

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 50, Issue No 9



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE NEW “OVMRC EXECUTIVE 2006-2007”

In accordance with the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. Bylaws, under bylaw 8, a Nominating Committee has been appointed by the Executive during the Executive Meeting held on March 23, 2006.

Nominations for any position on the Executive Committee are being accepted now. The Executive Officers collectively form the Executive Committee and they are the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees. The Directors of the Club are the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

If you are a Full Member in good standing and would like to serve on the Executive for the upcoming year, please contact the Nominating Committee as soon as possible. The Nominating Committee, in accordance with bylaw 8.3, “Slate of Officers”, shall provide, prior to 31 May, a slate of eligible candidates able and willing to serve as Executive Officers. The Slate of Officers will be published in the June issue of the RAMBLER newsletter. The election of officers of the Club will be conducted at the Annual General Meeting to be held in June.

All of the Executive positions shown at the front of the RAMBLER are available for nominations and you may run for any position. As a member, you may also submit a written nomination to the Committee not later than two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. Your written submission must be signed by two other members in good standing and the nominee must be eligible to serve and will have indicated on the submission, their willingness to stand for office.

If you have any questions or require any information regarding the role or responsibilities of any of the positions, please contact us. We will be happy to hear from you and will provide you with answers to any of your questions. Your support in the coming year as a member of the Executive will be most welcome.

The Nominating Committee will attempt to contact all members prior to submission of the slate of officers so you may receive a phone call from the Committee.

Larry Wilcox VE3WEH
Nominating Committee Chair
613-747-5565
email: larrywilcox@rogers.com

Steve Cochran VE3SBC
Member Nominating Committee
613-248-0323
email: Steve Cochran <stevec@ncf.ca>

Inside...

Call for Nominations ····· 1

Ramblings ····· 3/4

Strange Signals
Using Winlink ····· 5

Meeting Minutes ····· 6

2m Contest ····· 7/8

Reminders...

Club Meeting ····· Apr 20
7:30 P.M.

Executive Meeting ···· Mar 27

Rambler Deadline ····· May 5

2m Simplex Contest ···· May 7

May Club Meeting ···· Apr 18

Field Day ····· Jun 24/25



Rambler

OVMRC Executive (2005-2006)

OVMRC Life Members

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

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
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Newsletter	Bill Hall, VA3WMH 830-5580, va3wmh@rac.ca
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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

Club Web site

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

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

Sponsors

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Amateur Radio Exhibit
VE3JW
Web Site

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada
Science & Technology
Museum



Next meeting
Apr 20
Rambler Deadline
May 5



OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)



OVMRC web page

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

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How's does that old saying go ... "April showers bring... Softer ground to push your grounding rods in!"

ECHOLINK UPDATE- In the March Rambler we mentioned the work being done by the ECHOLINK (Technical) Committee on getting things set up and running. As mentioned at the March General Meeting I am pleased to announce that Paul VE3CPH has agreed to host the ECHOLINK Node at his QTH in Ottawa East. In addition to operating the node, Paul has decided it would be easier and safer (insurance and liability reasons) if he actually owned the equipment as well. Your club executive appreciates this very generous offer and is very pleased to take him up on it. At the same time that Paul is assembling the equipment and getting it all ready to go, our Technical committee is taking the steps to repair the UHF Side of the repeater which has been causing us some grief recently. As Paul has indicated a preference to ECHOLINKING in thru the UHF Side these repairs are needed before Paul's Node can come on line. To add to the problems, I recently suffered a failure in the old P500 that I was using

for VA3QV-L and it appears to be fatal. As soon as

I finish this article the ECHOLINK node VA3QV-L should be back on line on the 2m side of our repeater. The repairs to the unit were made. I heard a few people wondering what happened to the system and I'm sorry that some of you were inconvenienced. The questions about what happened to the link proves that it is being used. I will do my best to keep VA3QV-L on line until we gets Paul to take over on the UHF Side of VE3TWO. Paul has advised me that he now has all equipment he needs to get the UHF Link up and running and now all we need to do is get the UHF side of VE3TWO working again and we will be back in business.

