

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 50, Issue No 5



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Rambler

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OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)



OVMRC web page

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>
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OVMRC Life Members

Maurice André	VE3VIG
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>

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Amateur Radio Exhibit
VE3JW
Web Site

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada
Science & Technology
Museum



Next meeting
Dec 15
Rambler Deadline
Jan 6

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.

First of all I would like to wish you all the best during this “Festive Holiday Season”. I hope that “Santa” brings you all the Radio Toys that you asked for but I must remind you...

Make sure your towers and dipoles are clearly marked so that when Santa and his reindeer approach they will be able to land on your roof safely.

From the November General meeting- Did you enjoy Tom’s talk on VHF Contesting? Has the contesting bug bitten you? Or more importantly did you learn something?

Don’t forget our very own RAC Canada Winter contest is coming up on December 17th. Check out the RAC Website for more information. This is a really fantastic contest to learn in as its competitive but also very friendly.

Also thanks to Jim VE3NVJ for his talk on the National Traffic System and the Kingsmere Traffic Net. I hope that some of you will try and assist the net locally by checking in to the KTN (147.360 + Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at 2100 Local). Why not also check out the ONTARIO PHONE NET on 3.742 every night at 1900 local time. Feel free to check in pick up any traffic for the Ottawa area. If you need more information give Jim an email at ve3nvj@rac.ca.

“Tone up VE3TWO” Our technical chair VE2TQX Jake and myself spent the afternoon of Sunday November 6th at Carleton University participating in the Fall Meeting of the St Lawrence Valley Repeater Council. The major item of discussion was the use of CTCSS Tones to eliminate interference on both the inputs and outputs of repeaters coordinated by the SLVRC. This policy will be in effect for all new repeater co-ordinations and optional for existing repeaters. In the past we have had to activate our 100HTZ tone on the 2m input of VE3TWO to eliminate interference. The OVMRC supports the efforts of the SLVRC and will uphold their policies as they pertain to repeater operations.

Does this mean we will be activating the tone on the input? Yes but only if local interference dictates it or the SLVRC requests it. But the next time we have to activate the tone, it will most likely stay on.

Please keep this in mind when purchasing any used radios. This should not be much of an issue as most of the used radios I bought in 1992 when I was VE3YBC had CTCSS Tone encode way back then, but this could force a few of you to read the manual to see how to enable the option on your radios.

In previous “Ramblings” I have mentioned the Public Service side of Amateur Radio. Our guest speaker for the December meeting will be Richard VE3UNW who has been coordinating Amateur Radio Communications for the Canadian Ski Marathon for quite a while now. This is a very large event that needs communications over a massive area of rough countryside. The communications start on the Friday evening and finish on the Sunday evening. I will leave Richard to fill in the details with his presentation but I guarantee you will find it interesting. If you can spare part of the weekend in question I know he will appreciate the help.

“Lets do the Time Warp again”- I see that its not only me who gets messed up with the headway needed to get an article out for publication. After reading the TCA for November- December, which was just delivered by Canada Post I noticed that several columns were hindered by the dreaded “time warp”. But despite that congrats go out to Andrew VA3FAJ for being mentioned on page 63 in the “New Ham Profile” column in TCA.

Also there was a great shot of the inside of our “Communications Trailer”. It seems that we were also mentioned in VE7OM Ralph Webb’s Club Corner and to answer Ralph’s question... It went great! Thanks for the good press Ralph! It was also good to see that the CASARA Elliot Lake SAREX mentioned in The Public

Service/ARES column as the OVMRC has a good working relationship with CASARA Ottawa.

What do you want to do this winter? - Now that the snow has finally arrived it does not have to mean a halt to your outdoor radio activities. Operating from the great outdoors in the winter will change some of your setup and operating practices slightly but it still can be done. Remembering to set up within walking distance to a Public Washroom is a big plus along with remembering your thermos of coffee or hot chocolate. It might be interesting to set up a portable HF station and operate for part of Winterlude to test our newly designed OVMRC QSL Card for VE3RAM.

Anyone interested? Are there any other suggestions for an event? If we are going to do anything we better move fast.

FLEA MARKET RIP- I would like to thank our Flea Market Chairman Jake VE2TQX for all of his efforts in the attempt to organize the Spring Flea Market. If you missed the meeting, unfortunately Jakes efforts were in vain as he was not able to secure enough volunteers or committee members to properly do the job and therefore we have cancelled the Flea Market. Although the Flea Market Committee is now finished for the season Jake continues to serve our club as the Technical Committee Chair.

