



MINUTES OVMRC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 20, 2008, 7.30 p.m.

1. The meeting was opened by Larry VE3WEH, Acting Chairman at 7.45pm. Twelve members and one visiting amateur, Reg Mustill VA3REG attended.

2. Nominations and Election - Larry informed members of the current status of the Executive as follows:

*Indicates they are willing to serve another term in their current chair.

- President, position vacant
- Vice-President, Jean Crépeau VA3JCN, absent *
- Treasurer, Robert Plante VA3SHO, absent and willing to continue but away most of the winter season
- Acting Secretary, Larry Wilcox VE3WEH, present *
- Amateur Radio Exhibit, Maurice-André Vigneault VE3VIG, present *
- Amateur Radio Training, Ernie Jury VE3EJJ, absent *
- Historical, Larry Wilcox VE3WEH, present *
- Membership, Chris Wiesner VE3CUZ, present *
- Publicity & Programs, position vacant
- Radio Operations, position vacant
- Technical, Cam Milne VA3FO, present *
- Emergency Preparedness, position vacant
- Newsletter Editor, Bill Hall, absent *
- Webmaster, Chris Wiesner VE3CUZ, present *

Following his explanation of this status he asked if anyone would like to serve on the Executive with the following results:

a) President:

David Scott VE3ZZU volunteered to stand for this position. Maurice-André VE3VIG, made a motion to accept his offer and this was seconded by Don Rowed VE3KH and also by Darin Cowin VE3OIJ. Larry asked for a show of hands vote and the members were unanimous in selecting David as our next President.

b) Treasurer:

Arthur Smith VA3BIT offered to assist during the winter months as he has too many activities in the summer. Larry said

he could send an email to Robert Plante VA3SHO, our current Treasurer, regarding his offer to see what he thinks. It would appear this could be a workable solution to filling the position throughout the year.

c) Programs & Publicity:

Larry informed members this position, formerly held by Steve Cochran VE3SBC, now VE1SBC, as he has moved to Halifax area, was open for nominations. He added he had contact with Steve on several occasions through IRLP node 2050 VE3HNS Halifax repeater. There were no nominations or volunteers for this position.

d) Radio Operations:

Larry informed members that this position formerly held by Mathew Hall VE3MHB was vacant. Larry has made efforts to contact Mathew and some other people have tried also without success, either by telephone or on the radio. His whereabouts are unknown and since he has missed about a month as net controller on the Welcome Mat Net and the Wise Owl Net, the position is considered abandoned and someone else is required to fill this position. David Scott VE3ZZU, offered to take on this position also, with exception of the Welcome Mat Net. Larry advised David that he will look after this net until another Net Manager can be found. Hopefully, someone from the last years or this years current OVMRC Radio Course. Darin Cowan VE3OIJ made a motion to accept David's offer and this was seconded by Joe Lemieux VE3EUS. The show of hands vote was unanimous.

e) Other Incumbents on the Executive:

Cam Milne VA3FO made a motion to vote upon all the rest of the incumbents willing to serve in their current chairs and this was seconded by Larry VE3WEH. Larry asked if anyone had changed their mind or wanted to step down and there was no response. Another show of hands vote unanimously confirmed the confidence of members in the incumbents of these chairs.

3. Larry congratulated our new President and turned the meeting over to him. David asked for any reports from the various chairs.

4. VE3JW Exhibit - Maurice-André VE3VIG reported that the station now has 3 new computers, identical Pentium 4's, 2.8 GHZ, 1GB RAM, with Win XP Pro installed, most of the former software has been installed and is working. All three computers have been hooked together with a hub so they can all access the Internet. The cost of these computers was about \$150 each. Maurice André negotiated a reduced price with Computer Refurbishers which included an Operating System Recovery disk. This expenditure is the result of the donation and sale of a large amount of Amateur Radio equipment from Bert Foulds VE3BT. Bert generously donated his entire Amateur radio station, an FT-101 and test equipment in order to raise funds to be used exclusively for VE3JW improvements.



OVMRC Executive 2006-2007

President:

[David Scott](mailto:David.Scott@sympatico.ca), VE3ZZU
zsu@sympatico.ca, 613-841-0038

Vice-President:

[Jean Crepeau](mailto:Jean.Crepeau@rac.ca), VA3JCN
va3jcn@rac.ca, 613-288-8777

Treasurer:

[Robert Plante](mailto:Robert.Plante@rogers.com), VA3SHO
plantrj@rogers.com, 613-

Secretary:

Vacant

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit:

[Maurice-André Vigneault](mailto:Maurice-Andre.Vigneault@mondenet.com), VE3VIG
vig@mondenet.com, 613-749-9010

Amateur Radio Training:

[Ernie Jury](mailto:Ernie.Jury@freenet.carleton.ca), VE3EJJ
s282@freenet.carleton.ca, 613-728-3666

Accredited Examiner:

[Bob Kavanagh](mailto:Bob.Kavanagh@rac.ca), VE3OSZ
ve3osz@rac.ca, 613-225-6785

[Ernie Jury](mailto:Ernie.Jury@freenet.carleton.ca), VE3EJJ
s282@freenet.carleton.ca, 613-728-3666

Field Day:

[George Steeves](mailto:George.Steeves@rogers.com), VE3ZQH
georgesteeves@rogers.com, 613-596-5015

Historical:

[Larry Wilcox](mailto:Larry.Wilcox@rogers.com), VE3WEH
larrywilcox@rogers.com, 613-747-5565

Flea Market:

[Jake Guertin](mailto:Jake.Guertin@rac.ca), VE2TQX
ve2tqx@rac.ca, 819-684-9496

Membership:

[Chris Wiesner](mailto:Chris.Wiesner@gmail.com), VE3CUZ
ve3cuz@gmail.com,

Publicity & Programs:

Vacant

Radio Operations (UHF/VHF):

David Scott, VE3ZZU

Radio Operations (HF):

[Patrick Tunney](mailto:Patrick.Tunney@rogers.com), VA3CMD
va3cmd@rogers.com, 613-

Technical:

[Cam Milne](mailto:Cam.Milne@nortel.com), VA3FO
cmilne@nortel.com, 613-763-8068

Emergency Preparedness:

Vacant

Newsletter:

[Bill Hall](mailto:Bill.Hall@rac.ca), VA3WMH
va3wmh@rac.ca

Webmaster:

[Chris Wiesner](mailto:Chris.Wiesner@gmail.com), VE3CUZ
ve3cuz@gmail.com,

OVMRC Life Members

Maurice-André Vigneault,
VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

Ed Morgan, VE3GX

Bill Wilson, VE3NR

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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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jerry.neufeld@rogers.com.

