

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 50, Issue No 7



Inside...

OVMRC, Jerry Wells, Amateur of the Year	1
Ramblings	3/4
Meeting Minutes	5
Miscellaneous	6
OVMRC 2005 Grads	7

Reminders...

Club Meeting	Feb 23 7:30 P.M.
Feb Executive Meeting ..	Mar 2
Rambler Deadline	Mar 3
Mar Club Meeting	Mar 16
2m Simplex Contest	May 7
Field Day	Jun 24/25

Rambler

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



OVMRC Executive (2005-2006)

President	Bob Sharp, VA3QV 733-4475, va3qv@rac.ca
Vice-President	Gerry Trottier, VA3GLT 745-5828, va3glt@rac.ca
Treasurer	Ken Gil, VA3KJG 748-0218, va3kjg@rac.ca
Secretary	Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC ve3tsc@rac.ca

OVMRC Life Members

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



OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)



OVMRC web page

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

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
[Ottawa Metro Towing](#), 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
Feb 23
Rambler Deadline
Mar 3

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.

Happy Valentines Day, Did you remember to buy some flowers or candy for your “Sweetie”? That’s the one who tolerates your hobby.

This is a reminder that our February Meeting will be on the 4th Thursday of the month, which is February 23rd due to a prior commitment at the museum.

I would like to publicly thank Ken VE3SRS for agreeing to postpone his presentation on Emergency Preparedness. I for one was looking forward to his talk at the January meeting but to be honest we just ran out of time. Actually he realized we were time challenged before I did. Once this was realized Ken graciously volunteered to re schedule. We have Ken’s talk re scheduled for our February Meeting.

Ken is the one Committee Chair I hope we never need to test, as he is our Chair of Emergency Preparedness.

Ken also looks after our Communications Trailer and is our Liaison with CASARA. On top of that Ken is very active with CFARS, CASARA and Ottawa’s Emergency Measures Radio Group (Ottawa ARES). If there is a Public Service event out there I would be surprised if you did not hear Ken’s Callsign connected to it somewhere. The only way Ken could give more time to Amateur Radio and Emergency Communications would be if we went to a 25-hour day.

At this time I would also like to thank our Secretary Jacques VE3TSC for all of his hard work on behalf of the club. As mentioned at the January meeting, Jacques is forced to take some time off with some medical problems and will not be with us for a while.

I know you all join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. At this time your club executive are still looking for a temporary replacement for Jacques so if you wish to help out please contact me.

Dreaming of Springtime- Springtime that wonderful time of a year when an amateur thinks of getting the dipoles in the trees before the leaves start to snag things... But on a different thought springtime is also when you should be thinking of the way you would like the club to operate for the next year. If you want us to add something or to change something let us know now so the people contemplating running as the incoming club executive and committee chairs can keep this idea in their minds. In a club the size of ours new projects have to find funding and the easiest way is by planning properly and including it in the new budget. Are you interested in APRS, Winlink 2000 or packet? What about IRLP or ECHOLINK? If you don’t tell us, we don’t know.

While talking about ECHOLINK and APRS I thought I would let you know that I am now testing out ECHOLINK on my Laptop. So far the software has been installed and it appears to be working. I was able to connect to VE3RIX and hear myself talk, so the new gadget does work. Thanks to the Manotick ARC for providing this service to the amateurs of the Ottawa Area. I do prefer to talk using the RADIO and not the computer, but while at work, it is easier to link to a few different repeaters using VOIP and the internet rather than try to find a place in the office that the handheld would work in. Also remember if you are using a registered version of UI View you can also connect to one of the APRS Servers via the Internet, which

also give you access to the RF APRS Network without a radio. If you are sitting at work and have Internet access or sitting bored at night in a hotel room that has Internet access these modes have some merit. It does let you talk to your friends and it does beat sitting in you hotel room watching reruns.

In addition to having ECHOLINK set up on my laptop I have also included it on my desktop computer and as it uses the same equipment as my APRS setup (Rigblaster interface and 2m mobile radio) I have (after consulting with the rest of the executive) added ECHOLINK to the VE3TWO 2m repeater for a test period.

