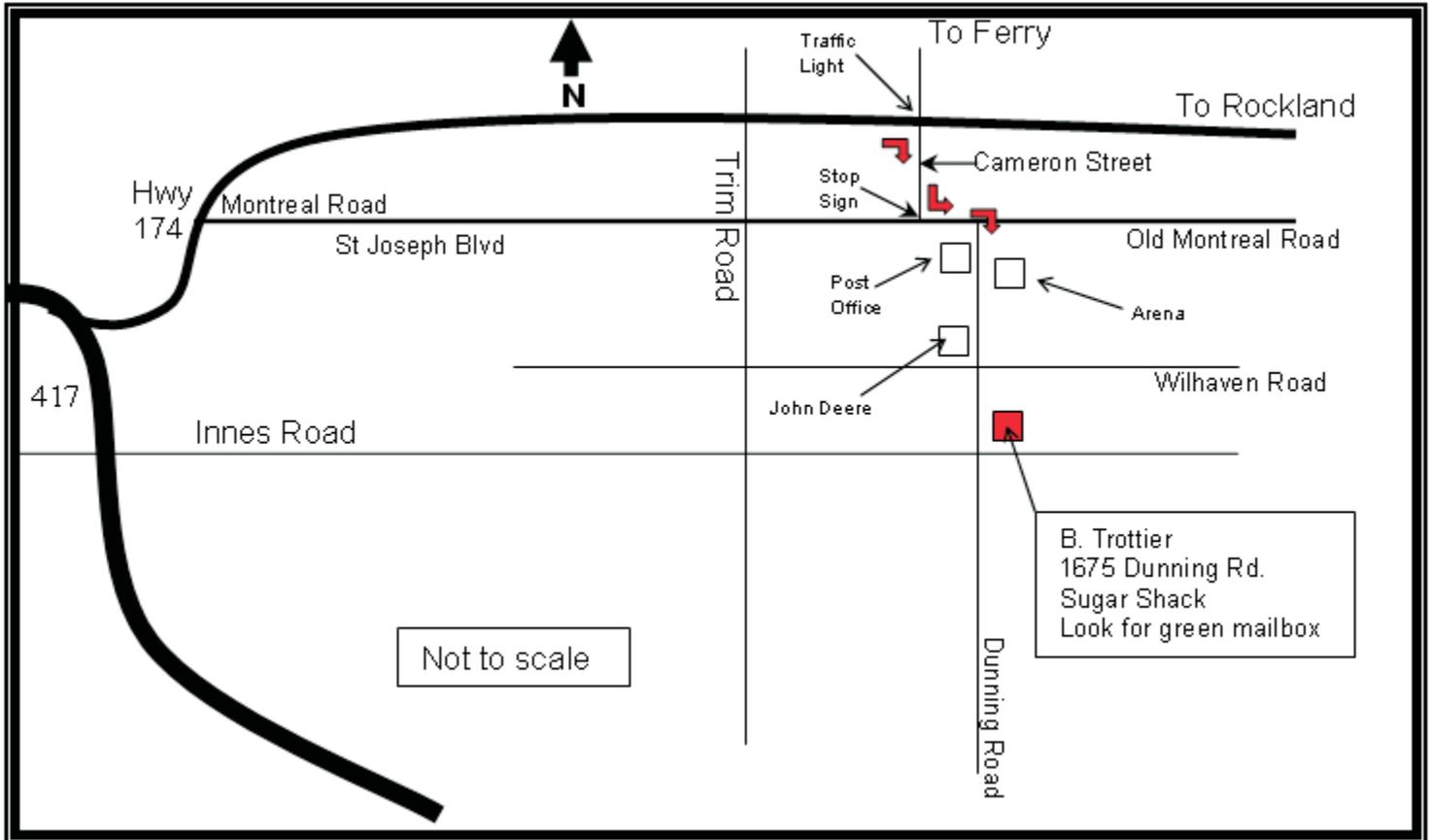
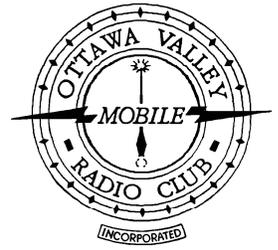


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 49, Issue No 8



Map to the Sugar Shack, 2nd of April. For further details see page: 6

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Reminders...