Meeting Minutes Continued from: page 1.

5. Repeater VE3TWO - Cam MilneVA3FO, Technical Chair, gave a status report about the UHF Receiver. Cam advised us his progress has been slowed because of waiting for some parts to arrive. He noted access to the repeater site, located at 580 Booth Street, is only available during normal working hours Monday to Friday. When the work is completed on the new receiver, it will be re-installed with assistance from Mike Kelly VE3FFK, who lives nearby and has been helping with our repeater maintenance for many years.

Questions arose from the floor regarding operation of our repeater and Larry informed members. Larry encouraged anyone to use the phone patch by pressing * followed by 613 and the 7 digit phone number, calling 911 is not possible as it has been deliberately excluded. He noted it is not used much and should be put to use more often. He explained if anyone wanted to make use of the six meter repeater, VE3RVI owned by Doug Bannard, to turn on the link from the 2m repeater to the 6m repeater, 53.030 +, simply punch up 6* and to turn it off, 6#.

6. Maurice-Andre VE3VIG was invited to come forward to explain more about his FSK 31 portable station in a briefcase on 2m SSB. He mentioned he is establishing a SSB Sunday Night Net at 7pm on 145.770 and suggested if anyone wants to make tests of their setup and equipment, they could tune to 14.070 using a sound card and the DigiPan program on their computer.

7. Larry apologized for the lack of a sound system and explained we simply do not have enough people to share this task. Arthur Smith VA3BIT and Glen VE3XRA both said they are interested to operate the audio visual system. Larry thanked them and will contact Roy VA3CKD to arrange for training.

8. Larry reminded the members of the Executive of their next meeting at 7.30pm in the Museum classroom, Thursday, November 27, 2008.

9. There was no door prize but the 50/50 draw of \$11.00 was fittingly won by our new President.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned about 9.15pm.

Signed
Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
OVMRC Acting Secretary ❖

Transmitter Hunting?

Do we still do that?

In fact, finding the location of a transmitter with the help of antennas and electronic circuits has been around for quite some time and even used effectively as a powerful weapon in electronic warfare as far back as WW1. It was a very valuable weapon before the days of the development of the radar system used extensively during WW2 and which consisted in finding the location of a moving object. Today, the military, commercial industries, and Amateur Radio have their own form of direction finding.

DF'ing can be used against spies, against illegal communications, such as transmitting without a license in the portions of the protected spectrum, against interfer-



Patrick VA3CMD, Larry VE3WEH

ence, and in many other ways. Today's DF technology has evolved to the point of being able to locate the tiniest transmitter.

Amateur Radio has made Direction Finding a sport. A very complete and interesting book by Moel and Curlee called "Transmitter Hunting" covers the many aspects of Direction Finding, especially with regards to our hobby. We amateurs should train in the use of DF'ing as a sport, but also to acquire skill for emergency situation, which may help us save a life. It is also very useful in policing our airwaves.

The JFK Hunt

As an example of this Amateur Radio activity, let me report on a recent transmitter hunt, which might guide you in

conducting your own hunt. You can call it a transmitter hunt, a fox hunt, or a bunny hunt; it's all the same 'direction finding' activity.

Having won the previous Bunny Hunt in my region for October, I had the honour of setting up the next hunt for November. A likely weekend was the one of the 22. I had to prepare a scenario and find a place to hide. Seeing it was the 45th anniversary of the assassination of JFK, I called it the "JFK Memorial Transmitter Hunt" Here is the scenario:

JFK Memorial Transmitter Hunt

22 November 2008

45 years ago to this above date, the world witnessed, live on TV, the assassination of John F Kennedy, President of the United States of America.

The culprit is still loose and it is believed he was heard on Amateur Radio frequencies in the Ottawa area. He has been using the callsign VE3BNE to make contacts on the 80m-band and the 2m-band, usually on Saturday afternoon.

In order to help in the capture of this elusive pirate, the CARBHA group will launch a massive hunt in the Ottawa area on Saturday, November 22, 2008, from 2pm to 4pm.

In order to deceive his pursuers, this pirate displaces himself while transmitting on two bands, his main hideout being from where he transmits almost continuously on the 2m-band, although at a very low level not exceeding 1 watt.

In order to track him down, it would be advantageous to follow his 80m-band signal, usually around 3.760 MHZ, and not exceeding 5 watts. This higher level of signal would more easily lead you to the main area of his hideout. Once in this main area, switch to the 2m-band, around 146.580 MHZ in order to locate his hideout. Approach carefully as he may be armed with high levels of RF. He may also be operating with an accomplice. You may have to enter in a public building to corner him, once you have identified his antenna.

- Ottawa area
- 3.760 MHZ <5watts, and
- 146.580 MHZ <1 watt
- 2-4pm, Sat, Nov. 22

Start anywhere, and coordinate on VE3TWO 147.300 (+)

Good Luck!
Your FBI (Funny Bunny Instigator)



80m Bunny



2m Bunny

Hide-outs

I had to find two locations to hide: one for the 80m-band bunny to bring the hunters close to the area, and one for the 2m-band bunny at only one watt of power. The main hideout would be inside the Museum of Science and Technology and using the 2m facility at the VE3JW Amateur Radio Exhibit station. The 80m hideout would be at a nearby small shopping centre.