Also from the March Meeting, I for one was very impressed with the "Battle of the Beams" presentation made by Al V01NO. Although I have enjoyed many good books on WW2 this is the first time I had had the opportunity of looking at the Air Battle from a "RF" point of view. I thank Al for taking the time from his busy schedule for attending our meeting and giving us that fantastic presentation.

Still talking about the March Meeting I was more than pleased to see a meeting that had 3 OVMRC Life members in attendance. Doug VE3ATY and Ed VE3GX along with Maurice Andre VE3VIG were with us and although we see Maurice-Andre VE3VIG on a regular basis as our Museum Committee Chair, having Ed and Doug drop in was a special treat. Most of you know Ed VE3GX from his "Near Perfect Attendance" record for our HF Pothole nets or running his very successful "Potlid CW Net" on Sunday mornings. If you were a graduate of the OVMRC Course since 1992 you could thank Doug VE3ATY for being the author of our very fine training manual that you used in the course. If our other three "Lifers"

Ralph VE3BBM, Bill VE3NR or Doreen VE3CGO wanted to drop in for a visit, they would be more than welcome.

A comment about our March Meeting would be that we had 45 people attend which included 8 visitors.

The simplex contest is rapidly closing in on us. Have you formulated a plan for this years attempt? From the traffic heard on VE3TWO it seems everyone has a plan for winning. It will be interesting to see who has the best plans. Check with Alan VA3STL for more information along with checking the information in the Rambler and on the club website.

On the topic on contests... Congratulations and bragging rights go out to Norm VE3LC for his winning submission "Big Wheel" VHF antenna. He was the recipient of not only the "Bragging Rights" that go along with this wonderful achievement but also a 25 dollar gift certificate from our local ham store "Bytown Marine".

Second place went out to VE3OSZ Bob for his proven 2m ground plane. Third place went to Alan VA3STL for his Anderson Power pole Box. Unfortunately despite all the great and wonderful examples of Technical Expertise there could only be one winner.

SOME ARES COMMENTS- I had the opportunity to visit the VE3GTU-R node via ECHOLINK and found myself at the start of the Toronto ARES Daily 11am net. The Toronto ARES group do a fantastic job of operating Daily and weekly nets as a way of keeping everyone informed and testing their equipment. The net started right at 11am and went through to 11:30 am with a steady stream of check ins. With the number of active amateurs in the GTA it's easy to see why they have such a large turnout even during the daytime. If you are planning to be in the "Greater Toronto Area" for a visit try a "Google" of Toronto ARES and from there you should find their website and from there, the Net Schedule and their list of frequencies. We, in Ottawa also have an ARES group who could use your support. Check the Emergency Measures Radio Group (EMRG)/Ottawa ARES Website at www.emrg.ca to see how you can assist your community.

PLAYING IN THE SUNSHINE - Recently after reading the Canadian Tire Flyer that was found blowing across my front yard (One of these days the carrier will actually find my mailbox) I found some neat toys on sale. As a result a solar panel, charging regulator and a 1000 W (1KW) inverter are now in my possession.

Although these toys are not directly amateur related, the solar panel will be put into good use charging one of my 7 AH gel cells while the other gel cell powers my FT 817. This could definitely extend the duration of my portable operations this summer. The charging regulator, a previously purchased Solar Panel and the inverter along with the deep cycle marine battery already in my shack should provide operating power should the mains go off line. Seeing as most amateur toys need electricity in some size and/or shape the purchases will be put to good use. As most of these sales have a habit of repeating themselves over the summertime you might want to consider some solar power as part of your shacks operating capabilities.

Remember the Ice Storm or the Big Blackout of two years ago. Now think of the "Boy Scout Motto".

MAKE OUR EDITOR WORK- What do you like the most in our hobby? What are your interests? Planning any projects? The answers to any of the above questions are the biggest part of submitting an article to our club newsletter. Send Bill an article and share your views with your fellow members.

UPCOMING MEETING - Although it will be hard to top the success we had at our March General Meeting we will be trying very hard for this month. This month we will have two guest speakers. The first guest speaker will be from the "Quest for the Cure" adventure race, who will be talking to us in an attempt to drum up some amateur radio communications support for the race.

