

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club
Incorporated



Mar 2016

Edition 60

Page: 1

President's Ramblings

Our February meeting followed a day after one big dump of snow in the Ottawa area. The 51 cm of the white fluffy stuff nearly closed down the city. In spite all the digging out the next day, we had good attendance that evening for our meeting at the Aviation Museum. The major challenge of the evening was having a working projector; the museum projector installed in the Bush Theatre had a burnt bulb and our main presentation by Richard Ferch, VE3KI depended on it. Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN, came to the rescue by dashing home to get his projector. Thanks again Bryan. Waiting for Bryan to return was a perfect time to have Glenn MacDonell, VE3XRA, address the group as the new President of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Glenn took over the helm of RAC after the six year tenure (the maximum allowed) of Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW of Winnipeg. Glenn told us about the services and advocacy RAC does for the Canadian amateur radio community both nationally and internationally and the need for supporting the organization by membership of all radio amateurs in Canada.

Following on the theme of RAC, all new amateurs that have graduated

from our radio course should have received in the envelope with their certificate from the Department (now called Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada) an application for one free year of RAC membership. This entitles you to services such as the e-version of TCA magazine and the outgoing QSL bureau. What new club members may not be aware of is that after the free one year of RAC membership expires, and as a continuing member of our Club, it is important to continue with paid RAC membership. The OVMRC as an RAC affiliated club receives its liability insurance through a group policy administered by RAC and underwritten by AON Insurance. As an incentive for RAC membership, the cost of the insurance premium set by RAC is based on the number of club members but also incorporates a surcharge of \$11 for every Club member that does not maintain RAC membership. For this reason, the Club makes up the difference by charging an extra \$10 for Club membership for members that are not also RAC members as of June of the year prior to the next club's RAC insurance invoice. For this reason, all OVMRC members are encouraged to keep their Radio Amateurs of Canada membership current. For more information on RAC insurance refer to: wp.rac.ca/insurance/.

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Meeting Dates

Club Meetings:

Special Workshop
Monday March 7th

Bring your FM portable and Mobile
Test its Performance
Bring your J Pole Antenna to
Sweep it for SWR/Return Loss

&

Mini Fleamarket & Swap Meet
Wednesday March 16th

Your Junk is another person's
treasure. Some of VE3JW assets
will be on sale.

We hope you all enjoyed the wonderful presentation at our February (Continued on [page 3](#))

OVMRC Executive**2015-2016****President:** Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
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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:

• **KENWOOD ELECTRONICS CANADA INC.**,
Mississauga, ON

• **TRAVEL-MOR TRAILER SALES**,
Ottawa, ON

• **PEPPERS RADIO SALES**,
Rockland, ON
Email: peppersradio@videotron.ca
WEB site: www.peppersradio.net

RADIOWORLD TORONTOWEB site: www.radioworld.ca**OVMRC Life Members**

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 Mhz (+) (no tone)

444.200 MHZ (temporarily off-air)

Amateur Radio Exhibit**VE3JW**

Web site:

ovmrc.on.ca/ve3jw.htmCanada Science & Technology
Museum

Is temporarily off the air due to the closure of the Canada Science and 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:

*[Robert Cherry, VA3AOD](mailto:Robert.Cherry@VA3AOD)
cw527@ncf.ca*

Visit the OVMRC Store

at

<http://www.cafepress.ca/ovmrc>**Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Incorporated****PO Box 41145****Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9****www.ovmrc.on.ca**

(Continued from [page 1](#)) meeting from Richard Ferch, VE3KI about the evolution of the DX Cluster network and how it is used to find and work active DX stations on the busy HF bands as well as how it can be used for competitive contesting. Automatic monitoring and integration of the DX Cluster is incorporated into many logging software applications. I have a copy of Richard's presentation and can provide it to anyone that is interested.

Our planning for the month of March is to have a workshop on Monday, March 7th. This workshop will be conducted in one of the class rooms. I and Barry Allison, VE3NJK will be bringing equipment to sweep and test return loss measurements on your J Pole antennas. As well, bring your VHF/UHF FM portable and/or mobile radio, we will have equipment to test and measure receiver sensitivity, RF output power, FM deviation, and frequency accuracy. With a spectrum analyser, we will also be

able to measure transmitter out-of-band emissions such as the intensity of harmonic output. In addition, I will have my Linux Ubuntu portable computer with Radio Programming software called "Chirp". With the proper programming cable for the radio involved, we should be able to program your radio with a complete channelizing configuration. We should be able to handle programming (with cables) on the Baofeng, Yaesu and similar radios. The workshop should be very tutorial.

