

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club
Incorporated



Oct 2016

Edition 61

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President's Ramblings

The Club is out of the gate for another season. We have had our Radio Course registration and two classes have already happened. Our current count of students is now 33; there may be some more folks yet in the wings to become a radio amateur this year. If you know any, have them contact me and I'm sure we can fit them into the class.

We had our first General meeting of the season with a good turnout. We featured a review of the 2016 Field Day results and I gave a technical talk on Repeaters, Duplexers, Multicouplers and Sharing Antenna Systems. The 2016/2017 Club Budget was tabled as an order of business requiring a motion and a membership vote to accept it. Although generally dealing with the proposed operating income and expenses of the Club for the season, Beth Webster VA3CEW made a motion that the Budget be accepted with the inclusion of a \$10,000 amount to the re-establishment of a "Club Station" when we again relocate the Club's operations at the Museum of Science and Technology on St Laurent. These reserve funds are already within the financial surplus of the Club. The motion was seconded, and carried and the Budget will be amended accordingly.

Please pay attention to our October 19th meeting talk by Paul Dufresne, VE3OTB about his wonderful development of a APRS messaging to the SMS text messaging service on Smartphones. This should be a very interesting presentation and well worth attending.

As a follow up from what was reported at the last meeting, myself, Barry Allison, VE3NJK and Ken Evans, VE3EKN on Sunday Sept 25th got together with a security escort at 580 Booth St and dismantled and removed the original VE3TWO repeater equipment. What we do with the well used and seriously obsolete equipment remains to be determined. For sure, there is worth and value left in the 2 and 6 metre and 70 cm duplexer filtering which can be reused. Of course, the Club's new VE3TWO Yaesu repeater is working well at the new east end site. Join Club members and Net Control Station, VE3EKN every Thursday evening at 8 pm on VE3TWO, 147.300 +; a 100 Hz tone is required. We have no intention for the time being to re-establishing the 70 cm or 6 metre repeater until we can acquire another site or re-locate to Science and Technology Museum with a suitable antenna tower.

Due to the popularity of the J Pole dual band club project last year, we will be *(Continued on page 3)*

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Meeting Dates

Club Meetings:

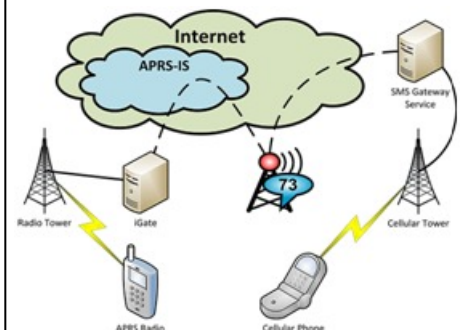
Wednesday, Oct 19th
7:00 P.M.

OVMRC Meeting

Aviation Museum

Speaker: Paul Dufresne, VE3OTB

Subject: Development and Use of his APRS / SMS Messaging Gateway



OVMRC Executive**2015-2016**

President: Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
ve3lc@rac.ca

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Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Training &

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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

• **ACCEPTABLE STORAGE**
Ottawa, ON

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

RADIOWORLD TORONTO

WEB site: www.radioworld.ca

OVMRC Life Members

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

OVMRC Repeater

VE3TWO

147.300 Mhz (+) 100 Hz tone
FM & Yeasu System Fusion Digital
Operation

Amateur Radio Exhibit

VE3JW

Web site:

ovmrc.on.ca/ve3jw.htm

Canada Science & Technology
Museum

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

Visit the OVMRC Store

at

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

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)

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(Continued from [page 1](#)) making another run of this fantastic antenna again this year. Barry VE3NJK is anxious to get the project underway. We believe there will be a good take up by the new class of candidates in the OVMRC Radio Course.

Something we are adding into the newsletter this season will be the minutes of the previous meeting recorded by our Secretary, Frank VE2KOI. According to our bylaws, these should be published after every meeting. We will ask for these minutes to be accepted by the membership at the next General Meeting.

So that's it for this month. Hope to see you all at the next meeting, October 19th.

de Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
ve3lc@rac.ca

VE3TWO report on dismantling of old repeater system at the 580 Booth St site.