Unfortunately as the date of the race is picked by the "Canadian Cancer Society" who the race is conducted in support of and not the race organizers it seems that the Cancer Society has picked "Field Day Weekend".

Now I realize that this is a direct conflict with our Field Day but I figure they are deserving of at least getting a chance to ask for your help. This is not a club event and it's your personal choice on whether or not you decide to assist them. Although their timing is not the best, the cause is "good and just" and I plan to be there for my 3rd year (out of 4) if I can squeeze the time off work.

Our second speaker for that night will be Ben VE3CDA who is the RAC Director for our region. Seeing that Ben's talk will be happening before the Annual General Meeting in Cornwall I

Ramblings (Cont'd)

am sure that he will have plenty to bring us up to speed on. I recommend that you show up and become informed.

The March General Meeting is tomorrow night and I am still working on the paperwork. I can remember being told that computers would make us a paperless society.

I really find that hard to believe unless I am doing something wrong. After submitting our Corporate Report to the Ministry of Finance for the Province of Ontario, working on the General Meeting Agenda and taking care of some club correspondence I think I have killed at least 2 trees this month. Fortunately most months are not this bad... More time typing means less time playing radio!

THE NEED FOR COMPUTER SECURITY- I guess it had to happen sooner or later but today (March 15th) while logged into the ECHOLINK Server I noticed a Callsign with a rather "colourful" description after his Callsign. Now thinking that no Amateur after going through the trouble of obtaining a Callsign would then post something like that to be associated with his call. My assumption would be that somewhere in a dormitory is a laptop or even a desktop that was left unattended and one of the roommates discovered there was no password needed to use it. This could be an excellent example of why you should secure your computers when others might have access to them.

EMAIL ADDRESS- I recently sent out a news update to every ones email address and a few of them bounced back. Please take the time to update your email address with our membership chair Gerry VA3GLT. Do you need to update your email address? If you did not get the news update I sent out on March 15th or the one sent out on April 4th then the answer is yes.

Help us keep you informed.

Alan VA3STL is planning to get the OVMRC on the air for the Ontario QSO Party, which will be held Saturday/Sunday on the Easter Weekend. We are planning to use the club trailer and set it up on the Museum grounds and operate as VE3RAM. Once again by the time you read this you will know how we did but if you attend the April General Meeting you will get to hear the report from Alan on exactly how well we did.

PARTING SHOTS-

REPEATER PROBLEMS- today is Wednesday March 22nd and I am hearing something coming across on the outputs of both the 2m side and the 70cm side of VE3TWO. It does not appear to be affecting VE3RVI in its standalone mode. Jake and the technical committee is aware of the problem and doing their best to fix whatever is causing the problems. Problems are always a "pain" but seem less severe when we have good people looking after things. More info on this (if its bigger than we think) at the April Meeting.

An update on this as of March 24th is that there seems to be an issue with the 70cm RX side of the repeater.

As the 70cm and 2m sides are slaved we are getting a continuous burst of static on both outputs. When the 70cm repeater is turned off the static on 2m goes off, so it would seem the problem has been diagnosed but not repaired yet. It could take time and/or money to fix this. Stay tuned as the technical committee work on the problem.

MEDICAL ISSUES- Unfortunately for the second time this year our executive is attacked by medical problems.

Jake VE2TQX our technical chairperson will be spending most of the month of April in a hospital in Montreal getting some work done. He hopes to be back in town by the first of May. I know you join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. As you read earlier in

my "Ramblings" we are having "issues" with the 70cm side of VE3TWO which has an effect on our ECHOLINK plans.

Seeing as Jake will be on light duty for a while, it's our hope that nothing else breaks in the next month.

The rest of the Technical committee should be able to handle any emergencies that occur in Jakes absence but we hope that this comment will not be tested.

CASARA Update- On Saturday March 25th I had the rare chance (a day off at the right time) to visit CYRO (Rockcliffe Flying Club) and observe the CASARA Ottawa Unit monthly SAREX. Amateur Radio was used for ground communications and seemed to work fine. VE3SRS, VE3IET and VE3SBC were there representing the OVMRC Emergency Preparedness Committee and there were other amateurs in attendance as well. Actually the Flying Club Parking lot looked a lot like the Museum parking lot on a meeting night, as there were plenty of VA3/VE3 Callsign Licence Plates in the parking lots and a multitude of VHF/UHF antennas as well.