He’s back... A welcome back to the world of HF to our old friend Don VE3DRO. It was a pleasant surprise to hear Don check into the 40m and 80m Pothole net on the weekend of November 19 – 20th. A big “thank you” to the crew who installed the G5RV up at Don’s QTH.

Seeing as its Christmas time and very shortly children will be dreaming of SANTA I can think of no better time to mention VE3VIG as our chair of the VE3JW station at the museum. One of the many events connected to the museum is the “Talk to Santa” event.

Amateur Radio brings children in contact with Santa all the way up in VE8Land from the museum. By the time this article makes the Rambler the event will have concluded for another year. The smiles on their faces both the children, parents and the operators make it all worthwhile. Maurice-Andre has done a fantastic (understatement) in bringing up VE3JW to a demonstration station that is one of the best (if not the best) in the world and we thank him for his efforts.

Keeping in topic with the museum... On November 21st the museum held a training session so we could get a few more people trained in the operation of the A/V equipment in the Auditorium for our meetings.

Congrats go out to Steve VE3SBC, Ken VA3NEK, Roy VA3CKD, Ernie VE3EJJ (re-certified), Dennis VA3DWC, our Vice President Gerry VA3GLT and yours truly Bob VA3QV for successfully completing the training. With a good crew like this ...September’s fiasco should never occur again. Thanks go out to Suzanne and Bernie from the museum for taking the time from their busy schedules to instruct us.

Jerry Wells Award- At the November Meeting we received nominations for the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award it seems only fitting that we vote on whom we bestow the honour on at this meeting. Jerry VE3CDS was a fine gentleman and a very dedicated amateur. I have no doubt that without Jerry you would not be reading this article now, as we would have no club. From what I have heard Jerry’s dedication kept us afloat during the “lean years” that every club goes through. Keep this in mind when you vote at the meeting. Think of what the candidates have done for the club. Is the club a better organization thanks to their efforts? This is not a popularity contest and the candidates may not be well known, but the work they do either up front or behind the scenes is what makes our club great and also keeps our club afloat. I know

RAMBLINGS *(Continued)*

whoever we bestow the award to at the January General Meeting will be deserving of the honour.

After getting my VHF/UHF antenna set up at home (as mentioned in the November Ramblings) I tried it out to see what repeaters were now in range. The results were promising but I found a slight problem remembering how to program the frequencies along with the CTCSS Tones into the radio. To make matters worse I had put the manual into a "safe place" so I would not lose it. If you have a newer radio with the multi-level menus for programming it might be a good idea to keep the radio close to the manual or at least create a cheat sheet to speed up the process. The manual was finally found and the new repeaters are now into memory.

Why do they do it? - I am starting to wonder of the sanity of those who check into HF Nets and insist on tuning up on the exact net frequency while the net is going on. Think about it...you could tune up off the net frequency then drop in and join us without disrupting the operations of the net. I am glad that they participate but wish they would listen before they tune up! Today (November 19th) I noticed this several times on the TPN and ONTARS and it even happened on the Pothole Net this morning.

Parting Shots: As you probably know by now we will be having some new people running the show at RAC. One of the new people is VE3BDB Bob Cooke who is our new Vice-President for "Field Services" which includes ARES and the National Traffic System.

I sent an email to Bob inviting him to drop in for a visit if his RAC duties bring him to Ottawa on the Third Thursday of the month and his reply was:

"Greetings, Bob:

Wow! Not even installed in the position yet and I've got my first invitation to visit a club!!

I would be pleased to accept that invitation, Bob, and I thank you vm for it.

However, it would all be dependent upon when my travel would coincide with your scheduled meetings.

May I ask you to please send me a reminder in the new year, perhaps in March or April, for a visit in May or

June?

We (Sue VE3SUH and I) do get to Ottawa once in awhile, albeit not that often, but I expect that those visits might become a bit more frequent over the next two years.

In any event, I would be pleased to try fitting your invitation into my plans. I look forward to getting that reminder.

73,

Bob"

As requested by the VP Elect I will be reminding him of our meeting dates with the hope that he will be able to attend.

Also thanks go out to the West Carleton Amateur Radio Club for providing the Greater Ottawa Area with a new APRS DIGI. VE3WCC-1 is beaconing strongly from its location atop an apartment building in the Hogs Back area of town. This DIGI replaces VA3AAR and is also running the new configuration in an

attempt to cut down on the overcrowding that can take place on 144.390.

Anyone else notice that the "Radioworld" sales flyer gets delivered to our homes too close to Christmas to do any good. If I am going to convince Mrs Claus to buy me that Yaesu FT 897 I have dreamed about I need more lead time than just mid November. How about it guys...Send it out in early October to let us start hinting for the toys before all the money has been spent.

