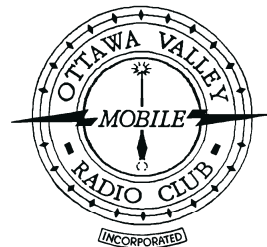


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 49, Issue No 4



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Club Meeting ····· Nov 18
7:30 P.M.

Club Exec. Meeting · Nov 25
7:00 P.M.

Rambler Deadline · Nov 26



LEST WE FORGET

50/50 IS DEAD

We're Trying a New 50-50 Idea

Well, it really is not 50-50 any more – it is 1/3 - 1/3 - 1/3. This idea came from the QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association) that recently held its international meeting here in Ottawa. Several chapters run their 50-50 this way.

The “pot” is split into three piles. The first 1/3 is dumped NOISILY into a bucket, the second 1/3 is given to the lucky person who has his ticket drawn. His ticket is then put back into the hat, and one more ticket is drawn. The second (or perhaps the same) lucky person then gets to draw a card from a standard 52 card deck, and if they draw the ACE OF SPADES, the contents of the “bucket” is theirs! If another card is drawn, that card is torn up and not returned to the deck. The third 1/3 goes into the club treasury.

Next meeting, the same thing happens, except there is now a better chance to win the bucket, (there are only 51 cards left), and the bucket contains twice as much money – the 1/3 from above plus the new 1/3. The fun starts when the bucket starts getting quite big, and the number of cards left to choose from gets small. This encourages everyone to purchase more and more tickets, generally raising more for the club than the traditional 50-50.

The only difference we will do is, to have only one suit (SPADES) in the deck. So the chance of drawing the ACE OF SPADES is 1:13 the first month, then 1:12, 1:11 etc.

We will try this idea out for the remainder of this year. So be sure and join in the fun starting next month at the November meeting!

Bob Shaw
VE3SUY

Rambler

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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,
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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

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Amateur Radio Exhibit
VE3JW
Web Site

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada
Science & Technology
Museum



Next Meeting

Nov 18
Rambler Deadline
Nov 26

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.

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, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004 (Award Year).
- Nomination must be received in writing, in the required format, prior to, or during the regular October 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 November. 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.

SATS ARE SIMPLE!

Amateur radio operators seem to have the idea that working the ham radio sats is incredibly hard and expensive, not to mention needing a lot of power.

It is true that one can have a tower, the az/el rotor, an amazingly complex multi-mode vhf/uhf radio, but it is also true that most people could work the FM birds with nothing more than their handheld radio and a small beam. You can likely get started on the amateur satellites with the station you already have.

Your antenna is an important link in any satellite operator's setup whether you are just beginning or have been on the satellites for awhile.

The classic commercial beam for this is the 146/437-10W made by Arrow antenna (<http://www.arrowantennas.com>) This beam combines 3 elements on 2m with 7 elements on 436mhz. This beam is used by many amateurs to work the FM birds AO-27 and SO-50.

If you are on a budget, you can combine designs by Kent Britain, WA5VJB, and Howard Long, G6LVB. Kent's antenna designs can be seen on-line at: (<http://www.clarc.org/Articles/uhf.htm>)

Howard's Home Brew Arrow antenna design is on-line at (<http://www.g6lvb.com/HomebrewArrow.htm>).

Because the FM birds are in low earth orbit, you can even work them with your current V/UHF mobile radio and a 1/4 wave whip on the car's roof. You want signals to radiate straight up, which a 1/4 wave will do. The 5/8 wave antenna concentrates its pattern on the horizon, making it less desirable for mobile satellite operations.

Multi-mode HF combined with uhf/vhf radios are now very popular as well. It does not take much extra work at all to get on some of the low earth orbit (LEO) "linear mode" birds such as FO-29. A simple "clarc" combination beam mounted on a camera tripod combined with a multi-mode radio is all that is necessary. Jerry, K5OE/VK8OE has a great article showing how to convert a pair of Cushcraft beams into a simple but effective tripod beam that can get you on the LEO linear birds. See: <http://members.aol.com/k5oe>

It is helpful to know when to listen and where to point your antenna skyward. There are several tracking programs for your PC or Mac. Some are free and others cost \$50-\$75. A free satellite tracking program, SatScape, for the PC can be downloaded from: <http://www.satscape.co.uk/>

Even easier, you can get short term amateur radio satellite predictions from the web. Check out: <http://www.heavens-above.com> Hint: Enter your QTH info first, registration is not necessary, then bookmark the final page. Every

time you select heavens-above from your bookmarks your custom page for your QTH comes up! Once you're in, select the "radio amateur satellites" link for a table that shows when all "hear-able" satellites will be within range of your QTH. It even tells you which frequency to listen on.