For the March 17th general meeting, we will be having a mini flea market and swap meet. It is our intention to market some of the surplus VE3JW station equipment. It is also open for all members to bring whatever other equipment they want to swap and trade. This may be a perfect opportunity for our new amateurs to pick up some of those hard to find accessories. For this activity, we will use a classroom, if available, in lieu of the Bush Theatre. Bring your

allowance of CASH if you intend to purchase anything.

We are also planning a Transmitter Hunting event for Saturday June 4th. A description of this event is written up in this Rambler. Ideally, participants in this event should use a directional antenna. To prepare for this event, folks would do well to fabricate a simple hand held directional Yagi or loop antenna. Antenna design and other transmitter hunting techniques will be the subject our April 4th workshop.

We are happy to report the OVMRC J-Pole antenna project is now concluded and 25 antenna kits have been sold and distributed to Club members. I have already heard a couple on the air radiating 2 metre signals into local repeaters with 5-9 signals. Thanks Barry, VE3NJK and Peter, VE3XEM for bringing this project to fruition.

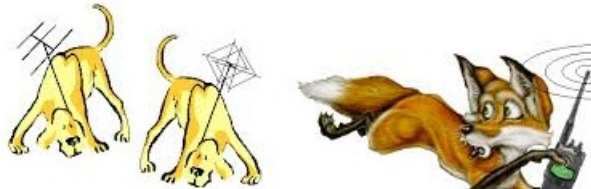
That's it for Ramblings this month.

73 all
Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC

Transmitter (Fox) Hunt and Picnic Event at Petrie Island

We are planning to have a Club Transmitter Hunt and Picnic at Petrie Island Saturday June 4th. Petrie Island is a great location to gather; it has nature trails and beaches, and lots of opportunities for nature photography. And off the beaten bush, I'm sure we can find a spot of hide one or two beaconing radio transmitters for OVMRC amateur radio aficionados to try to find.

The object of the activity will be from a starting point, tune-in a



beacon signal from hidden transmitters with your 2 m / 70 cm dual-band hand-held portable radio and while on-foot, try to locate as soon as possible the source of the signal. The hidden transmitter(s) will be very low power, about 1 milliwatt, one transmitting on 2 m and the other on 70 cm. Ideally, the hunter will have a directional antenna attached to his/her radio which will aid in determining the



direction to go to seek out the hidden transmitter.

Directional antennas should be a small hand-held home brew yagi or loop antenna. Other special receiver

desensitizing techniques may be required when you get really close to the hidden transmitter when the signal becomes too strong to get a good directivity fix from your antenna. The transmitters will have limited range of approximately 1 km and will be hidden within walking range. It should be a fun (family) activity. We are planning for an April workshop to cover amateur (Continued on [page 4](#))

(Continued from [page 3](#)) radio direction finding (ARDF) techniques and the design and construction of directional antennas for close range transmitter hunting. More information on this later.

Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) is sometimes organized as a competitive sport. Much can be gleaned on the Web about this.

For starters goto:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio_direction_finding



Picture of a hand-held directional 3 element Yagi antenna for ARDF.

March/April Contest Calendar

The main contests for March and April are:

March 5/6 ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB

www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

March 26/27 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

www.cqwp.com/rules.htm

April 16/17 Ontario QSO Party
www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm

April 17 ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB

www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

2016 Dates

Club Meeting Date:

March 16th

April 20th

May 18th

June 15th

Rambler deadlines:

April.....6th

May.....4th

June.....1st

Please submit articles for the Rambler to the editor:

[Robert Cherry](#)

No later than the deadline for the desired edition.

March Rambler submission deadline is:

Friday, 6th April

What's Happening Elsewhere!

Check it out; let us know what's going on in your club.