Helping your fellow amateurs- If the propagation is suitable why not listen in and participate in the "Snowbird Net" This net runs on 14.160 (20M) at 0900 Eastern with a Net Controller in W4Land and a Net Controller in Ontario. This is a good way to keep in touch with your amateur friends who had the good sense to head south for the winter. You might also be able to help them by passing some one way (2 way if you have a phone patch) traffic back to family and non-amateur friends here in Ottawa and area. Last year the W4 net controller was Ottawa's own VE3HHS Harry and he did a great job operating from Florida.

6M Stuff- VE3RVI (our 6m Repeater) is back on the air and working well. On Saturday November 26th I was able to make some contacts with Mark VA3UMP, Brian VE3SJU and Eric VA2EXE. The repeater is accessible on 6m or you are able to link into it from the 2m side of VE3TWO

New Net in the Works- Plans are in place to start a "linked" net using the resources of OVMRC Repeater VE3TWO (UHF/VHF) and VE3RVI (6m). All 3 repeaters will be linked for the duration of the net. With the abundance of the new "all band all mode rigs" these days along with the excellent ground wave of 6m we are expecting that there will be some out of town stations joining us. Start building your 6m vertical antennas now as the fun will be starting soon. More information will be following on our local HF/VHF nets along with posting on the website and in future editions of the Rambler.

An early Christmas Present- It looks like all the parties in the ONTARS fight have finally ceased hostilities. I'm hoping it's a permanent stop to the childishness. Welcome back to our hobby guys.

The final comments:

Try and find the time on Christmas Day to check into a couple of the HF nets on 20m. One of my best Christmas's ever (as an amateur radio operator) was while waiting for the turkey to come out of the oven I managed to sneak into the shack and spin the dial. On the Maritime Mobile Service Net (14.300 USB) I heard a call for a Canadian Station. I jumped in and was able to make a contact with a VE0 (Marine Mobile) who asked me to contact his home and wish his family a "Merry Christmas" as he was not able to be home and had no Telephone Capabilities at sea. Although I had no actual Phone Patch to use, with a bit of improvising with a speakerphone did the trick and he was able to have an actual conversation with his loved ones.

Hearing the joy in their voices, as they were able to communicate made my Christmas.

On behalf of my XYL "Liz" (the patient one who tolerates my hobby) and my daughters still at home "Erika and Trisha"; I would like to wish all a very "Merry Christmas" along with our hopes for a "Prosperous and New Year".

Till next month and next year

73bob ❖

The President, Bob ,VA3QV opened the meeting at 19.30 and acknowledged the class of 05 who were in attendance. He also asked everyone to support the RAC position on BPL by writing to Industry Canada.

The by-law changes on budget creation, as printed in the last Rambler, as a notice of motion were read, seconded and carried.

Members were reminded that if more volunteers don't step forward, the Club Flea Market for May 2006 will not take place.

Larry, VE3WEH read a nomination for Steve VE3SBC for the Jerry Wells Award "Club Amateur of the Year".

First Presentation: Jim VE3NVJ, manager of the Kingsmere Traffic Net (KTN) which meets on VE2KPG every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 21.00 gave a talk on the National Traffic Service (NTS). It was started in 1913 by H.P.Maxim W1AW founder of the ARRL. It became very busy before and after WW2 enabling amateurs to handle third party traffic as a Public Service before the advent of cell-phones and e-mail. Jim encouraged us all to listen in and check in to the KTN whenever we can.

Other News: Larry, VE3WEH announced that he was looking for volunteers for the annual Talk-to Santa event on Dec. 10/11 at the Museum and this month's revenue from manual sales was \$29.00 and \$126.00 Can.

Second Presentation: Tom VA3NFA told us of the various activities of the West Carleton Amateur Radio Club with their emphasis on VHF and UHF contesting and roving. With Ottawa being adjacent to four grid squares, roving between them during contests or during openings can initiate a lot of interest on the higher bands. Pictures of the portable set-ups they use in a van gave many of us new ideas to extend our hobby out of our yards and into the countryside. Some of the other members WCARC are VA3KA , VE3XK and VE3CVG. Their net meets every Tuesday at 21.00 144.250 USB followed by tests on the higher bands.

More News: Two submissions were received in the contest for a QSL Card design for VE3RAM. Members were also encouraged to enter the RAC Winter Contest on Dec.11 and that Chap.70 of the QCWA now meets on VE3TWO at 20.00 every Thursday. There was no information available on the source of the interference experienced on VE3TWO earlier this year.

Door prize winners were Allan VE3LNH for the active antenna and Ernie VE3EJJ for a bag of BNC connectors. The 50/50 draw was won by VE3EJJ for VE3VIG for \$28.00.