Myself VE3LC, Barry VE3NJK and Ken VE3EKN met our escort Sunday morning, Sept 25 to dismantle and remove the old VE3TWO equipment from 580 Booth St. Within two hours, all repeater equipment was striped from the site and loaded into our vehicles. This included the old VE3TWO VHF and UHF repeaters and duplexers and the 6 metre VE3RVI repeater equipment. All antennas and feed lines were removed from the roof. The only thing that we left were the two 6 foot rack cabinets that housed the equipment. We asked the building management to dispose of these as we believed it was not safe for us to bring them down the steep stairway from the building's top floor equipment room. Currently, the 580 Booth St surplus equipment is stored at the qth's of myself, Barry and Ken.

The 6 metre repeater c/w with cavity duplexer was originally owned by Doug Bannard, VE3SPF and he was advised it is off the air and removed from the site. He replied to our email and advised he donated the equipment to the Club and we can use or dispose of it as we wish. He also mentioned that the call sign VE3RVI belonged to Keith Ballinger, VE3QF who now resides in the UK. We will attempt to contact Keith and suggest he give up the call sign if he chooses. In any event, VE3RVI should no longer be associated with a 6 metre repeater in Ottawa. If the OVMRC establishes another 6 metre repeater, another call sign can be obtained.

The St Lawrence Valley Repeater Council has also been advised of the new status of VE3TWO (VHF and UHF) and VE3RVI.

VE3TWO remains operational and working well at the Orleans site and supporting well the OVMRC net on Thursday evenings.

de Norm VE3LC

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@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)

A simple way to improve the “Get-Out-Ability” of your VHF portable radio.

Most modern amateur FM portable radios come with some sort of “Heliflex” antenna. Hams often call this type of antenna a “Rubber Ducky”. The Heliflex antenna has continuous inductive loading to electrically shorten the resonant length of the antenna to something more convenient to carry. A quarter wavelength for 147 MHz is approximately 18.5” (or 50 cm). Most Heliflex antennas for the 2 metre band measure 6 to 8 inches long. On dual band (VHF and UHF) radios, the Heliflex antennas have the loading coil specially designed and placed within the rubber casing of the antenna to act like a “trap” thereby shortening the electrical length of the radiating element for 2 metres as well as acting as an open circuit at the UHF frequency so that it resonates on both bands.

Stock Rubber Duck antennas, while convenient, are not good radiators compared to a full quarter wave length antenna. Many aftermarket vendors offer very flexible ¼ wave antennas for attachment to most portable radio’s SMA antenna connector. While much longer at approximately 18.5 inch long, this type of antenna is still reasonably convenient to use. The improvement in performance will be like adding a 20 watt power amplifier to your 5 watt portable (6 dB gain), especially if you add a dangling ¼ wave counterpoise wire attached to the outer shell of the SMA antenna connector. In effect, this makes a vertical half wave

dipole attached directly onto your radio.

I have made DC current measurements drawn by the radio (from the battery) with various antennas attached and compared these measurements with others with the radio connected to a 50 ohm load/RF wattmeter. I have found the DC current drawn by the radio is often less with the Heliflex antenna and usually not much better with a ¼ wave antenna (without an attached counterpoise). However by using a ¼ wave antenna along with ¼ wave counterpoise wire and providing it is cut to the proper length, the result always shows near the same DC current draw as the load resistor for a given power setting of the radio.

My conclusion is a proper resonant ½ wave, centre-fed dipole will make a much better match to the radio similar to that of a 50 ohm load resistor. Besides the better radiation efficiency of the resulting ½ wave vertical dipole, the match such antennas provide transfers the full rated power of the radio to the antenna. The improvement in “Get Out” performance is usually dramatic compared to the stock radio antenna alone.

Give it a try and be amazed.

Details to make and attach a ¼ wave wire counterpoise to your 2 mtr portable hand held radio:

- Cut a length of very flexible isolated wire 18.5 inches. I used thin clear insulated # 20 gauge zip cord speaker wire but any suitable flexible wire will work.
- Acquire and attach to one end of the wire a crimp lug with a hole size of 5/16. This is the diameter

required to fit over the female SMA connector used on most hand held portables.

