



RAMBLINGS

A week ago last Saturday, I experienced something entirely unanticipated. Armed with my tiny Elecraft KX-1 transceiver, the radio almost unnoticeable in my right jacket pocket, I and our intrepid QRPer, Martin, VA3SIE, were off to Britannia Park, a short stone's throw from my old house. We joined several other QRPers who were in the process of packing up, no five-minute operation since HF antennas, some rather complex, had to be shaken out of trees and scraped up from the ground. Two minutes into conversation with the guys, I felt as though I had jumped back a full half century to my teens. Often we would go out, my high school buddies and I, to set up outside the city, anywhere 120vac could be found. Alas, no batteries available for our homebrew rigs, low power all, but wanting at least 200vdc. Our focus was antennas, almost exclusively antennas. Ever hear of California kilowatts? Well, that's what we had all around us, guys with lots and lots of power on CW and AM, many with immense towers and long, long wires. To compete with our five-watt pipsqueaks, we had to be sure that every bit of RF that we had was going in the right direction, up. Even more reminiscent of those years were our attempts, a few successful, with our three watts to hear our calls come back at us. How different the whole thing feels from what happens when working with my 100-watt rigs and fixed antenna on the roof, almost certain of being heard by anyone I hear.

Martin regaled me with stories he had heard from inveterate outdoorsmen with their miniaturized equipment, some of the accounts incredible. Amateur radio in its ultimate sense I thought, not for everyone, I knew, but most certainly for me. I had become just a little too complacent in my view that all that there remained for most of us was playing with antennas. What of the challenge, the exhilaration that comes from pulling in a contact with a station on the far side of the globe, especially when 20 other guys are trying to get him. Although I no longer go after fish, in lakes or in the oceans, I liken QRP to anglers who tie their own flies and match wits with canny trout who generally end up winning. I'm delighted with what appears to be a resurgence in interest in low, low power. ❖

MAY 15 REGULAR MEETING

Our main focus at our upcoming meeting on May 15 will be mobile and portable setups. So, if you have anything in the slightest unusual to exhibit, be sure to show up at 7-00. It's that time of year again. The regular meeting will begin when we've all had a chance to see what everybody else is doing with amateur radio outside the house. ❖

AUGUST PICNIC

OOPS! We goofed! We originally planned our picnic for May 11, forgetting that mothers take precedence on that day. So we changed the date to Sunday, August 10.

Who: This Picnic is open to Members of the OVMRC and their families, and we encourage any other Amateurs and their families from other Amateur Radio Clubs to attend. The public is also encouraged to drop in and visit us to learn about "Amateur Radio in the Park".

what/where: Picnic At Vincent Massey park

When: Sunday, August 11, 2008

Why: Looking for a reason to get out and enjoy the summer weather and try out the boat anchor you bought in Smiths Falls.

Talk in: VE3TWO 147.3+

I (VA3CMD) will arrive early (by 8am) to set up an HF Station and participate in the Pothole net.

Anyone interested is very welcome, bring your family, bring a picnic, bring a rig, come out

and enjoy the scenery and shake off the snow!

Access via the parking lot at Vincent Massey park off of Heron rd. just west of Riverside Dr.

There will be a charge of \$3.95 per car per day. More Specific directions can be given over VE3TWO repeater.

Time is flexible. I will be there from 8 am until at least 4 pm, come when you can stay as long as you like.

Listen in to the nets on VE3TWO for updates.

We hope to see you there!

73 de Patrick, VA3CMD ❖

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Executive Committee of OVMRC proposes that, hence forth, the responsibility for Field Day be assumed by the newly-created Special Projects Standing Committee. Very simply, the motion to be voted upon at the May 15, 2008 regular meeting of OVMRC is:

That the standing committee of the Executive Committee of OVMRC devoted to Field Day be abolished. ❖

OVMRC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Note from President

The benefits of comprehensive minutes like those below to readers of The Rambler are obvious. Many thanks to Larry for having prepared them for us in the absence of a club secretary. Hopefully, some generous soul will come forward during our quest for new officers for the coming year.

April 17, 2008, 7.30pm, Auditorium
Canada Science & Technology Museum

A. President Jerry Neufeld VE3QSO noted the Secretary was absent and asked if anyone would like to take the Minutes. After a long pause, I, Larry Wilcox VE3WEH volunteered. I was late for the meeting and missed the first quarter hour so cannot report any proceedings during that period.