If you as the general membership enjoy the benefits of the linking system please let your executive know so the costs associated with maintaining the system can be worked into the Technical Committee Budget. There is an article in this issue that goes into a little more detail but if you need more information please feel free to contact me. I will also be speaking on this topic at the meeting.

Digressing back to my earlier comments about your Club Executive, are you getting tired of reading my “Ramblings” every month? Think you could do better??

Club elections will be with us in a few short months!

For a club to succeed there is a need for new people to step in and give us fresh ideas. Start giving it some thought and perhaps you will step up and help “our club” when we call for candidates for our elections at the June meeting.

HOME BREW NIGHT – And I don’t mean 807’s! This is your reminder that we will be holding our annual Home Brew Night at our March Meeting. Start working on your projects now! More details will be following both in the Rambler and on our various VHF and HF Nets. As mentioned at the January Meeting your judges for the contest will be Jake VE2TQX and Don VE3KII and yours truly Bob VA3QV.

By the time you get to read this the Canadian Ski Marathon will have concluded for another year and of course Amateur Radio was instrumental for its success.

Due to the dreaded deadline I am unable to mention all the Club members who participated but I thank them all for their help.

If you participated in the event and want to try it without the cold but with “Mosquitoes and Black Flies” instead think about the Quest for the Cure adventure race and by strange coincidence our guest speaker for the April meeting be from the “Quest”. This event is conducted on behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society and is worthy of our support. Unfortunately the weekend conflicts with our “Field Day” so at times the amateur support is lacking.

In my January “Ramblings” I had mentioned that Jim VE3NVJ had retired from his very active role with the National Traffic System as Net Manager and NCS for the Kingsmere Traffic Net. I had also mentioned that I hoped that this would not be the death knoll for NTS in Eastern Ontario. Unfortunately it appears that with no one picking up the slack the net has folded.

This means that there is no local outlet for the National Traffic System in our area. If you would like to help out please contact one of the following.

Ramblings (Cont'd)

Bob Cooke VE3BDB Vice President RAC Field Services, Allan Boyd VE3AJB RAC Ontario Section Manager or Ben Price VE3CDA RAC Director for Ontario North. All three can be reached by the usual "Callsign at RAC" email address. I'm sure they will appreciate the offer of assistance and put you in contact with the Section Net Manager to get you started. In the interim if you can find the time to check into the Ontario Phone Net and try to pick up any traffic to the Ottawa Area. As also mentioned in the "January Ramblings" the net runs 7 days a week at 1845 Local time on 3.742.

Amateur Radio on the Highway - On Saturday Jan 14th at 0700 local time VA3QV/m departed Ottawa with a load of furniture for my daughter Erika's new apartment in Barrie Ontario. I was driving a ¾ ton cargo van, which had lots of room on the roof for a 5/8w magmount. The only rig I took was my Yaesu FT 2400 (2m mobile). Shortly after I got on the 417 and pointed the nose west I heard Larry VE3WEH and Roger VE3NPO on VE3TWO. The conversation lasted till I got to Carleton Place as the repeater coverage was dropping for me there. I then switched over to the Lavant Repeater and Larry joined me there via the IRLP and the conversation continued. Roger VE3NPO joined us direct thanks to his beam and the miles just flew by. In Perth a great roundtable was had with the local ARES members as they were on their way to Perth for a breakfast meeting. Heading west from Perth, I had a conversation with Glenn VE3GNA who is the Net Manager for the Ontario Phone Net on the Tweed Repeater, which is also hard linked to the Lavant Repeater. Paul VE3UUM from Marmora joined the conversation and it was like old home week as Paul, Glen and myself. have had many conversations on HF on the Sunday afternoon ARES nets on 40m. Larry once again was able to link in via IRLP and the trip progressed rather quickly. Peterborough, Lindsey and Orillia all flew by and I was now in Barrie and as the

147.315 repeater is an IRLP node Larry was able to call home to my wife and let Liz know we had arrived in Barrie safely. The trip back went just as smoothly with contacts with Larry via a few IRLP Nodes as well as some very friendly hams in Barrie, Orillia, Lindsay and Peterborough. Paul VE3UUM continued to ride shotgun with me over the radio over the Campbellford, Tweed and Lavant Repeaters. Larry VE3WEH and Roger VE3NPO joined up with me on the Lavant Repeater and the rag chew continued. Mike VE3IPC joined us and the miles just vanished. I had to leave Paul as I lost Lavant close to Carleton Place but as I lost Lavant, good old VE3TWO came within range. An hour later (14 hours after I left Ottawa) the van was parked and the trip was completed. I was tired but happy. My voice was horse from all the talking but it's been a long time since I have had that much radio time and it was a blast.

