

## VE3JW NEWS

By Maurice-André Vigneault,  
VE3VIG

### 1 - VE3JW on RCI

JW hits the shortwaves in more ways than one. On Aug 9, Radio Canada International broadcast to South America included a section on Amateur Radio station VE3JW. This came about when Magdalena Ferreiro, RCI correspondent from Montevideo, Uruguay, interviewed yours truly at the VE3JW station, days earlier. The approach was to show the progress of communications since the old telegraphy key to communications in space from an Amateur Radio angle. The interview, which was done in English, was translated into Spanish for The Americas broadcast. It is available at RCI web site "CanadaEnLasAmericas" section.

### 2 - MAINTENANCE

A lot of work has been accomplished during the last couple of weeks at the VE3JW Amateur Radio Exhibit station. Repairs, replacement of parts and maintenance were needed due to our aging equipment, the wear and tear on moving parts, and weather hiccups.

Not counting the take down of the GAP antenna in the spring, which was damaged by wind gusts, bending the main mast at almost the midpoint, the HyGain T2X rotator, the Yaesu G5500 rotator remote control box, and the Ringo Ranger 2m antenna all required immediate attention.

Delays were encountered due to unavailability of replacement parts and the schedules of the intended crew. But when all necessary parts were gathered and a time slot coordinated for all participants, work got underway.

Friday, Aug 4, 2006, a beautiful sunny day with a forecasted 29 deg C, a group of six dedicated Radio Amateurs started work on the replacement of the HyGain T2X rotator, which had been in service for over twelve years and repaired several times. Time was ripe for a new one. We also replaced the mast holding the antenna and anchored into the rotator. It was recommended that a lon-

ger mast would relieve some stress on the rotator. In addition to the longer mast, a new anchor plate for the rotator was required and it was mounted about six feet below the old plate on the 60 foot tower.

After the complete installation of the rotator and calibration of the antenna, we decided to give it a try. The antenna had been stuck in a southerly direction for a good many months and now we could servo it towards Europe. Lo and behold, a special event station was running a huge pile-up on the 20m band. We were successful in breaking the pile-up and getting a 5/9 report from a brand new country on the map, Montenegro, despite the poor propagation on the low end of the sun cycle. Moving up the band a few KHz, we were able to log yet another contact with Montenegro.

During the following week, replacement of two switches in the Yaesu G5500 rotator remote control was completed and the unit required some substantial troubleshooting to clear a problem with loose contacts in the interconnected switching arrangement. Smart schematic reading, sharp wire tracing, and well soldered connections got around the problem. By the way, we've been having recurring problems in the past with the very brittle Yaesu switches. If you open one of these switches, you'll find that the plungers are held by very flimsy plastic holders which break with little pressure on repeated solicitation.

Again, Friday, Aug 12, comfortable 20 degree weather, the selected crew was up on the roof of the Museum to remove the 2.4 GHz dish antenna. The main reason for removal of the dish, which served us very well during the active life of AO-40 (Phase 3D), is to recover the 180 degree full swing of the elevation antenna. The complete swing was impeded by the 'offset-feed' slant of the dish. The full movement of the elevation antenna is required for the upcoming ARISS contact. Another reason for removal is to lessen the load on the rotator in order to preserve it. We found out from Yaesu about their new way of calculating acceptable load for the G5500 unit, which includes not only the wind load but the overall weight on the booms and the location of these weights on the booms.

On the same day, we removed the Ringo Ranger 2m antenna which had broken parts and was dangling in the wind. This antenna has seen many years of service and had become unusable during rainy or damp weather. The long cable run also required

replacement. If the Ringo is not repairable, or deemed not worth to repair, we will replace it (a quarter wave is all we require for this back-up radio used on APRS), mount it much closer to the radio station, and use the coaxial cable now available from the dish antenna setup.



In the attached pictures, graciously provided by Larry Wilcox, (photo 1) you can see Mike Joyce up the tower, happy as a learned monkey on holidays. Mike is a retired sailor and he is probably thinking ship's mast. In photo 2 Mike is holding the 2.4 GHz dish which is being removed with the help of Greg Milley. No Mike, it's not a sail (dog-gone... what am I doing here? he thinks)



Now, we know that we have accomplished all these tasks not in the usual recommended antenna-fixing weather, but if we should encounter difficulties with the antennas we will strongly enforce a winter maintenance schedule in the future...

