



BLIND MAN "SEES" SATELLITES

OVMRC participated in the AMSAT Field Day in a very special way this year.

Graduates from the satellite communications training course, given at the VE3JW station, enthusiastically embarked on their own satellite antenna building project. Terry, VE3TWC, showed up at Field Day with a replica of AA5FR remote-controlled Arrow II satellite antenna mounted on a camera "tripod and rotor". Others showed up with simple mobile radio/antenna combinations.

However, for the Club's Field Day satellite contact we concentrated on Jerry, VE3QSO, satellite set-up. Jerry is a blind Radio Amateur who has completed and graduated from

the Sat Com course, making voice and CW contacts during the hands-on portion of the training. He wanted to build a portable "satellite in the park" station from the ground up. His engineering qualifications came in handy for the design portion of his project. A sturdy tripod, a 7-foot mast, a light azimuth rotator, a 7 element yagi on VHF, and a helical beam on UHF (for which he borrowed the idea from our satellite guru, Clare Fowler, VE3NPC)

For FD, the antenna group was connected to a Yaesu FT-847 radio, to the rotator remote control, and using a laptop for satellite tracking, all powered by a 100 ah deep cycle battery. Although the beams had been carefully matched and tuned, none of the equipment had been tested live before FD.

Matthew, VA3MHB, assisted Jerry and they first tested out the set-up with local contacts and then by listening to satellites

passes. Reception was good on VO-52, VHF downlink, and on AO-51, UHF downlink, indicating that both beams were performing. The next step was to attempt a contact. Unfortunately, the traffic on the available satellites was so intense that they could not lodge a call at 5 to 10 watts of power. Nevertheless, next weekend, it will be back in the park for a less hectic trial.

The picture (page 3) shows from left to right Doreen, VE3CGO, and Ed Morgan, VE3GX, life members of the OVMRC, Clare Fowler, VE3NPC, AMSAT coordinator, Matthew, VA3MHB, Jerry Neufeld, VE3QSO, and Mandy his seeing-eye dog.

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG
Amateur Radio Exhibit Group VE3JW
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club at
Canada Science and Technology Museum
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Brief summary of the presentation by RAC Vice President for Field Services Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, to OVMRC, June 21, 2007

Why Amateur Radio?

Most jurisdictions, including Canada, refer to Amateur Radio as being a "service".

Industry Canada's web site states: *"The amateur radio service is a radiocommunication service in which radio apparatus are used for the purpose of self-training, intercommunications or technical investigation by individuals who are interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest"*.

Could something be added to that?

The word "service" is already there so let's just put a "public" in front of it and after the word "radio" and you get "The Amateur Radio Public Service".

That has come to mean Emergency Service and thus we have the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

But does anyone need it? Does anybody care?

Put that question to those who themselves have been directly or indirectly involved or had family caught up in such events as ice storms, floods, tornadoes or forest fires.

Ask those who experienced Hurricane Katrina or who were on planes diverted to Eastern Canadian airports in the terrible hours following the murderous 9/11 attacks in the United States.

In every case, Amateur Radio was there.

Anyone who thinks "it can't happen here" has his or head firmly lodged in the sand. Consider where this city is located, what's in or near it, what goes through or flies over it. It's easy to see what possible hazards exist.

Radio Amateurs provide an ARES to back-up existing communications facilities – not to replace them, not to try improving them, not to compete with them, but to back them up by using our own training and equipment.

An organized and trained ARES group, led by a duly appointed Emergency Coordinator who conducts regular meetings and practice sessions for volunteers, a group that is recognized by the local municipality and is part of the local emergency plan – that is what Amateur Radio can do as a community resource.

For an ARES unit to be successful and of any importance it must be active and have a high, positive profile. Group members, new

and prospective, should be challenged and brought to interesting meetings, where they receive pertinent information and training. And what a great way to attract newcomers to Amateur Radio and to your club.

A unit with no training, no regular meetings or no practice is a useless unit.

The future of Amateur Radio rests on the perceived public good it provides, on its image and on its current showing as a community resource. Not on what we did last year or even what we plan to do tomorrow, but on what we are doing today.

It's fair to say that, as the ARES goes, so goes Amateur Radio.

If Amateur Radio can't live up to being the service it's supposed to be, to show its worth as a community resource, Amateur Radio is doomed.

Ladies and gentlemen that, I respectfully submit, is something for all of us to carefully consider.