Just before the hunt, Martin's difficulty with his 80m antenna prevented us from having a separate 80m hideout, and the noise and announcements in the PA at the Museum indicated that it was not such a good idea for a location as many local amateurs volunteer at the station and they would recognize the background sounds too easily. (So, in preparing your hunt, be aware of these situations and be flexible)

Since I had both, HF and VHF antennas on my vehicle, we decided to operate from one vehicle and to locate in the backyard of the Museum, which was providing a shield from the major part of the city to the West. Coordination could then be done from inside the Museum at the JW station, since it is well known that the coordination station is never in the area of the hideout, in order to prevent early detection by hunters. We hoped it would be a confusion factor. It turned out that there was no one to coordinate participation at that time, so the hunters were left with only the 80m and the 2m signals.

The 80m signal was produced from a KX1 QRP transmitter in CW mode with a continuing loop. The 2m signal was from either a QRP FT-817nd or FT-100D at its lowest power selection of 1 watt in FM voice mode. Both antennas were verticals at the rear of the vehicle. The 2m transmissions were also almost continuous, consisting of reading from the afore-mentioned Transmitter Hunting book, and separated by 30-second pauses. The almost continuous transmissions were decided upon due to the low level of power used and the low level of the mercury in the thermometer, with at least a minus 15C windshield factor.

What made this hunt special was the participation of Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, RAC Vice-President, Industrial Liaison. Norm mentioned to his wife that he was going on a bunny hunt. "A Bunny Hunt?" he heard in reply. Norm had to convey to her that it was not the Playboy Bunny type. Although, in a way, the inside cover of the box containing our mascot, a small rabbit adorned with Amateur Radio accouterments, featured a photo of one of those "other type" of bunnies and which Norm took pleasure in photographing after the hunt. Norm mentioned that it was the first time he participated in a transmitter hunt and enjoyed it very much.

Winner of the hunt this time is Keith, VA3KPP, who took a whole 30 minutes to pounce on us. Shortly after that OVMRC President David, VE3ZZU and Tyler, VA3DGN arrived. One hour into the hunt and Roy, VA3CKD, showed up. Suffice to say that these teams, by chance, started the hunt close to the area of the hidden bunny and immediately picked up the 2m signal.

Antennas used for hunting were varied. From a handheld with, and without, the rubberduck to three-element beams on



The bunny box



80m loop



Jefferson 630/RDF receiver

2m, and a special handheld loop for 80m built by Martin, VA3SIE, and used by Patrick, VA3CMD. Larry, VE3WEH, was also using a ferrite rod coupled to a shortwave receiver.

We even had a team showing up with just an antenna on the roof of the truck, no radio. It was Bob, VA3QV, who lives nearby and heard the strong signal from his home and decided to take a look around. Bob said a cavity in his tooth resonated the signal and a filling demodulated it...



Left to Right; David, VE3ZZU, OVMRC President, Larry, VE3WEH, Norm, VE3LC, RAC Vice-President, Industrial Liaison, Patrick, VA3CMD, Roy, VA3CKD and Maurice-André, VE3VIG

A good time was had by all and we gathered at the local Tim for a debrief and pics. Hope you can use this sample hunt to help you plan your own. Many more ideas can come up but that's for another hunt.

Good hunting!
Your hidden bunnies:
VE3VIG and VA3SIE:

Pictures courtesy of VA3SIE, VE3WEH, VE3LC

Addendum

Here are a couple of points worth noting submitted by Martin, VA3SIE, our 80 meter bunny, to help you on the chase:

- The ARDF loop used by Patrick was a partially built of Dale Hunt

WB6BYU's 80-meter DF Receiver built from an article in the September 2005 issue of QST, connected to a Yaesu FT-817 carried around the neck by a shoulder strap.

Essential gear for an ARDF exercise:

- Radio,
- directional antennas,
- Map,
- Compass,
- Ruler,
- Pencil,
- Protractor.

Make sure you know how to correct for magnetic declination and how your map is oriented with respect to North. ❖

ON THE CHAMPLAIN TRAIL

PART 4

CHAMPLAIN TRAIL MUSEUM - PEMBROKE 5 July 2008

Let's follow up on the Champlain Trail. On this lovely 4th of July day, I'm heading towards Pembroke, which is at the other extremity of our Trail, at about 150 kilometres from Ottawa. I had my hotel reservation and I wanted to see the site the day before the activation.

The Pembroke newspaper The Daily Observer paid us good coverage in a preceding edition, and the Champlain Trail Museum manager was very enthusiastic about our special event, which underlines the name of their museum "On the Champlain Trail". We had obtained permission to set up our mobile on the museum's ground.

On the way, I stopped at Cobden and visited the park where we would set up on Sunday, July 6. The information kiosk attendant puts me immediately in contact with Mr Cobb, a municipal councillor. Mr Cobb has no objection as to our presence in Memorial Park. I had already contacted the municipality of White Waters. So, all is well for Sunday, I head for Pembroke.

At the Champlain Trail Museum and Pioneer Village, I meet with the manager and we talk about the location and the set up for the next day. Then, I sign in at the hotel.

I take advantage of some free time to visit Morrison Island nearby. The Island is where Champlain met with Algonquin Grand Chief Tessouat some four centuries ago. He had already met Tessouat at

Tadoussac previously. Tessouat convinced Champlain not to go any further, saying that there was nothing in that direction. You see, Tessouat was charging a fee, a right of passage, for any craft heading towards Lachine for trade.

Early on Saturday morning, I was busy putting up a 20m dipole in the trees of the "Pioneer Village", and then setting up a station. Later, I put up a VEE dipole on a tripod and a vertical on the long mast.

Club members from the area were extremely rare, and, the local repeater strangely quiet. May be due to an 'overdose' of Field Day and Canada Day the previous week.