B. Program

Jerry introduced Martin Gillen VA3SIE, our speaker for the evening. Martin gave a very informative, interesting and at times, humorous presentation entitled, "Field Friendly Antennas."



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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

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:

jerry.neufeld@rogers.com.

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His power point presentation covered a multitude of lightweight, quick to erect, home-brewed QRP antennas that he has built, tested and used. He showed many of the antennas and described how they were built and used. He also showed plans for other QRP antennas which he wants to build and try out in future. Martin is an avid QRP CW operator and has made contacts in many parts of the world using very low power and very effective antennas from local parks and other high places such as the old RCAF radar station site at Foymount, Ontario. His presentation was very much enjoyed by the 25 people in attendance and he received a strong round of applause.

C. Jerry introduced the following proposals from the Executive which were published in the April RAMBLER. A copy of the eight proposed motions were distributed to the members.

"As set forth in the April issue of The Rambler, the Executive Committee of OVMRC brings to the floor several motions, some of which involve changes to existing bylaws. To pass, the latter must have the approval of at least two-thirds of members present. Otherwise, motions, as regarding awards, for example, require only a simple majority. The motions on which we are to vote are the following."

Motion 1. "That the members of OVMRC approve the implementation of

- 1) the President's Award,
- 2) the Public Service Award, and
- 3) the Most Innovative Project Award."

This motion was moved by Mathew Hall VA3MHB and seconded by James Hall VE3MYZ. The motion was put to vote and passed.

Motion 2. "That annual fees for regular members of OVMRC be twenty dollars, and that annual fees for Associate members be ten dollars."

This motion was moved by Garry Monuk VE3VFH and seconded by Robert Cherry VE2AGE. Following discussion, the motion was amended by Jerry Neufeld by adding the words "Effective July 1, 2008." The motion was put to vote and passed.

Motion 3. "That members, regular and associate, as well as life-time members are eligible to receive issues of The Rambler in whatever form the newsletter is available at no cost."

This motion was moved by Marcel Lemay VE3FNG and seconded by Martin Gillen VA3SIE. Following discussion, the motion was amended by Jerry Neufeld by amending the words, "in whatever form the newsletter is available at no cost" to the following, "in the format of their choice at no cost." This information is also to be added to the Membership Form. The motion was put to vote and was passed.

Motion 4. Full Membership, on submission of an application and payment of dues, is open to anyone having an interest in mobile amateur radio operations and activities.

This motion was moved by Mathew Hall VA3MHB and seconded by Garry Monuk VE3VFH. The motion was put to vote and was passed.

Motion 5. "Associate Membership, on submission of an application and payment of dues, is open to anyone having an interest in mobile amateur radio."

This motion was moved by Steve Cochran VE3SBC and seconded by Jerry Neufeld VE3QSO. The motion was put to vote and was passed.

Motion 6. "Associate Members may neither hold office nor vote on any matter put before the Club. Otherwise, they shall be granted Full Member privileges."

This motion was moved by Martin Gillen VA3SIE and seconded by Larry Wilcox VE3WEH. The motion was put to vote and was passed.

Motion 7. "That a new standing committee of the OVMRC Executive Committee be created to be called Special Projects."

This motion was moved by Jerry Neufeld VE3QSO and seconded by Mathew Hall VA3MHB. The motion was put to vote and was passed.

Motion 8. "That the current Flea Market Standing Committee of the Executive Committee, as delineated in bylaw 6.4, be deleted."

This motion was moved by Steve Cochran VE3SBC and seconded by Roger Gervais VE3NPO. The motion was put to vote and was passed.

D. President Jerry reminded members that a Nominating Committee is still required and he asked for volunteers to contact himself or any member of the Executive. There were no volunteers at the meeting.

E. Jerry also reminded members that we need assistance from several people with the Audio/Visual equipment at meetings in order to lessen the load on Roy Parsons VA3CKD. Martin Gillen VA3SIE and Bernard Murphy VE3FWF volunteered. Roy informed Jerry that James Hall VA3MYZ and Gaetan Piette VE3IET have also volunteered.

F. Other Business

1. Graham Bennett VE3GBD announced that Randy Nelson VE3WRN, Manager, CNIB Amateur Radio Program, called him recently. Randy informed Graham that he is very happy with and expressed his thanks for all the donations made by the OVMRC to the CNIB over the years for their Amateur Radio Program.

