkin:** 146.34/94 More info at [www.qcwa.org](http://www.qcwa.org) or

**Contact:** Donald Heaslip [ve3njh@rac.ca](mailto:ve3njh@rac.ca) phone (613) 727-2769

# ENTHUSIASM OF A NEW RADIO AMATEUR Maurice-André Vigneault VE3VIG

When the OVMRC 2 metre FM simplex contest was launched many new Amateurs did not have a proper antenna to ensure good results during the contest.

VA3GLT, Gerry, thought of building a gain antenna that would be easily transported and assembled. He found a schematic and building instruction for such an antenna while going through some Amateur books. The antenna in question is the 3 element Yagi made of metallic measuring tape. One of his friends did not have such an antenna and Gerry decided to purchase enough materiel to construct two similar antennas.



The second picture shows yet another project completed by Gerry. It is a QRP CW transceiver obtained in a kit form from the SW company. You can see how meticulous he was, especially in winding the coils, some of which are on the lower left hand side of the picture. A closer look at his 80m band construction reveals a great job of assembling and soldering. I can hardly wait to have a CW QSO with Gerry after he installs his 80 meter antenna.

Congratulations Gerry!

Maurice-André, VE3VIG

You can see the result in this picture. I was invited at Gerry's home with the Club's MFJ-259 Analyzer to help him put the final touches on the tuning of the antennas. After straightening a few elements and connecting the 259 we found the antennas to be resonant at very close to the middle of 2m Amateur Radio band. Minor adjustment to the tuning stubs and all was perfect.

Gerry also built his own copper pipe J-Pole. We put that under test after replacing a no-solder BNC connector. There again, Gerry's meticulous ability with dimensions proved to be right on. All three antennas showed a flat response of the wave ratio at some point in the middle of the band (50 ohms at 1 to 1) and not exceeding or lower than 1.5 to 1 at the extreme ends. You can see the J-Pole propped up on the railing behind Gerry.



# 2m Simplex Contest 8th May - Comments

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After a little delay at the start due to radio and antenna tinkering Gerry, VA3GLT, and myself were mobile shortly after noon. It was with relief that we heard stations calling as we drove down my street in Greely, I had been worried about the level of participation. Early stations we heard were Bob, VE3OSZ, and Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG. We worked both these stations (as VA3GLT) parked near to the Rideau Racetrack and Slots on Albion Road.

We carried on making some contacts and picked up Paul, VE3PDH, at the junction of Carling and Woodroffe. Then it was onto the lookouts in Gatineau Park. There we spent the rest of the contest activating Deschene and using mostly a J-pole. We attracted some attention and explained what we were doing. Some thought at first we were tracking birds (we first had a 3 element yagi), and a curious RCMP officer wondered if Gerry, who was holding the J-pole mast, was trying to get struck by lightning! It was quite cold at Champlain Lookout and it was a relief to move back into the car, towards the end of the contest and move to another lookout.

After the contest we had good chats with some of the participating stations. This was followed by a QSO with a station in Luskville, who had switched on his HT and by chance the VFO was on one of the simplex channels. He was surprised by the presence of activity and wanted to know what was going on.

Overall the contest I would say was a success. There was a good level of activity and the use of the City wards seem to work well. I will happily organise it again next year and maybe increase the level of pre-contest advertising to encourage more non-members to participate. Thank you to all for participating.

Alan Steele, VA3STL

This was my first VHF FM contest ever ! It's a bit different from the CW contests that I normally participate in. This was also the first time that I had used my HT for about a year. I had to re-read the manual to remind myself about how it should be used !

I decided to operate from my car in one location. So, I was mobile but stationary. The location was in the Experimental Farm. I had great trouble trying to obtain wards from the Ottawa unfriendly web site, so I just gave my location as the Experimental Farm. I hope that didn't cause problems for anybody.

I used my old Radio Shack 2m HT with a 30 watt linear amplifier and a 5/8 wave vertical on top of the car. I seemed to be able to work anybody that I could hear. I'm afraid that my operating technique was not too good - forgetting to say that I was mobile, etc.

I was pleased to work several of the new hams who I had examined recently. I had a total of 16 QSOs.

It was a nice change from CW contests for me. Thanks to Alan for organizing the contest. I hope that, next year, more OVMRC members will participate.

