

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club
Incorporated



Jul/Aug 2011

Edition 56

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MORSE CODE QUITE ALIVE



OVMRC 2011 Field Day setup at Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa

OVMRC trailer – Digital tent – SSB tent – GOTA tent

How was your Field Day? If you were around for it, you certainly know how Morse code filled up the CW portion of the bands. Excellent propagation, with openings on 6 meters, 10 meters going strong, and so on up the scale.

Our OVMRC set-up, by modes rather than by bands this year, fared very well. I was assigned the CW tent and had a good team to handle it. Extra help came in to do some logging and we kept them very busy.



Guy, VE3VCF and Maurice-André, VE3VIG

I had a brand new G5RV Junior, 40 to 10m, that had never been used. Gord, VE3XGD fired up his slingshot and had the antenna up in the trees in short order, oriented to

propagate South-West and we worked the four bands of the Junior.

The radio was the OVMRC Kenwood TS-850Sat fed by a 32 amp, Alinco DM-330MV, switching power supply. A small Honda 4-cycle generator (1,000 watts) was our emergency power source.

After planting a ground rod we retired into the tent and started operating on the 2 PM bell. None too soon as the inevitable rain for Field Day came to douse the site.

I started it off on the 20m band and the 'music' never stopped. Guy, VE3VCF, came in to relieve me and Bill, VE3LJG did some logging. Michel, VE3EMB and Joe, VE3EUS also did some logging. Richard, VA3RAX, newly licensed, was attending his first Field Day and he provided help around the sites and did some logging for us as well.

We used a very simple logging program called Squirrel that allowed

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Meeting Date

Club Meeting:

Sep 22nd

simultaneously checked for duplicates. The mini ACER computer made a very little footprint in the small tent.

The highlight this year is the presence of VA2BBW, Ante, who showed us (Continued on [page 3](#))

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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
- **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 (SK)

OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)

444.200 MHz(+)

Amateur Radio Exhibit

VE3JW

Web site:

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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<http://www.cafepress.ca/ovmrc>

(Continued from [page 1](#)) that Morse code is not dead indeed. Ante obtained his license three years ago and showed us what a young Amateur Radio operator can do to perpetuate a very useful and fun mode and to contribute to the advancement of radio communications.

About a year and a half ago, Ante, set out to learn Morse code. After learning the letters and symbols he tuned in to the WIAW broadcast of Morse transmissions. He even recorded some of these transmissions and listened to them while driving his employer's vehicle rather than listen to the radio.



Richard, VA3RAX and Ante, VE2BBW

Before long he was on the air, joining a local slow speed net, and making his first contacts. He increased his speed to about 20 WPM and requested a spot in the CW tent for his first ever Field Day.

Ante showed up at the CW tent with a key around his thigh. It was a miniature key with a single lever, a sideswiper American Morse Mini-B. He was copying and answering stations coming at him at around 35 WPM. Ante provided nearly half of all the contacts at our CW tent.

OK you'll say, great effort from a young, new operator, congratulations!

But wait, there is more to it. Ante is right handed, and from the start, he

trained himself to send with the left hand on a single lever key on which he had reversed the dits and dahs from left/right to right/left. How ingenious! He practiced Morse code with the left hand so that he could free his right hand to do the writing, handle the computer mouse or tap



on the keyboard.

We very much appreciated his willing effort and great contribution to our special event. I was proud to show visitors his dexterity at operating. At times, he was logging two contacts a minute. You can see Ante in action on the web at: www.youtube.com/user/VE3EMB?feature=chclk

A big thank you to all who participated and made the event a success. A special thanks goes to our Chef, Paul-Ernest, VE2DBX, who brought some class to the act as he and his helper, Joyce, all dressed in whites and with a white hat, were serving delicious Field Day fares. Bob, VA3QV, was Master of Ceremonies this year and he did a great job coordinating all the activities.