From my location, the bands were almost completely quiet. Something in phone, and in CW, Georgia and Newfoundland, it was very limited. A local journalist came to visit and I spent half an hour in interview. She wanted to know everything about Amateur Radio, the Special Event, and our itinerary... followed by photo shoot.

The President of the Champlain Trail Museum Association, Mr Pilot, came to see me and we placed our VC3C banner closer to the Main Street. He is an ex radio amateur who had worked in the Arctic. He remembered doing phone patches.

He liked my Champlain beard and my get up. He invited me to come back next year for their annual Champlain Day to personify Champlain. He said he would ask a native to play Tessouat, and we could relive the historical meeting.

At the end of the afternoon, I was heading for Cobden.

COBDEN and the ASTROLABE 6 July 2008

Excellent day spent at Cobden. Nice weather, great park, good location, friendly people, and as a bonus, some contacts with Europe.

When Champlain used this passage of a dozen small lakes to get around the White Waters region of the Ottawa, he lost an astrolabe, instrument to take readings of the sun inclination. The astrolabe was found in 1867 and is now an exhibit at the Museum of Civilizations in Gatineau. In order to mark this event, Monuments Canada erected a plaque near Green Lake where the instrument was found, and Cobden renamed the lake Astrolabe Lake.

At the Cobden Memorial Park, I set up a 20m dipole at around 12 meters from the

ground and a 40m dipole made of mobile sticks on a 6-meter mast. Larry, VE3WEH, arrived with Graham, VE3GBD, and he did a first contact from his vehicle on 80m with Bob, VA3QV, located at Cornwall, ON.

We followed up on 20m and Carolina, Manitoba, Florida, Tennessee, Indiana etc. were in our logbook. In the afternoon on 20m CW it was the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Italy, Germany, Finland, altogether, a nice catch.

Graham being native of Cobden, many of his family came to see him in action. Good occasion for Amateur Radio demonstration. Who knows, maybe someday, Graham could communicate with his family on one of our bands. The local population was already notified in advance through an excellent article published in their local newspaper, The Cobden Sun.

I put up the screen shelter but it was not used. I had not anchored it to the ground and when the wind came up, it started to roll like an enormous balloon towards the lake. First experience, too well remember. We saw it just in time.

The 40m mast became undone and the antenna came crashing down. An element was completely crushed. I put it back up to see if the antenna would work. I tuned it to a 1.5:1 SWR but had no idea of the radiation pattern...

CHAMPLAIN QC 12 July 2008

Heading East by Northeast, let's return to Québec. At Champlain, very nice locality bordering the St-Laurent, just downstream from Trois-Rivières, my contact was Michel, VA2ZZ, the big "cannon" around here. I saw his huge tower and his multi-element antennas that he built himself. Very impressive!

Michel did the coordination with the local administration so that we could set up near a lookout not too far from the main wharf. Very nice site, near the river, we watched huge transatlantic ships, fully loaded, coming and going.

This site was chosen, first for its name, but also for the fact that Champlain named the small river which flows through it, La Petite Champlain. Not far from there, he built a trading post.

20m in the trees, Vee dipole on a tripod, and the shelter in place, Robert, VE2GEN, came over to try for a contact, and afterwards, Michel was shaking the CW key. Later, in a mix of phone and Morse code, we contacted just about all

the States regions from W0 to W9 except W6.

Nice surprise at this site, Jean, VE2JMK, RAQI Treasurer, came to complete one or two contacts. He will be our host on the Montréal Islands.

Interesting day, some neighbours visiting, and maybe, the spark of Amateur Radio in the thoughts of an adolescent. At the end of the day, I left the motel in order to reach Sorel to the Southwest, at some 75 kilometres upstream.

SOREL-TRACY 13 July 2008

When I asked Luc, CRAFT President, if he knew of a site in Sorel that would be proper for our operation, he referred me to Jacques, VE2DJQ. Jacques Hamel is the President of the Musée Québécois de la Radio.

An arrangement with the city of Sorel had just been concluded, which would permit the Museum to open in November 2008 at the Maison des Gouverneurs, a well-known Heritage site. Jacques confirmed for us the availability of this site for July 13, 2008.

At the rear of the Maison des Gouverneurs, a park extends to the Richelieu River. Jacques and I were in the parking lot early morning of the 13, under a heavy rain. I went to sit with Jacques while waiting for this shower to pass and it allowed us to exchange on many subjects and to better get acquainted. Eventually, I signed up as a founding member of the Radio Museum.

We took advantage of a break in the rain to set up the shelter and install a station starting with a Vee dipole on a tripod. Soon, Luc and Guy, VE2LGL, Directeur Général RAQI, came over to set up a multiband Cobra. After the installation and the usual testing, Kentucky and New Jersey answered us. It sounded good.

But, just as soon, the rain started again. Thunder was heard and the wind was increasing. After disconnecting the antennas, the protective panels for the shelter were put in place. A heavy rain and strong winds came to shake us up, but the shelter stayed put, this time well anchored to the ground, and not a drop bothered us inside. It was the first real test for our shelter.

When we resumed, Luc scheduled a few contacts on HF with local operators, and besides a contact with Illinois, the catch was rather slim. Atmospheric and propagation were definitely not favourable for communications.

Nevertheless, at the end of the afternoon, the 20m band had a small opening towards Europe and we did make a contact with Champlain's country, LaRochelle/Brouages, with the help of Jacky, F5MMY, at Montauban.

F6BCC, Bernard, asked for a change of band and we went to 15m. After several calls we did not make contact on this band. I had checked the 40m band earlier and it was dead. Just the same, the contact with France was very much appreciated.

I have to mention here that Luc operated with the special call sign VC3C during the week when we were not on the air. He concentrated on satellite contacts and increased considerably the total of contacts for the Sorel site. This was allowed by Industry Canada, since the sites had been officially published for the call sign and as long as we could coordinate the activity without having two sites on the air at the same time.