*Continued on page: 4*



## OVMRC Executive 2006-2007

<b>President</b>	<a href="#">Bob Sharp</a> VA3QV 613-733-4475
<b>Vice-President</b>	<a href="#">Gerry Trottier</a> VA3GLT 613-745-5828
<b>Treasurer</b>	<a href="#">Ken Gil</a> VA3KJG 613-748-0218
<b>Secretary</b>	<a href="#">Jacques Choquette</a> VE3TSC

## Standing Committee Chairpersons

**Amateur Radio Exhibit**  
[Maurice-André Vigneault](#)  
VE3VIG, 613-749-9010

**Amateur Radio Training**  
[Ernie Jury](#)  
VE3EJJ, 613-728-3666

**Accredited Examiner**  
[Bob Kavanagh](#)  
VE3OSZ, 613-225-6785  
[Ernie Jury](#)  
VE3EJJ, 613-728-3666

**Field Day**  
[Alan Steele](#)  
VA3STL

**Historical**  
[Larry Wilcox](#)  
VE3WEH, 613-747-5565

**Flea Market**  
[Jake Guertin](#)  
VE2TQX, 819-684-9496

**Field Day**  
[George Steeves](#)  
VE3ZQN

**Membership**  
[Gerry Trottier](#)  
VA3GLT, 613-745-5828

**Publicity & Programs**  
[Steve Cochran](#)  
VE3SBC

**Radio Operations (UHF/VHF)**  
Matthew Hall  
VA3MHB, 613-236-5283

**Radio Operations (HF)**  
[Patrick Tunney](#)  
VA3CMD

**Technical**  
[Jake Guertin](#)  
VE2TQX, 819-684-9496

**Emergency Preparedness**  
[Ken Halcrow](#)  
VE3SRS, 613-837-3261

**Newsletter**  
[Bill Hall](#)  
VA3WMH, 613-830-5580

**Webmaster**  
[Elias Zaydan](#)  
VE3EKZ

*Note: all e-mail addresses are:  
[callsign at rac dot ca](mailto:callsign@rac.ca)*

## 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.

The club's web site is hosted by **Magma Communications Ltd.**

[www.ovmrc.on.ca](http://www.ovmrc.on.ca)

## OVMRC Life Members

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

Ed Morgan, VE3GX

Bill Wilson, VE3NR

## OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)

444.200 MHz(+)

## Amateur Radio Exhibit

### VE3JW

Web site:

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada Science & Technology  
Museum

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., it's officers or it's 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).

# PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

By Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH &  
Steve Cochran VE3SBC

It is with great regret that we read the President's letter of resignation. My regret stems from the fact that we have lost a very capable and competent leader for our club. He served us in a very outstanding manner, bringing a freshness to the club, with new and exciting meetings. Bob willingly put so much effort, energy and time into the pursuit of our club activities, his RAMBLINGS and his own Amateur radio activities, I'm still amazed how he found time to do it all! Thank you Bob, for giving us a full year of your leadership and talents. We will miss you and must find a replacement for you. Gerry Trottier VA3GLT, our Vice-President & Membership Chair, will try to fill your size 11 shoes until we find another President.

Here is Bob's letter of resignation.

August 24 2006

Gerry Trottier VA3GLT  
Vice-President  
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club INC

Gerry,

This letter is to officially inform you that effective September 1<sup>st</sup> 2006. I will be officially resigning as President of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club INC.

I had informed the chair of the elections committee and yourself that after the Elections in June when no candidates were willing to step forward that I would stay on in a Caretaker role until the October meeting.

By tendering my resignation at this time it covers you (according to the bylaws) till the end of the October Meeting.

The BYLAW reads as follows:

9.4 Vacancies Occurring  
Vacancies occurring between elections, with the exception of the Presidency, shall be filled by Executive appointment. A vacancy of the Presidency must be filled within 60 days through nomination by the Full Members and election at a Regular Meeting under the direction of the Vice-President.

It is my hope that the election committee will find a suitable candidate in the time left remaining so the club can continue to prosper in its endeavours.

Although with my work and family restrictions, I doubt very much that I will be able to attend any club executive meetings (as past president) or any general meetings. I am available to offer guidance to the incoming president (as is the role of the past-president) if needed.

I wish the club all the best in the future.

73  
Bob Sharp VA3QV

cc. OVMRC Directors  
cc. OVMRC Election Chair and committee

With regard to Bob's letter, we are therefore in need of a President to lead our Club and must find and elect one in accordance with By Law 9.4. Should members wish to come forward and volunteer to take on the role of President or if you would like to nominate any club member, please forward your nomination to me or to Steve Cochran.

Unfortunately, we must also inform you that Ken Gill VA3KJG, our Treasurer has informed the Executive that he wants to step down from the Treasurer's position by the October 19th General Meeting. So, once again, if you would like to volunteer or if you know someone you could recommend for either of these positions, please let us know immediately.