Otherwise, we will miss the boat, a boat that may already be preparing to leave the dock and get underway.

(For more information about the ARES and how you can participate, please see the Field Organization pages on the RAC website at www.rac.ca)



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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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Meeting Minutes General Meeting – Jun21/07

1935 Opened by Vice President VE3JCN. He proposed to the audience that election night be delayed till Sept/07 General meeting as there was still several major positions vacant. Nomination made by VE3JCN, seconded by VE3AGE.

1940 The evening's Master of Ceremonies Tim took over the meeting and got Ken VE3SRS to introduce the speaker. Ken announced that before coming to the meeting he has taken Bob Cook VE3BDB (RAC Field Services rep) on a city tour. They went to several places such as the VE3JW site at the Museum of Science and Technology, OVMRC emergency trailer, 763 Communications Squadron site and to the Rockliffe Search and Rescue site.

Bob's presentation was in 2 parts: 1) Amateur Radio in general and 2) emergency use as per various locations. His big catch phrase of the evening was "Amateur Radio = Community = Public Service". Why become a radio amateur? Various responses such as technical, hobby, social, and con-

tacts were given. Main reason would be for "Public Service". Being a trained operator that can be used to aid the public in an emergency when all fails.

In the last while, in any major emergency event amateur Radio as a community resource was there. Why us? Because there is no one quite as unique like us.

What is required in case of an emergency? Just some willing people ready to go? NO! What is needed is an emergency coordinator, meetings, practice and contact with local officials. For an unit to be useful, it must be ready to go and also have a high profile. The value of Amateur Radio in Canada depends in large measure on its perceived value to the public good. If amateur radio can't live up to being a service as its supposed to be, to show its worth as a community service, then amateur radio is DOOMED. For the rest of his presentation Bob highlighted and explained more in detail these points using slides on a screen.

The second part was a showing of "ARRL Amateur Radio Experience: After the Event (Hurricane Katrina 2005). This portion explained and demonstrated how amateur radio as a service can be used. Lesson learned and action taken for the future: improved infrastructure, creation of a national ARES

database, discussion with local agencies and to be prepared with a large number of trained operators. TO REMEMBER – amateur radio is just one part of disaster telecommunications.

Tim VE3KII then took over for the rest of the meeting. He thanked Bob and hoped that his being there this evening would motivate folks to attend and participate in the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) group.

2055 – An update on the Ottawa antenna bylaw movement. Local and RAC amateurs had contacted Ottawa with suggestions in certain points that could be changed. Tower issues are federal with jurisdiction belonging to Industry Canada but they have allowed municipalities to govern on this issue. An revised bylaw is to be posted in Dec/07. One item is that homes will be allowed 1 tower per lot with the tower height to be determined by the lot size. Other more detailed points are to be given at that time.

Sadly, the Secretary (me!) had to leave to catch Para Transpo so if anyone can has details for the rest of the meeting, please forward them to me.



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OVMRC 07/08 Calendar			
Month	Rambler Deadline	Meeting	Exec Meeting
Sep	7	20	27
Oct	5	18	25
Nov	2	15	22
Dec	30 Nov	13*	?
Jan	4	17	24
Feb	8	21	28
Mar	7	20	27
Apr	4	17	24
May	2	15	22
Jun	6	19	26

* moved forward one week due to Christmas

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club

is pleased to announce its 11th Annual



Hamfest

Saturday, September 1, 2007 (Labour Day weekend)

Tailgaters Open and Building Vendor setup: 8 am

Building Opens: 10 am until 1 pm

Radio Amateurs of Canada Annual General Meeting, Forum & Technology Update: 1 pm - 4 pm

**Carp Agricultural Fairgrounds
3832 Carp Rd (at Falldown Lane)
Ottawa (Carp), Ontario**

From Ottawa take Highway 417 west to Carp Road exit, 10 km north to the fairgrounds

We are in the Arena, so follow the signs on the site

\$6 general admission
\$12/table (plus admission)
\$5/tailgate (plus admission)

We will once again be offering an excellent door prize. Details will follow.

The OARC is proud to sponsor the RAC Annual General Meeting, Forum and Technology Update. This highly informative event follows immediately after the close of the Hamfest at 1 pm. We are very fortunate to have Dave Goodwin (VE3AAQ), RAC's Ontario North/East Director, as Moderator.

For further information or reservations contact:

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