Club Meeting	Mar 17
	7:30 P.M.
Club Exec. Meeting	Feb 24
	7:00 P.M.
Rambler Deadline	Apr 9
Apr Club Meeting	Apr 21
	7:30 P.M.



Rambler

OVMRC Executive (2004-2005)

President	Paul J. Henry VE3CPH 569-5442, ve3cph@rac.ca
Vice-President	Ken McKenzie, VA3NEK 829-4884, va3nek@rac.ca
Treasurer	Dan Caracaleanu VA3XYO 746-1674,
Secretary	Patrick Tunney, VA3CMD 851-9764, va3cmd@rac.ca

OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron	VE3BBM
Doug Carswell	VE3ATY
Doreen Morgan	VE3CGO
Ed Morgan	VE3GX
Bill Wilson	VE3NR

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
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Field Day	Alan Steele, VA3STL va3stl@rac.ca
Historical	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
Flea Market	Vacant
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Technical	Jake Guertin, VE2TQX 819-684-9596, va3tqx@hotmail.com
Emergency Preparedness	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, ve3srs@rac.ca

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:

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.



OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)
53.030/52.030 MHz



OVMRC web page

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>
Webmaster: Elias Zaydan,
VE3EKZ elias@canada.com



Amateur Radio Exhibit
VE3JW
Web Site

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada
Science & Technology
Museum



Next meeting
Mar 17
Rambler Deadline
Apr 9

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.

February 17, 2005

1. Paul Henry VE3CPH, President, opened the meeting at 7:35 P.M..

2. Several guests introduced themselves. Robert Plant, who is an avid sailor mentioned his interest in becoming a licenced amateur. Ken Pulfer VE3PU, one of our speakers for the evening, introduced himself.

3. Paul asked if any members required assistance with anything and there were no enquiries from any of the members.

4. The President introduced our guest speakers for the evening, Jim Dean VE3IQ, Vice-President Regulatory Affairs for Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and Dr. Ken Pulfer VE3PU, the Treasurer. Their presentation would be about "Challenges & Opportunities, An Update"

Jim thanked Paul for the invitation to speak at this meeting and to bring the membership up to date regarding the status of various issues involving Amateur Radio in Canada and on the International scene. He informed us that RAC is currently involved in about 40 projects involving Amateur radio. Using a very effective Power Point slide presentation, Jim explained they would cover the status of the RAC Morse Code proposal, RAC Call Sign proposal, 4-10 MHz Review, 135 kHz allocation, Broadband Over Powerlines (BPL) and Enforcement.

I have summarized each of these presentations below and hope they are accurate.

A) Morse Code Proposal to Industry Canada (IC):

- RAC has proposed 12 recommendations about Morse Code regarding the issue of access to the HF bands resulting from the 2003 WRC decision. Following RAC's Internet survey and analysis of responses from 1300, many meetings regarding the feasibility to eliminate the requirement under the Regulations, consultation with IC took place in Aug. 2004, the results were posted to Internet Jan. 2005 for comment from interested parties, about 150 responses were received and 120 of these recommended deletion of the Morse Code as a requirement (for access to the HF bands). The decision has yet to be made by IC regarding this issue and hopefully, there will be a decision by this summer.

B) RAC Call Sign Proposal to Industry Canada:

- The World Radio Conference 2003 decision to permit call signs with suffixes having up to four characters and suffixes with more than four characters. RAC established a committee and presented a proposal in Aug. 2004 to IC regarding this issue. Under consideration are the uses of 2x4 call signs for permanent issue or only for special events, 2x1 call signs for contests, expansion of the table of call sign prefixes. The decisions may be forthcoming during the Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board (CARAB) meeting in May of this year.