- Attach the radio antenna (vendor supplied ¼ whip) to the radio placing it over the crimp lug and ensuring a good electrical connection to the threaded shell of the SMA connector.
- At the dangling end of the wire counterpoise, ensure there is no bare wire; this may require a small amount of heat shrink tubing or electrical tape applied to properly insulate the end cut. This is a precaution to avoid minor RF burning with possible skin contact. Believe me, you will feel it on exposed skin while transmitting with a 5 watt portable.



Crimp Lug attached to wire.

Portable with ¼ whip and counterpoise attached.



de Norm VE3LC

Amateur Radio and Distracted Driving in Ontario.

The Ontario Exemption allowing hand holding of a microphone while driving by radio amateurs will be expiring at the end of 2017.

The following is stated as part of O.Reg. 366/09 of the Ontario Distracted Driving Legislation: **Display Screens and Hand-Held Devices.**

To download the whole document, goto: ontario.ca/laws/regulation/090366

Time-limited exemption for amateur radio operators

13. (1) Drivers who hold a **valid radio operator certificate** issued under the Radiocommunication Act (Canada) may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a two-way radio. O. Reg. 366/09, s. 13 (1), O. Reg. 253/12, s. 3 (1).

(2) This section is revoked on January 1, 2018. O. Reg. 366/09, s. 13 (2), O. Reg. 253/12, s. 3 (2).

However; the following exemptions to the law "pressing buttons" as stated below specifically includes 2-way radio (without the type of radio service indicated) for transmit and receive (mutually exclusive PTT) functionality and will remain in effect.

Exemption for pressing buttons

14. (1) A person may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while pressing a button on a hand-held wireless communication device to make, answer or end a cell phone call or to transmit or receive **voice communication on a two-way**

radio if the device is placed securely in or mounted to the motor vehicle so that it does not move while the vehicle is in motion and the driver can see it at a quick glance and easily reach it without adjusting his or her driving position. O. Reg. 366/09, s. 14 (1).

(2) A person may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while pressing a button on a device that is worn on his or her head or hung over or placed inside his or her ear or is attached to his or her clothing and is linked to a hand-held wireless communication device to make, answer or end a cell phone call or to transmit or receive voice communication on a **two-way radio or a hand microphone or portable radio**. O. Reg. 366/09, s. 14 (2).

My commentary follows:

From the regulations shown above, I interpret that we remain good to go with our 2-way amateur mobile radio installation using a hand-held microphone until the end of 2017 without any other specific requirement except to carry a copy of our Certificate to prove, if necessary, our exemption as amateur radio operator; however, after the expiry date of the amateur radio exemption, a mobile radio (amateur or otherwise I assume) must be secured to the vehicle within easy reach and quick glance and with hands free operation except as may be necessary to press monetarily a button to be worn or otherwise secured close at hand for PTT Tx/Rx control of the radio.

Further, I believe having and using a wired microphone with a clip to your clothing would meet this requirement providing it is "not

hand held". As well, it would seem that a portable (2 way) radio may be used in a similar fashion like a cell phone.

Based on the existing wording of the regulations, I believe there is still too much to interpret and perhaps an attempt should be made to have it clarified with the Ontario Ministry of Transport.

I understand the exemption for operating amateur radio equipment while driving is being taken up by two Ontario Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada, Allan Boyd, VE3AJB and Phil McBride, VA3QR, We will monitor this lobbying.

As I see it.

Norm VE3LC

Contesting Information

Contest Calendar (all contests listed) arrl.org/sweepstakes

CQ World Wide SSB DX, Oct 29-30 cqww.com/rules.htm

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW, Nov 5-7 arrl.org/sweepstakes

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest SSB, Nov 19-21 arrl.org/sweepstakes

General Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 19:30

Location: Canada Aviation and Space Museum

1. Call to Order:

The President, Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, called the meeting to order at 19:30. There were 29 in attendance.

Guests and visiting amateurs:
Claude Bastien, VA2ZCB

New Members:
Erhan Kum, VA3KUM, Sevdet Yavuz, VA3ESV, Douglas King, VE3YDK, Christopher Landry, VE3BRJ

2. Upcoming Events:

Montreal South Shore Hamfest
Place Desaulniers, 1023 Taschereau Blvd, Longueuil
Saturday, October 15, 2016, 09:00

Ontario NVIS Event
Peel ARC / Kingston ARC
Sunday, October 16, 2016, 13:00 – 16:00 local time.