73 de  
Larry Wilcox VE3WEH  
Nominating Committee Chair  
Email: ve3weh@rac.ca  
613-747-5565

Steve Cochran VE3SBC  
Nominating Committee Member  
Email: stevec@ncf.ca  
613-248-0323 ❖

## OVMRC Budget 2006/7

### INCOME

50/50 Draws	\$250.00
Amateur Training Course	\$2,500.00
Donations	\$ .
Flea Market	\$377.20
Interest Income	\$50.00
Manual Sales	\$1,000.00
Membership Revenue	\$1,700.00
Membership (Rambler)	\$ .
Misc Income	\$ .
<b>TOTAL Estimated</b>	<b>\$5,877.20</b>

### EXPENSES

<b>Administration</b>	
Insurance	\$100.00
Office Supplies	\$150.00
Museum	\$150.00
Bank Charges	\$30.00
Misc/DARF/Donations etc.	\$100.00
Web site	\$250.00
<b>Special Events</b>	
Flea Market	\$ .
Field Day	\$300.00
<b>Publicity/Programs</b>	
Rambler	\$800.00
Door Prizes	\$100.00
Speakers Gifts	\$ .
Membership	\$ .
Hospitality	\$ .

### VE3JW

Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$500.00
Administration/AMSAT	\$150.00

### Repeater/Technical

Maintenance	\$880.00
SLVRC Membership	\$20.00
Phone Patch	\$710.00
Capital Improvements	\$ .

### VHF Radio Ops

Certificates	\$ .
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### HF Radio Ops

Certificates	\$ .
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**Jerry Wells Award** \$150.00

Continued from page: 1

Well deserved thanks go to the members of the repair crew beginning with Mike, VE3LTN, who was a key player on the tower; Steve, VE3SBC, with his ins and outs at the Museum; Larry, VE3WEH, holding the "hammer"... of his photographic apparatus; Robert, VE3AGE, who got more sun than he bargained for; and Marcel, VA3MRZ, who helped us move the excess materiel to storage. These well appreciated efforts were directed by our hired rotor and tower specialist Greg, VE3ITB, of G.M. Antenna Services.

Additional work was completed during the following week in order to put back in service the automatic satellite tracker, the NLSA/SASI unit, which had been taken out when the 2.4 GHz dish went up. Full automatic tracking of satellites is now operational at JW, but manual tracking is still available for training purposes.

### 3 - ARISS PROGRAM

Talking about training, we need to train satellite operators for the upcoming ARISS contacts which will be conducted from the VE3JW station. If you would like to participate in these very important special events, make a date to start your training at the JW station. We have word from our ARISS Canadian coordinator that the date for the Orléans' Le Prélude school contact with the Space Station, due in 2007, has been advanced to fall 2006.

In addition, Canadian astronaut from Ottawa, Steve MacLean, is going up to the Space Station in early September for a short construction mission with a walk in space. He would like to make contact with his own school here in Ottawa. Rather short notice but we're working on this. It may well be that by the time you read this Steve will already be back on terra firma.

Also, Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk from Calgary is going back to the Space Station later and there is a possibility of a contact with a school in Ottawa. With the Museum's agreement, these additional contacts would be conducted from the VE3JW station, and the Museum has shown high interest.

All licensed Radio Amateurs are invited to visit VE3JW free of Museum entrance fee when their visit is limited to the station area. Come in and try a new mode or complete a satellite contact. This station is your station, and like much else, "Use it or Loose it!"

Best regards and we'll pick you up on the bands. ❖

## Greetings CW Lovers:

On Sunday 10 September 2006 at 11 AM local time on 3620 Khz, the PLN starts again for another season!

February 2007 will mark 34 years of continuous operation every Sunday morning except for the months of July and August!

The purpose of the Net is to provide CW practice for Beginners and Old Timers! The speed varies from about 8 to 12

WPM depending on the operator! Everyone is welcome to participate!

If you would like additional information, do not hesitate to call Ed Morgan, VE3GX, at 613-733-1721

73 88

CW Forever  
Ed VE3GX ❖

## SATELLITE RADIO RAFFLE

No, it is not for Amateur Radio use but it is a Brand New still-in-the-box, XM DELPHI Satellite Receiver Kit for your car or home stereo. A satellite radio is a special digital radio that receives signals broadcast by communications satellite. This allows the listener to follow a single channel no matter where he or she is because the signal's reach is not limited by station power (as long as there are no major obstructions, such as buildings, in the line of sight between the antenna and the satellite).

This receiver has been donated to our Club and tickets will be sold at the September and October General meetings. The draw will take place during the October 19, 2006 General Meeting.

So don't miss this opportunity to enjoy Satellite Radio! Get your tickets at the next two General meetings for your chance to win this wonderful receiver and support our club in the process. All proceeds will be deposited in our bank account by the Treasurer!

Ticket prices are \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00.

Steve VE3SBC  
Publicity & Programs ❖

OVMRC Budget 2006/7 Cont'd

### Training Course

Supplies	\$1,200.00
RAC Membership	\$ .
OVMRC Membership	\$ .
RAC Manuals	\$ .