We had some visitors, regional amateurs, and few others, probably due to the rain. We folded a humid shelter, which I dried up the following day in Ottawa.

Good experience, very pleasant meeting with CRAFT members, and despite the adverse weather and prog, we activated the Sorel site in a cheerful way.

Oh Yes, the reason for selecting Sorel, it was the gathering place for Champlain and the Algonquins, Hurons and Montagnais for their expedition to meet the Iroquois, up the Richelieu to Lake Champlain. Anyone remembers Ticonderoga?

MONTREAL - ILE SAINTE-HELENE 19 July 2008

There are so many activities at Park Jean Drapeau in the summer that we did not know if we could have access to Ile Sainte-Hélène. As everyone knows, the island was named after Champlain's wife.

Jean Massicotte, VE2JMK, RAQI Treasurer, member of Union Métropolitaine des Sans-Filistes (UMS) took on the task of communicating with the Park administration. A site was confirmed, only two weeks before activation.

We were authorized to set up on the extension (since EXPO 1967) to Ile Sainte-Hélène, at the southernmost end of Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, right at the entrance to the beach ... all were in favour. There was no rain and the beach was full.

Jean, Raymond, VA2RY, and Pierre, VE2PBL, got busy raising the mast on the RAQI emergency trailer, with a Cushcraft R7 on top, as I installed my station in plain view of the crowd. Gilles, VE2GCT, from the Laval club (CRALL) came over to help.

During the day we registered thirteen regional radio amateurs at the site. Denis, VE2DTZ, operating the VHF/UHF position in the RAQI trailer made many digital voice contacts using DStar all day long.

On HF, we were not that lucky. With the R7, we also had a multiband dipole attached to the top of the same mast. We had the antennas, the radios, AC power, the comfort and equipment of the emergency trailer, but we were missing propagation.

Nevertheless, we had enough contacts on 80, 40, 20m and DStar to well activate the site. At the end of the day, we had a short contact with France, although rather weak. Amateur Radio 'promotion' was much more active with the many visitors.

L'ORIGINAL - CHAMPLAIN MUNICIPALITY 20 July 2008

Prescott/Russell - Amateur Radio Emergency Service

The last outing outside the Ottawa region was in the Champlain Municipality of which L'Original is the centre, half way between Montreal and Ottawa. It is located on the Ottawa River where there is a little bay and a nice beach. Champlain established a trading post nearby.

Henry, VA3OV, PR-ARES President, picked the spot for us: the municipal park. He also handled the contacts in order to obtain permission for us to set up there.

A nice group of amateurs were already on site early in the morning. As always, the 20m dipole went up first, but with a variant. Twelve meters high lampposts overlooked the park, and we wanted to install four stations.

Seeing the distance between the lampposts, we combined two antennas end-to-end, the 20m dipole and a G5RV separated by 3 meters of rope. It was oriented East/West. This arrangement of antennas worked well as long as we were not on the same band.

Using the G5RV was Daniel, VA2SCH, on PSK31. Using the 20m dipole was Mike, VE3LTN, who managed the first

contacts on SSB voice, mostly from the States.

Maurice, VA3FRM, and Ron, VA3RRZ, were busy setting up a long wire for their Icom-706, while Harry, VA3ZAK, was operating in VHF/UHF from his emergency van. Harry did not have the results expected while working the distant repeaters.

He pounded a heavy grounding rod into the ground, about half way, and to the other protruding half, he attached a 6-meter telescopic handle. At the top, a J-Pole gave him access to the IRLP links. I had given him a list of IRLP codes for the large centres in Canada. He said that he never had so much fun communicating coast to coast with a special call. He logged many contacts from St-Johns to Victoria.

In the afternoon, things started to move on the 20m band, first in CW with Chicago, and then Frank, OZ1GML, Denmark. On voice, Grant, VE4GC, in Manitoba put us on the DX cluster. Shortly after, I was busy with a pile-up: Calgary, the States, Venezuela, Scotland, England, a real pleasure! The pleasure stopped when we had to fold the station in order to clear the park for 5pm.

It was a very good day with a formidable group of amateurs. In totaling the logs, we managed the second highest number of contacts for a VC3C site to date. The Honda generator did a wonderful job.

GREEN ISLAND - OTTAWA 26 July 2008

Paul, VE3CPH, Archivist at Ottawa City Hall, had discovered in the archives that Champlain had stayed on Green Island. This island is at the top of the Rideau Falls, the falls that Champlain had himself named, and where the old Ottawa City Hall is located. Paul obtained authorization for us to set up for the day on the island.

At 8am on July 26, I was putting up my 20m dipole into the trees, oriented for propagation towards the South. I used a slingshot to launch, over the trees, a weight tied to a monofilament. Champlain lost an Astrolabe at Green Lake, and I lost a slingshot on Green Island.

It was an IOTA weekend (Island On The Air), and we did have many contacts with North-American islands. The most distant contacts were with VO1KVT to the East, NX7TT, Idaho to the West and NP4N, Georgia to the South. Very limited as far as propagation. We used voice and digital on 20m and the 2m band for local calls.

Paul and Jane, VA3JNZ, put up their G5RV oriented East/West. Two 7-meter fibreglass masts at each end held it. They set up a sun shelter and had a folding table, a Yaesu FT-897 fed by a Power Pack. We had a little rain but they were not inconvenienced.

They logged a variety of contacts in FM/IRLP on 2m, and voice contacts on 17, 20, and 40m of which a special event, CG2I, Grosse-Ile, Irish Memorial. Their farthest HF contact was New Mexico.

It was a good day and a good activation of the site. We had visitors from OVMRC and MARG, some cyclist and pedestrians, the rain keeping others at a distance.

CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE - OTTAWA 30 July 2008

Last Outing

The VA2MA/mobile was used for the last time with special call sign VC3C at the Champlain Bridge activation. We had to activate Champlain Bridge, be it only for the name. From Ottawa, it leads to the Aylmer sector of Gatineau. We were located just at the entrance of the bridge, in Rémic Falls Park. For a Wednesday, it was the best place for visitors other than shopping centres. NCC, once again, gave us permission to set up in the park.

The 20m dipole in the trees, the banner well in view, there was a bit of a delay before I could set up the shelter. I had to return home to retrieve by marine battery and lunch cooler that I had left on the sidewalk during loading. Happily, nothing was touched.

When I came back to the park, Don, VA3GFD, and Bob, VA3QV, were on site and they helped me with the shelter. Just in time, cause soon, rain came down. I protected the Honda generator and proceeded on 20m HF voice. Don logged a contact with Carolina and he had to go. We were asking visiting radio amateurs to complete at least one contact.

Not too many openings on the bands today, comparing with yesterday when I came over for testing the site and raised Chris, 9Y4D, in Trinidad-Tobago. Today, we had a contact with Thunderbay, and the rest not reaching past the States.

At the beginning of our story, we have indicated who was our first contact. Here is the last contact before closing VC3C: 20m CW, Bert, W5ZR, in Louisiana.

Jean-Claude, VE2JCG, came over to bring a CD with pictures of different

VC3C activations. We summed it all up and did a sort of post-mortem, and I was a bit sad to realize that this was the end of The Trail.

The rain stopped, a light breeze was blowing, sufficiently for drying the shelter before I folded it. And so ends 60 days filled with nice memories and the experience of an excellent workout from my mobile/portable. I would not hesitate to do it again.

PART 5

CONCLUSION

Activate, Promote, Assemble

Have we properly filled the proposed objectives?

ACTIVATE

In order to review each one of our objectives, let's start with the first one, that of activating a number of sites along the Champlain Trail. If you've read the preceding, you realize that we have not missed one single site. We've even added more activities in order to use the special call outside of weekends. Rain or shine, we were on site at the day and time scheduled.

It was a big load with regards to preparation, coordination, equipment, but thanks to local administrations and club participation along The Trail, we have well filled this objective.

It's been a pleasure to discover or rediscover all these marvelous sites in Québec and Ontario. Welcoming communities, splendid panoramas, one better than the other, and the excellent participation and cooperation on the part of attending radio amateurs.

PROMOTE

Amateur Radio promotion was done in many ways. Let's start with media publicity, periodicals and newspapers, and the four Internet sites. Then, banners and signs deployed at each site, as well as the very visible equipment in public places. And finally, handouts and RAC-RAQI magazines, which we generously offered to visitors.

Answering questions, doing demonstrations, give explanations, address the public and invite them to make a contact, were also part of our mission. Although, we must admit that during doubtful weather days, crowds did not push us. Nevertheless, this part of our engagement was also well taken care of.

ASSEMBLE

If there were one objective that was better filled than others, it would be the one concerning the coming together of clubs and organizations we adhere to. Starting with the positive and enthusiastic response of clubs along The Trail, which has greatly encouraged us to pursue our goal, to the presence and diligence of club members at the sites, cooperation was tangible and free.

At the AmateurFest in Sorel on May 25, to see RAC and RAQI assemble to send off, hand in hand, the VC3C event, augured well for the unfolding of our tour. To have the combined attendance of RAC and RAQI clubs on a same site showed a will for having joint events. To see RAC and RAQI executives actually participating in activations told us that they had the same desire.

But our desire of getting closer to one another reached even further. Our contacts with REF-Union (France) and RSGB (UK) was meant to bring them into the celebrations. Following the publication of our special event information in their respective national journal, REF-Union, Department 17, Charentes, responded with a special event call sign TM400, and operators to the South-West of London were asking for skeds with us.

We believe that this objective was also well filled. In summary, it is acknowledged that the three objectives will certainly leave some marks. The activation should encourage radio amateurs to group and go mobile for other activations; the promotion, incite visitors to join us; the shared experience, bring us to do more activities together.

There, is the Amateur Radio participation in celebrating the 400th anniversary On the Champlain Trail. I had a lot of fun. As I was saying to an amateur: "Even if it rains, when you can play radio, it's always a nice day". Albeit, I've also played golf in the rain.

THANKS

With a large event such as this, we have a long list of thanks. First, OVMRC who accepted the idea and supported us. Then, to sum up, all the local administrations mentioned above, the Amateur Radio clubs participating along The Trail, their members on site during activations, those who have contributed equipment, those who have sent pictures. A list of the clubs, localities, grid locators is found as an annex.

Thank you all! ❖

Now, Here's a challenge!

QRP 2m-SSB PSK-31 mobile or portable

Digital communications have picked up considerably in the past decade, especially in the PSK-31 mode. It is now possible to complete contacts in this mode on all HF bands, as it is spreading from the highly solicited 20m, 14.070 MHz section of that band.

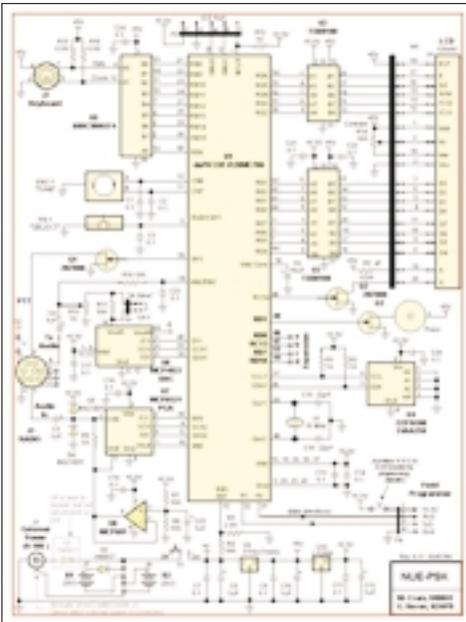
The PSK-31 mode propagates very well at a low level of power, allowing contacts into Europe with only 20 watts. When propagation reaches higher levels, it is possible to make similar contacts with a QRP transceiver (less than 5 watts).

