

# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club  
Incorporated



Feb 2011

Edition 55

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## Ramblings

At our last general club meeting, we were honoured by the presence of Erika Sharp. Erika presented the wireless data service provided by Wind Mobile and discussed some applications for amateur radio that can run on portable devices. Erika brought a gift for everyone: a nice little notebook, which is something always useful in amateur radio. She also brought a data stick and a small router, which together were one of the door prizes of the evening. Thanks Erika and come again!



During the January 2011 club meeting Erika Sharp talked about Wind Mobile Internet devices and amateur radio software.

The OVMRC has been invited by David Sutin (Manager, Internal Communications, New Media and Inter-Governmental Affairs) to make a presentation about amateur radio and OVMRC to the staff of the Canada Agriculture Museum, Canada Aviation and Space Museum and Canada Science and Technology Museum. The presentation was scheduled for January 24.



Darin (VE3OIJ) talking about amateur radio, OVMRC and VE3JW at the Canadian Science and Technology Museum, January 24.

The presentation was actually given by Darin (VE3OIJ), Vice-President and Amateur Radio Exhibit Chair. Darin's presentation was really excellent. Darin

explained to his audience the amateur radio hobby and aspects of it such as experimentation, education and public service. He discussed the purpose of the OVMRC and the VE3JW amateur radio demonstration station. The commitment of VE3JW volunteers was underlined. The audience was impressed when Darin played the recording of a contact he made between VE3JW and the International Space Station using amateur radio. All the outreach activities hosted by VE3JW, such as Jamboree On The Air, Guides on the Air, school group visits and White Cane Week, seem to be of great value to the museum. Congratulations Darin!

At our upcoming club meeting in February, the talk will be given by Glenn (VE3XRA). It will be on radio astronomy. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Michel Barbeau, VE3EMB  
President

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## OVMRC Executive 2009-2010

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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**,  
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- **Elkel Ltee.**,  
Trois-Rivières, QC
- **Kenwood Electronics  
Canada Inc.**,  
Mississauga, ON
- **Travel-Mor Trailer Sales**,  
Ottawa, ON

The club's web site is hosted by:

### Magma Communications Ltd.

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

## OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)

444.200 MHz(+)

## Amateur Radio Exhibit VE3JW

Web site:

[ovmrc.on.ca/ve3jw.htm](http://ovmrc.on.ca/ve3jw.htm)

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:

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## MINUTES, OVMRC GENERAL MEETING

January 20, 2011

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Michel VE3EMB called the meeting to order at 19:45. There were 33 people in attendance. There was a quorum present.

### 2. GUESTS

Erika Sharp (Speaker), Harold VA3UNK and Reg VA3REG.

### 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A fellow amateur needs assistance with respect to ICOM radio batteries. If you or someone you know can help, please contact the secretary.

### 4. PROGRAM

#### 4.1 Cell Phones and Amateur Radio

Erika Sharp, part-time student in psychology at Carleton University and manager of the WIND Mobile kiosk in Kanata, presented a very dynamic talk entitled WIND Mobile and Applications to Amateur Radio.

She described voice plans, data plans and add-ons available from the company. She talked about cellular telephones running under the Android open-source operating system and about some of the better-known amateur radio applications

such as APRSDroid, EchoLink for Android and HamSatDroid that have been developed for it. She also talked about mobile internet sticks and their convenience during field events as well as about the use of cell phones as modems for other devices (tethering) such as notebook computers.

The talk presented by Erika generated much interest in the audience. She was asked numerous questions, the answers to which testified to her considerable knowledge and passion for cell phone technology. Thank you Erika.

### 5. BUSINESS

#### 5.1 Membership Fees

Liability insurance is a prerequisite for holding certain Club activities. The Club obtains this insurance through Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC). The cost of the liability insurance sponsored by RAC increased from \$150 in 2010 to over \$400 in 2011.

The cost of the liability insurance purchased by the Club includes a number of fixed charges to i) maintain the required affiliation to RAC, ii) to purchase the policy itself and, iii) to name certain third parties as insured under the Club policy. There are also variable costs associated

with the policy. The Club is required to pay \$1.00 for each member. In addition, the Club must pay a further \$11.00 for each of those members of the Club who is not a member of RAC at the time that the policy is purchased. The Executive of the Club proposed (as published in the January 2011 issue of the Rambler) to raise membership dues to offset some of the unexpected increase in the cost of liability insurance.

