

## MUSEUMS' TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEERS

Monday, April 20, 2009 was the date for Canada Science and Technology Museum's "Tribute to volunteers". Every year, in the spring, the Museum corporation hosts the more than 160 volunteers helping out in different sections of the two museums under one administration, Science and Technology Museum, and Agriculture Museum.

The OVMRC VE3JW Amateur Radio Station is a permanent exhibit at the CMST.

The volunteers who participate in the station operation and demonstration contribute to offset some of the cost to our Club that we would normally be charged for the use of the facilities for our monthly meetings and for the radio course.

The evening started with greetings from Mr Claude Faubert, Director General. Then, Ms Denise Amyot, the new Museum President was introduced. A delicious catered dinner was served, with all the trimmings, before the presentation of awards of recognition for volunteer hours.

In our group, Darin, VE3OIJ, was awarded his first 100-hour pin and Mike, VE3LTN, his 1,500-hour award, which was a watch. His better half said: "Now, no excuse for being late". Pointing at his new watch Mike said: "See, I'm on Museum time!"



A special presentation was made to two volunteers who have completed over 1,500 hours at their respective museum. In this photo, we have the President and the Director General, and to the left is Mike, VE3LTN, with a big smile.



To the left, is the Museum's new President and CEO, Ms Denise Amyot, and to the extreme right is Mr Claude Faubert, Director General. We recognize some of the winners of the night, on the left is Robert, VE2AGE, and in the middle, at the rear, is Darin, VE3OIJ.

After dinner, we were treated to a very special show by a group on drums and bongos, some very large ones being hit with different size sticks giving different sonority. Now, I'm not fluent in drum

language, but when they played a piece that started very slowly, and in some way melodious, then the tempo and the level of loudness increased to a roar, I translated that as meaning: "All is well, but the thunderstorm is coming."

Several draws took place and many went home with arms full of precious bounty.

Quite a relaxing moment spent in an open area of the Museum, with round tables nicely adorned with flowers and a gift for every seat. Every year we see new faces attending, as new volunteers join the group. This year we had VE3JW volunteers spread over three tables.

Many thanks to the Museum for a very enjoyable meal and entertaining evening, much appreciated by everyone.

Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG



## OVMRC Executive 2008-2009

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*For information about the duties and responsibilities about all Executive and Chair positions, please visit the OVMRC forums, Member section or contact any member of the Executive.*

## OVMRC Life Members

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

Ed Morgan, VE3GX

Bill Wilson, VE3NR

## OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)  
444.200 MHz(+)

## Sponsors

The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities:

- **Acceptable Storage**, Ottawa, ON
- **Bytown Marine**, Ottawa, ON
- **Elkel Ltee.**, Trois-Rivières, QC
- **Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON
- **Ottawa Camping Trailers Ltd.**, Ottawa, ON
- **Travel-Mor Trailer Sales**, Ottawa, ON

The Rambler is produced using **Corel's Ventura™ 8** software.

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

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

## 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:

[ve3cuz@gmail.com](mailto:ve3cuz@gmail.com).

# MINUTES — OVMRC GENERAL MEETING

**April 16, 2009**

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The President, David VE3ZZU, called the meeting to order at 19:45. There were 43 people in attendance.

## 2. VISITING AMATEURS

Andy VE3NVK, Gordon VE3FRB

## 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Paul VE3CPH would like to talk to fellow amateurs proficient in soldering connectors.

## 4. PROGRAM

### 4.1 Visit by Representative from Elkel

This portion of the program was deferred. The Club was advised, in the late afternoon before the meeting, that the transmission of the vehicle driven by the representative of Les Produits Électroniques ELKEL Ltée, of Trois-Rivières, Québec, had broken down in Montreal.

### 4.2 Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour

Gordon VE3FRB gave an illustrated talk on the role that volunteer amateur radio operators, and particularly those from the Ottawa area, play in support of the Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour. This tour, which is sponsored by the Ottawa Bicycle Club, is a two-day event that attracts some 1,800 riders, mainly from Ontario, Quebec and the United States.

Cyclists can choose from four different routes, of which the "Classic" and the "Century" are supported by amateur radio operators. The other two routes, the "Cruise" and the "Challenge" are unsupported, and are aimed at the more independent cyclists.

