

# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)  
Volume 50, Issue No 3



## QSL card competition

After operating the Club station, VE3RAM, we do receive a few QSL cards. At the moment we do not have a VE3RAM QSL card to reply with, therefore we would like to have a competition to see which Club member can come up with the best card. The design can be up to you but we would like to have a few guidelines.

- » The card should have the standard dimensions of 3.5"x5.5" and be **single sided**.
- » There should be space to write the usual required information for a QSL confirmation.
- » There should be space (perhaps with a line) in the top right of the card for writing the name of the callsign for the destination of the card.
- » The card should well reflect the Club.
- » There should be space to enter the name of the Club operator (if known) who made the contact, as well as space for equipment details perhaps.
- » Include nothing that could offend.
- » Do not use copyrighted material unless you and the Club can have permission. Be aware that images etc. can be copyrighted even if there is not the copyright symbol (c). For example, if you post a photograph on the web, which you took, you have the copyright to it and nobody can legally take and use that image, or part of it, without your permission.
- » RAC logos can be obtained at <http://www.rac.ca/service/logos.htm>

Ideally the whole card should be available in electronic format. The card will be reproduced by printing four cards on a letter sized page and this will then be colour photocopied.

If you submit a card feel free to include details on how you, or perhaps a family member, made the card.

Bring your card to the November meeting where they will be displayed and later judged. The winning design will be used by the Club.

If you have any questions contact the Field Day chair Alan, va3stl, or the President Bob, va3qv.

Get designing!

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

## Inside...

Ramblings	3-4
Letter from Museum	4
Sep Meeting Minutes	5
Greyhound Mobile	5
Membership application	6

## Reminders...

Club Meeting	Oct 20
	7:30 P.M.
Exec Meeting	Oct 27
Rambler Deadline	Nov 4
Nov Club Meeting	Nov 17



# Rambler

## OVMRC Executive (2005-2006)

<b>President</b>	Bob Sharp, VA3QV <a href="mailto:va3qv@rac.ca">va3qv@rac.ca</a>
<b>Vice-President</b>	Gerry Trottier, VA3GLT 745-5828, <a href="mailto:va3glt@rac.ca">va3glt@rac.ca</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Gil, VA3KJG 748-0218, <a href="mailto:va3kjg@rac.ca">va3kjg@rac.ca</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC <a href="mailto:ve3tsc@rac.ca">ve3tsc@rac.ca</a>

## Standing Committee Chairpersons

<b>Amateur Radio Exhibit</b>	Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG 749-9010, <a href="mailto:ve3vig@rac.ca">ve3vig@rac.ca</a>
<b>Amateur Radio Training</b>	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666, <a href="mailto:va3ejj@rac.ca">va3ejj@rac.ca</a>
<b>Accredited Examiner</b>	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, <a href="mailto:ve3osz@rac.ca">ve3osz@rac.ca</a>
<b>Field Day</b>	Alan Steele, VA3STL <a href="mailto:va3stl@rac.ca">va3stl@rac.ca</a>
<b>Historical</b>	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, <a href="mailto:ve3weh@rac.ca">ve3weh@rac.ca</a>
<b>Flea Market</b>	Jake Guertin, VE2TQX 819-684-9596, <a href="mailto:va3tqx@hotmail.com">va3tqx@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Gerry Trottier, VA3GLT 745-5828, <a href="mailto:va3glt@rac.ca">va3glt@rac.ca</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Bill Hall, VA3WMH 830-5580, <a href="mailto:va3wmh@rac.ca">va3wmh@rac.ca</a>
<b>Publicity &amp; Programs</b>	Duane Avery VA3ODD 599-8409, <a href="mailto:DuaneEAvery@Rogers.com">DuaneEAvery@Rogers.com</a>
<b>Radio Operations UHF/VHF</b>	Matthew Hall, VA3MHB 236-5283,
<b>Radio Operations HF</b>	José Campione, VA3PCJ 523-3011, <a href="mailto:va3pcj@rac.ca">va3pcj@rac.ca</a>
<b>Technical</b>	Jake Guertin, VE2TQX 819-684-9596, <a href="mailto:va3tqx@hotmail.com">va3tqx@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, <a href="mailto:ve3srs@rac.ca">ve3srs@rac.ca</a>



OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)  
444.200 MHz(+)



