

Plaque Presented

On April 20, 2007, Steve Cochran VE3SBC presented Mike Joyce VE3LTN with a plaque acknowledging his donation of a personal travel trailer to the OVMRC. At the time of the presentation, Mike was operating at Amateur Radio station VE3JW. The plaque reads as follows.

“The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club acknowledges the generous donation of this trailer by Mike Joyce VE3LTN in 2003 for use as a Emergency Communications Centre. The conversion of the trailer was carried out in 2004 by club members under the supervision of Ken Halcrow VE3SRS”

This plaque has been installed on the wall inside the trailer for all to see and to appreciate his donation. Thanks again Mike and all the best!

Steve Cochran VE3SBC
Programs and Publicity ❖

We Still Need A President!

We still need a President for the OVMRC! We have managed without a President so far this year but it hasn't been easy. We have a dedicated few on the Executive and several other members who have stepped in to Chair our General Meetings including Mathew VA3MHB and Don VE3KII, along with yours truly. We would like to have a President to fulfill the objectives of our Club and to provide us with more leadership.

What is required to be President? Well, you don't need a University degree, or a PhD, just a love for Amateur radio and a desire to help all the members of our Club to the best of your abilities. We have a very good and dedicated Executive that want to assist you as President. Jean Crepeau VA3JCN, is doing a very good job as Vice-President. The other members of our Executive are providing lots of support and assistance and we thank them for their efforts. However, a new President would improve the club's image among members and the community. Simply let any member of the Executive know that you would like to volunteer and we will nominate you.

73 de
Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
Historical Chair ❖



Photo courtesy: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Next Meeting Program

Thursday, 17th May 7:30 P.M.

1. This meeting is special and starts outside in the front parking lot with the "Best Mobile and Best Portable Setup." Arrive early! Participants please park or set-up in the front parking lot of the Museum.

Judging will start at 7.30pm sharp. There will be a prize awarded for the "Best Mobile Setup" and for the "Best Portable Setup" and other surprise prizes will be awarded also.

So polish up your rigs and your vehicles for this event which promises to attract many entries - get there early and show us your stuff!

2. "D-Star Presentation" by Dough Leach VE3XK. Dough will give us and up-to-date presentation on D-Star Digital transmissions and the impact upon the future of Amateur Radio. It should be a very interesting presentation and should not be missed.

Steve Cochran VE3SBC
Programs and Publicity ❖



OVMRC Executive 2006-2007

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Vice-President	Jean Crepeau VA3JCN 613-
Treasurer	Robert Plante VA3SHO 613-
Secretary	Jacques Choquette VE3TSC

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[Larry Wilcox](#)
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*Note: all e-mail addresses are:
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www.ovmrc.on.ca

OVMRC Life Members

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

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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

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Photo courtesy of Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

100 Year Old Railroad Car Contacts Modern USN Submarine!

by Steve Cochran, VE3SBC and
Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Once again, members of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC Inc.) joined the Bytown Railway Society in operating Amateur radio station VE3RAM Railway Mobile on April 27, 2007 while the Society's train was moved from the Canadian Science and Technology Museum (CSTM) to the Ottawa Central Railway (OCR) yard located off Johnston Road and also while parked in the OCR yard on April 27, 28, 2007. During this years event, Steve added HF QRP operation. We made a total of eight 40m QSO's, one QSO on 20m, and nineteen QSO's on 2metres. While propagation was poor, operating as a QRP station was difficult. We could hear a lot of stations and much QRM from several US State QSO Parties

in Michigan, Nebraska and other states, Steve was overjoyed and very happy to successfully "hook" John with our "fishing pole" using 5 watts of power and our 70 foot length of "fishing wire!" John was operating Amateur radio station W8COD on board the USS Cod Submarine Memorial, a National Historic Landmark, docked in Cleveland, Ohio:

<http://www.usscod.org/>

Our equipment consisted of an ICOM T7A Handheld, with a dual band VHF/UHF ribbon

J-pole and a Yaesu FT-817 with a Model VC300LP Vectronics tuner feeding a 70 foot long end fed wire, anchored 30 feet up to the tip of our "fishing pole mast." Each radio was powered by a 12 volt Gel Cell and our total operating time was five and one half hours. We introduced hundreds of visitors to Amateur Radio as they toured through the 100 Year Old Divisional Superintendent's Business Railway Car which was manufactured in 1907 at Farnham, Quebec.

Quite a number of local Amateurs dropped in to see us following contact with us on 2m. They were impressed with our QRP setup and the public were especially impressed when we informed them, we were using less power than one old style 7 watt Christmas light bulb to make our contacts on High Frequency, including the submarine!