The Classic route entails cycling, on a Saturday, from Carleton University, through the towns of Ashton, Perth and Westport before arriving at Queen's University in Kingston. The next day, cyclists return to Ottawa, a round trip of over 350 km. This route alone attracts about half of all participants. Three groups of radio operators, one each from the Ottawa, Lanark and Frontenac areas provide support for the event.

Operators from the Ottawa area are responsible for radio communications between Carleton University and Blacks Corners, a total of ten mobile stations. Operators pass traffic and status reports, provide rider counts, arrange for bicycle repair vehicles, call for vehicles to pick up riders in distress, report the bib number of the last rider past their station, and summon assistance in case of an emergency. Radio operators do not enforce rules or any other matters pertaining to the administration of the tour.

Radio communications for the event are conducted entirely on the 2-metre band. Mobile radios located at fixed stations and mobile radios in moving vehicles are supplemented with repeaters situated at strategic locations including Ottawa and Franktown. For the first time, the 2009 event will include Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) on key vehicles.

The next Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour will be held Saturday June 6 and Sunday June 7. The leg of the race for which Ottawa area operators are responsible still requires volunteers on Saturday from about 07:00 until noon, and on Sunday from about 11:00 until 17:00. Amateurs who wish to support this event should contact Gordon at VE3FRB@rac.ca. For more information on the Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour, visit <http://www.ottawabicycleclub.ca/>.

### 4.3 Software Defined Radio

Michel VE2BPM presented an illustrated talk on software defined radios (SDR). He demonstrated that technology using the model 5000 manufactured by FlexRadio Systems [www.flex-radio.com](http://www.flex-radio.com).

Conventional hardware-based radios are upgraded by changing physical components. As a result, costs are greater than they need be for both manufacturers and users when changes need to be made. In contrast, SDR combines a minimum amount of hardware with a maximum amount of software. Therefore, one of the objectives of SDR is to provide multi-mode, multi-band and multi-functional devices that can be upgraded, as needed, by simply downloading additional software.

In conventional radios, mixers, filters, amplifiers, modulators, demodulators and detectors, are hardware based. In software defined radios, these modules are implemented using software residing on a personal computer. Although SDR is not new, it is still largely experimental in amateur radio, but expected to eventually become the dominant technology.

For additional information on software radio design, see chapter 16 in The AARL Handbook for Radio Communications, ARRL, Newington, CT, and <http://hpsdr.org/>. To listen to and control a short-wave receiver maintained by the amateur radio club of the Faculty for Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Twente, the Netherlands, visit [websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/](http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/).

## 5. BUSINESS PORTION

### 5.1 Achievement Awards

Maurice-André VE3VIG presented certificates to Stan VA3SMM and Bernie VA3BMZ on successful completion of the satellite communications course recently held at the Club station VE3JW. This course is a free service provided by the Club to any amateur, regardless of club affiliation. Courses consist of three sessions, each lasting two hours held at the mutual convenience of the participants and the instructor, Maurice-André VE3VIG.

### 5.2 Autopatch

Larry VE3WEH briefed members on the cost-benefit of providing a telephone autopatch through the Club repeater VE3TWO. The telephone line for the autopatch costs \$780 annually. A show of hands confirmed that the facility has been used but infrequently by a few amateurs. Alternatives such as cell phones and the availability of radio assistance from fellow amateurs in case of an emergency have, to a large extent, rendered autopatches less useful than they once were.

MOTION: Larry VE3WEH asked for a motion from the floor to eliminate the

expenditure associated with the autopatch, given that the Club can no longer afford it. After considerable discussion by members, it was moved by Chris VE3CUZ and seconded by Don VE3KII, that the autopatch service provided by the Club be discontinued. The motion was adopted, with one abstention.

## 6. STANDING COMMITTEES

a) Treasurer: Arthur VA3BIT reported that the Club would likely incur a deficit of several hundred dollars by the end of the fiscal year.

b) Amateur Radio Exhibit: Maurice-André VE3VIG informed the audience that experimentation is underway to examine the feasibility of incorporation D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) as one of the technologies to be demonstrated to amateurs and the general public alike at the Club station VE3JW. An attempt to contact Milan, Italy, using D-STAR is scheduled for 14:00 hours, Saturday April 18.

c) Amateur Radio Training: The Club would like to increase the number of instructors for the amateur radio course that it offers to the public each year in the fall. Those interested in teaching any portion of the syllabus should contact Ernie VE3EJJ.

d) Emergency Preparedness: The President asked for a volunteer to fill the vacant chair of that committee. There was no response from the floor.

