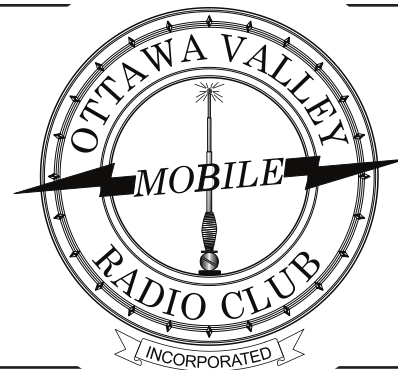


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club
Incorporated



April 2020

Edition 57

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President's Ramblings

I was quite worried about the January meeting because of the impending winter storm but we dodged a bullet for that meeting and wouldn't you know it the same thing happened for the February meeting. Turns out I missed the mark completely for the rest of the monthly meetings with the onset of C-19. Who knew the potential of what arrived on our door step.

So, for the bad news, all OVMRC Club meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future. The Museum where we used to meet is closed until further notice. Field Day as we knew it is cancelled..... that is not to say you can't participate in the Field Day experience in other ways. More on this to follow.

I have mentioned this before but if you are unsure of your status as a paid-up member you can always check with Nicole, VE3GIQ, club Treasurer. This is important since only paid up members are eligible for door prizes, 50/50, and subsidized club kit costs. I have another useful door prize for whenever we get to meet again. Wait, this just in: there will be two door prizes for the next meeting but I'm going to try to keep it under wraps until then. Be sure to

attend, your chance of winning just doubled!

Now for some badly needed good news.

We recently had an executive meeting via Zoom. At that meeting it was proposed that we waive the club membership dues for next year. There is a \$10.00 component of the dues that goes towards the RAC Insurance program, so instead of asking for the full \$25.00 we are suggesting that they will be reduced to just \$10.00 for the year. More on this in the next Rambler.

Field Day participation could still take place if you choose to operate alone. For example you could operate from home as a home station under the category of 1D. Check the Field Day rules as available on the ARRL Website. Norm, VE3LC has more on this elsewhere in the Rambler.

Norm, VE3LC also posted interesting info on moving on with the club 6 M Dipole project that didn't happen as planned. I'll have more info on the final project in future Ramblers but in the interim, this is an excellent option.

Last but not least, let's talk about some breaking news. This is from last month but is notable to repeat. I have two notable items:

1. As of April 1st, 2020 there will be a new *(Continued on page 4)*

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Calendar

General Meeting

The OVMRC April Meeting

Is **CANCELLED**

due to Covid-19 Epidemic

Next Meeting

The May OVMRC AGM will also be CANCELLED. We may schedule a special June on-line Annual General Meeting to vote in the Executive for the new 2020/21 season of the Club.

Stay tuned to:

<https://ovmrc.groups.io/g/main/topics>

for further information.

OVMRC Executive and Officers 2019-2020

President:

Barry Allison, VE3NA
ve3na@rac.ca

Vice-President:

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC
ve3lc@rac.ca

Treasurer & Membership Records:

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nlboivin@sympatico.ca

Corporate Secretary:

Ron Smith, VE3LBU
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The above four positions are "Directors" and officers in charge of running the Corporate affairs of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

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Club Projects & Bulk Orders:

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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 & Yaesu System Fusion Digital
Operation

OVMRC Call Signs

VE3JW
VE3RAM

The Rambler is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated and is published 10 times a year (monthly, except for July and August). 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 and notices to:

Norm at ve3lc@rac.ca

**Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club, Incorporated**
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OVMRC Affiliations



The Wednesday evening Cross Canada Weekly C4FM is again hosted on VE3TWO

OVMRC members can again check into the Wednesday evening Cross Canada C4FM net on Club repeater VE3TWO 147.300 (+ offset) thanks to a remote Wires X connection provided by Steve VA3MPS. Steve will be engaging his node station onto the repeater Wednesday Evenings at 9:00 PM. The Net can also be accessed in the west-end of town using the Fusion repeater VE3DRE on 146.805 (- offset) owned and operated by Denis VE3BF who is the Net Control Station. All check-ins are welcome using the Yaesu C4FM digital voice mode.