Contests:
CQ WW RTTY DX, September 24-25, 2016
CQ WW SSB-DX, October 29-30, 2016

3. Show and Tell:

Barry, VE3NJK showed a new Yaesu FTM-3200D FM + digital mobile radio that he acquired from Radio World.

Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG showed a Kenwood slow-scan camera that transmits on VHF, and also a Radio Shack 25-watt radio model HTX-10V (10M SSB/CB) that he was offering for sale.

4. Program:

4.1 Norm, VE3LC presented the club executive and chairs, for 2016-2017 as follows:

President: Norm Rashleigh VE3LC

Vice-President: Barry Allison VE3NJK

Treasurer: Nicole Boivin VE3GIQ

Secretary: Frank Fullum VE2KOI

Membership: Tom Mercer VA3LJS

Web & Social Media: Darin Cowan VE3OIJ

Repeater & Technical: Barry Allison VE3NJK

Radio operations: Ken Evans VE3EKN

Newsletter Editor: Robert Cherry VA3AOD

Newsletter Layout: Bill Hall VA3WMH

Amateur Radio Training: Norm Rashleigh VE3LC

4.2 Club Project – Barry, VE3NJK:

Barry, advised us that based on the success of the club's J-Pole antenna project of last year, another 30 kits would be made ready for this year. The cost of the kits is planned to be kept under \$30 per kit.

4.3 Repeater Report – Norm, VE3LC:

The old VE3TWO repeater has been shutdown at 580 Booth Street. The new VE3TWO repeater is now up and running at the RCMP site in Orleans. On Sunday September 25, a work party will dismantle the old repeater at Booth Street.

4.4 Net Operations – Ken, VE3EKN:

Ken reminded us that the local nets are in operation again, following the summer break.

- OVMRC 2m FM net, VE3TWO, Thursday 8 pm
- OVMRC Pothole net, 3760 kHz, LSB, Sunday 10 am
- OVMRC Potlid net, (CW), 3620 kHz, Sunday 11 am
- QCWA Chapter 70 Net, VE3MPC, Monday 7:30 pm
- OARC Capital City Net, VE2CRA, Monday 8 pm
- Phoenix Net, VE3MPC, Tuesday 8 pm
- Rubber Boot Net, VE3MPC, work days, 7:30 am
- Upper Frequency Net, 144.250 MHz, SSB Tuesday 9 pm

4.5 Club Business:

The Treasurer, Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ, reported that the club had financial assets of \$21,348 on deposit as of September 1. As of September 20, an additional \$4,472 had been received and deposited. Nicole presented the club's budget for 2016-2017. During the discussion of the budget items, Beth, VA3CEW, proposed that the budget be amended to add a \$10,000 expense (reserve) for the eventual setup of the VA3JW display at the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

MOTION: Moved by Nicole, VE3GIQ and seconded by Steve, VA3RUU that the budget of the Club for 2016-2017 be approved as presented. CARRIED.

MOTION: Moved by Beth, VA3CEW and seconded by Douglas, VE3YDK that the budget of the Club for 2016-2017 be amended to add a \$10,000 expense (reserve) for the eventual setup of the VA3JW display at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. CARRIED.

4.6 Field Day 2016 Report - Norm, VE3LC:

The club took part in Field Day 2016 with two radio stations (Class 2A) and a total of 27 participants. Power sources used during the event were generator, battery and solar. The number of contacts made were 156 (CW) and 288 (phone). The club's total score for the event was 2,446 points.

5. Prizes and Draws:

Door prizes were won by Douglas King, VE3YDK and Ken Lehman, VE3IKL. The 50/50 draw was won by Roger Gervais, VE3NPO.

6. Feature Presentation:

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, gave a presentation on *Repeaters, Duplexers, Multi-couplers and Shared Antenna Systems*.

7. Upcoming Club Meetings:

The next general meeting of the club will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 19:30. The guest speaker will be Paul Dufresne, VE3OTB, who will give a presentation titled: *APRS/SMS Gateway*.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 22:10 pm

*Minutes recorded by Frank Fullum, VE2KOI
OVMRC Secretary*

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>
_____	_____		