Ken VE3SRS who, after many years of service to the Club, recently stepped down as chair of that committee reported that the Club's emergency communications trailer requires some maintenance. The trailer, a 17-foot, 3,000-pound Corsair, manufactured in 1976, was donated to the Club some five years ago. Its equipment includes a radio, antennas and a power generator.

e) Membership: Chris VE3CUZ reported that the Club is providing web access through an interim server until such time as an account is finalized with Primus. To access the Club website, visit [coolvideo.ham-radio-op.net:80/](http://coolvideo.ham-radio-op.net:80/).

f) Publicity and Programs: Michel VE2BPM reminded the audience that the program for the Club meeting in May

includes a mobile radio "show and tell" which will be held in the main parking lot of the Canada Science and Technology Museum. There will be a prize for the best rig.

g) Radio Operations: David VE3ZZU reported that all of the Club's amateur radio nets continue to operate as scheduled.

h) Special Events and Field Day: David VE3ZZU asked for a volunteer to organize field day. There was no response from the floor. However, Joe VE3EUS offered to assist anyone taking on that responsibility, and Jamie VA3JME volunteered to tow the Club's emergency communications trailer.

## 7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

The audience was reminded that the flea market hosted by our colleagues from the Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club will be held on May 9 at the Smiths Falls Youth Arena located behind the community centre at the corner of Cornelia and Elmsley streets. The market is open to vendors at 07:00 and to the public at 09:00.

## 8. DOOR PRIZES AND DRAWS

Door prizes were won by Graham VE3GBD and by Gordon VE3XGD. The 50/50 draw was won by Marcel VE3FNG.

## 9. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club executive will be held on Thursday, April 23 at 19:00.

The next general meeting of the Club will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 19:30.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:30 at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio.

## 11. SIGNED

Joe VE3EUS, Secretary

# Ramblings

The OVMRC's positions for (1) SPECIAL PROJECTS & FIELD DAY and (2) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS are both VACANT. We need someone in the club to step forward for these two positions. It's looking like we may not have a FIELD DAY this year unless someone volunteers.

Dave Scott, VE3ZZU  
President, FY '08-'09

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## RAC Bulletin 2009-014E RAC Canada Day Contest July 1, 2009 April 22, 2009

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This is a reminder that the 2009 edition of the Canada Day Contest is will be held on July 1, 2009. For more information please download the pdf file with the rules at:

[http://www.rac.ca/service/contesting/files/2009 Canada Day Rules - English.pdf](http://www.rac.ca/service/contesting/files/2009%20Canada%20Day%20Rules%20-%20English.pdf)

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## RAC Bulletin 2009-017E RAC new LF/MF/HF Band Planning Committee Chair. 2009-05-09

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The Radio Amateurs of Canada President has recently appointed Jim Fisher, VE1JF, as Chair of the LF/MF/HF Band Planning Committee. Jim will take over from Bob Nash, VE3KZ, who resigned after a few years holding the position.

RAC wants to thank Bob Nash, VE3KZ, for the hard work he did on the committee. During his tenure, a complete revision of the Canadian HF Band Plan has been done and the process for an ongoing revision was implemented.

Jim brings with him an excellent and long experience on the bands that the committee is working on. We wish him all the best in his new position.

Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA  
Vice-President for International Affairs -  
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

# AMSAT-NA Canadian Delegate to ARISS-International Team

## YOURS TRULY TAKING ON NEW CHALLENGE

(Are the shoulders large enough to harbour it?)

What a small world when you're dealing with satellites!

Although I'm used to worldwide contacts via amateur radio, I had never participated in a universal teleconference. This new appointment plunged me directly into the heart of it. Two days after my nomination, I joined the international teleconference at 7:15 a.m. local, to hear the many voices of the participants all around the world who make up the ARISS-International Working Group. Everything said in English was immediately translated in Russian and vice-versa. I recognized many Russian words that I had learned during my posting to Europe in the '50s.