Emergency Measures Radio Group: (EMRG)

Monthly Repeater Tests are conducted by Dave VE3KMY on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 PM on VE3OCE 146.880 MHz – (136.5 Hz tone). From initial contact on VE3OCE, you'll be asked to test VE3EMV/East 146.985 MHz – (100 Hz@ tone), VE3EMV/West 145.210 MHz – (123.0 Hz tone), VE3OFS 146.670 MHz – (136.5 Hz tone), VE3OCE 443.8000 MHz + 5 (136.5 Hz tone) and VE3EMU 444.9500 + 5 (136.5 Hz tone). It is advisable that all the EMRG frequencies be programmed into your radio. All check ins are welcome.

See: <http://www.emrg.ca/repeaters.htm>

Informal Amateur Radio Restaurant Gatherings

(All Cancelled until Further Notice)

- **QCWA Chapter 70** breakfast gathering every **Tuesday** morning at 7:30 to 10:00 AM, Summerhays Grill, 1972 Baseline Rd., Nepean
- **Orleans Coffee gathering** every **Friday** morning at 9:00 AM, McDonalds, 2643 St. Joseph Blvd, Orleans
- **QRP Group Dinner** meeting, **2nd Wednesday** every month, 5 PM, Newport Restaurant, 322 Churchill Ave N., Ottawa
- **Phoenix Net monthly Breakfast** gathering, usually the **second Saturday** every month at 9 AM, T-Basil Restaurant, 2440 St Joseph Blvd, Orleans. (get on Pete VE3XEM's mailing list for monthly reminder VE3XEM@RAC.CA)

OVMRC Repeater VE3TWO :

147.300 MHz +600 kHz, 100 Hz Tone and Yaesu C4FM Digital Voice

VE3TWO Scheduled Nets:

- **Thursday Evenings, 8 PM**, Club Net on FM conducted by Hugo, VE3KTN and Rob, VE3RXH.
- **Sunday Evenings, 8 PM**, Ottawa area 2M SSB Round Table Net 144.250 Mhz

Other Local 2 Metre Repeater & Simplex Nets: (all check-ins welcome)

- **Rubber Boot Net**, VE3MPC 147.150 ++, (100 Hz tone) mornings at 7:30 AM conducted by Roger, VE3NPO
- **Phoenix Net**, VE3MPC 147.150 Mhz +, (100 Hz tone), Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM conducted by Pete, VE3XEM
- **QCWA Chapter 70 Net**, VE3MPC 147.150 MHz +(100 Hz tone), Monday evenings at 7:30 PM conducted by John, VE3ZOV
- **Capital City FM Net**, VE2CRA 146.940 MHz -, (100 Hz tone), Monday evenings at 8:00 PM.
- **Champlain Mini Net**, VE3STP 147.060 MHz -, (114.8 Hz tone), every evening at 6:45 PM.
- **Upper Frequency Net**, Simplex 144.250 MHz using USB, Tuesdays evenings at 9:00 PM conducted by Glenn, VE3XRA. Following check in on 2 m you can check your radios on 6 m at 50.150 MHz and 70 cm on 432.150 MHz as well using USB. All check ins are welcome.

OVMRC HF Nets

- **Pot Hole SSB Net**, 3760 kHz, every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM conducted by Ernie, VE3EJJ, or Glenn, VE3XRA..
- **Pot Lid Slow Speed CW Net**, 3620 kHz, every Sunday morning at 11 AM conducted by Roger, VE3XRR.

(Continued from page 1) section in Canada: "PE" for Prince Edward Island. Yes, they are going to be separate from the MAR or Maritime section. This will affect contests such as Field Day, Sweepstakes and the ARRL 160 M contest but not the 10 M contest that only requires Provinces and States. Along this line, Hamilton and the Regional Municipality of Niagara will shift from ONS (Ontario South) and move to GTA (Greater Toronto Area). Watch for change updates to logging programs.

2. Distracted driving. Go to: <https://www.rac.ca/ontario-has-granted-permanent-two-way-radio-exemption-for-amateurs/> for detailed information. And this is why we need to support RAC! RAC provides us with a plethora of information related to our hobby. If you are not a member, please consider joining!

One final item of interest. A while back I received an email of interest from a Ham in BC who helps run an Amateur Radio station at a Cub/Scout Camp near Sooke, BC. Ron, VA7RTB had a request to the OVMRC: Do we have a club badge? Well I did, so I sent it to him at his request, but I had to ask: What is it for?

Well apparently one of their activities is to collect badges from all over and put them on display, and what a display they have. Take a look at the photo. Can you spot our OVMRC badge in the display? Also check out the variety of badges on display. Quite impressive.

In return, Ron sent to me one of their badges for the OVMRC Club memorabilia collection.