THANKS- I recently had the honour of signing my name of behalf of the Club to a letter of thanks to a local amateur. The Amateur in question had very generously given his older HF gear to a deserving amateur. He also sold his more recent VHF Gear to a new ham at an excellent price. If that was not enough he donated the proceeds of sale of the VHF Equipment to the club.

Two Amateurs and a radio club all benefit from one act of kindness. Thank you again.

A NEW ADDITION - "The patient one" comes through again.

My XYL Liz just helped me carry in a couple of boxes filled with radio toys. The FT897 with the FC40 Auto tuner that I was drooling over in the Radioworld flyer just before Christmas found its way into my shack at that most sacred time of the year... "Her" Income tax refund time... Once I read the manual and figure out how to use all the "Bells and Whistles" I will let you know how it works.

WHO'S THE APRIL FOOL? - Well it's a Saturday, it's my only day off this week and it's raining. A perfect day to be in the park and playing radio. The City of Ottawa was nice enough to provide some covered picnic table areas at a few neighbourhood parks in my neck of the woods. It would be shame not to put one to good use and try and dry some of the moisture out of the air with some good old-fashioned RF. The rig was my FT857/FC40 Auto tuner combo with a 45-foot length of wire. The band conditions were not the best but it was fun to get outside and play radio for the first time this year. The score was not impressive but one contact on 80 at 1600z proved that the set-up worked and now I can fine-tune the system for the new equipment. A second excursion to the Orleans Sports Complex a few days later with my FT817 and QRP Auto tuner and a 30' long wire brought 40m contacts in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

THE FINAL WORD -

Participation (Yes again) this time we will use it in the context of Participating in our National Radio Association. Are you a RAC Member? If you are...thank you! If you are not, why not? There are many benefits that come with membership in RAC but lets look at where it saves (or could save) you money. The insurance offered at no cost to RAC Members for liability or at a greatly reduced rate for Radio Clubs is worth the price of membership alone. When I am out in the Park with my FT817 and G5RV playing radio its good to know that as a RAC member I am covered by some insurance if my antenna should fall and do some damage. Your household insurance should cover you at home, but will it cover you if you are operating away from your home QTH? Check with your insurance company to be sure, but if you were a RAC Member you are covered with a group liability policy. Just in case your dipole falls across the bike path and it causes a problem... The choice is

Strange signals / Using Winlink

yours! If you have any questions on what you get for your RAC Membership I hope you can find the time to come to our April General Meeting where RAC Director VE3CDA will be one of our guest speakers and should be able to answer your questions.

Till next month
73bob ❖

Strange signals during the Pot Hole Net?

In 40 meters the Pot Hole Net operates at 7.095 MHz. In SSB (LSB) mode. In the RAC band plan (see the RAC Operating Manual, page A-38) frequencies 7.050 to 7.100 MHz are for exclusive use in SSB. However, in the U.S. the ARRL assigns 7.025 to 7.100 MHz to CW, RTTY and data (7.000 to 7.100 for Extra Class) (<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bands.htm>) and "The Considerate Amateur Radio Operators Frequency List" from WA6YBN reserves 7.080-7.100 MHz for data (<http://www.qsl.net/wa6ybn/conop.html>). This explains that, on occasions, CW, RTTY and other digital modes may be heard at 7.095 MHz.

Some of these signals may correspond to Pactor. Although Pactor is a digital protocol (i.e., sort of an improved Packet for HF). It uses SSB (USB) and from that point of view its presence in frequencies near to 7.095 MHz are not in disagreement with the RAC band plan. Pactor signals are used by Winlink 2000. Although Winlink 2000 enforces the policy for users to always listen for other signals before launching a Pactor transmission, phone SSB signals may not be always audible to stations launching this transmission.