C) 4-10 MHz Review for World Radio Conference (WRC) 2007

Ken Pulfer VE3PU has been involved with this review and informed us the broadcasting service claims that it needs an additional 850kHz in the 4-10MHz band. He noted it is a very desirable band due to the range of propagation, 7MHz is in fact the best part of the band which is fully allocated. The review covers all

services except 7000 - 7.200 where we are located. The objective of International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) & RAC is to obtain world wide exclusive allocation to amateurs for the full range from 7000 to 7300 kHz. If the broadcasters gain access as they want, many others will lose some of the band allocation. The WRC 2003 have put the review of this band on their Agenda for the WRC to be held in 2007.

D) New Allocation 135.7 - 137.8 kHz

This is a Canadian initiative and the question of a possible world wide allocation of these frequencies to Amateur radio, will also be considered at WRC 2007. There have been some Canadian Amateurs experimenting in this band and some other studies. Some countries are concerned about possible interference to existing spectrum users and in Canada, there is concern about the threat to electrical utilities but it is believed that no interference would result from transmissions in Canada.

E) Broadband Power Line (BPL)

BPL threatens all radio services in 2-80MHz range. There are various technologies used and information can be obtained from TCA (July/Aug. 2004). BPL is not a radio service but rather an unintentional radiator. There are various international approaches, the FCC is enthusiastic about it, the ARRL is strongly opposed and to date, there is no Canadian position. BPL can be a local problem and Jim Dean is involved in this area. He noted that Industry Canada (IC) is monitoring the Canadian trials, one has been undertaken in Sault Ste. Marie, but trials have slowed down. IC is also monitoring developments in the USA and at the International level. Due to confidentiality of third parties, business cases are not being divulged, however, Holland is not interested in BPL and willing to fight against it. IC public consultation will likely take place in 2005, anyone can respond, the RABC EMC Committee will likely respond, RAC will respond directly and also through the RABC. Jim believes BPL is not the answer for effective Internet delivery to rural locations due to competitive technologies that will and are superceding BPL, and he said to watch the TCA and RAC web site for more on BPL.

F) Enforcement Activities

Jim noted that interference and enforcement is still a major problem. Amateurs are complaining that it is a continuing problem with deliberate interference on repeaters being the biggest concern. There are also some unauthorized HF operators, poor operating practices, and use of foul language. Industry Canada (IC) has limited resources and needs our help. Court cases to resolve interference problems is very costly and IC will take action if it is warranted. However, evidence must be recorded properly and IC is willing to assist clubs to learn how to gather information and record it. There must be a specific methodology used and a coordinated approach is best. Radio Amateurs of Canada can provide help through our Regional Directors. He encouraged common sense and good operating practices by all and noted we should do our own enforcement by encouraging our fellow Amateurs to operate properly.

G) Jim Dean opened the floor to Q'S & A's.

In response to questions, Jim Dean, Ken Pulfer, and some members provided answers as follows:

Meeting Minutes *(Cont'd)*

Q1. Under reciprocal operating privileges, will there be a requirement to be qualified in the use of morse code to operate HF while in other countries?

A1. Jim noted that code would probably be required to operate in some countries that do not delete the requirement from their regulations. He noted that 27 countries have deleted the requirement for CW so far, Russia has not and is against dropping it.

Q2. With regard to the proposed new requirements, if morse code is deleted as a qualification for access to the HF bands, will Amateurs have to be retested to qualify at the higher % mark being proposed, are Amateur Radio exam marks kept on record?

A2. No, retesting will not be required because the exam marks must be sent to IC by the Accredited Examiner who must also keep a record. They will be on file with IC.

Q3. Are Amateurs going to be Grand fathered into the HF bands?