Thanks Ron !

Check it out below:



Now isn't that a good news story? That's it for the April Ramblings. Talk to you next month and on the nets.

73
Barry, VE3NA

Local Event
CANCELLED
due to Epidemic:

Smiths Falls Flea market
scheduled May 9th Cancelled

Club Field Day is now in Doubt – A Time to Adapt

As a consequence of the Corona Covid-19 virus epidemic, it doesn't seem that there will be a speedy resolve to reducing the risk of getting together for meetings and other group activities involving close physical contact for several months to come. This will likely impact our Club plans to organize and stage our end-of-June Field Day (FD) operations. Indeed, in spite of having reserved the grounds of the Aviation and Space Museum, it may not be available to us if the Museum itself remains closed to the public.

We have been monitoring the Field Day information page at: www.arrl.org/field-day Their message at the present time indicates that the On-Air FD exercise will be conducted as scheduled. However, their guidance indicates this may be

“A Time to Adapt”

in this unprecedented time of uncertainty. This means that the tradition of Clubs staging a large multi-member team effort may not even be allowed this year in many North American jurisdictions due to current regulations banning groups of people getting together. Wise rules we're sure when it comes to Field Day operations as a group activity which usually involves close physical association sharing radios equipment and headphones and microphones.

That said, the ARRL says the Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals or groups to adjust their participation in the

Field Day emergency communication event safely while still being fun by operating:

- As an individual from their home stations using emergency power (Class E operation) derived from solar panels or generator.
- As an individual from their home stations using solely commercial power (Class D operation).
- As one or two person portable operation using non commercial emergency power (Class B operation)
- As one or two person portable operation running not more than 5 watts from solely a battery source of power (Class B – Battery operation).
- As an individual operating (stationary or mobile) from a boat, plane or automobile installation that is capable of operating while in motion (Class C operation); however, actually being in motion is not required.

All the ARRL FD rules pertaining to scoring for these different classes of operation will however, still apply.

Your OVMRC executive committee will be encouraging its members to operate in the classes noted above and is looking at issuing special Club certificates for participation and best of class. We will have more on this in the May issue of the Rambler.

- Norm ve3lc@rac.ca

Simple 6 metre ½ wave dipole project.

One of the projects we had planned to do this year was a kit of a simple 6 metre dipole with the idea to get people on the band for local communications and possibly a weekly CW net for code learning and practice. This of course is facilitated nowadays by the fact that most modern HF radios also cover the 6 metre band.

The six metre band is classified as VHF spectrum and therefore is included in all ARRL and CQ VHF contests. It is also a band that folks with just their Basic qualification (*that didn't achieve the 80% required for Basic with Honours*) can operate as well. Indeed, with a bit of CW learning and practice on a slow speed CW net, we may get a few Basic only folks to try their 5 WPM Morse test and be promoted to HF operating privileges that way.

The 6 metre band is also exciting during the summer months with an abundance of “Sporadic E” propagation that can contribute to making a lot of contacts when the band will be alive on the June 13-15 weekend ARRL VHF contest and the Field Day weekend. Since there is no OVMRC six metre dipole project kit this year, here's how you can home-brew a simple 6 metre dipole.

To calculate the proper length of a ½ wavelength dipole, the text book formula as measured in feet is $468/(\text{frequency in MHz})$ or in inches, $5616/(\text{frequency in MHz})$ or in metres $142.6/(\text{frequency in MHz})$ or in cm $1426/(\text{frequency in MHz})$.

Of course, these measurements can be the starting point for the actual

length of a dipole antenna for the best SWR at a given frequency. Other influences on the antenna as well as the diameter of the wire or rod that is used will affect the length and the feed impedance. As well, since we normally use 50 ohm coaxial cable to feed our antennas, and since a half wave antenna in free space has a nominal impedance of 72 ohms; therefore, depending on how and where the antenna is installed, the antenna may not display a perfect match (1:1 SWR) at its resonant frequency. All things being proper, the 72 ohm dipole may introduce SWR of 1.5:1 (at least) when fed with a 50 ohm cable, not a perfect match but good enough to avoid the complications of more sophisticated feedline coupling techniques to a dipole element such as a “gamma” matching.