The January meeting saw the OVMRC present Steve VE3SBC with the Jerry Wells Amateur of the year award. Now that all the hard work has been done I would like to thank the following people for their assistance and actually making it happen. Ken VA3NEK for his assistance in ordering the plaque, Larry VE3WEH for his role in providing me with background information on the award. The extra work done by Ken VA3KJG done confirming financial details made my job easier.

Gerry VA3GLT had to be kept informed and on top of all the details to be ready to act in my absence. And last but not least, June Knight, who took the time from her busy schedule to make the trip to our meeting to present the award.

Repeater Testing Reports- As asked for in the January Rambler in my "Ramblings" so far the only report is from myself who using 50w on 2m with a 5/8 wave magmount was able to access the repeater from Carleton Place Ontario. As the crow flies that appears to be just over 25 miles from where I was to the repeater site so it's a good start. Are there any other reports from any of our 3 available bands?

Ottawa ARES or the Emergency Measures Radio Group held their meeting on January 28th with a good turnout.

It's always good to see Public Service Participation from the Ottawa Amateur community and of course there were a good number of OVMRC members in attendance.

Watch for some changes to their website and if you get a chance check out their 3 VHF Repeaters (if you go to their website you can find out the frequencies and the website is: www.emrg.ca)

Good news from our membership chair Gerry VA3GLT who advises that our club is now over 80 members strong.

Things are looking up.

Power Failure at TWO- On Friday Jan 27 the good people at Public Works moved some power cables at the repeater site, which made our installation much neater. One of the Technical committee members was on site and disconnected the power from the consoles and switched it over to the new and closer power cable and guess what??? The 6m repeater is working fine, the 70cm repeater is working fine and VE3TWO 2m did not reboot for whatever reason. Now knowing the skills of Jake and company things will be up and running before you read this but its case of "Murphy's Law" striking again. Seeing as the autopatch is on the 2m side and the 6m link is on the 2m side it cramped our style a bit but we are now back just as before.

Parting Shots

The Ottawa ARES District held a packet radio test on 145.010 on February 9th. We did not get enough notice to include it in the January Rambler or even mention it at the meeting and its occurring before this months Rambler comes out so by the time you read this it will have concluded. It does go to show that there is a use for AX25 Packet and as previously mentioned if you have a TNC why not set it up and test it out. As previously mentioned you can check the Emergency Measures Radio Group (Ottawa ARES) website at www.emrg.ca for more details.

The Last Word- Participation- This word can be used in many contexts such as in participating in a net. It can also be used in the context of participating in club activities. Today lets use it in the context of participating in the running of our club. As mentioned earlier in this article YOUR CLUB is in need of an individual who can step in and assist by accepting the position of acting secretary. According to our by laws this position can be filed by executive appointment. All we need to do is find a person who cares enough to volunteer to help out. The pay is lousy but the benefits can be fun. We, as a club need your help!

Till next month

73bob

Meeting Minutes

December Meeting

Jacques was not at the meeting tonight and I actually forgot to get someone else to record them so....Here are the minutes created to the best of my ability using my meeting adjenda

The meeting was called to order by Bob VA3QV at 1940 hrs

There were no visitors to the meeting

Matthew VA3MHB was looking to borrow a straight key or code practice ocillator and Ken VE3SRS indicated he would assist Matthew.

VA3QV then made some announcements:

A Reminder about the Canada Winter Contest A reminder about the Christmas Day Net A reminder about the FN25 Net

Roy VA3CKD was announced as the winner of the QSL Card design contest. This card will be unveiled at the January Meeting

VA3QV then called for committee chair reports

Education and Training- Ernie VE3EJJ proudly announced that his class had all passed their basic exams and were working towards their advanced. Although most had achieved their basic with honours they were still striving to pass the CW Test. The class was introduced to the membership. Ernie then thanked his team of instructors for their assistance.

HF Radio Ops- Jose VA3PCJ brought us up to date on the weekly pothole nets- The stats were interesting.