After considerable debate among members with respect to the pros and cons of increasing the membership dues, the following motion was adopted unanimously:

**MOTION:** Moved by Guy VE3VCF and seconded by Darin VE3OIJ, that the Executive of the Club be authorized to increase membership dues to \$35.00 per year and that, further, it be authorized to offer a membership discount of \$10.00 per year to those who are members in good standing of Radio Amateur of Canada (RAC) on the date that they join the Club or that they renew their membership. **CARRIED**

### 6. REPORTS FROM CHAIRS

#### 6.1 Amateur Radio Exhibit

Darin VE3OIJ reported that Les Produits Électroniques ELKEL Ltée of Trois-

Rivières, Québec, has donated a Kenwood TS 590 to the Club station VE3JW. This radio will replace the aging TS 850. Further, he invited licensed amateurs to consider volunteering as operators at the station. He also reminded amateurs that they are welcome as guest operators. Licensed amateurs operating at VE3JW are not required to pay the admission fee to the Museum. Contact Darin to make the necessary arrangements.

### **6.2 Amateur Radio Training**

Ernie VE3EJJ reported that eight students have completed the technical portion of the amateur radio course offered by the Club. The course will finish in mid-February. The last examination will be held on March 1, 2011.

### **6.3 Historical**

Ante VA2BBW reported that he was in the process of familiarizing himself with the information contained on a large number of CDs documenting the history of the Club.

### **6.4 Membership**

Welcome to Michael VE3KOY, a new member of the Club. As at the end of the meeting, 57 amateurs were members of the Club for the fiscal year starting on September 1, 2010 and ending on August 31, 2011.

### **6.5 Newsletter Editor**

Robert VE2AGE reminded members that he welcomes their articles. His services consist mainly of proofreading articles and providing negotiable comments to authors.

### **6.6 Program and Publicity**

Glenn VE3XRA will present a talk entitled Radio Astronomy and Amateur Radio at the general meeting of the Club scheduled for February 17, 2011.

### **6.7 Special Events**

Bob VA3QV informed members that the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) Winter Field Day will take place on January 28-29, 2011. Those wishing to participate should contact Bob. The venue will be close to washrooms, warmth and food.

### **6.8 Technical**

The Club is pleased to welcome Mathieu VA3ECM as the new Chair of the Technical Committee. The Club would like to express its gratitude to Cameron VA3FO who, until recently, held the position and who, on several occasions, nursed back to health the Club repeater, VE3TWO. Thank you Cameron.

### **6.9 Webmaster**

Chris VA3SM reported that the Club website is running

smoothly under a new service provider.

## **7. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

### **7.1 SOTA Activation**

Ante VA2BBW informed members that, on Saturday, January 29, 2011, in company of Jean VE2JCW and Martin VA3SIE, he would be climbing Mont Sir-Wilfrid (Montagne du Diable) located in the Ferme-Neuve area of the Laurentians. The purpose of this climb is to activate the summit under the Summits on the Air (SOTA) amateur radio and shortwave listener award scheme.

### **7.2 Canadian Ski Marathon**

Harold VA3UNK informed members that positions for operators at the Canadian Ski Marathon to be held February 12-13, 2011 were now completely filled. Those wishing to sign up as alternates should contact Harold.

## **8. PRIZES**

Proceeds of the 50:50 ticket sales were \$50.00. The 50:50 draw (\$25.00) was won by Mathieu VA3ECM. Mathieu graciously donated his winnings to the Club. Thank you Mathieu.

Prizes were supplied by Wind Mobile (internet stick, router, notebooks, gum), Robert VE2AGE (crystal radio), RAC (collection of

2010 TCA magazines) and Les Produits Électroniques ELKEL Ltée (\$40 gift certificate). All those present received prizes (notebooks and gum). Several of the attendees won other prizes including Hervé VA3RKO (\$40 gift certificate), Glenn VE3XRA (WIND Mobile internet stick and router) and Ante VA2BBW (crystal radio).

### 9. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club Executive will be held at 19:00 on Thursday, February 3, 2011. The next general meeting of the Club will be held at 19:30 on Thursday, February 17, 2011.

All meetings take place at the Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St Laurent Boulevard, Ottawa, Ontario. All radio enthusiasts are welcome.

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00 at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio.