Generally, when constructing a 6 meter dipole, we will want to show its best match on the low end of the band and should aim for a frequency around 50.200 MHz to achieve the best SWR by trimming the length of the antenna. According to the 6 metre band plan, this should permit us to operate most of the activity on the band including:

- 50.000 to 50.100 CW and Beacons
- 50.100 – the CW calling frequency
- 50.100 to 50.600 SSB
- 50.125 – the SSB calling frequency

Other frequencies of interest using the WSJT-X digital modes application are:

- 50.260 for MSK144 used for Meteor scatter
- 50.293 for WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporting)
- 50.313 for FT8

If your interests on the 6 metre band are for FM activity, simplex or through a repeater, then you should be using a 6 metre vertically polarized antenna instead. This could be the antenna described here oriented vertically as long as the feed line is taken away from the radiating elements at 90 degrees at least a $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ wave from the antenna.

The 6 m band plan for FM operation is as follows:

- 52.525 MHz – National FM calling frequency
- 52 to 53 MHz – FM voice repeater inputs
- 53 to 54 MHz – FM voice repeater outputs.

The following pictures show a simple $\frac{1}{2}$ wave dipole I made from available materials. The elements are made from 5/16” aluminium rod. Each rod is mounted in a 2x4 block of wood (I used surplus cedar) 4” in length and

appropriately drilled (see photo). Ideally, the wood should be waterproofed if the antenna is to be used outside and exposed to the elements. Hot paraffin wax could be used for this, but be careful, heated paraffin wax is very flammable. A plastic block could also be used. To make up the connections of the RG58 feed line, I drilled a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hole through the block perpendicular and on centre with the holes drilled for rods. For the short antenna mast, I used some $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wooden doweling mounted in a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch hole drilled into the base of the block.

Length of the rod elements

As mentioned, the length of a $\frac{1}{2}$ wave wire dipole can be determined by the formula in feet $468/\text{Frequency in MHz}$ or in inches use $5616/\text{Frequency in MHz}$; however, I believe for this relatively short length 6 metre band antenna, it is probably best to deal in inches. For 50.200 MHz, this works out to be 111.8 inches or half of that (56 inches) for each element rod both sides of centre. Connecting a 50 ohm coax feedline to the centre feed point, I swept the antenna using my NanoVNA and found the antenna showed the best SWR at around 48 MHz. So I

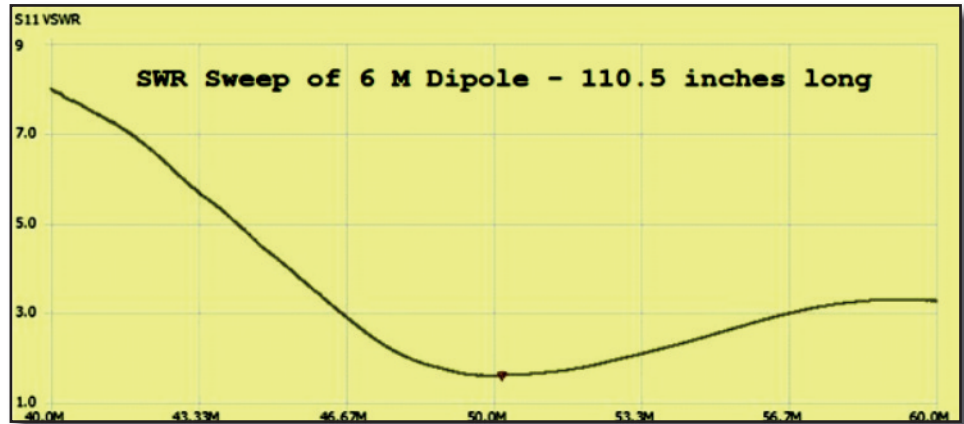


The 6 metre dipole mounted atop a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter wooden pole ready to intercept some 50 MHz signals.



Picture showing the centre block of wood. The coax cable connections are made by drilling and tapping the ends of the elements to accommodate 6/32 screws.

trimmed the length of the elements at both ends a few times and



finally achieved a SWR of 1.6 to 1 at 50.180 MHz; these tests done with the antenna in the clear and not unduly influenced by the nearby ground or metal objects. The sweep plot of SWR is shown above. As it turned out, the overall length of the antenna was trimmed down to 110.5 inches. I suspect

deviation requiring a shorter length from the standard formula was due to the thicker rods used instead thin wire elements.

- Norm VE3LC@rac.ca

ISED Authorizes On-Line Amateur Radio Testing.

In order that the Corona Virus epidemic will not put a full stop to all testing of folks in person that want to write their amateur radio exams, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) has authorized the conducting of amateur radio examinations remotely on-line using video conferencing between the candidate and the examiner.