VA3QV gave a brief report on the Talk to Santa event at the museum. Larry VE3WEH who was unavailable for the meeting will be giving us a full report at the January Meeting.

Jerry Wells award- Steve VE3SBC was voted as the recipient of the Amateur of the Year award.

Guest Speaker- Richard VE3UNW gave a very impressive presentation on Amateur Radio and the Canadian Ski Marathon. It was vey well received by the general membership

50/50 draw- The draw was for 32.00. In addition Duane VA3ODD donated 2 7 amp hr batteries as a further prize.

Door Prize- 2 more 7 amp hr batteries were donated by VA3ODD as door prizes.

The president VA3QV then made some closing announcements:

A Reminder about the Canada Winter Contest A reminder about the Christmas Day Net A reminder about the FN25 Net A reminder about the Pothole Nets A reminder about the Wise Owl Net A reminder about the Welcome Mat Net A reminder about the QCWA Net A reminder about the DOT Net and then the meeting was concluded.

73bob

January Meeting

The meeting was called to order by VA3QV who introduced Joan Knight who was our special invited guest.

A call for visitors and guests was made and the following amateurs were recorded as visitors

- VE3DRO Don
- VE3MP Jerry
- VE3FWF Bernard
- VE3HLB Mike

No one would admit to needing any assistance when the call was made.

Some general announcements were made:

VE3SRS would be making his presentation at the March meeting

Home brew night would be at the March meeting. A call for judges brought forward VE2TQX and VE3KII to assist VA3QV

The CSM is still looking for more bodies. Contact Richard VE3UNW

VA3QV mentioned the various nets sponsored or hosted by the OVMRC

VA3QV made a request that someone from the membership step up and take the position of acting secretary.

Jacques VE3TSC is unable to conduct his duties of secretary for medical reasons for approximately 10 weeks. There were no takers.

The Manotick ARC is hosting a special meeting on Jan 24th. They will have the president of RAC in attendance. He has requested that they open the meeting to all amateurs. If you are going to attend please RSVP by email to ve3vkk at rac

VA3QV requested that all committee chairs and executive officers send any discussion topics they might have for the executive meeting to VA3QV ASAP

June Knight was called upon to present Steve VE3SBC with the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year AWARD

Ernie Jury VE3EJJ Chair of the training committee awarded the graduates of the most recent training class their diplomas. The class then stood for a class picture and were introduced to the general membership. (NOTE- BILL YOU WILL HAVE TO CHECK WITH ERNIE FOR THE CALLSIGNS AND NAMES OF THE GRADUATES. I WAS NOT ABLE TO RECORD THEM AS I WAS ASSISTING ERNIE WITH THE PRESENTATIONS)

Larry VE3WEH gave an interesting talk on the "Talk to Santa" event held at the museum before Christmas.

The 50-50 draw was won by Jake VE2TQX who promptly turned his share of \$26.00 back to the club

The 3 door prizes were won by Roy VA3CKD, Ken VE3SRS and Rene whose call I forgot to write down.

The president VA3QV then went through the general announcements again.

VA3QV then thanked everyone for their participation at the meeting and the meeting was closed.

Miscellaneous

NOTICE OF MOTION NON-BUDGETED ITEM MUSEUM STATION VE3JW

BACKGROUND

At the January Executive Meeting the chair of museum committee Maurice-Andre VE3VIG brought forward a request from the AMSAT Organization requesting donations in support of a new style of Amateur Satellites. This new style of Amateur Satellites is aptly named "Eagle".

It was determined that the museum committee does not have the necessary funds in its operating budget to make the donation at this time.

It was further determined that although the proposed expenditure had the support of the full executive in attendance it could not be covered under the "discretionary spending clause" in the Club Bylaws and would have to be brought to the General Member ship for approval at the next General Meeting.

Therefore notice of motion is given:

Moved by VE3VIG and seconded by the executive of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club that the club make a donation of one hundred dollars (Canadian) (\$100.00) to the AMSAT organization with the direction that the funds be directed to the "EAGLE" Program.

In accordance with our By-Laws the above motion will be discussed and voted on at the February General Meeting.