Q4. A Grand father clause was not proposed by RAC, increased exam pass marks are being used instead. It was noted that nearly anyone with electronic knowledge could pass the exam and obtain the required 60% pass mark without any knowledge of the regulations and very little knowledge of operating practices. The survey responses indicated and RAC's recommendation to IC for an increase in the passing level would therefore, require an individual to learn both, in order to pass.

Q5. With regard to enforcement, how far can we go as Amateurs?

A5. Jim cautioned that we have no legal authority as Amateurs and enforcement is up to IC. Use common sense, gather and record the specific evidence but leave enforcement up to IC and the courts.

Q6. How much do we pay for membership now under the new rate structure?

A6. The latest issue of The Canadian Amateur was produced by the Secretary and Ken Pulfer, RAC Treasurer, informed everyone of the new fee structure and new benefits applicable with membership, including insurance.

5. Ken McKenzie, Vice-President, thanks Jim Dean and Ken Pulfer for their presentation and interest and for the assistance provided by RAC over the past two years. Our President, Paul Henry VE3CPH, also thanked them for their informative and interesting presentation and for taking the time out of their busy schedule to attend.

6. Ernie Jury VE3EJJ, congratulated Terry Waltan VE3TWC, the ninth graduate, for obtaining his licence and presented his OVMRC Amateur Radio course graduation certificate.

7. Ernie announced that he is still looking for volunteers to act as Net Controllers for the Pot Hole Net on 7.095 Saturdays, 10am and also on 3.760 Sundays at 10am.

8. Larry gave a short announcement about the Manuals being sold by Len Gelfand VE3LGZ and himself. He thanked Len for his assistance and dedication in selling them and also thanked Ernie Jury VE3EJJ for his role in obtaining the manuals which were originally destined for the dumpster. These manuals have become an important source of income for the club and many more are being sold around the world since the list was posted on the club's web page. Larry encouraged members to ensure they buy any they may need for their equipment before they are sold.

9. Duane Avery VA3ODD, Publicity and Programs, has donated a computer to the club and it should be a door prize draw at the next meeting.

10. Ben Price VE3CDA, our RAC Regional Director for Ontario North/East, introduced himself and encouraged anyone to contact himself for anything relative to Amateur radio or if any assistance was needed. He also mentioned we could check the RAC website regarding anything and it was a great source for information.

11. Maurice-Andre VE3VIG, Manager for the Amateur Radio Demonstration Station located in the Museum, invited members and guests to contact him if they want to visit or operate the station.

12. Upcoming Meetings. President, Paul Henry VE3CPH, announced the following meetings:

- * March - Home Brew Night
- * April - National Search and Rescue Secretariat will make a presentation regarding their responsibilities and radio communications and a CW contest is also being planned.
- * May - There will be a contest and prizes awarded for the best mobile set-up. Elkel, Ltee, from Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, will be making a presentation of the newest and latest Amateur radio products.
- * June - Annual General Meeting

13. On a sad note, the President announced that Chuck Baker VE3PAP, VA3CAB became a SK on Feb 13, 2005 and a moment's silence was respected.

14. Larry Wilcox VE3WEH, invited anyone to attend the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club General Meeting at 7pm, March 8, 2005 to be held at Nortel Carling Ave. Campus. There will be a presentation about the Pine Tree Radar Defence Line by John Moore, who knows the history and is very knowledgeable.

15. Ian VE3WVP announced he is leaving Ottawa for Victoria, BC and bids us 73.

16. Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, announced that he is unable to do the Flea Market or the bumper party "junk in the trunk" event, so if anyone is interested, please contact him or any member of the Executive.

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More HF Users

Last month we started looking at HF users besides radio amateurs and focussed on shortwave broadcast stations. This month we will look at one group of users who are legal, another group that is illegal and final a group who are neither, as many governments deny they exist (although they will closely listen to them).

First the legal.

HF is used for aircraft communications. For a good introduction to the various frequencies used across the various geographical regions see:

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/aerofreq.html>

Note that most communications seem to be on USB.