According to the instructions issued by ISED, the accredited examiner can read the questions and the multiple choice answers for each of the 100 questions on the Basic exam and the candidate will verbally say their choice of answer for the examiner to record remotely on the answer sheet. Thus, the examiner is assured there is no reference by the candidate to material by keeping a watch of the candidate on-camera while taking

the test. The Department has also authorized the use of video conferencing such as Zoom that will permit the examiner to “Share a Screen” showing the actual examination paper to the remotely situated candidate, scrolled question by question by the examiner while the candidate reads the questions and indicates their choice of answer back to the examiner; this will allow the candidate to properly deliberate the wording of each question and associated answers.

As an accredited examiner, I now have a couple of people lined up to take the test on-line. On April 9th, I conducted a test of a candidate using this video conference technique and I am happy to report we have another radio amateur joining our ranks, Sana, VA3SNA.

- Norm VE3LC@rac.ca

OVMRC Net Activity, Check-ins for Last Month.

Prepared by: Hugo Kneve VE3KTN

OVMRC 2 Metre Net: VE3TWO 147.300+ 100 Hz. tone, Thursdays 8 p.m. local.

March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors	New & Visitors
	VE3WCX - Michel	VA3WTZ	
General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins	General Check-ins
VE3RXH - NCS	VE3RXH - NCS	VE3RXH - NCS	VE3RXH - NCS
VE3NA	VE3NA	VE3NA	VE3KAE
VE3LC	VA3ZZW	VE3LC	VE3LBU
VE3KTN	VE3LC	VE3LBU	VA3AOD
VE3OWR	VE3KAE	VE3KTN	VE3NA
VA3IAH	VE3NPO	VE3KAE	VE3GIQ
VE3KAE	VA2EEK	VE3KMV	VE3LC
VE3ZZU	VA3RLA	VE3NPO	VA3WTZ
VA3BGO	VE3KTN	VA3RLA	VE3OKD
VA3EO	VA3EO	VA3BGO	VA3RLA
VE3OKD	VE3NZN	VE3ZZU	VE3KTN
	VA3IAH	VA3JYK	VE3ZZU
		VE3GIQ	VA3EO
		VA3HJR	VA2EEK
		VA2EEK	VE3OAT
		VA3EO	VA3BGO
			VE3SYZ
			VA3EEN
			VA3VGR

OVMRC Pothole Net: 3760 kHz. LSB Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. local.

March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3XRA - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS	VE3XRA - NCS	VE3EJJ - NCS
VE3BAE	VE3EJJ	VE3KAE	VE3LC	VA3ZTF
VA3QV	VE3LC	VE3XRA	VA3RLA	VE3NPO
VE3KTN	VE3KAE	VE3LC	VA3NAH	VE3LC
VE3LC	VE3EKN	VE3OP	VE3FFK	VA3RLA
VA3RLA	VA3BGO	VA3RLA	VE3EKN	VE3KTN
VA3BGO	VA3QV	VA3BGO	VE3KTN	VA3PCJ
VE3XRA		VE3SYZ	VA3BGO	VA3BGO
VA3PCJ		VE3KTN	VE3EJJ	VE3EKN
VA3ZTF		VA3QV	VA3ZTF	VE3SYZ
		VA3EO	VA3QV	VE3XRA
		VE3NPO	VA2EEK	
			VE3KAE	

EMRG Repeater Test

Report from Dave Harris, VE3KMV about the results of the EMRG repeater tests conducted April 1st. Many OVMRC members participated.

Repeater test went well, record number of checkins. Thanks to Jocelyn, VE3JCT; Barry, VE3NA; Alan, VE3ZTU; Norm, VE3LC; Hugo, VE3KTN; Mike, VE3FFK; Dave, VE3BOW; Tim, VA3PYC; Tyler, VA3DGN; Roger, VA3EGY; Richard, VA3RLA; Arthur, VA3BIT (mobile); Ron, VA3RKB; and Jean VE2OCQ.

No new problems found, continuing minor issue with 145.210 short dropouts, particularly with FTM-3200 radios; backing off mic. seems to help.

Dave, VE3KMV

The Next test is Scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th at 8 PM starting on VE3OCE 146.88 – (136.5 Hz).

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	Preferred 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 No

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

Signature _____	Date _____	<input style="width: 80%; height: 40px;" type="text" value="Initials"/>	<p><i>By initialing this box, I confirm that I consent to receiving e-mail messages from the Club.</i></p>
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