Here is a copy of the letter from Barry Baines, WD4ASW, AMSAT-NA President, conveying my nomination to Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, President of ARISS-International.

Maurice-André, VE3VIG

## Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA Appointed as Canadian AMSAT Delegate to the ARISS International Working Group

AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW has appointed Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG, as the Canadian AMSAT delegate to the ARISS International Working Group. He replaces Stefan Wagener, VE4NSA who resigned due to personal reasons.

Maurice-André was first licensed in 1990. He served 38 years in the Canadian Air Force, Communications and Electronics Branch. He is an active amateur radio operator with satellite experience dating to 2001. He has been conducting an ongoing satellite communications course starting in 2006. He

Dear Gaston:

First, please accept my congratulations on your recent elevation to Chairman of ARISS. Your willingness to assume this responsibility is appreciated by AMSAT and we look forward to working with your team and you as we continue to encourage the role of amateur radio in human space flight.

I have the pleasure of informing you that Maurice-André Vigneault, VA2MA/VE3VIG, has agreed to serve as the Canadian AMSAT delegate to the ARISS working group. Maurice-André comes highly recommended by Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, the Radio Amateurs of Canada delegate to ARISS.

Maurice-André was first licensed in 1990. He served 38 years in the Canadian Air Force, Communications and Electronics Branch. He is an active amateur radio operator with satellite experience dating to 2001. He has been conducting an ongoing satellite communications course starting in 2006. He conducted an ARISS School contact in January 2007. He is active in demonstrating satellite communications at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

He is a member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada and AMSAT. As a member of the AMSAT Field Operations Team, he serves as an Area Coordinator for Ottawa, representing AMSAT in his local community and serving as a mentor to hams wishing to learn about the satellite communications.

AMSAT is proud to be able to send such a qualified member to serve with the ARISS Working Group. AMSAT looks forward to many years of continued cooperative activities with ARISS in human space flight.

73,

Barry A. Baines, WD4ASW  
AMSAT President

conducted an ARISS School contact in January 2007. He is active in demonstrating satellite communications at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

He is a member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada and AMSAT. As a member of the AMSAT Field Operations Team, he serves as an Area Coordinator for Ottawa, representing AMSAT in his local community and serving as a mentor to hams wishing to learn about the satellite communications.

Barry noted in an e-mail to ARISS International Working Group Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, "AMSAT is proud to be able to send such a qualified member to serve with the ARISS Working Group. AMSAT looks forward to many years of

continued cooperative activities with ARISS in human space flight."

The ARISS International Working Group includes two delegates appointed by AMSAT. Previously, AMSAT VP-Human Space Flight Will Marchant, KC6ROL was appointed the US AMSAT delegate to the ARISS International Working Group replacing Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. Both Maurice-André Vigneault and Will Marchant will be attending the upcoming ARISS International Working Group meeting taking place in June 2009 at ESA/ESTEC in the Netherlands.

# OVMRC Supports Children's Hospital Fundraiser

Local amateur radio operators were among the many volunteers who made CN Cycle for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CN Cycle for CHEO), held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, a success. Many will be familiar with this annual event which, for the previous 11 years, was marketed under the name "Tour Nortel." There were 18 amateur radio operators at this year's event, of which several were members of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club.

Amateur radio operators supported three different bicycle tours, the first covering 70 kilometres, the second 30 kilometres and the third 12 kilometres. The 70 kilometre tour entailed cycling from the Nortel Campus on Moodie Drive, in Kanata, to Baskin's Beach, west of Ottawa, and then returning to the starting point.

Amateur radio traffic was conducted entirely on the 2-metre band. The main role

of amateur radio operators is to facilitate the communication of messages involving cyclist emergencies and cyclist safety. In addition, they also facilitate the efficient functioning of the tours by bringing to the attention of organizers such matters as confusing signage, cyclists veering off course, fallen traffic cones and dwindling supplies of refreshments for participants. During this year's event, bananas were momentarily scarce at one rest stop, but the situation was expeditiously remedied with the appropriate radio traffic.