It was so much fun that as I write this, I want to go out and do it again. RAC Canada Day contest coming up ...

73 all,
Maurice-André
VE3VIG

International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club will be participating in International Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend this coming August 20/21. This is a fun event in which lighthouses and lightships make contact with each other all over the world on HF throughout the weekend. The location is at the base of the Cape Race/North Lighthouse (which is on the grounds of the Canada Science & Technology Museum). Exact hours will depend on who is coming and what hours they wish to work. The event runs from 8pm local time on Friday 19th August until 8pm local time on Sunday 21st August and any hours within that time can be worked.

If you would like to join other club members and participate in this event, you are welcome to do so either by bringing along and setting up your own portable station, helping someone else set up theirs, participating as a guest operator of someone else's station, or just stopping by to listen to the activity and shoot the breeze with those who are on site.

If you plan to attend, please send me an email or reply to the thread I have created on the forums: <http://ovmrc.on.ca/forum/index.php?topic=359.0>

I will post updates on that thread when I hear who will be attending to give you an idea of when people will be there.

Hope you can attend!

73

Martin.

VA3SIE.

(Wearing my 'Special Events chairperson' hat.)

VE3JW MMA MAY 2011 RESULTS

It has been a bit busy for me over the last 6 weeks or so and I have been delinquent in getting out the MMA bulletins. However, today is a day to catch up, so here are the results for May, 2011

To get your name in the Monthly Merit Awards, you have to operate VE3JW! Entrance to the museum is free if you are coming to VE3JW to operate. The station is manned most days, but please contact one of our operators to be sure there will be someone to open up the station. You can contact Darin (VE3OIJ) at ve3oij@amsat.org if you'd like to become a volunteer operator or just want to operate for a little while.

May Results

Made by Guests and Visitors:

3. Best HF Digital QSO (Distance):
VE2SUD to [IZ8IFL](http://www.iz8ifl.com), 7027 km

Made by regular ops:

6. Best SSB QSO (Distance):
VE3VIG to [YU1DW](http://www.yu1dw.com), 7039 km

7. Best CW QSO (Distance):
VE3OIJ to [W4VLP](http://www.w4vlp.com), 1667 km

8. Best HF Digital QSO (Distance):
VE3EUS to [LU7WW](http://www.lu7ww.com), 9834 km

9. Best Satellite QSO (Distance):
VE3VCF to [SP6DCO](http://www.sp6dco.com), 6430 km

* Five QSO list for May 2011:
VE3OIJ, VE3LTN, VE3VCF,
VE3EJ, VE3EUS, VA3CMD

* Most contacts for May 2011:

- Guest op: VE2SUD, 2
- Regular op: VE3EUS, 81

* Total QSOs at VE3JW for May 2011: 240

Volunteers hours for May 2011:

This month our operators have totalled 203 hours, 35 minutes.

Well done everyone!

VE3JW MMA JUNE 2011 RESULTS

June was a very slow month at VE3JW. Our operators were busy enjoying the start of summer. Nevertheless, we did get some good operating time in.

To get your name in the Monthly Merit Awards, you have to operate VE3JW! Entrance to the museum is free if you are coming to VE3JW to operate. The station is manned most days, but please contact one of our operators to be sure there will be someone to open up the station. You can contact Darin (VE3OIJ) at ve3oij@amsat.org if you'd like to become a volunteer operator or just want to operate for a little while.

June Results

Made by Guests and Visitors:

4. Best Satellite QSO (Distance):
VE3RAX to [NL7VX](http://www.nl7vx.com), 763 km

Made by regular ops:

6. Best SSB QSO (Distance):
VE3EUS to [DK1NO](http://www.dk1no.com), 6134 km

7. Best CW QSO (Distance): No CW this month!

8. Best HF Digital QSO (Distance):
VE3LTN to [ZS6EPC](http://www.zs6epc.com), **long path** - 26940 km !!!

9. Best Satellite QSO (Distance):
VE3VCF to [CO6CBF](http://www.co6cbf.com), 2564 km

* Five QSO list for June 2011:
VE3VCF, VE3LTN, VE3EUS

* Most contacts for June 2011:

- **Guest op: VE3RAX, 2**
- Regular op: VE3LTN, 32

* Total QSOs at VE3JW for June 2011: 76

Volunteers hours for June 2011:
This month our operators have totalled 98 hours, 5 minutes.