The President adjourned the meeting at 21.00. ❖

Technical Chairman's Note:

VE3TWO now has a link to VE3RVI 6 meters 53.030 out 52.030 input

To use the link:

enter 6* this will turn on the link to VE3RVI

after you are finished, please drop the link, by entering 6#

Any question, feel free to call me on the repeater or email me.

Jake, VE2TQX
819-684 9596

Christmas Day Net

There will be a special Christmas Day Net on repeater VE3TWO and all radio amateurs are encouraged to join in. This net gives you an opportunity to tell everyone about the new amateur gear that Santa is going to bring you; on the other hand, if you haven't been a good amateur this year, and Santa does not bring you a new rig, you are still welcome to join the net, if you promise to be better behaved next year. You can also convey Christmas greetings to all your friends.

This is an opportunity as well to introduce any visitors you may have over Christmas in your home to amateur radio, in a fun and informal way.

The net starts at 0930 hours EST on the OVMRC club 2 metre repeater VE3TWO, 147.30 receive, 147.90 transmit. It will be just about as informal as a net can get.

See you then. This year the net will be carried simultaneously on 70cm and 6m.

I will be net controller, as I have been for more years than I can remember, but it must be getting on for 25 years.

I would also like to thank the OVMRC for allowing again use of the club repeaters for this net. Ho ho ho!

Sydney, VE3GVI
820-0093

P.S. For amateurs who are not sure, and are afraid to ask, Christmas Day is on 25 December this year!



Editor's Note: Due to the fact that December 25th falls on a Sunday this year and the timing of this very important annual net could possibly conflict with other nets that our members participate in, the timing of the above event is still being discussed. I urge you all to listen for the final decision at the club meeting or on other nets prior to that very special day. In any event I'm sure Santa will make his appointed rounds and you will all have an enjoyable Christmas. ❖

OVMRC Jerry Well's Amateur of the Year

2004 - 2005 NOMINATION

We nominate Steve Cochran VE3SBC for the OVMRC Jerry Well's Amateur of the Year Award. Steve is rather quiet and offers his help and assistance, most times without recognition and often in the background. In our opinion, Steve is very deserving of this award for the following reasons.

In April 2005, the OVMRC operated "Railway Mobile" from a 1907 CPR Division Superintendent's Business Car belonging to the Bytown Railway Society (BMS) during an Open House with the Ottawa Central Railway, VIA Rail and the Capital Railway (O-Train). Steve organized, coordinated, provided the radio and operated this event. It was so well received by BMS, we were invited to the next one so it has become another annual event for the club. In June 2005, Steve participated in Field Day activities by helping with the setup and takedown of antennas and equipment. He also spent considerable time operating during Field Day.

Whenever a local Amateur radio event is taking place, regardless of the reason for the event, Steve usually listens in or in fact, participates in some way.

Steve is a volunteer at the Museum assisting with the inventory of publications and the inventory and sorting of components in the Electronics shop. He also volunteers his time to assist with our VE3JW radio station.

Steve is a member of the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) and participates in their monthly Simulated Emergency exercises by assisting with the installation and operation of portable radio equipment and he also serves as a spotter during exercises.

Steve regularly checks into and is an active participant in most of our Club Radio Nets on HF and VHF.

Steve has been involved in the planning, design and construction of the OVRMC Emergency Communications Trailer. His skill with woodworking helped in the replacement of the old floor of the trailer with a new one and in designing and constructing the console for the radio operating positions in the trailer. He also assisted with the

installation of the A/C and D/C electrical power system used in the trailer. He offers his assistance in maintaining the trailer on a continuing basis.

During the summer months of July and August, Steve volunteered to organize the International Lighthouse/Lightship Special Event Weekend and made arrangements with Museum Staff and fellow Amateurs to ensure the event was successful.

Steve is very dependable and can usually be contacted on repeater VE3TWO or nearly any of the other repeaters in the area as he is often scanning all of the local repeaters. He freely offers assistance and advice to fellow Amateurs. We believe Steve is very worthy of receiving this award and should be given serious consideration for all his efforts in promoting good fellowship among our local Amateurs and promoting the interests of Amateur Radio in general.

We believe he has made a significant contribution during the Award Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 to further 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;
cooperating with and assisting the civil authorities to the fullest extent possible in any emergency; and by fostering good will and understanding among Radio Amateurs.

Nomination Submitted November 17, 2005 by:

Larry Wilcox VE3WEH

Bob Sharp VA3QV

Reference Web pages:

CASARA: <http://www.casaraontario.ca/~ottawal/>

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend:
<http://www.illw.net/> ❖