I have been experimenting with QRP PSK-31 on the digital portion of the 2-meter band and was able to make scheduled contacts on simplex frequencies within my region. Now, perhaps some of you have done this from the comfort of your home, but to add a little spice, have you tried it from a mobile or portable situation?

I don't mean logging your desktop and CRT into nature and carrying a 5-kilowatt generator to put it all to use. As you might know, low power and miniaturized units are abundant on the market today. What's more, plans and kits are available for you to build your own complete miniature set-up.

Let's start with replacing the computer. If you like a construction project, "NUE-PSK" provides plans with a list of components for you to build a miniature unit that replaces your computer and the interface to your radio. The unit has an LCD read out window and is controlled through a mini keyboard attached to it.

If you're short on components, NUE-PSK provides all plans and components in a kit form. And, for those who would like to proceed immediately to operation, a completely built and tested unit is available also. (Pic-1 series from NUE-PSK web site www.nue-psk.com).



Picture 1a

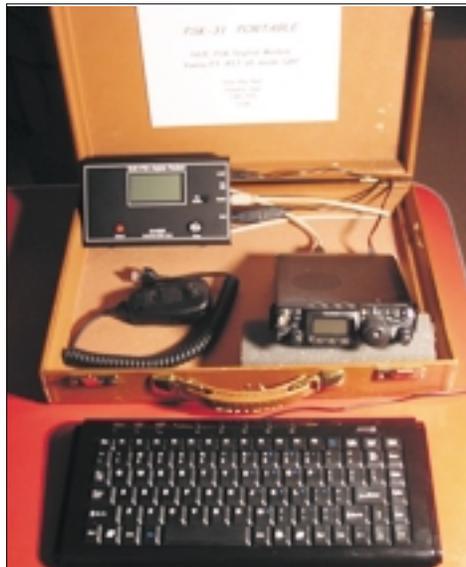


Picture 1b

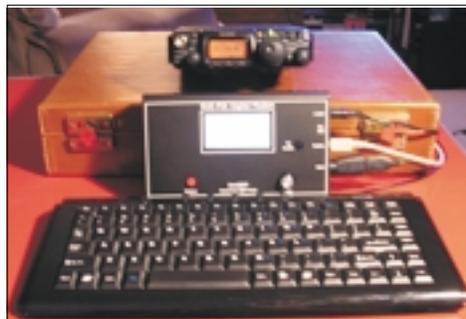


Picture 1c

My own set-up includes a miniature Yaesu FT-817nd all mode QRP transceiver, but you can now build your own SSB transceiver from several kit suppliers. The series of pictures PIC-2 shows my own portable PSK-31 QRP unit in a small hand case, and also deployed for operation. I carry a ribbon J-pole for the 2m band. For operation from the mobile, I use the vehicle-mounted antenna.



Picture 2a



Picture 2b

It is quite a challenge now, as very few stations can be heard on 2m SSB, but, to help new stations to set up, we've initiated an experimenter's net on 145.770 MHZ (digital simplex), which runs on Sunday evenings at 7pm in the Ottawa/Gatineau area. We're also available on demand at other times. I visit the frequency regularly and send out CQ's, and as a beacon for others to tune to.

Some might say that the VHF band is very limited as far as distance is concerned, but that is the challenge of setting up the best antenna you can, for, QRP and VHF operation lies in the effi-

ciency of your antenna. Later on, I'm hoping to conduct QRP 2m-SSB PSK-31 contacts through our Amateur Radio satellites with the help of my Arrow II satellite portable beam.

Hope to copy you at some time.

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG ❖

Canadian Ski Marathon

Once again the Canadian Ski Marathon is spooling up. This year we are looking forward to much more "normal" conditions and by that I mean snow!

The CSM depends on ham radio volunteers to provide important and timely safety and logistical communication for the benefit of the skiers. The amateur radio CSM web page (<http://radio.admin2.ca>) is up and running with 2009 information and assignments are already being filled. If you would like to volunteer this year, please email Harold VA3UNK (radio1@admin2.ca). Although I can't promise anything, assignment requests are generally first-come, first-served.

Please join me the second weekend in February (7th-8th) and help make the 36th our best year yet!

73 de Harold, VA3UNK ❖

OVMRC 08/09 Calendar			
Month	Rambler Deadline	Club Meeting	Exec Meeting
Jan	2	15	22
Feb	6	19	26
Mar	6	19	26
Apr	3	16	23
May	8	21	28
Jun	5	18	25

President's Corner

Happy New Year from your new president Dave VE3ZZU for fiscal year '08-'09. I got my amateur radio license in '92 because I have always had an interest in radio since childhood and friendship with and encouragement from a very knowledgeable person who was willing to teach me was the perfect situation and support that I needed. At the time, I lived in the country so I was able to erect antennas. I communicated on the HF bands as well as locally on VHF using base station, mobile and portable until the time that I moved into an apartment in town. At that point, my HF communications came to a halt due to condominium rules. I have assisted with radio communications by running nets, participating in community events such as bicycle marathons, the Canadian Ski Marathon, several transmitter hunts and at times helping with field day. I support the amateur radio community with my membership in RAC and I have been a member of several ham radio clubs since '92. Since my retirement in '03, I have had a renewed interest in amateur radio thanks to Larry VE3WEH.

Following our November '08 elections, the OVMRC still needs chairpersons to fill the positions of "secretary", "publicity and programs" and "special projects". I encourage and invite members to contribute to our club by serving on our "executive".

I also encourage and ask for "input" from our members for new club activities. For example, do you have any suggestions for "presentations at meetings" and "views" on what you would like to see happen during the year '09?