OVMRC web page

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>  
Webmaster: Elias Zaydan,  
VE3EKZ [elias@canada.com](mailto:elias@canada.com)

## OVMRC Life Members

<b>Maurice André</b>	<b>VE3VIG</b>
Ralph Cameron	VE3BBM
Doug Carswell	VE3ATY
Doreen Morgan	VE3CGO
Ed Morgan	VE3GX
Bill Wilson	VE3NR

## Club Web site

The OVMRC **Rambler** is available on-line at the club Web site:

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca/rambler.htm>

## Sponsors

The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities:

Acceptable Storage, Ottawa, ON  
Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON  
Elkel Ltee, Trois-Rivières, QC  
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON  
Ottawa Camping Trailers Ltd, Ottawa, ON  
Travel-Mor Trailer Sales, Ottawa, ON

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



Amateur Radio Exhibit  
**VE3JW**  
Web Site

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada  
Science & Technology  
Museum



Next meeting  
Oct 20  
Rambler Deadline  
Nov 4

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](mailto:va3wmh@rac.ca).

## October 2005

As you read this you know that our September General Meeting with its' new executive offices has just finished. You now know the direction the club will be taking for the next year (See what happens when you acclaim the club executive) and personally I think we are in for a good year.

Now that we are heading towards our October Meeting I should warn you that I am our guest speaker. I will be talking about Portable Operations and Compromise Antennas. As my backyard is approximately 20' by 20'

and I am able to operate 70cm to 80m with some small level of success it seems natural that I give the talk. If your excuse for not getting on the air is that you can't get your antenna up then this is the meeting not to miss. Our second speaker will be VA3SIE Martin who will be talking about the VA3SIE/VA3QV Maple Island Activation for the Canadian Islands on the Air Program.

Speaking of antennas.... The leaves will soon be leaving the trees and its time to plan for your new dipoles and loops. Speaking from experience it's much easier to string a dipole through a tree when the leaves have left. If you are not planning to get any new wire up in the trees then check out the wire you already have up. Its also easier to check things now before things break than in mid January when its 25 below.

A club like ours is only as good as its members and this year we are going to have a great club. This month I would like to showcase a couple of our Committee Chairs who do a super job keeping you the membership informed. In my previous ramblings I have already mentioned Jake VE2TQX and the Technical committee

Matthew VA3MHB and Jose VA3PCJ are our co-chairs for Radio Operations. The first 4 months since our new executive officers and committee chairs were acclaimed have been busy ones for both of them. Jose VA3PCJ looks after our 2 HF Nets. The Pothole nets run on Saturday at 1000hrs local time on 7.095 LSB and on Sunday again at 1000 hrs local time on 3.760 LSB.

Jose is in effect the Net Manager for both nets and must maintain the Net Control Station (NCS) operator's schedule so that we have a NCS for each net. Previous experience is not a requirement so if you are able to operate on HF why not help out your club and try a stint as NCS. The hours are good but the pay is lousy. If you have the operating privileges but not the equipment let me know and perhaps a portable station could be set up at a location near you (Have Radio will Travel). Matthew has the same need for controllers for the Wise Owl Net. If you were not available on the weekend then maybe a Friday night would be better. Once again equipment is not an issue. Wanting to help your club is....

Another person who gives his time freely and often to our cause is our Webmaster Elias VE3EKZ. I firmly believe that an up to date web site is a sign of a properly run operation. Fortunately our esteemed Webmaster agrees with me, as he seems to be updating the site about twice a week. His time is spent behind the scenes, but no less valuable.

Without these people we would have no club. Next time we will touch on a few more hard worked committee chairs.

I heard a few "on air" comments recently about my "Ramblings" and thought I would clarify a few things.

This column is an ongoing article about my thoughts and comments on club Amateur Radio activity's as things come to mind. This specific column will appear in the October Rambler and I started to write it on August 26th (as the September Ramblers cut off date was August 25th). I could just write it on the night before deadline but I prefer to give you my thoughts on a topic as it happens rather than as I remember it happening when I rush the column just before deadline.

Just to let you know the actual time frame of this item, I just finished reading my TCA that came in the mail yesterday. I was really impressed with the article on the Vancouver Sun Run and the excellent use of Amateur Radio for the event. I can remember a time when we both as a club and as Amateur Radio Operators did a large amount of public service work. The OARC still organizes communications for the "Canadian Ski Marathon" and also the "Tour de Nortel" and as previously mentioned in my August Ramblings there is the "Quest for the Cure Adventure Race (communications) that is organized by local hams.

Saturday in the park...This Saturday as it was a beautiful day, I decided to "Play in the Park". The rig was my FT857 with the LDG Autotuner and the same 20m Delta Loop that was built just before the lighthouse event. Visitors included Steve VE3SBC and Mark VA3UMP who not only is a new amateur, but also a new club member. Martin VA3SIE and his XYL biked over and Martin set up his Elecraft K1 along with a 20m wire sloper and burned up the airwaves with a good stream of CW. Contacts were good thanks to the OHIO QSO Party. Even though the experts tell us that this is the worst time for HF Communications 20m voice and CW came through again and it was a great afternoon.

Good company with some new friends and some HF Contacts as well.

On the Labour Day Sunday I found a really fantastic place for portable operations on some Parkland owned by the City. The trees are just in the right places for dipoles of all sorts. The drawback to this location is that its off the beaten track and only accessible via foot or bike. If there had been a park bench or picnic table nearby it might of made things a bit more comfortable. Unfortunately the bands were not the best, nothing on 20 or 40 but 80m came through and a few contacts were made in the hour that I was in operation. The bike ride there and back on such a beautiful day was nice as well. Roger VE3NPO was monitoring VE3TWO and kept me company on part of the return trip. The summer must be winding down as I seem to be hearing more people on our repeater these days.

The tragic events in the Gulf Coast States reminds us that we as amateurs should be prepared in case of emergency. Making sure that your equipment is functioning, your spare batteries are charged and all your antennas are in good working order is just common sense. We have been blessed in recent years with exceptional luck in avoiding many natural disasters but why risk it? Make sure if the Amateur Radio Community is called that you and your equipment will be able to answer the call.

ONTARS NET- Relax... Its only a hobby!

It has been hard to miss the recent fighting concerning the Net Manager and policies of the ONTARS Net on 3.755. The bickering has now digressed to the level of personal attacks that could be called childish ranging to immature. There also seems to be a web site that supports each group in this mindless squabble.

THIS IS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF AMATEUR RADIO!

Last year when I was operating as VA3RCS/Mobile W3 from the Beltway area of Baltimore/Washington DC I did not really care who or what the Net Manager of ONTARS was doing. I was just glad that he had scheduled a Net Control Station for each hour during the day so I could check in and talk to someone from home.

I hope that the participants of this feud can get their acts together and let us all get back to enjoying our hobby.

On Thursday September 15th I spent a pleasant afternoon checking out a new Portable Location which was in Balena Park (just north of the General Campus of the Ottawa Hospital) and conditions were good. I was able to check into ECARS on 7.255 with my G5RV and the trusty Yaesu FT817 and its "BOOMING" 5 watts of power. I was listening to the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 but did not check in as they were calling for the effected areas of Hurricane Ophelia only. A visitor in the park that day was Mike VE3IPC. Mike was a very active member of the OVMRC before he moved out of the region and its safe to say that our loss was Prescott-Russells gain. While in Ottawa today he heard me on VE3TWO and dropped in for a visit. Mike is still very active in Amateur Radio and currently is the District Emergency Coordinator (DEC) for the Ottawa District of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service). Its good to see an old friend still very active in support of our community and our hobby.

That day was a great day for outdoor radio as after supper Jose VA3PCJ, Steve VE3SBC, Martin VA3SIE, Matthew VA3MHB and myself ended up playing radio on the museum grounds. The rig was Jose's ICOM 706 and his "famous" Delta Loop. The highlight of my night was a 20m contact with an old friend, HK3AK John in Bogota. Some might remember John as VE2ZH and VE3DBH from the days when he was working with Bell Canada International and based out of Ottawa. Its always a treat to work a DX station and a friend at the same time.