Bob Sharp VA3QV
President OVMRC
Acting Secretary OVMRC

ECHOLINK comes to VE3TWO

At the executive meeting held in January 2006 your executive accepted a proposal from OVMRC Member Bob VA3QV to "loan" the OVMRC the equipment necessary to operate an ECHOLINK node on our club repeater VE3TWO.

Bob VA3QV worked on the configuration of the software with the help of Bill VA3SHQ. Ken VE3SRS assisted with the testing of the system and Jake VE2TQX as technical chair oversaw the project with the assistance of Gerry VA3GLT, who as Vice President was representing the OVMRC.

By the time you read this article the link will be operating 24/7 on VE3TWO. The link is designed to be an "inbound" link only at this time. This means that you can link into to VE3TWO from any of the many ECHOLINK sources such as a keyboard direct connect or linking in from an amateur repeater that has ECHOLINK as a feature. The main reason for this is that we as the executive felt that it was more important for our members who are out of town for periods of time to have a way to link back into their club repeater and participate in club nets and have rag chews with their friends at home.

While the testing is ongoing the Callsign of the node will be "VA3QV-L" but once the testing has been completed and our technical chair is happy with the results the Callsign will be changed to "VE3RAM-L".

The proposal calls for the OVMRC to "borrow" the equipment from VA3QV (equipment consists of P500 Computer, Rig Blaster Interface, Yaesu FT 2400 2m mobile radio). The equipment will be housed at the QTH of VA3QV who will provide the high-speed Internet connection to ECHOLINK and the appropriate antenna for the radio.

The main idea is to provide ECHOLINK to the members and then have them decide if the service is to continue. If the General Membership decides to continue ECHOLINK then the Technical Chair will take the steps necessary to purchase the equipment needed to continue with the project, look for a suitable location and the "borrowed" equipment will return to VA3QV.

73bob

VHF/UHF Antenna Construction Morning

If there is enough interest, I plan on organizing an antenna construction morning one Saturday in March or April. The aim is to build a twin-lead J-pole for 2m or 70cm, which you can use with a handheld. See <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/j-pole.html> for an example of the type of design. Ideal for giving you extra range in the OVMRC's up coming 2m simplex contest.

The aim is to provide tools, antenna analyzer and the components to build the antennas. At the moment I am looking for an idea of the level of interest in who would want to attend this construction session. Components will be at cost to builders, which I estimate will be around \$15. If you are interested let me know the following:

- 1.Name and callsign.
- 2.Contact details.
- 3.Type of radio connector (BNC or SMA).

Send to va3stl@rac.ca or see me at the Club meeting in February.

Note, this event is contingent on me securing permission to use a university lab. for the event and enough participant interest.

If there are any experienced amateurs who would like to provide to help the constructors, please contact me as well.

Alan Steele, VA3STL.

OVMRC Graduates - 2005



Left to right in the photo are: Robert Plante - VA3SHO, Vinod Choyi - VA3SSV, John Anderson - VE3CJA, Kester Trim - VE3CEN, David Sherriff - VA3CID, Alex McKenzie - VA3VEX, Allan Wilson - VA3AWX, Ernie Jury - VE3EJJ (instructor), Missing from photo are: Tristan Brake - VA3MTK, and Ed Mendonca - VA3EXM.
Photos: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

June Knight's Speech

JERRY WELLS OVMRC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

I am pleased to be here tonight to present this award but have been asked to give you some back ground on why this award is so named.

Jerry was voted AMATEUR OF THE YEAR in 1997 by his fellow amateurs. He was very active for many years in AMATEUR RADIO, mostly with the OVMRC. He was licensed in 1951 and kept the callsign VE3CDS until becoming a Silent Key in 1997.

He was publisher of the RAMBLER for ten years and assisted in the Radio Course teaching Morse Code and he was a Government Examiner.

He regularly assisted with FIELD DAY, FLEA MARKETS and ran several Nets. Every year in February he ran GOTA and in December the Talk to Santa.

He also served on the Executive of the OVMRC in several positions over the years.