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC)

www.oarc.net/blog/:

Ottawa Valley QRP Society:

www.qsl.net/va3ovq/VA3OVQ/Welcome.html

The Ottawa Valley QRP Society is a group of Amateur (Ham) Radio operators in the Canadian National Capitol Region with an interest in QRP (low-power) operating,

equipment homebrewing and antenna experimentation. The group holds the Amateur Radio call sign VA3OVQ. Membership is free and open to anyone in the National Capitol region with an interest in low power Amateur Radio.

Our monthly dinner meetings are :

At 5:00 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month at Donna's Express Restaurant at the corner of Churchill and Scott Streets in Ottawa.

We have an online discussion group on Yahoo Groups called ov-qrp.

See:

groups.yahoo.com/group/ov-qrp/ for details or email va3ovq at qsl.net.

Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club (RLARC)

ve3rlr.dyndns.org/:

West Carleton Amateur Radio Club

www.wcarc.on.ca

VE3ORF/3730 Group

www.ve3orf.com/

CRAO Club Radio Amateur Outaouais (CRAO)

Our Web Master has been Busy

Our Master of the Web and all things IT, Darin Cowan, VE3OIJ, has been very busy lately transforming the OVMRC Web Site presentation into a Blog. According to Darin:



Gone:

- The OVMRC Forum is gone. Very few people were using it, and the software was very out of date and not easily able to be updated.
- The number of static pages has been (somewhat) trimmed down in favour of more dynamic, news-feed like content.

New Features:

There are so many new features. So, starting at the top...

1. Check the address bar - you will see that there is a lock icon there now! Our site is now using HTTPS to protect passwords that may be sent when you log in or send us data.
2. The site will whine at you if you're using an old browser, and remind you to update it to something safer and more reasonable. We care about the safe surfing of our members and users. Please use an up-to-date browser when you browse the Internet - it will save you grief.
3. Blog format - news items are now posted in a blog format, with the current stuff on the front page, and older stuff moving automatically into archives.
4. Comments enabled! - in lieu of the forum, users so inclined may now comment on posts for 90 days. **If you wish to write comments, you will need to register an account with our web site** by clicking the login link in the left column. OVMRC does not sell any of the information you provide. Signing up on here DOES NOT add you to the mailing list. If you wish to receive club newsletters by email, you will have to join the club or sign up through the newsletter subscribe link.
5. Search - you can now search the site with the box in the upper right corner, or via the Archives, Categories, and Tags links on the left-side menu.
6. The site has been optimized for mobile browsers as well, if you follow the site from a phone or tablet.
7. RSS feeds - the site now provides RSS feeds for anyone who may wish to follow our posts with a reader.
8. Behind the scenes - backups, security and protection from internet scumbaggery, data organization.

We hope everyone finds the new site a bit more informative and easy to use. Enjoy!

Darin Cowan, VE3OIJ

The changes were discussed and approved at the March 3rd OVMRC executive meeting. Thank you Darin for all the great and speedy effort, very much appreciated.

de Norm, VE3LC

ovmrc.on.ca

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Incorporated
 PO Box 41145
 Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9

- ✓ *The membership year starts 1 September, and runs until 31 August of the following year.*
- ✓ *Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.*
- ✓ *Associate membership is open to all unlicensed radio enthusiasts.*
- ✓ *Membership includes a digital subscription to the club newsletter, the OVMRC Rambler.*

NEW RENEWAL UPDATE/CHANGE

Please print legibly

Call Sign	Surname	Perferred first name
Street		Apartment
City	Province	Postal Code
Home/primary phone	Work/other phone	E-mail address
Are you a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)? Yes / No		
RAC ID: _____ Expiry (YYYY-MM-DD): _____		

Do you wish to order an OVMRC name tag? (+\$12.00) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Callsign for name tag	Name for name tag	

Full Membership (Not a Member of RAC)	\$35.00/yr <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Cheque / Cash
Full Membership (RAC Member)	\$25.00/yr <input type="checkbox"/>	
Associate Membership (Unlicensed)	\$25.00/yr <input type="checkbox"/>	

Circle your interests			
Bands Microwave UHF VHF HF LF and below	Modes CW Digital Phone EME Satellite Experimental	Building RX TX Antennas Test equipment Other	Other Teaching Speaking/Presenting DF/Fox hunting Contesting DXing Computers/IT Other

Signature	Date	Initials	<i>By initialing this box, I confirm that I consent to receiving e-mail messages from the Club.</i>
_____	_____		