2. President Jerry informed the members that due to conflict with Mother's Day, the OVMRC May Picnic at Vincent Massey Park scheduled for May 11, 2008 was now going to be held on August 10, 2008.

3. Bernie Murphy VE3FWF, announced he wants to participate in Field Day this year and can provide assistance with electronic logging of calls. Jerry informed the members that during the next General Meeting (May 15, 2008) there will be a report regarding Field Day and this will be published in the Rambler.

4. Steve Cochran VE3SBC informed members volunteers are really needed for refreshments after our meetings. Steve had done the work and prepared coffee and goodies for this meeting. Thanks to Geoffrey McCadden VE2XYB for his donation of cookies!

5. Draws:

a) Door Prizes - Steve conducted the draw for the tool kit donated by Roger VE3NPO and it was won by Robert VE2AGE. Steve also conducted many draws for various tools donated by George Blanchett VE3BAD. There were simply too many draws to document them all.

b) 50/50 draw - An amount of \$21.50 was won by Ernie Jury VE3EJJ.

6. President Jerry thanked all for attending and invited everyone to attend our next meeting May 15, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 9.45pm.

Signed

Larry Wilcox VE3WEH
Acting Secretary

Portable Multi Band Loop Antenna

Bob Sharp VA3QV/VA3RCS

One of the biggest problems when operating Portable is the amount of time spent getting your antenna in the air, rather than getting on the air. If you're like me you can free up about 2 hours to play radio before something more pressing interferes with your hobby time. After wasting 30 minutes trying to get my dipole into the trees one day I decided there had to be something better.

Those of you who know me, realize I have tried verticals and "BuddiPole Style" antennas with limited results and so I decided to try a 20m loop which would only need one line into the tree for the vertical support.

This year the idea of a vertical loop has been revisited and revamped and I am pleased to present the latest version to you.

The loop this year uses a 20 foot "Shakespeare Wonder Pole" and two 4 foot pvc pipes for the vertical support. I use two driveway markers from Walmart for the side supports.

Parts List

- One 20 foot Shakespeare Wonderpole or any other telescopic pole you can find. The length is up to you.
- Two approximate 4 foot lengths of PVC Pipe. The only consideration for this is that the lengths should telescope and that the Wonder Pole should snugly fit inside the inner section of PVC Pipe
- 20m of insulated wire. I bought a 15m length of speaker wire Zip cord at the local dollar store. I then cut off 5m and put the 5m length in my junk box.
- Two hose clamps
- One plastic plumbing "T" connector
- One power connection (positive and negative) binding post
- Appropriate length of Coax (RG 58) is easy and cheap. It will work better if you have a PL259 connector on one end of the Coax.
- Roll of Duct tape. Grey is fine but the other stuff works as well.

- Roll of Electrical tape

Easy to figure out assembly instructions

Extend the Wonder pole. Open up the bottom of the pole. YES it does unscrew. Then remove the tip of the pole. Its just too flimsy to be of any use in this project. Now put the bottom cap back on before you lose it.

Remember that 10m long section of zip wire? Split the wire so you now have 2 10m long lengths of wire.

Solder two of the ends so you now have a 20m length of wire. Insulate your solder joint with a length of electrical tape.

Attach the length of wire to the plumbing "T" connector with the wire centered at your solder joint in the middle of the "T". Don't scrimp on the tape when connecting it to the "T".

Wrap a couple inches of tape around the fishing pole approximately 18 inches up from the bottom. Then attach one of the hose clamps to the pole (over the tape). The tape protects the fishing pole from the metal clamp and the clamp stops the fishing pole from falling through the inner PVC pipe

Measure up 12 inches from the bottom of the smaller diameter PVC Pipe and attach the 2nd hose clamp. Your fishing pole should fit in the top of this pipe snugly with the clamp on the fishing pole stopping the pole from running through. The clamp on the pipe should stop the pipe from falling through the larger diameter 2nd piece of PVC Pipe.

Make a mark on the small diameter pipe (that's the one the fishing rod fits into) approximately 24 inches down from the top. That's the point where the binding post will fit and the coax will attach.