Several Winlink stations operate Pactor modes in 40 meters. They all use frequencies within the 7035.4 to 7103.7 MHz. range, and some use frequencies close to 7.095 MHz: VE1YZ (near Halifax, NS) operates Pactor I, II and III at 7096.5 MHz. The VE1YZ Halifax station is one of the busiest stations among Winlink 2000 PMBO nodes because it captures the marine traffic of the entire North Atlantic as well as that of the Atlantic coast in North America. Coincidentally, it is also one of the best stations for Pactor connection from stations in the Great Lakes, the Saint Lawrence Seaway and the Ottawa River. VE2AFQ (in Montreal, PQ) operates in all Pactor protocols at 7094.0 MHz. If Pactor signals are heard during the Pot Hole Net in 40 meters it is likely to involve station to station communications to and from VE1YZ or possibly VE2AFQ. Other Winlink 2000 stations operating Pactor in nearby frequencies are VE6KBS (in Calgary, AB) at 7096.5 MHz. and VK3PG (in Melbourne, Australia) at 7098.5 MHz. However, there stations are unlikely to be heard in 40 meters from the Ottawa area.

In 80 meters the Pot Hole Net operates at 3.760 MHz. in SSB (LSB) mode. The RAC band plan assigns 3.725 to 3.790 MHz. to SSB and other side band modes. The ARRL in the US assigns 3.750 to 3.775 MHz to CW, Phone and Image. Several Winlink stations operate Pactor modes in 80 meters using frequencies within the 3.6179 to 3.6430 MHz. range. A few operate within range of the CW Pot Lid Net in 3.620 MHz but are unlikely to be heard in the Ottawa area: 3.6199 MHz (K7AAE, Seattle, WA, USA), 3.6202 MHz (VK2SYD, Sydney, Australia) and 3.6209 MHz (W1ON, Bedford, MA, USA).

The following URL contains sounds typical of the three Pactor modes:

<http://www.scs-ptc.com/pactor.html#sounds>

De José VA3PCJ

Using Winlink to update Canadian hydrographic charts

Winlink 2000 (usually abbreviated WL2K) is a system originally designed by radio amateur sailors for radio amateur sailors. For radio amateurs with HF access and able to operate in digital modes, it provides a wealth of information of particular (but not exclusive!) interest to mariners (for more information, see: www.winlink.org). When the desired information is not within the numerous databases already in the Winlink system, if it can be accessed via a web page and retrieved in text format, it can be readily obtained by sending a request to Saildocs. Saildocs is an email-based document-retrieval system for the delivery of text-based Internet documents. It is part of the Winlink package and, similar to WL2K, it is available free of charge to all HF-qualified radio amateurs.

One type of information useful to mariners but which is not contained within the WL2K databases corresponds to the Notices to Mariners issued by the Canadian Hydrographic Service of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The Notices to Mariners are issued weekly and are used mainly to update the information on Canadian hydrographic charts.

Using saildocs a list of all charts and their title can be retrieved from this address:

http://www.chs-shc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pub/en/products/papercharts/curedn_report.cfm?product=All&chart=&sort=By_Chart&sort_order=asc®ion=All.

Indices listing yearly cumulative issues of the Notices to Mariners issued for each chart can be obtained from the following addresses:

<http://notmar.gc.ca/eng/services/notmar/numindex.php>
(for charts 1202-3994)

and

<http://notmar.gc.ca/eng/services/notmar/numindex1.php>
(for charts 4000-8049).

Once retrieved, these indices will provide information as to whether a given chart (identified by its number) has been the object of notices to mariners after the year 2000.

Then, once the number of the chart is known and the existence of new updates in the Notices to Mariners have been confirmed, the actual notices pertaining to that given chart (e.g. chart #1550) can be retrieved by sending a saildocs request to the following address (where the number 1550 can be replaced by the number of any chart of interest):

<http://www.notmar.gc.ca/charts/chart.php?product=1550>.

The information in the retrieved file will allow the mariner to update his chart(s) as per the latest information in the notices to mariners.

Remember: it is good seamanship to implement all changes directly on the chart using magenta ink and to identify the date and author of the latest update in the left bottom corner of the chart!

The ability to update paper charts from the boat and for free (updating electronics charts often involves the purchase of a new package) is another reason for still preferring the use of paper charts!

Happy sailing and dx-ing from the boat!