For Canadian military traffic on HF check the frequencies listed at

<http://www.canairradio.com/canforce.html>

If I can briefly move up in frequency, to VHF, the monitoring of ACARS used by aircraft is popular amongst some. To get details of what is ACARS see

<http://www.acarsonline.co.uk/HTMLMENU.htm>

and

<http://www.acarsonline.co.uk/aclink/alabout.htm>

with the frequencies listed at

<http://www.acarsonline.co.uk/aclink/alfreq.htm>

some of which are in the HF spectrum.

With an international airport in the City it may be worth checking out ACARS. There is software to decode the messages, which can be found at

<http://www.acarsd.org/>

The software is free and available for Windows and Linux. I have not used it so let me know how you get on if you give it a try.

There is an online version that allows you to use your browser to pick up data from the web, see

<http://acarsd.acarsd.org:8080/>

Details of the US HF Global communications system can be found at

<http://137.240.249.5/hfgcs/mission.htm>

This has links to the websites of different airforce bases including Beale which has an interesting statement on their homepage.

A good enthusiast site for military air monitoring is

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

The person who compiles that website has details of their radio shack (with plenty of pictures) at

<http://www.milaircomms.com/shack.html>

Wish my ham shack looked that tidy!

From the legal to the illegal.

Pirate radio has been popular since the sixties and seventies, especially in Europe where ships with radio stations and antennas would broadcast outside of a national jurisdictions. Perhaps one of the most famous in Britain was Radio Caroline, which was extremely influential to broadcast radio due to its popularity.

<http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk/>

In North America the HF watering hole of pirate radio is just below the 40m band, 6900 to 7000 kHz, see

<http://www.blackcatsystems.com/pirate/stations/>

Now if you decide to listen to pirates and try this 'band' be warned there are no scheduled broadcasts (but try the evenings over a weekend) and the material and production can be demanding on the listener. I personally have found the material can be entertaining, weird and bad depending on the station. Some may find the material occasionally offensive. With station names like, the Scream of the Butterfly, WPOE and my favourite station name, the Voice of Laryngitis, you get the idea this is not your standard commercial radio.

If you look at the previous website and check their link to a bandscan of 6900 to 7000kHz you will find some interesting information on who else, beside pirates, use that part of the spectrum.

<http://www.blackcatsystems.com/pirate/6900.html>

In the list you will find spy numbers stations listed. Which brings me to the final group which governments often deny exist. HF is used for spy communications, mostly in the form of numbers stations, which are stations that broadcast numbers which are likely to only mean something to the person(s) they are intended for. There are enthusiasts who focus and study these broadcasts and try and establish the likely sources, such as MI6, CIA, MOSSAD and so on.

For some basic details see

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

For more specific (but old?) details see

<http://www.spynumbers.com/enigma.html>

and

Continued on page: 6

Sugar Shack Brunch

The date for the Sugar Shack Brunch has changed to Saturday 2nd April 2005 (the maple syrup should be ready by then, my earlier date was too soon for the syrup). The details of the meal are below. The plan is to arrive in the morning set-up radio equipment make some contacts, then break for the brunch and operate again afterwards.

This would be a nice chance to showcase some different station set-ups and allow others to operate on them. I plan on bringing a QRP digital station for 20m (may try 15m too). Please feel free to bring along your own portable operation. The shack has AC power and I can bring some of the club's coax cable but after that you will need to bring what you need. There are plenty of trees to use for portable antennas. It would be nice to have a range of stations, for example 6m, VHF, APRS and CW. Let me know if you plan on bringing a station.

Now, the meal details.

Full meal: includes bread, coffee, tea, juice (not soft drink) and access to maple syrup to put on your food.

- * Home made beans (made with maple syrup)
- * Porkrine (salted bacon like pork)
- * Ham
- * Sausages
- * Omelette
- * Pancakes

And lets not forget the maple syrup taffy.

Cost of meal: Adults ----- \$17.00

Children under 8 yrs ----- free

Children 9 yrs to 11 yrs --- \$8.00

You can go back for seconds.