CAREFULLY USING A KNIFE OR SMALL UTILITY SAW CUT A SMALL OPENING JUST SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THE BINDING POST ASSEMBLY. REMEMBER TO KEEP ALL FINGERS INTACT. REMEMBER YOU ARE CUTTING ON THE SMALLER DIAMETER PVC PIPE AND BELOW THE 18 INCH MARK WHERE YOUR FISHING POLE WILL GO.

THE SIZE OF THE HOLE DEPENDS ON THE SIZE OF YOUR BINDING POST ASSEMBLY. KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN PURCHASING YOUR PARTS.

Attach one end of the coax. The one without the connector would be better. I prefer the usual attaching of the center lead of the coax to the red binding post and the shield to the black binding post.

Insert your binding post/coax combination into the small hole you cut in the PVC Pipe. Secure this with tape. You can make it neater later if it works.

Back to the fishing pole for a few minutes. Fully extend the fishing pole and wrap a length of tape around the very tip (you did remember to remove one section earlier?). The amount of tape you have to apply should just be enough to give the bottom of the plumbing "T" a firm friction fit.

Strip approx 1/2 inch of wire from each end of the newly created 20m length of wire. Its easier to do this here at home than in the park later.

IN ADDITION TO THE PARTS ABOVE YOU SHOULD FIGURE OUT HOW YOU ARE GOING TO KEEP YOUR VERTICAL SUPPORT VERTICAL. I TEND TO LIKE USING BUNGEE CORDS AND ATTACH THE VERTICAL SUPPORT TO A PICNIC TABLE OR FENCEPOST.

TO SUPPORT THE ENDS OF MY LOOP I USED TWO DRIVEWAY MARKERS WHICH ARE READILY AVAILABLE FROM MANY STORES. I BOUGHT MINE FROM WALMART AND THEY COST ME AROUND \$4.00 EACH.

Now its off to the park.

We are working on the assumption that you have found what you would consider to be a good operating position that has something to attach your vertical element to.

BEFORE YOU GO ANY FURTHER..LOOK AROUND YOU AND YOUR ENVIRONMENT AND MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS SUCH AS POWER LINES, TREE BRANCHES OR ANYTHING THAT COULD RUIN YOUR DAY. USE COMMON SENSE AND DON'T LET STUPIDITY RUIN YOUR DAY!

Attach the bottom section of PVC Pipe to your support.

Open your fishing rod and extend it to its full length.

Attach your "T" connector (the one with the wire attached) to the top of the fishing

pole. This should be a firm friction fit if you used enough tape.

UNROLL THE WIRE

Insert the fishing pole into the end of the small diameter PVC Pipe

Insert the smaller PVC pipe into the larger PVC Pipe and you should now have a long vertical support approximately 24 feet or so.

Carefully attach one end of the wire to the red binding post.

Carefully attach the other end of the wire to the black binding post

Now its time to form the triangle of your loop. Carefully bring one side of the loop out till the wire is tight but the mast is not bent or bending at the top. Stick your driveway marker into the ground at this point and attach the wire to it. Follow the above instructions with the other side of the loop and now you should have a vertical loop in the air that has the rough shape of an equilateral triangle or kinda resembles the outline of a boat sail.

Attach the coax to your radio and tune to the frequency desired.

This loop has worked for me on 10-80m with average results for a QRP setup at the bottom of the solar cycle. It has loaded up for me using my FT 817 and LDG QRP auto tuner every time.

This should work for you even at the higher power levels but if you do I suggest you use a larger diameter wire. I use speaker wire as its cheap and I'm only running 5w on SSB.

DISCLAIMER--> YOU ARE BUILDING THIS ANTENNA AT YOUR OWN RISK. I ASSUME NO LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGES EITHER TO YOURSELF, YOUR EQUIPMENT, OR ANYONE OR ANYTHING WHILE YOU ARE BUILDING THIS ANTENNA AND/OR OPERATING THIS ANTENNA. THIS WOULD BE A GOOD REASON FOR YOU TO BE A MEMBER OF RAC AS THERE IS LIABILITY INSURANCE THAT MIGHT COVER PARTS OF YOUR OPERATING WHILE IN A PUBLIC PLACE. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BUILD THE ANTENNA. IF IN DOUBT "DON'T DO IT!"