I recently had a telephone conversation with Jim VE3NVJ who is the Net Manager of the Kingsmere Traffic Net. While Jim did agree to be one of our guest speakers for the November Meeting he also mentioned that the KTN does meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2100 hours local time on repeater VE2KPG (147.360+). Anyone wanting to check in and say "HI" is welcome. This net is part of the National Traffic System (NTS) and is worthy of your



August 20, 2005

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

Greetings to all club members,

The end of summer is drawing near; I now have a chance to look back and reflect on the special events held at the Museum over the last few months. I would like to extend a warm word of thanks to all of you for your contributions to the success of the Field Days and Lighthouse Days events. The enthusiasm and dedication of club members even in the face of heat and rain was very much appreciated. In particular I would like to thank Alan Steele, Larry Wilcox, and Steve Cochran for their organization, professionalism and sense of humour. It was a pleasure working with all of you.

Once again, thank you all. I look forward to working with you during future events at the Museum.  
Sincerely,

  
Arianne Richeson  
Education and Interpretation Officer  
Canada Science and Technology Museum

Science and Technology Museum  
1000 Avenue du Musée, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5K9

Museum des sciences de la Technologie du Canada  
1000 Avenue du Musée, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 5K9



support. If you have the time check in and check it out. A warning however... If there is not traffic to pass it can be a short net so better to check in right at 2100 hrs. If you wonder if the NTS is worth participating in please read the following excerpt from the RAC ARES Ontario Web site:

"ITEMS OF INTEREST

4. Health and Welfare Traffic for Rita

After Hurricane Katrina, amateurs used the National Traffic System

(NTS) to advise families in Ontario of the welfare of their relatives in the stricken area. We expect the same from Hurricane Rita. For this system to work, we need the assistance of amateurs in every Ontario county. If your local club or ARES group is not already doing so, please designate someone to check into the Ontario Phone Net (3.742 MHz, 1900 ET daily) or another NTS net on a regular basis."

If you decide to help out and participate in the KTN or the Ontario Phone Net (OPN) let me know and I will put you in contact with the right people.

Parting shots...

I don't want to give away the news but the "Maple Island DXPedition" was an outstanding success. Martin

VA3SIE will be giving you all the information at our October meeting.

I heard a club member checking into the COMSONT NET (7.153 1000 hrs local time) this morning with a brand new dipole. Roy VA3CKD was definitely heard by the NCS who was in ECHO BAY (Sault Ste Marie area) and his 5 watts sounded great. Shows what a person can do if they take the time to try.

The Final comment...

I just got back into town after a 2 day road trip which included W1, W2 and W3 land. It seems that VHF/UHF is dying a quick death as you head southbound on I81. Northbound from Maryland to Vermont is not much better. Repeaters not being up to date in the repeater guide and active repeaters with no activity.

I only managed one good QSO on the whole trip. Just so someone does not get the same ideas about Ottawa... If you hear a station announcing his presence and you don't recognize the callsign just give them a quick call to say "hello". Its always nice to meet friends for the first time.

Till next month  
73bob

## Sept 8/2005

Opened 1945 with pres Bob VA3QV controlling

Guests – Roger VE3NPO, Stewart VE3SMF

Questions asked from the floor:

- 1) How can one work the ISS in packet mode? Maurice-Andre VE3VIG volunteered to give him info after the meeting.
- 2) How can install an antenna ground rod? Several ideas were put forth and also to be aware of city rule and regulations re such devices. Turn out it seems Ottawa City Planning has no rules and only to ask before digging to avoid hazards to underground utilities.

Introduction of new 2005-2006 executive and committee chairs

First Pothole HF nets to start Sept 10, also VHF net have started and always looking for net controllers.

From President introducing the intentions for this year – to have fun, get more folks on the air, have more mini special events.. To the members – what would you like to do or see done re activities? Send any thoughts or ideas on this to the committee.

Sept 21 – Green Island (Ottawa) special event station, see club web site for more details

Results of 2m simplex contest May7/05 – quite a lot of activity, lots of high scores were achieved and certificates were presented. Highest base – Bob VE3OSZ, highest mobile team of Paul VE3CPH and Dwayne VE3ODD, longest distance (24K km) Jake VA3TQX.

Bob described how he set his score from being in a mobile in the park across the river which gave him the height for transmissions. The mobile team got their record from using a 5/8 antenna and tactically moving around ensuring to hit the most areas.

Field Day Jun/05 – liaison with Museum was excellent. Some problems appeared due a car show was presenting at the same time and taking up space. Total points 2566 and several other modes such as APRS, Winlink were demonstrated.

