



MINUTES, OVMRC GENERAL MEETING

September 24, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The President, Michel VE2BPM, called the meeting to order at 19:45. There were 32 people in attendance.

2. GUESTS AND VISITING AMATEURS

Jean, VE3DNI, Margaret, VA3VXN, Tyler, VA3DGN

3. PROGRAM

Darin VE3OIJ held the audience for a good part of the meeting with his comprehensive talk on digital modes in amateur radio. Darin covered on-off keying (OOK) including Morse code (CW), phase-shift keying (PSK), frequency-shift keying (FSK), multiple-frequency shift keying (MFSK), slow scan television (SSTV) and, digital spread spectrum (DSS). He discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the various modes, getting started with digital modes, software available for each mode, and the various resources available to amateurs on the internet and elsewhere. He divulged a number of the tricks that he learned after spending many hours experimenting with digital modes, but also warned of the many traps along the way. The large number of ques-

tions from the audience confirmed that there is widespread interest in digital modes in the local amateur community. Darin distributed copies of a DVD that he made. This DVD contains key information on digital modes and a link to his website <http://www.squidzone.ca/ve3oij/> where a copy of his talk can be found along with additional information.

4. COMMITTEES

4.1 Amateur Radio Exhibit

Maurice-André VE3VIG reviewed briefly his role as a Canadian representative to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Face to Face Meeting held in the Netherlands on June 18-19 at the European Space Research and Technology Centre. One of the main areas of discussion was current and future equipment onboard satellites for amateur radio communication. For more details, he referred the audience to an article in the Rambler of September 2009.

Maurice-André also spoke of the many upgrades planned for the Club's station, VE3JW, located at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. Upgrades currently in the planning stage include: i) a mockup of the amateur radio facilities on the space station, including the provision of answers by astronauts to frequently-asked question

from the public, ii) a telephone bridge installed at the station that would allow schools located out of range of satellite orbital passes to talk to astronauts, iii) installation of a software-defined radio to demonstrate that technology to visitors and, iv) replacement of the 35 inch screen with a 50 inch screen.

He reminded the audience of the upcoming contact of scouts with astronauts scheduled for Kanata on the morning of October 3.

4.2 Amateur Radio Training

Ernie VE3EJJ and Bob VE3SUY briefed the audience on the response to the radio theory course, to the build project course and to the Morse code course that the Club advertised to the public for the fall and winter of 2009-2010. Response so far this year has been low, with only five people committing to the theory course and fewer to the Morse code course. A final decision on which courses will be taught this fall and winter will be made shortly.

4.3 Radio Operations

Larry, VE3WEH reminded the audience that a volunteer is still required for the position of chair of the Club's radio operations committee. As well, the Club requires more net controllers. Those interested in these positions, or those who know of operators who might

OVMRC Executive 2009-2010

President:

Michel Barbeau, VE3EMB
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Secretary:

Joe Lemieux, VE3EUS
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Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit:

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Publicity & Programs:

Vacant

Radio Operations:

Doug Lackey, VE3DLJ

Technical:

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Emergency Preparedness:

Paul Labbé, VE3NJS

Special Events

Peter Noel, VE3DPN
ve3dpn@rac.ca,

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Cherry, VE2AGE

Webmaster:

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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.

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 club's web site is hosted by **Magma Communications Ltd.**
www.ovmrc.on.ca

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(+)

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 Incorporated 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, its officers or its 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:

be, should contact Larry.

Maurice-André, VE3VIG invited amateur operators to join the PSK31 net on 2 Metres upper side band. Those interested should contact him by e-mail at VE3VIG@amsat.org

4.4 Treasurer

Robert, VA3SHO reported that the Club had financial assets of \$14,920, of which \$10,293 was held in guaranteed investment certificates. The budget of the Club for fiscal year 2009-2010 will be finalized at the next executive meeting.

4.5 Website

Beth, VA3CEW encouraged the audience to sign up for an account on the Club website and to participate in the many forums available there. Participation in the forums is open to all amateurs and other interested parties. Those who open an account as well as those who post to the forums by October 15 will be eligible to win boxes of Girl Guide cookies. The details of the contest are posted on the forum.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

5.1 Christmas Morning Net

Sydney, VE3GBE announced that a controller is required for the Christmas Morning Net. Sydney has decided to retire as host of the net after many years of service in that capacity to the amateur community. Anyone interested in hosting this net should contact a member of the Club executive.

6. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club executive will be held on Thursday, October 1 at 19:00.

The next general meeting of the Club will be held on October 22 at 19:30. This represents a change in date from the one previously announced because the Museum needs the auditorium on that day. Richard Brisson will be the feature speaker on October 22. He will talk on the subject of cryptographic machines and spy radios. Members of all clubs as well as the public are welcome to attend.

7. DOOR PRIZES AND DRAWS

More than half a dozen members of the audience won door prizes. The 50/50 draw (\$18.00) was won by Gord, VE3OSM.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:45 at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio. All are welcome to join in after the meeting.

9. SIGNED

Joe, VE3EUS, Secretary

MINUTES, OVMRC GENERAL MEETING

October 22, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The President, Michel VE3EMB, called the meeting to order at 19:45. There were 42 people in attendance.

2. GUESTS AND VISITING AMATEURS

Charles, Gabriel, Greg, VA3OMP, Jean, VE3DNI, John, VE3EIE, Mathieu, Michael, VE2MXT, Reg, VA3REG.

3. PROGRAM

Richard Brisson presented an illustrated talk entitled Clandestine Tradecraft: Pre-WW II, WW II and Cold War. He discussed concealed microphone from the 1890s, detective dictographs from the early-1900s, desktop card-file microphones, cigarette-case cameras and lighter cameras from the 1930s, Type A Mark III, Type B Mark II and PRC suitcase radios as well as various versions of the German Enigma coding machine from the 1940s, wire recorders from the 1950s, concealed recorders from the 1960s, Soviet F21 button cameras, MIG 21 aircraft cameras and microdot magnifiers from more recent times. He showed an example of the silk code invented by the Special Operations Executive (SOE) for the use of its field agents.

In addition to equipment, Richard had much to say about propaganda, the Igor Gouzenko affair, Bea Alert, Justin Case, pulp and television fiction including Secret Sam, Get Smart, Man from UNCLE and James Bond. He commented on miniaturization, software and public keys in the context of espionage. He mentioned the contributions of Sir William Stephenson (Intrepid) and Camp X. He described a number of spy toys once available through department stores. He talked about various methods

of collecting items of espionage tradecraft, notably through personal contacts and by bidding on offers made on eBay.

He referred the audience to Louis Meulstee, author of *Wireless for the Warrior*, and to a number of organizations with collections of spy tradecraft including the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, the Military Communications and Electronics Museum in Kingston, the Diefenbunker in Carp, the CIA Museum (virtual tour only) and the International Spy Museum, both in Washington, and to the National Cryptographic Museum in Fort Meade, Maryland.

Richard brought to the meeting many items from his own impressive collection of spy tradecraft. These items formed the nucleus of lively discussions with members of the audience following the formal part of the meeting.

For additional information, visit Richard's website on cryptographic and clandestine tradecraft at <http://home.ca.inter.net/~hagelin/collection.html>.

4. COMMITTEES

4.1 Amateur Radio Exhibit

Darin VE3OIJ briefed the audience on the many activities and projects taking place at the Club station VE3JW.

a) Volunteers Needed

Amateurs are encouraged to volunteer at the Club station, not only to operate radios, but also to provide answers to questions on amateur radio from visitors to the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

b) Jamboree of the Air

During the weekend of October 17-18, nine scouts from Kemptville made amateur radio contacts, from the Club station VE3JW, including contacts in the United Kingdom and in the United States. For more information on the Jamboree, visit <http://www.scout.org/jota>.

c) Antenna System

The 40/80 metre dipole located on the roof of the Canada Science and Technology Museum is tangled. This results in poor resonance. The dipole will be untangled shortly. In addition, the pre-amplifier for the satellite antenna needs to be repaired.

d) Upgrades Planned for the Club Station

There are several upgrades planned at the Club station to better present amateur radio to visitors at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. Upgrades include: i) a telephone bridge that would allow schools located out of range of satellite orbital passes to talk to astronauts from VE3JW, ii) replacement of the 35-inch screen with a 50-inch LCD screen and, iii) replacement of the three existing computer monitors.

4.2 Amateur Radio Training

a) Radio Theory Course

Ernie, VE3EJJ reported that eight students have signed up for the radio theory course offered by the Club. The course has started. It will recess in late December, resume in January and conclude in March 2010. In addition to Ernie, the faculty consists of Bob, VE3SUY, Darin, VE3OIJ, Michael,

VE3QMC and Michel, VE3EMB.