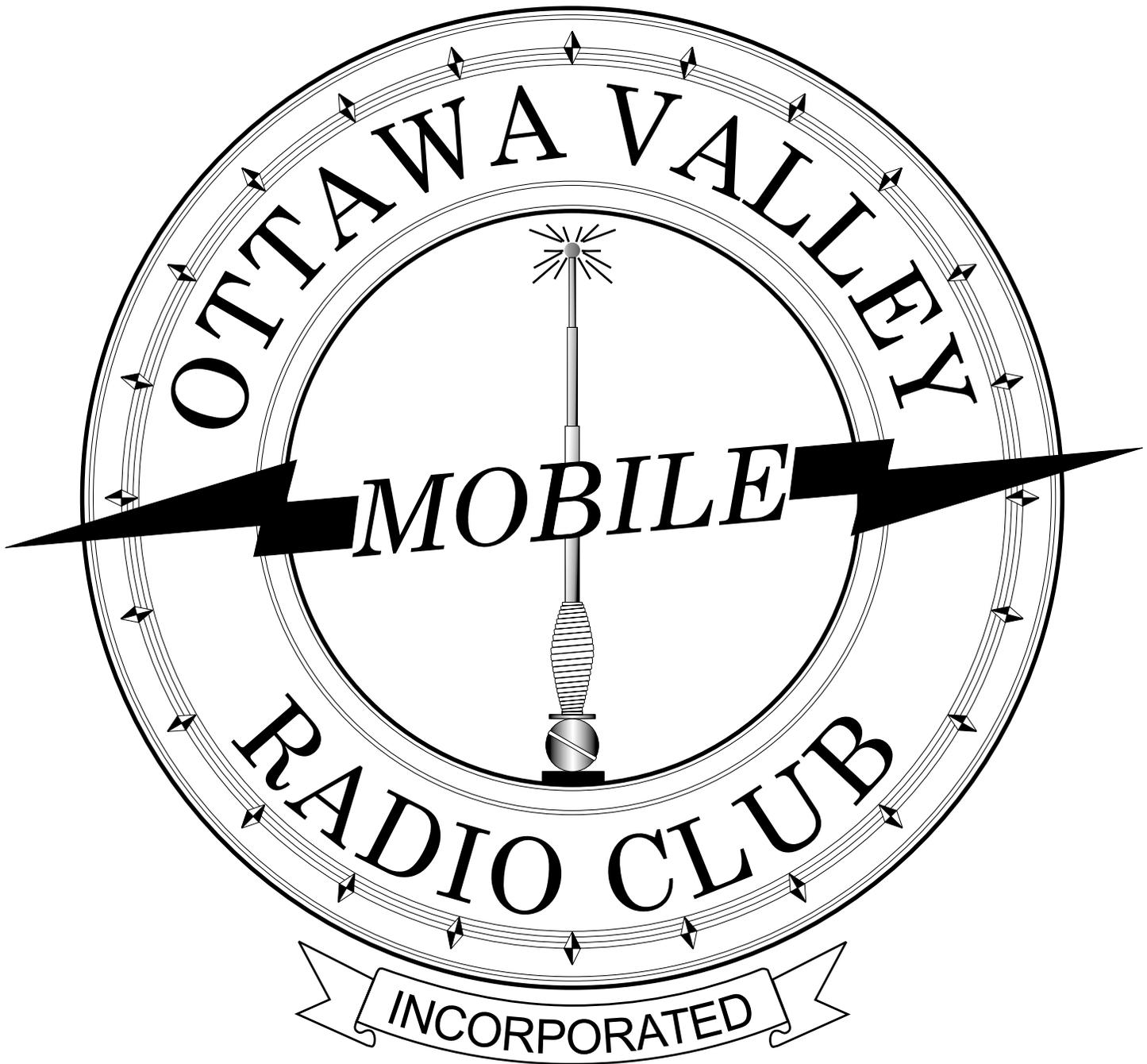
Until his death he was the Chairman of the Seniors Committee for the Radio Station VE3JW at the National Museum of Science and Technology.

He was given the honour of Life Membership in June of 1989. Jerry was an outstanding Radio Amateur in the community for over forty-six years.

I have pleasure in presenting the award tonight to a man whom I have been told is truly deserving of the Honour. He has been involved in many aspects of the OVMRC over the past years in his Quiet and Unassuming Way.

I call upon Steve Cochran to receive the award.

OVMRC Crest



This vector drawing of the OVMRC crest when viewed on a computer in the .pdf document may be resized to the user's requirement without loss of detail.