De Jose VA3PCJ

Meeting Minutes

Bob Sharp
VA3QV

March 16 2006

These minutes were recorded by the club president Bob VA3QV while he was conducting the meeting so they may be sketchy but they are as accurate as possible. It is the president's hope that our secretary will soon be able to rejoin us at the meetings.

The meeting was called to order by VA3QV at 7:30 PM

The members and visitors were welcomed and the following amateurs were willing to admit to being

visitors- Shelly VE1NOS, Dan VE3PCR and Dave VE3KMOV.

In addition to our visitors Norm VE3LC rejoined the OVMRC after a few years of non membership and OVMRC Life Members Ed VE3GX and Doug VE3ATY also joined us tonight.

Questions and/or Needs for assistance- Larry VE3WEH has the programming software needed for the YAESU new handhelds but is in need of the Programming Cable.

Paul VE3CPH has a Programming Cable for the YAESU mobile radios but no software. They will be getting together and see if they can help each other. Bob VA3QV also showed interest in this project as he has a YAESU radio that is in need of programming.

Bob VA3QV made the usual announcement on supporting our club nets on VHF and HF to the membership

Alan VA3STL spoke briefly on 3 topics that he is looking after. The club members are looking at operating a station (Club Trailer on the museum grounds) for the Ontario QSO Party coming up on the Saturday/Sunday of the upcoming Easter Weekend. At this time details are not complete but things are looking good. Alan also mentioned to us of the 2m

FM simplex contest planned for May 7th. Field day

preparations are going as well as possible and we are looking forward to the "last rainy weekend in June"

Maurice-Andre VE3VIG briefly mentioned the wind damage to the GAP Antenna at VE3JW that occurred 2 weeks ago.

No new news on this topic yet.

Larry VE3WEH mentioned the Ottawa Vintage Radio Club and some of their upcoming activities. Larry then gave us a St Patrick Day Joke that was not X RATED.

Bob VA3QV and Paul VE3CPH gave a brief update on the ECHOLINK Node that previously discussed. Paul VE3CPH has agreed not only to host the node but to sponsor it as well. This will be done with no cost to the club.

Paul received a well deserved round of applause from the general membership at the end of the update.

Bob VA3QV and Vice President Gerry VA3GLT made mention of the OVMRC DXPedition to the Cumberland Sugar Shack.

We are looking at two possible dates in April and there is no guarantee of the sap running for either date due to weather conditions. Interested parties are to contact Gerry by email to see if this event will continue.

Bob VA3QV then started the Home Brew Contest and the following Amateurs presented their projects:

- Norm VE3LC presented his 222mhz transverter

- Martin VA3SIE presented his 20 m Pedestrian Mobile antenna
- Elias VE3EKZ presented his WIFI antenna system
- Andre VE3CLW presented his infra red link device for his printer
- Bob VE3OSZ presented his ¼ wave VHF Groundplane
- Bob VE3OSZ presented his RF Signal Generator for 160m
- Roy VA3CKD presented his phased ¼ wave ground plane antennas for 2m
- Norm VE3LC presented his "Big Wheel" VHF loop antenna design
- Alan VA3STL presented his Anderson Powerpole power distribution box
- Alan VA3STL presented his HF to UHF SWR measuring device (Meter)
- Alan VA3STL presented his 9 component SW Reciever
- Jake VE2TQX presented his DF'ing device but could not enter it in the contest as he was one of the judges.

The Judges for this contest were Jake VE2TQX, Don VE3KII and Bob VA3QV.

Our guest speaker AL VO1NO then gave us his very interesting talk on the "Battle of the Beams"

At the conclusion of the talk the judges made the awards for the home brew contest. The announcement was made by Don VE3KII and the prizes were given out by Bob VA3QC

First Place went to Norm VE3LC for the "Big Wheel"

Second Place went to Bob VE3OSZ for the ¼ wave 2m Ground Plane Third Place went to Alan VA3STL for the Anderson Powerpole Box

The prizes were \$25.00 Bytown Marine Gift Certificate for 1st place, \$15.00 Bytown Marine gift certificate for 2nd place and a \$10.00 Bytown Marine Gift Certificate for 3rd place.

The 50/50 draw was won by visitor Dan VE3PCR whose share was \$25.00

The first door prize was won by Don VE3KII who picked the LED Pointer

The second door prize was won by Dan VE3PCR who got the OVMRC Crest.

Between winning the amount of a club membership and a club crest we hope that Dan will now join us as a member in the near future.

Bob VA3QV then took a minute and reminded the general membership of the need for an Elections Committee chair and that so far no one had come forward and assist the club with this most important committee position. The club elections according to our bylaws must be run by the Elections Committee Chairperson.

Bob VA3QV then reminded all again of the announcements mentioned at the beginning of the meeting and then thanked all for their attendance and the meeting was closed.

Bob Sharp VA3QV
Club President and
Acting Recording Secretary
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC) ❖

Third Annual OVMRC 2m FM Simplex Contest

Date & Time

Sunday, 7th May 2006 from 12 noon to 4pm local time. Please note the change of day to a Sunday.

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

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 x 6) + (2 x 8) + (5 x 1) = 27

Multiplier for locations = x 5

Multiplier for power = x 2

FINAL SCORE = 27 x 5 x 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

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

* Not following the band plan - do not forget the simplex frequencies are effectively 'channelized'. **Do check the band plan.**

* Intentional interference to other users, contestants or not.

Awards

Awards will be given to the highest score in the following categories:

* highest scoring base station (a portable station will be considered as 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.

Not got a 2m FM transceiver?

In the spirit of having fun and meeting club members it is encouraged that club members that would otherwise operate solo (base or mobile) team up with a member who has not got 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.

Finally...

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) ❖

2m Simplex Contest Extra

APRS

Paul, VE3CPH and Matthew, VA3MHB have had a good idea and proposed the use of APRS in the simplex contest. So those stations that are able to use APRS, give it a try and transmit your location. Even if you cannot receive and decode APRS signal via radio, you can obtain the information via the Internet. So you have time to install UI-View or Xastir and get them up and running before the contest. Or even just use the web based clients like the one offered by VA3TK at

<http://aprs.va3tk.com/>

You can get a good clear idea of the distance between you and the station you are contacting.

Last Year's Winning Scores

Highest Scoring Mobile Station

4446 points Paul Henry, VE3CPH and Duane Avery, VA3ODD

Highest Scoring Base/Portable Station

2346 points Bob Kavanagh VE3OSZ

Highest Scoring Newcomer

4446 points Paul Henry, VE3CPH and Duane Avery, VA3ODD

Contact over the Longest Distance

27 km between Jake Guertin, VE3TQX and Alan Steele, VA3STL ❖

Special Amateur Radio Event with Bytown Railway Society Inc. Cancelled

Unfortunately, our Special Event Amateur Radio Station "VE3RAM Railway Mobile" which was being planned for April 28, 29, & 30, 2006, has been cancelled. This Special Event was held last year on April 29,30,31 in conjunction with the Ottawa Central Railway Open House held at Walkley Yard on Albion Road South but has been cancelled this year for austerity reasons.

If you would like to learn more about the Bytown Railway Society Inc. located at the Science and Technology Museum, please visit their web page.

<http://www.bytownrailwaysociety.ca/> ❖



OVMRC 3rd Annual 2m Simplex Contest Log Sheet

7 May 2006



Number	Callsign	Time	Number rcvd	Location	Member? (yes, no, club)	Your location (if you are mobile)	Points	Notes
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
0								

Number	Callsign	Time	Number rcvd	Location	Member? (yes, no, club)	Your location (if you are mobile)	Points	Notes
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
0								

My Callsign: _____

Page: ____ of ____

OVMRC 2m Simplex Contest 2006 Entry Form

Name _____ Callsign _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Do you class as a newcomer? **Y** or **N**

If a team, name and call of partner _____

Type of station? **Mobile** or **Base** (including portable)

Scoring Summary

Total QSOs non-members _____ x1 _____

Total QSOs OVMRC members _____ x2 _____

Total QSOs Club Stations _____ x5 _____

Total QSOs _____ Total pts _____

Total number of locations contacted X _____

<i>Power</i>	<i>Multiplier</i>
10W or less	2
Over 10W to 50W	1
Over 50W	0

Power level multiplier X _____

Final Score _____

Furthest Contact

From: _____ To: _____ With station _____

Estimated distance _____