The practical part of the course includes operating from the Club station, VE3JW, from 22:00 to 23:00 on Tuesday nights after the lecture portion. Members are encouraged to monitor 2-metres, as well as 3750 MHz, 3755 MHz and 3760 MHz where students will be operating.

4.3 Emergency Preparedness

a) New Chair of Committee

Michel VE3EMB welcomed Paul VE3NJS, the new chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

b) EMERG-ARES

Paul indicated to members that one of his goals is to link the Club to the local organizations in the field of emergency preparedness. To that end, he will be joining the Ottawa Emergency Measures Radio Group-Ottawa Amateur Radio Emergency Service (EMERG-ARES). He will be attending the next meeting of that group which is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 2009, from 09:00 to 12:00, at the Ottawa Fire Service Training Centre located at 898 Industrial Avenue, Ottawa. For more information, members are invited to visit http://www.emrg.ca/gm_notice.htm.

c) Club Trailer

Paul indicated that much work is required on the Club trailer. He invited members to join him in moving that project forward.

4.4 Membership

Chris VE3CUZ announced that, for personal reasons, he was stepping down as Chair of the Membership Committee and that, as a

consequence, a volunteer would be required for that position. Chris will continue to serve the Club in his other capacity as Webmaster.

4.5 Newsletter Editor

Based on a suggestion from Dan, VE3XDD, Larry, VE3WEH sought a volunteer to act as guest editor for the Rambler, on an issue-by-issue basis. Robert VE2AGE volunteered to act as guest editor for the next issue. Anyone interested in editing the Rambler for any of the subsequent issues should contact a member of the executive.

4.6 Publicity and Programs

The chair of that committee is vacant. The Club is seeking a volunteer to fill it.

4.7 Radio Operations

Larry, VE3WEH welcomed Doug, VE3DLJ as the new chair of the Radio Operations Committee. Doug has already begun to either manage or host Club and associated nets.

4.8 Special Events Including Field Day

Peter, VE3DPN reported that events planned to date include the Club Christmas party which will be held December 17, Talk to Santa which will be held December 5 and 6 at the Canada Science and Technology Museum, Field Day and a flea market.

4.9 Treasurer

a) Year Ending June 30, 2009

Robert, VA3SHO reviewed the budget, expenses, revenues and variances for the year ending June 30, 2009. Operations resulted in a surplus of over \$2,200, mainly

because donations to the Club were unusually generous, and because less was spent on special events and maintenance than was planned. The Club has assets of about \$15,000, of which two-thirds is held in guaranteed investment certificates and the rest in a checking account.

b) Appointment of Auditor of Club Financial Records

Article 10.6 of the by-laws requires that the treasurer submit, at least once per year, the financial records of the Club for audit by a member, other than a member of the executive, whose name has been confirmed by the members.

MOTION: Moved by Darin VE3OIJ and seconded by Robert VE2AGE that Ken VE3SRS be appointed as auditor of the Club financial records for the year ending June 30, 2009. CARRIED.

c) Budget for 2009-2010

Robert presented the budget for 2009-2010. The Club is expected to incur a deficit of about \$2,000 because many of the maintenance items that were deferred in the previous fiscal year still need to be made, including repairs to the Club trailer. Any shortfall will be covered by funds held in the Club checking account.

MOTION: Moved by Paul, VE3NJS and seconded by Sandy, VE3HAZ that the budget of the Club for 2009-2010 be approved as presented. CARRIED.

5. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club ex-

ecutive will be held on Thursday, October 29 at 19:00.

The next general meeting of the Club will be held on November 19 at 19:30. Alan, VA3STL will discuss amateur radio projects. His talk will include electronics, antennas, kits and home brewing.

6. DOOR PRIZES AND DRAWS

The door prize was won by Sandy, VE3HAZ. The 50/50 draw (\$28.00) was won by Larry, VE3WEH. Girl Guide cookies were won by David, VE3ZZU and by Joe, VE3EUS.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:45 at which time the audience was invited to discuss spy radios and spy tradecraft with the guest speaker, Richard Brisson, and to examine the many pieces of equipment on display from his personal collection. Subsequently, many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio. All are welcome to join in after the meeting.

8. SIGNED

Joe, VE3EUS, Secretary

Next Meeting
Nov 19th
19:30
CSTM