Bob Sharp VA3QV/VA3RCS

<http://va3rcs.tripod.com> (Website)

<http://va3qv.wordpress.com/> (Blog)

FIELD DAY 2008

For some amateur radio clubs, Field Day is a highly organized event, the schedule for each active station carefully planned, the matter of accumulated points a serious business. For other clubs, the focus is just plain fun with a minimum of fuss and micromanagement. For still others, Field Day is approached as a learning experience for amateurs who have not previously participated in an event like this, the latter plan more experimental than organizational. Just what OVMRC's concept should be depends on who you talk to. Some insist that things tend to sort themselves out without a lot of planning, that Field Day is just one more way to get the guys together. Others prefer a little more structure before committing themselves to one or two days of activity.

This year, we'll shoot for a little of all three, sufficient organization so that people know more or less what to expect, activity that involves as many new amateurs to Field Day as possible and lots and lots of eyeball QSOs. Matthew Hall, VA3MHB, is coordinating this year's event. He'll present an interim report at our upcoming general meeting on May 15 and ask for ideas as well as offers from anyone who wishes to sign up to operate one of our stations or help in whatever capacity they can. And, folks, this year there will be food, we promise, certainly dinner and, if all goes well, breakfast for those up early enough to come. ❖

VC3C - It's a GO!

June first is when we hit THE TRAIL. I've just received confirmation from NCC (National Capital Commission) that our project has been accepted for the Champlain Lookout. We'll be able to locate anywhere at the Lookout, but the NCC would rather we set up in a visible place so that we can interact with the visitors to the Park. In case of inclement weather, they have offered us the Relay shelter at the Huron Lookout, not far from the Champlain one.

To reserve our date of June 1, we had to make our case to the Park authorities. Normally, on every Sunday mornings of their season, the Park is closed to vehicles and opened to cycling from 6am to 11am. We have been able to arrange a rendez-vous at Gate #10 (P-10) for our group. At 8:30, NCC will lead us, in a caravan-type, follow-the-leader run to our location. Those planning to come at a later hour will have to wait till 11:00 when the Park will be 'open to normal traffic'.

Although four clubs in this area have been approached to participate in this special event, it is opened to any certified radio amateurs. We have scheduled five activations in this region and it looks like the Manotick Amateur Radio Group will take on the first one at Champlain Lookout as they have confirmed participation, but all are welcome. If your club would like to pick one of the other four, let me know by submitting your name to ve3vig@amsat.org. As a reminder, the dates and locations for this area are: June 1st, Champlain Lookout - June 7, Astro-labe monument - June 8, Petrie Island - July 26, Green Island - July 30, final Wrap-up. Pick one and let me know.

Here is some information on the daily operation:

VC3C - Champlain Trail

Suggested Schedule of Operation at designated sites

9:00 Set up

10:00 Voice 14.240 7.240

11:00 PSK31 14.070 check openings

12:00 CW 14.040 7.040

13:00 Voice 14.240 7.240

14:00 PSK31 14.070 check openings

15:00 CW 14.040 7.040

16:00 Choice (HF, IRLP, repeaters, etc.)

17:00 Pack up

NOTE:

- add 4 hours for UTC
- frequencies are in MHZ
- PSK31 and other digital modes if available
- during the week VC3C will be on the air, possibly from Canada Science and Technology Museum

If you prefer to bring along your own equipment, you'll have to provide your own power and set up your antenna. Otherwise, you can take a turn at our main set up. For Champlain Lookout, bring along drinks and snacks as there are no foodshops nearby. Make it a picnic outing. Most of all, the key word is "FUN". It should be enjoyable for everyone.

See you on The Trail.

Maurice-André,
ve3vig@amsat.org

1608 - 2008



Sur la Route de Champlain On the Champlain Trail



Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club



- 01 June - Gatineau, Champlain Lookout
- 05 July - Pembroke, Champlain Trail Museum
- 07 June - Ottawa, Champlain monument
- 06 July - Cobden
- 08 June - Pétrie Island
- 12 July - Trois-Rivières, Champlain
- 14 June - Portage-du-Fort
- 13 July - Sorel
- 15 June - Fitzroy Harbour
- 19 July - Montreal, Ile Sainte-Hélène
- 21 June - Québec City, Champlain monument
- 20 July - L'Original
- 22 June - Portneuf/Deschambault
- 26 July - Ottawa, Green Island
- 28-29 June - Ottawa, Field Day
- 30 July - Ottawa Region, Wrap-up

VC3C - Special Event

Quebec - 400 - Canada