The communications net control was deployed at the Nortel Campus. The other seven stations in the net were deployed at the intersections of Hertzberg and Bayfield, Klondike and Second Line, Second Line and March, Second Line and Dolan, Sixth Line and Vance, as well as at the Dunrobbin Community Centre and at Baskin's Beach.

In addition to volunteering their time, amateur radio operators supply all of the required communications equipment which includes radios, antennas and autonomous power supplies. The Emergency Measures Radio Group and the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club facilitated communications between the various radio stations on the net by providing access to their respective repeaters for the duration of the event.

Some 5,000 people participated in CN Cycle for CHEO, and over \$500,000 was raised. This event is but one of the many in Ottawa and in neighboring communities where local amateur radio operators provide pro bono communications services for the not-for-profit sector.

Joe, VE3EUS

## Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour 2009 Radio Support — Ops Needed

**June 6–7, 2009**

Looking for volunteer radio operators for the weekend of June 6 & 7 to assist in providing radio support for this event. The RLCT has been run annually for over 25 years by the Ottawa Bicycle Club. It involves over 2000 cyclists, riding from Carleton University to Queens University and back in one weekend, a one way distance of 177 km! Amateur radio teams from Ottawa, and the Lanark and Frontenac ARES groups have been providing support along the entire route providing vital linkages between various checkpoints, support vehicles, and to engage emergency services to deal with accidents and incidents, of which there are, unfortunately, several every year.

Operators will be deployed from Carleton University west to Blacks Corners, south of Carleton Place. All operations are done using 2 mefres. Experience is not necessary.

Newcomers are welcome. Anyone interested, please contact Gord, (VE3FRB) at [ve3frb@rac.ca](mailto:ve3frb@rac.ca).

[OBC Rideau Lakes Tour web site](#)

Ottawa Bicycle Club



## TRUE STORY

Do you have an Amateur Radio antenna on your vehicle?

Then, beware of where you park and operate your radio.

The 9-11 phobia has spread from airports and train stations to shopping centres.

Last weekend, I packed my Acer mini, NUE-PSK modem, SignalLink, D-Star radio, FT-817nd and battery pack, and headed for the rooftop at the Bay, St-Laurent Shopping Centre. I intended to try out some of the new gear in different modes.

A few years ago nobody would notice you as you operated inside your vehicle with an antenna mounted at the back. That's exactly what I was doing this past Sunday afternoon at this parking area which was almost empty.

I had my Acer opened and running on the folded down front passenger seat which I use as a table while operating from the back seat. The 817 and the NUE sitting on top of the dashboard, the SignalLink on top of the console and connected to the FT-100D, resident radio in the Jeep, the IC-91AD propped up on the glove compartment, made up for quite a show of comm equipment with lights flashing and frequencies lit up on the face of the radios.

After a QSO on D-Star, I was happily monitoring PSK-31 traffic until I was brutally

interrupted by two, not one but two, security guards. They wanted to know what I was doing? "I'm playing radio, waiting for a friend gone shopping inside" I said while opening the door. When they saw my set up, they must have thought that I was some kind of a spy... or foreign agent. They asked me to immediately cease transmitting and ... receiving!

I tried to explain that I was a federally

As they walked away and reported to Control on their handheld radio, I was wondering if perhaps I was interfering with their surveillance and security communications network for the shopping centre. They have walky-talky systems and cheap surveillance cameras all over. Perhaps my RF was getting into that. But to me, that was a fragrant abuse of authority due to phobic reactions to current events.



VA2MA mobile, not the set-up in the story, but similar.

license Amateur Radio operator as I showed them my mini certificate. They said that this was a private, although public, parking area and they would not allow my operation to go on. You see, I was dressed in black and had dark shades on my face. I could sit and wait for my friend but not use my radio gear. I said "Can I listen to my AM/FM radio while waiting?" They didn't respond to that, thinking I was being sarcastic maybe.

Quite put off, I shut everything down and moved away. Next time I want to operate from the mobile, I'd better be moving or request permission to do so in any Park, Shopping Centre, public area, who knows, maybe my own apartment parking lot. And put up a big sign in the windshield saying "Amateur Radio Demonstration". Beware, the spy-chaser will get you!

Maurice-André, ve3vig/va2ma mobile