### Communications Trailer

Maintenance/Fuel	\$360.00
Storage	\$ .
Equipment/Generator	\$500.00
Insurance	\$100.00

**INCOME** \$5,877.20  
**EXPENSES** \$7,550.00

**DIFFERENCE** -\$1672.80



### 21 Sep Meeting Agenda

- Meeting will be chaired by Larry Wilcox  
VE3WEH

- 2006-2007 Budget Approval,  
presentation by Ken Gil, VA3KJG &  
Gerry Trotter, VA3GLT

- Alan Steele, VA3STL, presentation of  
Awards for OVMRC FM Simplex Contest

- Mini-Flea discussion  
by Steve Cochran, VE3SBC

## OVMRC 2006 - 2007 CALENDAR

Mth	Club Mtg	Exec Mtg	Rambler Deadline
SEP	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
OCT	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
NOV	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
DEC	14 <sup>th*</sup>	21 <sup>st*</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
JAN	18 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
FEB	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
MAR	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
APR	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
MAY	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>

# INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP (ILLW) WEEKEND AUG 19, 20, 2006

Once again the OVMRC successfully participated in this annual event from the Canada Museum of Science & Technology grounds next to the "Cape North Lighthouse." This event is always held on the 3rd full weekend in August starting at 0001 UTC on Saturday and finishing at 2359 UTC on Sunday. The event also coincides on Sunday with the International Lighthouse Day, an event organized by the International Association of Lighthouse Keepers whereby many lighthouses around the world are open to the public. The Lighthouse at the Museum was also open to the public.



CMST Lighthouse and OVMRC Trailer.

Photo by: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Thanks to Ken Halcrow VE3SRS who towed the trailer from storage for the second time to use in this event. The club's "Emergency Communications Trailer" was parked near the Cape North Lighthouse so our coax transmission lines could reach the 20m and 40m/80m antennas tied to the top rail of the Lighthouse. The trailer proved again to be a much better and more comfortable location for the VE3JW Lighthouse station operation than the interior of the Cape North Lighthouse with its' poor acoustic properties. As is customary, we operated "VE3JW Lighthouse" on phone and "VE3JW/LT" on CW. Thanks to all the Amateurs that came over



Life members of OVMRC, Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO and Ed Morgan, VE3GX visit the OVMRC Emergency Communications Trailer. Photo by: David Scott, VE3ZU

and operated. A special thank you to Martin Gillen VA3SIE for setting up and demonstrating his field CW QRP station and for operating both from his station and also our main station inside the trailer.

As many of you know, HF propagation has not been the best this summer and it wasn't the best during our event. However, we were able to use the IRLP (Internet Radio Link Project) to build-up our log with contacts from across the "pond." In spite of the poor propagation, we had a total 61 contacts with stations worldwide, 13 were DX stations, 41 were on HF and 20 were on VHF/UHF. We had contact with a total of eight Lighthouses.

We want to thank Arianne Richeson from the Museum for her help organizing this event and for ensuring we received some attention from the media.

. We thank all those that helped set up and remove the trailer, antennas, stations and also those that participated or visited us to provide support. We also had quite a few other local amateurs who visited us during this two day event, including Stefano LA PORTA, IS0HSL from Italy. He is a very keen Amateur and was very happy to take a turn operating VE3JW Lighthouse. Life members Ed Morgan VE3GX and his

charming wife Doreen VE3CGO also paid us a visit.

Many public visitors came into our trailer on Friday and particularly on Saturday but as you may remember, Sunday brought much rain which reduced attendance and along with the poor propagation, caused us to close down the station, pack-up and we went home about 4pm.

Many people do not realize the Lighthouse is a Museum "artifact" which dates back to 1908. The Museum believes that 2008 will be the year to celebrate or do something special around the Cape North Lighthouse to celebrate it's 150th Anniversary.

For more information about the Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, visit: <http://illw.net/>

For a list of all the 2006 participants, visit: [http://illw.net/2006\\_list.htm](http://illw.net/2006_list.htm)

For more information about IRLP, visit: <http://www.irlp.net/>

73 de  
Steve Cochran, VE3SBC  
Publicity and Programs Chair  
Larry Wilcox, VEWEH  
Historical Chair

# 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 @rac.ca

Date

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BBN

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For Office use only

- One year membership. Regular or Associate. Includes mailed Rambler - \$40/year
- One year membership. Regular or Associate. Without mailed Rambler - \$30/year
- Family membership. For family of current members. No mailed Rambler - \$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

For Family Membership please enter Regular/Associate Member's Call Sign/Name

**Current Occupation:**

**If retired, Former Occupation:**

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

**COMMENTS**



### OVMRC NAME TAG — ORDER DETAILS

First Name

Call Sign