A letter from the Museum Science/Tech was sent to the club thanking all who had participated and helped in various Club and Museum events. “The enthusiasm and dedication of the Club members were much appreciated”- Arianne Richeson, Education/Interpretation Officer, Museum of Science & Technology.

International Lighthouse Day Aug 20-21/05 – Larry VW3WEH gave an excellent video show showing pictures of the station, emergency trailer, operators and antenna setup. Jake VA3TQX made the most contacts around the world. Contac with a couple of local stations was also made. Thanks go to Ken VE3SPC and Ken VE3SRS for all of their work done inside the trailer interior making it ready for radio operations. Also thanks go to Mike VE3LTN for the generous donation of the trailer to the club.

The Museum front entrance will be closed due they are doing general modifications to the information and lobby areas.

50/50 draw – Patrick VA3CMD got \$11.50

Rambler, Oct 2005

Door prizes- Paul VE3CPH a \$100 Dangers Antenna Designs certificate, Ken VE3KJG a RAC logbook, Paul VE3JKR a Lighthouse event pictures CD, George VE3ZQH a Wireless magazine.

Club still looking for a audio/video volunteer for club meetings.

VE3JW – still no news yet from Museum re station modifications or on insurance.

Meeting closed 2130

## VA3MHB Goes 'Greyhound Mobile'

By: VA3MHB, Matthew Hall

A few weeks ago I decided to go on vacation to Sault Ste Marie. I made the thirteen hour trip by Greyhound bus. During the long bus ride I decided to operate.

From Ottawa to Sudbury I operated with my handheld radio, ICOM IC2AT with my rubber duck and 2.5 watts of power.

At Sudbury I switched to the mobile radio LINKO 22 ALRHT. I did this by putting the 26 hour amp sealed lead acid battery on the floor of the bus. I had the radio in my lap and the 5/8th mobile antenna on top of a cookie sheet on the seat beside me. I ran this for the rest of the way home.

On the way back to Ottawa I ran the mobile radio all the way home with the only difference being that the radio was on the seat beside me and the antenna was on top of the cookie sheet in front of me, this set-up gave me more room.

At one point on my way to Ottawa, I wondered if I could get into one particular repeater. I decided to switch to my handheld radio and rubber duck. At this point I was 30km west of Manatoulin Island when I managed to make contact with VE3BLF. She told me that she was very surprised to find out I was getting into the repeater 30km away from inside a bus.

After speaking to her I switched back to the mobile and connected with VE3LTY and VE3YX, among several other contacts.

## Notice:

This is the last Rambler that will be mailed to members who have not paid the extra cost for a hardcopy this membership year.

All are welcome to read the Rambler on the club web site [www.ovmrc.on.ca](http://www.ovmrc.on.ca).

If you would like to receive the Rambler in soft copy via e-mail make sure the membership chair, Gerry Trottier, VA3GLT, [va3glt@rac.ca](mailto:va3glt@rac.ca), has your e-mail address.

# Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club



P.O. Box 41145  
Ottawa ON K1G 5K9

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

- \* The Membership year starts in July and runs to June 30th of the following year.
- \* Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.
- \* Associate membership is open to all radio enthusiasts.
- \* The family rate is for second and subsequent members of the same family living at the same address.
- \* One form per member.

RENEWAL	NEW	CHANGE	OVMRC NAME TAG (Cost \$7.00)	Yes	No
Call Sign			Surname	Preferred First Name	
Mailing Address			Apartment Number		
City		Province	Postal Code		
Home Phone		Work Phone	E-mail Address		

**Date**

---

**BBN**

For Office use only

One year membership. Regular or Associate. Includes mailed Rambler  
 One year membership. Regular or Associate. Without mailed Rambler  
 Family membership. For family of current members. No mailed Rambler

- \$35/year  
 - \$25/year  
 - \$5/year

Amount Enclosed

\$

Cheque    Cash

**My Interests are:**

VHF/UHF Phone	VHF/UHF Digital	VHF/UHF CW
Satellite	HF Phone	HF Digital
		HF CW

**Current Occupation:**

**If retired, Former Occupation:**

**Skills:** *(Please list them all)*

**COMMENTS**

--- ✂ -----

**OVMRC NAME TAG — ORDER DETAILS**

First Name

Call Sign