Our January 15 meeting is a "mini flea market" and tables are free for members. In attendance will be the graduating '08 OVMRC amateur radio class who will be introduced by Ernie Jury VE3EJJ. At our February meeting we are hopeful of having Richard VE3UNW make a presentation about the Canadian Ski Marathon, complete with stats and any photos that may have been taken of the event. Our March meeting will be "Home Brew Night" and I encourage members to work on their projects and to contact me if they will have a presentation. We should have some dandy prizes for the winners! The April meeting is open for anyone wishing to make a presentation or to suggest a presentation. Our May meeting is expected to be "Mobile & Portable Night" demonstrations with displays in the front parking lot starting at 7 p.m. The event will be open to any and all who wish to show off their mobile rigs and

portable setups. Once again some prizes and "bragging rights" go to the top three winners. Do we have anyone who would like to serve as "judges" for this event? Our last meeting is June and we are open for suggested speakers. During summer '08 we held "Amateur Radio Picnic in the Park" with Patrick VA3CMD's help. Is anyone interested in holding the event again this summer '09?

Dave Scott, VE3ZZU
President (FY '08-'09) ❖

RAC Announcement

RAC Field Services Announces HF Emcomm Frequencies

As the result of extensive research, a list of designated Canadian HF Emergency Communications frequencies has been created.

Radio Amateurs of Canada National Emergency Coordinator Ken Oelke VE6AFO, National Traffic System Coordinator Hew Lines VA7HU, National Amateur Radio Emergency Database Manager Drew Watson VA7DR and Special Advisor Pierre Mainville VA3PM, worked in consultation with RAC Section Managers to compile the list.

Frequencies and modes of operation have been pre-determined for use of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) during an emergency or disaster occurring anywhere in Canada. The list may be viewed online at rac.ca/fieldorg/racaresfreqs.htm

The RAC Field Services Organization reminds all operators that no Amateur Radio station or group has exclusive ownership of any frequency, although common sense and courtesy dictates that other stations would keep clear of frequencies being used for communications related to emergency or disaster operations anywhere in the world.

Bob Cooke, VE3BDB
RAC Vice President for Field Services ❖

RAC Announcement

The International Year of Astronomy Special Prefix Callsign starts January 1st 0h UT and ends Feb 27th 23:59 UT .

All Canadian Amateurs are encouraged to use it to commemorate Galileo Galilei's first look through an optical instrument towards the heavens. The Special Prefixes are:

VE changes to CG
VA changes to CF
VO changes to CH
VY changes to CI

The official kickoff date for IYA is January 10th and on that date many astronomy clubs across Canada and around the world will be participating in local astronomical activities. Displays at Shopping Malls, talks in Public Libraries, star parties for the public will be happening.

I am also encouraging those amateur Radio operators who are affiliated with the RASC (Royal Astronomical Society of Canada) that might have local IRLP access to visit node 9005 the Vancouver Reflector on January 10th to join in the across Canada IYA Net.

To find out more about this unique ham radio Special prefix and related projects visit <http://www.hamiya2009.info>

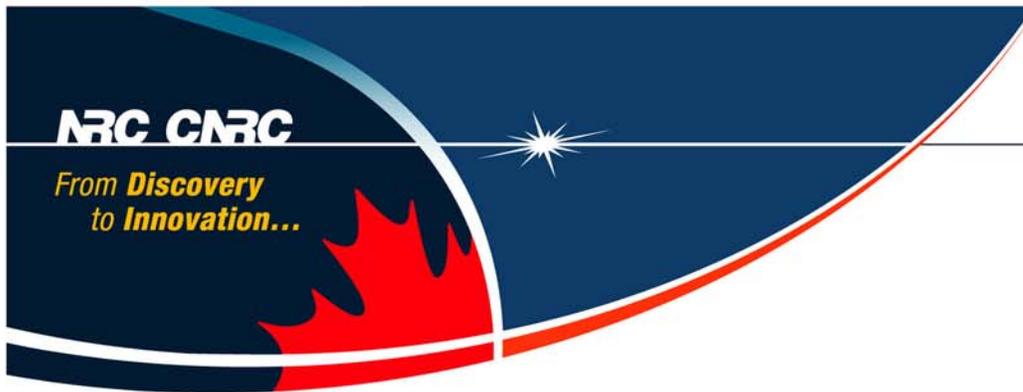
Malcolm Scrimger, VE7DAO ❖

**NEXT
MEETING
THURSDAY
15TH JANUARY**

**MINI
FLEA MARKET**

&

**OVMRC
GRADUATING
CLASS**



NRC CNRC

From **Discovery**
to **Innovation...**

Science
at work for
Canada

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CANADA COMMUNIQUE

Time to change your shortwave radio dial

After seventy years of broadcasting Canada's official time, NRC's shortwave station CHU will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect on 01 January 2009 at 00:00 UTC.

CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada, broadcasting 24 hours a day from a location approximately 15 km south-west of downtown Ottawa. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, voice to announce the time in French and English, and digital data to set computers.

The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories in Ottawa, at the National Research Council Canada. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time), which is now the reference for official time used by all countries. UTC is the modern implementation of Greenwich Mean Time.

"Coincidentally, this frequency change comes at a time when NRC is investing resources to refurbish the aging transmitters at CHU in order to provide clear, dependable shortwave services as part of NRC's mandate to disseminate time to all Canadians." said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "The shortwave time service is especially beneficial for those in remote locations where there is limited access to internet and telephone communication. CHU also provides a back up against failure of other services."

In April 2007, the International Telecommunications Union re-allocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from a fixed service to a broadcasting service. Since then, interference on the 7335 kHz frequency has come from many information broadcasters around the world.

CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference. We have heard from amateur radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers, and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. As well, comments were received from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment.

To give notice to users, CHU will broadcast an announcement in both English and French. More information about CHU can be found at:

http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html

Comments about the CHU change can be sent by e-mail to radio.chu@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national
de recherches Canada

Canada