73

Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ

As a newcomer (I took the OVMRC course in 2003), I was excited about participating in the 2m contest. My fellow newcomer Duane Avery VA3ODD (who was without 2m capabilities) and I decided to work together on the contest on the way back from the Smiths Falls Fleamarket. The equipment used was a Kenwood TM-261A into a Radiall-Larsen 5/8 wave.

We got a late start, not arriving back in the Ottawa area till just after 1 o'clock. Our first contact was Maurice-Andre VE3VIG, at 10W from North Gower. We could hear Roger VE3NPO, but he couldn't hear us at the time. (His beam was not pointed our way.) Moving along Roger Stevens Drive, we went north after crossing the river into Osgoode ward, and proceeded to make contacts, and renew old ones, as we crossed into different wards. Over the course of the next 2-1/2 hours, we made 26 contacts into 6 different wards from 7 different locations.

We had a great time, and look forward to next year's contest.

Paul J. Henry, VE3CPH:

## QRP

*“Everything should be as simple as possible - but no simpler.”*

-Albert Einstein

QRP is perhaps one of the most popular sub-area of our hobby. With the popularity of rigs like the Yaesu FT817, the Elecraft K1, K2 and KX1 kit transceivers, Icom's IC-703 and Ten Tec's Argonaut series there are many dedicate QRP rigs available. Of course most 100W rigs can be turned down to the accepted QRP level of 5W (many accept 10W is QRP for SSB).

Why the popularity? A good question that probably has different answers for different people. It is a great area for homebrew or kit building. As the power requirements are low then taking these smaller rigs to the field is easy. There is also a technical challenge of making your station efficient as possible, as you want to waste as little power as possible. Then there is the maxim of just 'doing more with less'.

So where to go for information on the web?

Good starting points are the clubs dedicated to QRP. Probably the big 'three' are the QRP amateur radio club international (QRP ARCI), the American QRP Club and the G-QRP club. Their web sites are:

for the QRP ARCI

<http://www.qrparci.org>

for the American QRP club

<http://www.amqrp.org>

for the G-QRP club

[http://www.g4wif.fsnet.co.uk/q\\_about.htm](http://www.g4wif.fsnet.co.uk/q_about.htm)

The American QRP club is a recent amalgamation of NorCal (Northern California) and the New Jersey QRP clubs. Both still exist but the AmQRP is now the umbrella organisation and there is a single journal 'Homebrewer', which as the name suggests has a bias towards construction. This is a quarterly magazine and annually a CD-ROM is produced which is a compilation of the previous 4 magazines. Details on the Homebrewer magazine and subscription rates (US\$20 for Canada ) are at

<http://www.amqrp.org/homebrewer/index.html>

The QRP ARCI is the oldest QRP club (founded 1961). They produce their own magazine QRP Quarterly which, as you will have guessed, produced four times a year. Again there is a strong focus on technical

information, but also operating and contesting is features. The QRP ARCI has many relaxed contests, see

<http://2hams.net/ARCI/index.htm>

It also offers QRP awards such as a WAS, WAC, DXCC etc and the famous 1000 mile per Watt award, for QSO where the distance per watt is 1000 or higher. See

<http://www.qrparci.org/arciaawds.html>

The club also accepts (sensibly in my view) eQSLs for their awards.

The G-QRP was founded in 1974 by Rev. George Dobbs. A familiar name to those of you that may have read the British magazine Practical Wireless (a commercial magazine -i.e. not a part of a radio society or club). Rev. Dobbs is a regular contributor to PW with a technical column.

The G-QRP has regular events in the UK and produces a journal called 'Sprat'. See

[http://www.g4wif.fsnet.co.uk/q\\_spind.htm](http://www.g4wif.fsnet.co.uk/q_spind.htm)

If you are looking for information about basic electronic components then check out the excellent technical pages on their site at

[http://www.g4wif.fsnet.co.uk/q\\_tech.htm](http://www.g4wif.fsnet.co.uk/q_tech.htm)

Check out the data cards and the filter tables. Very useful material.

So, if you want to try out QRP cheaply, then besides turning down your output on your present rig, the next cheapest option is to buy and build a kit transceiver and there are quite a few kit companies out there (check your license class allows you to build and operate kit radios!).

I have mentioned some of these kit companies before in a previous WebResources, but the URLs are worth repeating.