### 11. SIGNED

Joe VE3EUS, Secretary

## OVMRC Participates in the SPAR Winter Field Day 2011

On January 29th VE3EUS Joe, VE3VIG Maurice Andre and VA3QV Bob met on Gladwin Crescent (close to Bourassa) in Ottawa and set up for the SPAR Winter Field Day event. This is a yearly event sponsored by the Society for the Preservation for Amateur Radio and although club members have participated in this event in the past, this year was the first time that VE3RAM was heard participating in the contest.

The rules are a bit different than most contests as they allow repeater contacts with each contact in whatever mode, whatever amateur band (no WARC bands) being worth one point. The number of bands/modes you made contacts on also doubles as your multiplier. As an example a contact on 2m FM, 20m SSB and 20m CW would be 3 points with a multiplier of 3 for a total of 9 points.

They also allow 1000 bonus points ( to be added after your contacts X mults) for the following:

Operating outdoors, operating in a location other than your home, and operating using a power source other than commercial power. We qualified for the full 3000 points as all 3 stations

operated off battery power and we were outside in a field.

The contest started on Saturday at 12 noon local time and ran for 24 hours. We managed about 5 hours on Saturday and 5 hours on Sunday. On Saturday we had 3 stations operating and on the Sunday we had two stations operating. Between the two partial days of operating we managed a total of 44 contacts

Despite the weather we managed to get 8 multipliers with contacts on 70cm FM, 2m FM, 15m SSB, 20m SSB, 20m CW, 40m SSB, 80m SSB and 80m CW. We were unable to wake anyone up on VE3RVI which is our club 6m repeater so we missed a multi there and we also missed 40m CW but we still did fairly good on the multipliers. So once it was all over we ended up with the following score:

(44 contacts X 08 mults ) + 3000 bonus points = 3352 total points.

So in conclusion we managed 2 days of fresh air with no frostbite and we got to play radio outside as well.

Just wait till next year... But don't forget the summer Field Day will be with us in only 4 short months.

73 bob  
Submitted by Bob, VA3QV

## Did you know that the OVMRC has members beyond our borders?

### Yes, even in Italy!!

Angelo, VA3ITY, has obtained his first licence through the OVMRC. He visits regularly in Ottawa and we have a chance to host him and his wife, Lucia, for meetings, Holiday celebrations, or friendly outings to a local restaurant.



This year, Angelo brought over his club flag "Associazione Radioamatori Italiani Sezione di Modena IQ4AX" ... and his national organization flag "ARI Associazione Radioamatori Italiani" ... to exchange with similar identifiers from our OVMRC Club and RAC organization. The exchange was done at our OVMRC Christmas social meeting and presented to Darin, VE3OIJ, for the Club and to Chris, VA3SM, for RAC. In return, Angelo was presented with a cloth patch OVMRC crest, and a patch

and hat from RAC. Pictures show the exchange.



Upon his departure for Italy, in mid-January, we gathered some members and invited Angelo and Lucia to a farewell dinner. The picture shows, left to right, Darin VE3OIJ, Beth VA3CEW, Rose, Joe VE3EUS, Lucia, Angelo VA3ITB/ IZ4RCH/ PY1IT, and VE3VIG. We all shared a lot of laughs and had a great time.



Thank you Angelo and Lucia, and it will be a pleasure to see you again on your next trip to Ottawa.

*Photos courtesy of: Maurice-Andre,  
VE3VIG*

## RAC-Bulletin Special Event Station VY1T - Teslin Historical and Museum ,Society . Grand Opening of Aeradio Exhibit.

### Special Event Station VY1T - Teslin Historical and Museum Society . Grand Opening of Aeradio Exhibit.

The VY1T Special Event Station will be on the air from June 29,

2011 to July 1, 2011 for the Grand Opening of Aeradio Exhibit at the Teslin Historical and Museum Society in Teslin, YT.

VY1EI Eric our resident contester will use VY1T on June 29th from Whitehorse. Club Station VY1T will be on the air from Teslin Yukon, at the George Johnson Museum June 30<sup>th</sup> from early morning to late afternoon. VY1T will be on the air from Whitehorse on Canada Day as a club station. QSL will be available

On June 30th please find us on 20 meters around 14.180 or so, also may try 14.140

QSL via Hugh Henderson, VY1EEN at P.O. Box 33062, W

More information to be found on the Yukon Amateur Radio Association website at: <[www.yara.ca](http://www.yara.ca)> or contact Ron McFadyen at <[mcfadyen@northwestel.net](mailto:mcfadyen@northwestel.net)>

## Monthly Merit Awards at VE3JW

### JANUARY 2011 RESULTS

VE3JW operators were in great form in January. Back from the Christmas holidays all refreshed and ready to operate, it was a great month for contacts with good solar conditions. Of particular interest in January was the large number of contacts to Europe via satellite. This requires satellite passes in a very specific, relatively narrow corridor, and we were graced with many in January.