The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, or AMSAT, provides lots of resources on their web pages. See: <http://www.amsat.org>. The latest amateur satellite status, including frequencies, is available at: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/news/wsr.html>. While you are surfing around at AMSAT, check out: http://www.amsat.org/amsat/features/echo_dayton04/index.html Echo will be launched soon and will be easily heard on your handheld radio.

It's not rocket science, it's just radio. And it's a lot of fun. Come on up and join us.

Diane Bruce VA3DB (amsat area coordinator)
(Clare Fowler VE3NPC is the other amsat area coordinator)
(Thanks to Joanne Maenpaa, WB9JEJ ex amsat journal editor)

- Diane VA3DB

Continued from Page: 5

If you have questions about BPL then try

<http://www.qrpis.org/~k3ng/bpl.html#2>

where you find a collection of frequently asked questions (FAQs). Some are quite technical too.

By the way, if you like to homebrew or QRP then check out the home page of K3NG who compiled the above FAQ. Follow the "home" link on the FAQ web site or go direct via

<http://www.qrpis.org/~k3ng/index.html>

I will leave it there for this month for the web links.

Finally, I would like to make another call for submissions for the proposed 'Contacts' column in the Rambler (see last month's Rambler for the proposal). Up to now I have had no responses at all, so send me details of a contact and be the first to submit.

73
Alan ,VA3STL
(va3stl@rac.ca)

BPL

Unless you have been intentionally avoiding reading the amateur radio magazines or news websites you will be well aware of the worry of interference from broadband over power lines (BPL). The web has a large amount of information about BPL and so for this edition I have collected some URLs which has some information that you may find interesting.

For news I find eham.net is a good way to stay current. In the US the FCC has just produced a report that states its intention to protect licenced services. However, the eham article highlights some statements in the report that can be alarming to amateurs. The eham article reports that the FCC states that BPL providers will need to take steps to protect international aeronautical and maritime safety frequencies, however it goes on to say that amateur radio frequencies will not have that special protection. Read the eham article and follow-up comments from hams at

<http://www.eham.net/articles/9542>

The FCC report can be found at

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-245A1.pdf

be warned though it is a 86 page document.

Another recent eham article that reports on a BPL field trial that is to be decommissioned in North Carolina can be found at

<http://www.eham.net/articles/9371>

If you want to see what BPL equipment looks like go to

<http://www.texasbpl.com>

If you click on one of the map of South Texas you will be taken to pages where pictures can be found of the equipment and their installations.

RAC and the ARRL have put good information together on BPL on their websites. See

<http://www.rac.ca/regulatory/plc.htm>

<http://www.rac.ca/news/bplnews.htm>

and

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc>

If you missed the excellent articles in the TCA on BPL RAC has made them available at

<http://www.rac.ca/news/barry.zip>

<http://www.rac.ca/news/bob.zip>

note these are zipped files which will be pdf format documents once you unzip them.

You do not need to go to South Texas to find BPL systems. There are some in Ontario including one in Cornwall. The installation company is Trytel (who is owned by Telecom Ottawa) and information on the Cornwall system can be found at the company's website

<http://trytel.com/index.php?fuseaction=news.viewDetails&id=6>

Other news can be found at the City of Cornwall's web site in their news section at

<http://www.cityofcornwall.com/main.cfm?PageName=Whats%20New&Parent=Business>

The first Canadian BPL system was been deployed in Sault Ste. Marie. Business information on that system can be found at

<http://www.nob.on.ca/regional/SaultStMarie/headlines.asp?449id145-pn=&view=27203>

Technical details and how it relates to HF users can be found in the TCA article by Bob Hawkins, VE3AGC, which has already been listed above (the "bob.zip" file).

The attraction of BPL to the general public is because it is another route to access high speed internet, especially in rural centres where cable or DSL may not be provided. If you want to read an internet posting thread where both sides actively discuss the pros and cons see the thread following the article at the link below

<http://reviews-zdnet.com.com/4520-7298-5123406.html>

The thread is very long (351 comments) and the sharp comments familiar in internet threads is there but it is interesting to see the cross-section of opinion. For example a comment from a rural internet user can be found at

<http://reviews-zdnet.com.com/5208-6118-0.html?forumID=1&threadID=322&messageID=8091&start=101>

Have a look through the thread selectively and see what some people think of amateur radio operators and their BPL concerns.

As for BPL around the world well the bestsite I have found is

<http://homepages.ihug.com.au/~vk5vka/bplworld.htm>

Here links to web sites have been collected for on news on BPL in country by country order.

Continued on page: 4

Jerry Wells OVMRC Amateur of the Year

Nomination Form

Please read the Award Criteria before completing 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 _____