We are looking forward to this event next year and hopefully, other members will participate!



OVMRC General Meeting April 19/2007

1900-2000 Mini Fleamarket with 8 tables of various gear. The idea of these Mini Fleamarkets was very popular and they will continue next year.

2000-2005 Opened by Larry VE3WEH. Approx. 40 people attending.

Guests - Bryan VA3QJ, Thane VA3TTM

2005-2050 Guest speaker Ray Pelletier (Tech Officer for National Measure Standards). He gave a very detailed and informative presentation of the past, present and future of the CHU Canada Time transmissions on the shortwave frequencies on 3330, 7335 and 14670 kilohertz.

The time clocks are situated at Ottawa NRC (National Research Council) and CHU sites in Ontario. The services offered are public time services for CBC, talking clock on phone lines, CHU radio stations and computer time set (time.nrc.ca).

CHU time signals were started in 1929. Original signals were used by survey groups for latitude and longitude positions. Before 1990 time signals were sent in EST (Eastern Standard Time) but since then are now at GMT (Greenwich Standard Time). This was what formally known as UTC (Universal Time Coordinated). Military folks will also know it as Zulu time. The recent worry (Oct 2006) of possible loss of the 40 M time signal was due to the changed frequency bandwidths. Response to a request for support and opinions was phenomenal. In Feb 2007 CHU was considered exempt from these changes and will continue the 7335 transmissions.

An audio-visual show was shown depicting pictures of the various equipment and antennas used over the years. Explained was the reason and the use of the various tones one hears sent by CHU. QSL cards were also handed out for souvenirs. At the end several questions were asked about the station setup and use of.

For medical reasons I had to leave early and missed the rest of the evening which involved the general club administration along with the door prize and 50/50 draw.

If anyone has info for that time span please pass along to me for this closure on these minutes.

[Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC](#)

LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE?

SET UP A QRP STATION DURING A CONTEST.

OVMRC aficionados did exactly that during the Ontario QSO Party running from 1800UTC to 0500UTC April 21-22, 2007. Using the OVMRC Emergency Response communications trailer set up in the Park area of the Canada Science and Technology Museum, only QRP equipment was fired up until the last hour of the contest.

I was glad to be allowed in to participate after my regular shift at the VE3JW station. From 4PM local to about 6PM, Martin, VA3SIE, let me use his Elecraft K1 CW QRP tiny transceiver operating with about 3 watts of power. The "ace in the hole" was Mark's, VA3UMP, 262 (exact??) feet Windom antenna strung between two trees and running East to West.

We could copy many stations as the 40m band was crowding up, but we would have to be very patient before some stations would hear our weak signal. Setting up on a frequency and calling CQ did not appear to be an appropriate method in these conditions as we would soon be drowned out by other stations. I chose the Search and Pounce method and it proved to be successful with some patience. Tuning a CQ call, I would wait until big guns had responded and when the pace slowed down, I would venture the VE3RAM call.

There was plenty of activity on the 40m CW band as we were competing with the Michigan QSO Party. We exchanged several calls between the MQP and our OQP. After a short while, I got used to the small paddle attached directly to Martin's K1 radio and had a lot of fun chasing up contacts. Larry, VE3WEH, and Steve, VE3SBC, will provide results elsewhere in this issue.

As the supper hour approached, I took a break to eat while Martin carried on with the K1 on CW Morse. I returned at 8PM to find Matthew, VA3MHB, operating on 80m SSB Voice using Steve's Yaesu FT-817 QRP transceiver putting out around 4 watts. He already had a good list of contacts on that band as the pace of both QSO Parties had picked up considerably.

I took over from Matthew and tried QRP SSB Voice. I found it more difficult to wedge in a call and be heard as compared to CW, but again, loaded with patience I was able to add to Matthew's list. I was having so much fun that I stayed on until about 11PM.

At that time, Larry, VA3FB, wanted to try his TenTek into the Windom. When I left for bedtime, Larry had it set up on about 15 watts output. He stayed overnight to accompany Matthew who was the Security watch for the trailer.

This was my first venture into a contest with QRP power. I found it a very interesting, challenging experience and had a lot of fun. Amazing what you can do with so little. By the way, when you're working OSCAR-50 did you know that it is only putting out 250mw.

As I write this, today, the world is celebrating "Earth Day". I can not help but reflect on my QRP experience with regards to the new consciousness wave sweeping the world and calling for "reasonable living".

73 and, hear you on the bands, while paying particular attention to those weak signals.

Maurice-André, VE3VIG