### January Results

Made by Guests and Visitors:

3. Best HF Digital QSO (Distance): VE3BUX to PR2R, 8299 km

Made by regular ops:

6. Best SSB QSO (Distance): VE3VCF to 5R8HL, 14053 km

7. Best CW QSO (Distance): VE3VIG to IS0HQJ, 6657 km

8. Best HF Digital QSO (Distance): VE3HAZ to UW2ZW, 7566 km

9. Best Satellite QSO (Distance): VE3OIJ to EA1MX, 5501 km

10. Best D-Star QSO (Distance): VA3CMD to M0GRU, 5360 km

\* Five QSO list for January 2011: VE3BUX, VE3EMY, VE3HAZ, VE3VCF, VE3LTN, VA3CMD, VE3OIJ, VE3VIG, VE3EUS

\* Most contacts for Dec 2010:

- Guest op: VE3EMY, 6

- Regular op: VE3VCF, 47

\* Total QSOs at VE3JW for January 2011: 135

Volunteers hours for January 2011:

This month our operators have totalled 181 hours and 50 minutes.

Well done everyone!

Darin Cowan, VE3OIJ,  
Manager  
Amateur Radio Exhibit  
Group VE3JW

## RAC Bulletins

### 2011-003

**Field Organization Review - VPFS Council announces appointments.**

### 2011-02-08

As you may be aware, in November 2010 a review of the RAC Field Organization was begun to research and reform many aspects of the ARES in Canada. We have been meeting regularly by teleconference, and I would like to thank the many volunteers who have come forward. I am especially pleased to announce the following appointments:

Chairman of the "Mission" working group (WG) - Garry Jacobs VE6CIA - Section Manager Manitoba (Advisor - Doug Mein VA3DM)

Chairman of the "Training Specification" working group (WG) - Allan Boyd VE3AJB -

Section Manager Ontario (Advisor - Ian Snow VA3QT)

Chairman of the "Census" working group (WG) - James King VE3ETZ Secretary - Peter Wetton VA3PRW

Many thanks to all of you for agreeing to assist with this important project. Please watch the RAC website, bulletins and the RAC Blog for updates as this project moves forward.

### 2011-001E

**Doug Mein VA3DM appointed Special Advisor to the RAC Field Organization**

### 2011-01-13

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Doug Mein VA3DM, Special Advisor to the Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Organization.

Doug has been a Ham for many years and holds basic, morse and advanced qualification.

Doug's focus will be with strategic matters that effect the Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Organization nationally.

I know that you will all join me in welcoming Doug.

73

Doug Mercer VO1DTM  
Vice President Field Services  
Radio Amateurs of Canada

Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club,  
Incorporated



P.O. Box 41145  
Ottawa ON K1G 5K9

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

- ✎ The membership year starts in September and runs to the end of August of the following year.*
- ✎ Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.*
- ✎ Associate membership is open to all unlicensed radio enthusiasts.*
- ✎ Membership includes an e-mail subscription to the Club newsletter, the OVMRC Rambler.*

**Date:** **PLEASE PRINT**

RENEWAL       NEW       CHANGE       OVMRC NAME TAG (COST \$10.00)       NO       YES

Call Sign	Surname	Preferred First Name
Street		Apartment Number
City	Province	Postal Code
Home Phone	Work Phone	E-mail Address
Are you a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)    Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> RAC ID: _____    Expiry Date:    /    /		

- Full Membership (Not a Member of RAC)**      \$35.00/year        
**Full Membership (Member of RAC)**      \$25.00/year        
**Associate Membership (Unlicensed)**      \$15.00/year

Amount Enclosed  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheque     Cash

My Interests are:       VHF/UHF Phone       VHF/UHF Digital       VHF/UHF CW  
 Satellite       HF Phone       HF Digital       HF CW

Current Occupation:  
If Retired, Former Occupation:  
Skills: *(Please list them all)*

**COMMENTS**

**OVMRC NAME TAG – ORDER DETAILS**

**First Name:**

**Call Sign:**