For \$15.00, you can have all of the above minus one of the meats. In other words, you get the bread, coffee, tea, juice, pancakes, omelette, beans and two of the three meats (Porkrine, ham, sausage) of course the taffy.

We need to know in advance if you plan on turning up to the brunch (family and friends welcome). So, please e-mail me with details of how many and what food option, or see Gerry Trottier (VA3GLT) or myself at a club meeting. You will pay the owner on the day. Note, the shack holds about 40 people.

There will be a talk in (if needed) on the simplex frequency of **146.550MHz**. As well VE3TWO will be monitored.

Alan Steele, VA3STL (e-mail: va3stl@rac.ca)

You are looking for 1675 DUNNING RD in CUMBERLAND.

Take highway 174 E toward Rockland. Past Trim Rd, the 4-lane highway drops to two lanes. Continue to the lights. You are in CUMBERLAND. At the Lights in Cumberland turn RIGHT onto CAMERON ST. (left would take you to the ferry). Turn LEFT onto OLD MONTREAL ROAD. Pass the General Store on your left. Slow down, Turn RIGHT onto DUNNING RD. You will pass the Arena on the left. Continue up the hill. You will pass Wilhaven Rd where you will see the John Deere dealership. Continue up the hill. You are looking for the fourth driveway on the left, IMMEDIATELY PAST the green mailbox. You have come to 1675 DUNNING RD. Drive around; the sugar shack is in the back.

You can also get there by taking INNES RD off ST LAURENT (just down from the museum). On INNES, you will go around BLACKBURN HAMLET, through ORLÉANS and cross TRIM RD. STAY on INNES RD to the very end of the paved section where INNES intersects with DUNNING RD. Turn LEFT on DUNNING. Past the field, you are looking for the third driveway on the right, IMMEDIATELY before the green mailbox. You have come to 1675 DUNNING RD. Drive around; the sugar shack is in the back.

See the map on page 1 of this Rambler.

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http://www.javaradio.com/servlet/IBMainServlet/?ib_page=113&parent_id=36&iw_language=en

If you want to hear some recordings try

<http://home.freeuk.com/spook007>

I have heard numbers stations a few times on HF, when shortwave listening and always find it eerie. You cannot help but wonder who they are talking to and what they are saying. With that thought I will finish for this month.

73
Alan, VA3STL
(va3stl@rac.ca)

Second OVMRC 2m FM Simplex Contest

Date & Time

Saturday 7th May 2005 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

Contact type	Points
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

Power	Multiplier
10W or less	2
over 10W to 50W	1
over 50W	0

Second OVMRC 2m FM Simplex Contest *(Cont'd)*

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 = $1 \times 6 + 2 \times 8 + 5 \times 1 = 27$

Multiplier for locations = $\times 5$

Multiplier for power = $\times 2$

FINAL SCORE = $27 \times 5 \times 2 = 270$

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, contestors 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.

Teams

In the spirit of having fun and meeting club members it is encouraged that club members that would otherwise operate solo (base or mobile) can team up with a member and operate as a pair. This makes good sense for mobile stations, or where one member does not have 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. If you want to join the list to find a partner then e-mail Gerry or Alan at the addresses below.

Finally...

All logs are to be in by Saturday June 4th. E-mail, post or hand them in personally at a club meeting, to either Gerry, VA3GLT or Alan, VA3STL. Summary sheets will be provided in next month's Rambler.

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)**

Continued from page: 4

17. Unfortunately, Adam King VA3PIP, our Membership Chair was absent as a result of a very bad cold, so no door prizes or 50/50 tickets were available.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.25pm

Signed
Larry Wilcox VE3WEH
Acting Secretary

Editor's Note: Last month's minutes (Jan 05) require some minor corrections and updates. Marshal's name and call sign should be updated to read Martial and VA3MMC. Sylvain should read Sylvain, and Terry's call sign, not available last edition, is VE3TWC.