Small Wonder Labs make some excellent kits, mostly CW and PSK based. See their site at

<http://www.smallwonderlabs.com>

Wilderness Radio produces three CW kits as well as frequency readouts and keyers. See their details at

<http://www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html>

# WEB RESOURCES (Cont'd)

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Oak Hills Research produce QRP kits, including a famous wattmeter dedicated to QRP operations. If you have never built an electronic kit before this power meter is a great starting point. All their kits are detailed at

<http://www.ohr.com>

Reviews of the wattmeter can be found at

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/152>

Ten Tec produces a set of CW single band kit transceivers. They are described at

<http://www.tentec.com/Xcvrkit.htm>

If you are an experienced constructor and want a challenge then you should consider the MultiPig+. This is a high performance multiband CW transceiver with the intention of it being the basis of experimentation. See the details at

<http://partsandkits.com/multipig.asp>

This is at the website of PartsandKits.com, home of the toroid king. Check the electronic parts sold here, especially if you are after some toroids or NE602/SA612 double balanced mixers.

Lastly for the kits, but not way least is the Elecraft range of kits. Perhaps not the cheapest, but excellent value given the features and performance. See their range at

<http://www.elecraft.com>

Do not forget that e-ham.net has reviews of equipment, so if you want other hams opinions of some of the kits detailed in the links above, check e-ham's QRP radios review section, where most will be listed.

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/products/22>

If you want more information about operating QRP, QRP contests etc then look at the QRP Canada web pages

<http://www.qrp-canada.com>

There you will find details of the 'Run with RAC' contest which is a QRPp (1W or less) contest run alongside the RAC Winter and Canada Day contests.

Other information can be found at other club and individuals pages. Take a look at the Flying Pigs QRP International Club pages at

<http://www.mpna.com/fpgrp>

(lots of ham related content there!)

A great individual's site is that of K3WWP's.

<http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/index.html>  
K3WWP's approach to QRP and achievements are described at

[http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/qrp\\_ss.html](http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/qrp_ss.html)

Another individual's site is VE6BPR's

<http://www.qsl.net/ve6bpr>

If you were not aware QRP operators often frequent certain frequencies, these are listed on the New Jersey QRP Club's web site

[http://www.njqrp.org/data/qrp\\_freqs.html](http://www.njqrp.org/data/qrp_freqs.html)

If you have not tried QRP. Have a go. You may be surprised how low you can go. There are many anecdotal stories of what you can achieve, read around. Despite normally operating QRP I even was surprised myself once at what can be achieved when after a straight forward SSB contest QSO I noticed I had not raised my power from my usual tune up level of 300mW.

As you look around the web at QRP operations you will notice there is quite a community spirit as well as a willingness to share technical information. Search around you may find an interesting Summer project. As always, exercise due caution when using information from the web or when making purchases over the internet.

I hope you have enjoyed this collection of Web Resources from this club season. Feel free to e-mail me any comments. Have a great Summer and see you at Field Day.

73

Alan  
VA3STL

[va3stl@rac.ca](mailto:va3stl@rac.ca)

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# The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club



is pleased to announce its 8th Annual

# Hamfest

**Saturday, September 4, 2004 (Labour Day weekend)**

**Tailgaters Open and Building Vendor setup: 9 am**

**Building Opens: 10 am until 1 pm**

**Radio Amateurs of Canada Forum and Technology Update: 1 pm - 4 pm (approx)**

Carp Agricultural Fairgrounds  
3970 Carp Rd (at Falldown Lane)

**Ottawa (Carp), Ontario**

Highway 417 west to Carp Road exit, north to the fairgrounds

We are in the Arena, so follow the signs on the site

\$5 general admission

\$10/table (plus admission)

\$5/tailgate (plus admission)

**This year's door prize is very generously donated by:**



**Bytown Marine Limited**

5 Corvus Court

Nepean, Ontario, K2E 7Z4

Phone: (613) 723-8424

*The OARC is proud to sponsor the RAC Forum and Technology Update. This highly informative event follows immediately after the close of the Hamfest at 1 pm. We are very fortunate to have Doug Leach (VE3XK), RAC's Ontario North Director, as Moderator.*

*For further information or reservations contact:*

*Greg Danylchenko (VE3YTZ)*

*Tel: (613) 236-9291(H)*

*Web address: <http://oarc.net/fleamarket>*

*E-mail: [fleamarket@oarc.net](mailto:fleamarket@oarc.net)*

*Talk-in on VE2CRA, 146.94 - MHz*