Well done everyone!



North East Ontario Regional Director

I have been doing a lot of travelling and

visited several clubs along the way to Dayton. Watch for a complete report in the RAC Report and TCA.

I have just received a request from Geoff Smith, VA3GS asking for assistance in updating the club listing on the RAC Web pages.

I am asking each of you to check out any local clubs and verify the content.

Here is the link:

<http://www.rac.ca/en/amateur-radio/clubs/>

Once you chose the correct region there are instructions to keep the information up to date.

If anything of interest happens during the summer I will post a update.

I am still looking for letters of support from organizations to use for our distracted driving campaign.

I hope each of you have a safe and great summer.

See you in September.

Bill Unger VE3XT
wunger@confederationc.on.ca
 North/East Ontario Regional
 Director Radio Amateurs of Canada

**RAC Bulletin 2011-016E -
 Mike Kelly, VE3FFK
 appointed to the National
 Field Organization
 Secretariat**

2011-06-21

I am very pleased to introduce the latest addition to the RAC National Field Organization Secretariat. Mike Kelly VE3FFK joins us as EP Canada Advisor. With a wealth of Emergency Preparedness knowledge and experience, he will be a much needed presence in the Ottawa area in dealing with both the Federal and Provincial governments on matters relating to Wireless Radio Interoperability.

Mike has had a long standing relationship with the Canadian Emergency Management College and is the "go to" guy to be registered for their training programs. Mike is also a regular volunteer at RAC HQ in Ottawa.

Welcome aboard Mike!

Doug Mercer VO1DTM CEC
 Radio Amateurs of Canada
 Vice President Field Services

**RAC Bulletin 2011-017E
 RAC Field Organization-
 ARES adopts Mission and
 Vision statement.**

2011-06-22

After many hours of discussion by the RAC Field Organization National Secretariat, the Vice President Field Service Council and it's Advisers a recommendation was made to our Section Managers

concerning the text of the RAC ARES Mission and Vision statements. Approval was granted by them, and I am pleased to present the following:

RAC/ARES Mission -

"The mission of the RAC/ARES is to be an effective partner in emergency and disaster response by providing emergency managers and responders with radio communications expertise, capability and capacity, supplied by qualified and credentialed ARES volunteer radio communicators."

RAC/ARES Vision -

"To be valued for our knowledge and expertise in radio communication by the organizations that we serve."

I believe that these statements reflect who we are and who we aspire to be. I would like to thank each of you who gave freely of your personal time and imagination in achieving this important milestone.

73

Doug Mercer VO1DTM CEC
 Radio Amateurs of Canada
 Vice President Field Services

**2011 - 2012
 Meeting Dates**

Club Meeting Dates:

September.....	22 nd
October.....	20 th
November.....	17 th
December.....	15 th
January.....	19 th
February.....	16 th
March.....	15 th
April.....	26 th
May.....	17 th
June.....	21 st

Executive Meeting Dates:

September.....	8 th
October	6 th
November.....	3 rd
December.....	1 st
January.....	5 th
February.....	2 nd
March.....	1 st
April.....	5 th
May.....	10 th
June.....	7 th

Rambler submission deadline

Meeting date minus 13 days

Please submit articles for the Rambler to the editor:

[Robert Cherry](#)

No later than the deadline for the desired edition.

**September Rambler
 submission deadline is:**

Friday, 9th September

Ottawa Valley Mobile
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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: