

# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 34 Number 7-8 -- July-August, 1991

## OVMRC-OARC FIELD DAY 1991 REPORT

by Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI

Well, once again Mother Nature blessed our joint OVMRC/OARC Field Day with blissful sunshine and no rain. But, because we were appearing to have too much fun, she let loose the mosquitos (as usual) and turned the thermostat way down low! The graveyard shift complained of QRM from the teeth chattering of the operators as it got down to around 8° C. You could see your breath! Thanks to Judy, VE3PAB, and Fred, VE3PAA, we had a nice warm bonfire to huddle around between shifts. A great breakfast by chef Doug, VE3ATY, helped to shake off the chill on Sunday morning.

The VE3RAM (2A Ontario) Field Day site at Fred and Judy's on Leitrim Road proved to be an excellent choice. Yours truly managed a sling shot over the highest poplar tree for a 50-foot support for all the wire antennas - 40 and 80 meter dipoles and a G5RV that was thrown together on the spot, thanks to Vic, VE3BSV, Duncan, VE3OM, and Bob, VE3YBC, who joined the Club at Field Day!

The army tents obtained by Rob, VE3ZZR, were delivered by Sharon, VE3TDW and Mike, VE3FFK in a race against time during Sharon's summer bus route. Great job! We all got a

lesson on how to put these tents together ... lots of fun!

We had three tents, one for phone stations, one for CW stations and a general junk, food/coffee tent in case of rain.

The two generators from CFRA, courtesy of Harrie, VE3HYS, worked flawlessly. Clare, VE3NPC, had his excellent satellite station there and several people got their first taste of satellite operation. I managed three CW contacts via satellite in the waning hour of the contest. Packet Radio was there as well, thanks to Doug, VE3OCU, and Marcus, VE3MDL, although conditions were not that great for Packet - only one contact, but that equals 100 points!

The highlight came before the starting gun as CJOH TV (Cable 7) showed up to interview everyone (almost) and to film us operating. Did you see Vic and Judy talking up amateur radio and Field Day on the News at 6 and 11 p.m. June 23?

In addition, Harrie and I were interviewed on *Eye on Ottawa* a week earlier. Funny how you can get nervous in front of a camera, but not a microphone. Come to the September meeting to see the videos!

As far as the Field Day contest is concerned, we didn't do as well as the last two years, but we had a lot of fun. More time was spent teaching our new amateurs how to operate the various rigs during a contest and how to keep logs and dupe sheets up to date. John, VE3ACI, showed us how to use colourful phonetics to get a weak signal to California - ask him about it!

For those interested in numbers, our SSB QSOs per band were 24 (15M), 112 (20M), 65 (40M), 93 (80M), and 101 (Satellite). The CW QSOs were 16 (15M), 14 (20M), 342 (40M - guess which antenna worked best?), and 118 (80M). With bonus points we should break 4,000 points, which is about the same as last year.

For all those who made it out, and there were lots, thanks for your efforts. For those who missed it, well, just wait until next year! Vic, VE3BSV, is our Field Day Committee Chair and is already thinking about how to better this year's fun. Please lend Vic a hand and volunteer early.

73, Jeff, VE3RCI, 1991 Field Day Coordinator.



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Volume 34, Number 7-8- July-August, 1991

## OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1991-1992

### President

Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI - 833-0638

### Vice-President

Larry Woram, VE3WLN - 835-2959

### Past President

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY - 839-5854

### Treasurer

Judy Taetz, VE3PAB - 822-0937

### Secretary

Ted Paull, VE3KEH - 830-2751

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Amateur Radio Exhibit

Cy Webster, VE3SIY - 733-2371

### Amateur Radio Training

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY - 839-5854

### Field Day

Vic Bajaj, VE3BSV

### Flea Market

Ken Barry, VE3KJB - 746-4823

### Historical

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ - 825-8721

### Membership

Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP - 739-8871

### Newsletter

Chuck King, VE3PDK - 733-2079

### Publicity and Programmes

Keith Beardsley, VE3SVQ -  
731-7912

### Radio Operations

Jerry Wells, VE3CDS - 225-7374

### Technical

Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ - 738-8924

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## NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

**19 September, 1991**

**1930 hours**

**Room #1**

**Multi-service**

**Centre**

**1480 Heron Road,  
(East of Alta Vista Dr. near  
Baycrest Drive on south  
side of Heron)**

## CLUB CALENDAR

19 September  
Programme

SHOW AND TELL  
OF  
FIELD DAY VIDEOS

(Promises to be better than  
Funniest Home Movies.)

INTRODUCTION OF

THE

NEW EXECUTIVE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF

QSL CARD CONTEST

WINNER

## RAMBLER COMMITTEE

### Editor

Chas. King, VE3PDK

### Contributing Editors

News & Views - Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Ramblings - Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI

DXdeYOU - Appointment Vacant

Novice News - To be announced

### Circulation

Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP

Fred Taetz, VE3PAA

Fred Haire, VE3NJV

Eric Still, VE3OTT

Kevin Still

## AMATEUR RADIO NETS

**POT HOLE NET** - Sundays 1000 hrs. 3.760 MHz (includes Swap Net

**SWAP NET** - (Ed Morgan, VE3GX regular feature of Pot Hole Net and Capital City FM Net. Call Ed 733-1721 for listings and queries.

**POT LID NET** - Sundays 1100 hrs(except Jul & Aug) 3.620 MHz slow-speed CW.

**CAPITAL CITY FM NET** - Mondays 2000 hrs 146.94 MHz. Swap Net featured.

**PACKET RADIO VOICE NET** - Mondays 2040 hrs 146.94 MHz follows Capital City FM Net.

**MILITARY NET** - Tuesdays 2000 hrs 147.30 MHz.

**CUMBERLAND EMERGENCY NET** - Wednesdays 1930 hrs, 147.03 MHz

**THE WISE OWL NET** - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

**OVMRC CODE PHONE** - 825-0786 24-hr code practice..

**CHAMPLAIN MINI NET** - Daily 1845 hrs 147.06 MHz

# Ramblings

by Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI



Well gang, I hate to say it, but the summer is drawing to a close and September is too rapidly approaching. I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the regular meeting on September 19. The challenge at the start of my first term as president will be to maintain the enthusiasm and growth of the Club enjoyed under ex-Prez Doug, VE3ATY. Well done Doug, you're a hard act to follow.

My congratulations to last year's Executive for helping to see the Club membership exceed 200 and for completing the onerous task of re-writing the OVMRC Bylaws. Consequently, I have a large list of Committee chair-people and volunteers to help do all the things that we have planned for you this year. For example, look for a new, more efficient, and more useful Club repeater in VE3TWO. The **Technical Committee, under Ed, VE3RDZ**, is studying all the options and will report to us in October on all the goodies that we might add to the repeater (repeaters?).

The **Publicity/Programs Committee, under Keith, VE3SVQ**, is planning an amateur demonstration at a local Mall this spring. They'll be needing lots of volunteers for that, but it should generate a lot of public awareness and, hopefully, new members and prospective amateurs. If you have any ideas for a guest speaker or Club event, by all means give Keith or myself a call!

The **Amateur Radio Training Committee, under Doug, VE3ATY**, is really putting new life into an already successful licensing course. The Committee is preparing our own OVMRC training manual and course outline that will really capture the imagination of the new recruits by emphasizing the FUN of the hobby, before the theory or code scare any away. Lots more hands-on adventures in the class room. I sort of wish I could take the course again for the fun of it!

Speaking of the course and newly licensed amateurs, our new Executive pointed out an area of weakness in the Club. This same fault is present in most clubs, I'm afraid. It is the unintentional, but inevitable "abandonment" of our new graduates right after they get their ticket. Many have expressed frustration of not knowing what to do with their new call sign and privileges. How do I get on the air? Where can I get a good used rig? Who can help me put up an antenna? Well, enough of that! While lists of Elmers (mentors) have been available in the past, nobody called them so they stop volunteering. We should appoint a mentor to each new graduate, perhaps halfway through the course, if they want. Follow-up contact will be made for each new graduate to make sure they don't get lost or stay inactive through frustration. Perhaps holding a "graduate course" will help us meet the needs of the new amateurs. Whatever the answer, stay tuned this year

friends, because my main mandate as President is too ensure that our newly licensed amateurs get active, stay active, and really discover the boundless enjoyment that is Amateur Radio!

Until further notice, we will be meeting at the Multi-Service Centre at 1480 Heron Road. We hope to be back in the National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) sometime this year. And in 1992/93, with the help of the **Amateur Radio Display Committee, under Cy, VE3SIY**, there will be a brand new VE3JW station to operate at the Museum.... and lots of OVMRC volunteers to operate it of course!

With an enthusiastic and growing membership, your Executive can't help but have lots of fun putting an exciting and varied program together for you this year (just like the last few years). So let's all turn up for the first meeting to see the videos of some of the fun we had last year and to catch up on all the news through several eyeball QSOs. 73 until then, Jeff.

## SILENT KEY

**Kathy Pastuch nee Rodd,  
VE3OWY**  
*suddenly on 3 June, 1991.*

*Condolences to  
Russ Pastuch, VE3FSN*

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# WHO ARE THE CLUB'S PRIME MOVERS FOR NEXT YEAR?

by Chas. King, VE3PDK

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In addition to the Directors and Chairs of Standing Committees listed on page 2 of the Rambler, there are quite a number of members who have availed themselves of the opportunity of taking part in Club activities. The following is the list of these members as they were known at press time. There will, no doubt, be many more before the year is out.

## **Amateur Radio Exhibit Committee**

Chairman: Cy Webster, VE3SIY

Members: Joel Morin, VE3OPS

Jerry Wells, VE3CDS

Ted Paull, VE3KEH

## **Amateur Radio Training Committee**

Chairman: Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Members: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS

Alan Ablett, VE3SUP

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

John Pope, VE3AACI

## **Field Day Committee**

Chairman: Vic Bajaj, VE3BSV

## **Flea Market Committee**

Chairman: Ken Barry, VE3KJB

Members: Sue Carswell, VE3SLC

Larry Woram, VE3WLN

## **Historical Committee**

Chairman: Pat Brewer, VE2KJQ

## **Membership Committee**

Chairman: Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP

Members: Neil Herber, VE3PUE

Archie Mackenzie, VE3NJY

## **Newsletter Committee**

Chairman: Chas. King, VE3PKD

Members: Fred Taetz, VE3PAA

Eric Still, VE3OTT

Fred Haire, VE3NJF

Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

## **Programs and Publicity Committee**

Chairman: Keith Bearsdley, VE3SVQ

## **Radio Operations Committee**

Chairman: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS

Members: Merv Lemke, VE3CV

Leo Desjardins, VE3NVL

## **Technical Committee**

Chairman: Ed Seib, VE3RDZ

Members: Russ Pastuch, VE3FSN

Dave Harris, VE3KMV

Dennis Rule, VE3JGR

John Pope, VE3ACI

Bill Balke, VE3NPG

## **OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

Craig Delmage, VE3KKU

Bob Shaw, VE3SUY

Wayne Parker, VE3WCB

Brice Wightman, VE3EDR

Paul Gordon, VE2KKB

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## **WANTED ON LOAN OR TO BUY**

### **Manual for Collins 30L1 Linear Amplifier**

**Contact: Merv Lemke, VE3CV, 141 Robertlee Drive, Carp, Ontario K0A 1L0**

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## LOADING THE BEDSPRINGS - *by Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM*

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My interest in EMI must have evolved from some of my personal experiences, causing my fair share of RFI. The following anecdotes illustrate the point.

While living in London in 1950, I was running a war surplus rig - a Command transmitter used in several wartime aircraft types. It ran about 75 watts and, with the antenna tuning system, it would literally load the bedsprings. I kept it under my bed, because space was very limited and I ran skeds with my brother in North Bay using nothing but the bedsprings.

Trying to improve my antenna, I ran a wire through the living room and tied it to a picture on the wall. It loaded up like crazy, but suddenly my Mother exclaimed that she felt something "hot" when her arm brushed the wire. I quickly scrapped that idea as a permanent antenna.

I next tried the clothesline just under my window, two floors below. The downstairs neighbour called my Father one day to say that the basement light was flashing on, yet the switch was turned off. I couldn't figure that one out so told him to

replace the bulb and I searched for another antenna.

There was a high hedge running along the backyard below my window so I slipped some No. 28 wire out my window and wove it through the top of the hedge, to all intents and purposes, invisible.

It was early October and quite chilly. I was still running my regular skeds with my brother in North Bay, using my hedge antenna. One evening with the bedroom window open, I was tuning up for a sked when I heard a commotion outside. I stuck my head out of the window to see what was happening. The downstairs neighbour was in the backyard slapping at his neck and exclaiming, "Those darn mosquitoes are persistent this year; one just bit me on the neck.

Keeping a straight face as well as I could, I told him that it was indeed late in the season. I cut the power back and looked for a safer antenna system.

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## 10M High Performance Mobile Antenna - *by Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ*

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While searching for a suitable antenna to match up with the Uniden HR2600 for the Flea Market prize, I decided to "experiment" and ordered up separate antenna parts from Larsen.

I knew that while the "standard" Larsen 10 Metre antenna Larsen works after a fashion, it left a lot to desired in practical performance. The original Larsen product consists of a type "30" coil (NMO-30, LA-30, etc) and a 54" whip. This combination provides only mediocre performance on 10 and has severe SWR problems. I concluded that the coil has too high a "Q" and the whip was too short.

Graham, at Bytown Marine mentioned that he had ordered in several 64" whips to allow for the SWR problem. I still felt that the type 30 coil was the main source of the problem, so on I purchased a type 34 coil (NMO-34) and a 64" whip on spec.

Well, the combination, when mounted on a NMO type magnetic mount (installed on a vehicle roof) is virtually perfect. The combo of NMO-34 coil with 64" whip provides a perfect 1:1 SWR match at 29.1 MHz! The whip is used as-is at full 64" length, **no cutting!** The measured bandwidth between 1:6 points is approximately 1.5 MHz! This antenna configuration provides the widest bandwidth, with the longest whip available on the mobile base-loaded antenna market. Only a "Hustler" type helically wound, center loaded antenna will perform better, but they are not as convenient to install, and they're far more expensive.

The antenna is the LARSEN NMO-34 coil, 64" whip and MM-NMO mag-mount. Total cost was around \$85., which in today's antenna market is very reasonable.

# BARGAIN BENCH - by Dave Harris, VE3KMV

For less than \$50, here's how to assemble a spacious, sturdy, medium-duty workbench that's good for electronics work, among other things.

A building supply store was found to carry an assortment of 2'x 6' second-quality counter tops for \$21.00 each, about half-price. Some had defects in the plastic laminate, which I avoided, while others had minor chipping along the edges. Fitting this wonder into a subcompact car turned out to be a fun job in itself, so plan ahead. A \$20 delivery charge could easily knock the cost advantage out of this project.

An alternative work surface is a door "blank" constructed with low-cost covering material such as masonite. They are light and rigid, but not suitable for heavy workbench duty.

Commonly 6' to 6-1/2' long in widths of 24" to 30", they run in cost roughly \$21 to \$30. Note that later cutting to an arbitrary size is not feasible, due to hollow reinforced construction.

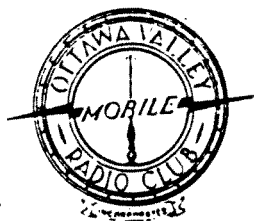
Next, it was off to Ikea to pick up a set of four painted tubular steel legs, with mounting plates (\$18.50). The plates were attached to the top surface about 10" from the ends and 4" from the edges, for good stability. Screws slightly shorter than were supplied (3/4") were used, to avoid piercing the top surface. The threaded legs merely screw into the plates, and can be removed for moving or storage. (that's all for now...) 73 Dave

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE 30 JUNE

If your membership dues have not been renewed for the fiscal year 91/92, your membership will run out and you could miss future issues of the Rambler. Do it now and give the Treasurer some relief from the rush of renewals in September. If your dues are paid up, pass this form on to a friend and bring him or her out to the meeting in September.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.,  
P.O. Box 5530, Station "F",  
OTTAWA, Ontario K2C 3M1



Radio Call Sign

Family Name		Given Name & initials		Preferred Radio Name	
Address - Apartment, House Number, Street				Home Phone	
City/Town		Province	Postal Code	Business Phone	

Applies for membership/renewal for the Membership Year 91/92 in the following category:

- REGULAR MEMBER\* - as a licensed amateur..... \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER\* - as a radio enthusiast..... \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- FAMILY MEMBER(S) - of a Regular or Associate Member..... \$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Given Names

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed  Cheque  
 Cash

Date

New Member  Member Renewal

Association Memberships

CARF  CRRL  
 OARC  Other

For Office Use

Membership Number

Membership Registered

Receipt Issued

Card(s) Issued

Subscription Registered

\* Includes subscription to *The Rambler*

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## YES! 6 METRES IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE OTTAWA AREA!

by Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ

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An enthusiastic group of hams in the Ottawa area has started up a new organization dedicated to promoting and operating in the 6-Metre band. Many of the members of this new group are already active, while a few others are planning to get operational very soon. The "charter" participants of this still un-named club include Keith, VE3IMT; Chris, VE3PMR; Doug, VE3SPF; Bob, VE3YBC; Brian, VE3SJU; and yours truly, Ed,

VE3RDZ. So far, a total of seventeen hams have indicated an interest.

On June 6, the group met at a tavern at Dow's Lake and conducted the kick-off meeting of what it is hoped will be a permanent organization here in the Ottawa area.

One of the major aims of the group is the installation of a 6-Metre FM repeater. Much of the equipment is already available, but much more equipment and work is required.

Six-metre FM equipment is available on the surplus market, particularly O.P.P radios, recently taken out of service. Much of this equipment is easy to convert to 52 MHz operation.

All amateurs currently operating on six, SSB/CW or FM are invited to contact Ed, VE3RDZ, (738-8924) or Keith, VE3IMT (726-8878) for more info on the Ottawa 6-Metre group.

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## CHEAP AND EASY 6-METRE MOBILE ANTENNA

by Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ

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### Speaking of six-metres...

Those of you who plan to operate 6-M mobile and are looking for an antenna, or those who are operating and want to improve your antenna, I've discovered a neat, simple, 1/4 wave antenna that's effective and versatile.

LARSEN offers something called the NMOQ-52 antenna. This antenna consists of the NMOQ base with cone and whip. You can order any length of whip you desire to match

your operating frequency, (I recommend the W-640, 64" whip). This antenna, with a 54" whip, is already resonant at approximately 52 MHz, no cutting! And, since it's already a full 1/4 wave, it has some gain advantage over any antenna that uses a short whip and loading coil, such as the NMO-50 types. The price for this antenna probably under \$45, (though I haven't checked). The antenna is fully compatible with any other NMO type base.

**WANT TO BUY? - WANT TO SELL? - WANT TO TRADE? NEED INFO?**

**Free space is available to members for ads or technical questions. Make use of the Rambler. It's your newsletter.**

# WE HAVE A WINNER IN THE OVMRC QSL CARD CONTEST!

by Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ

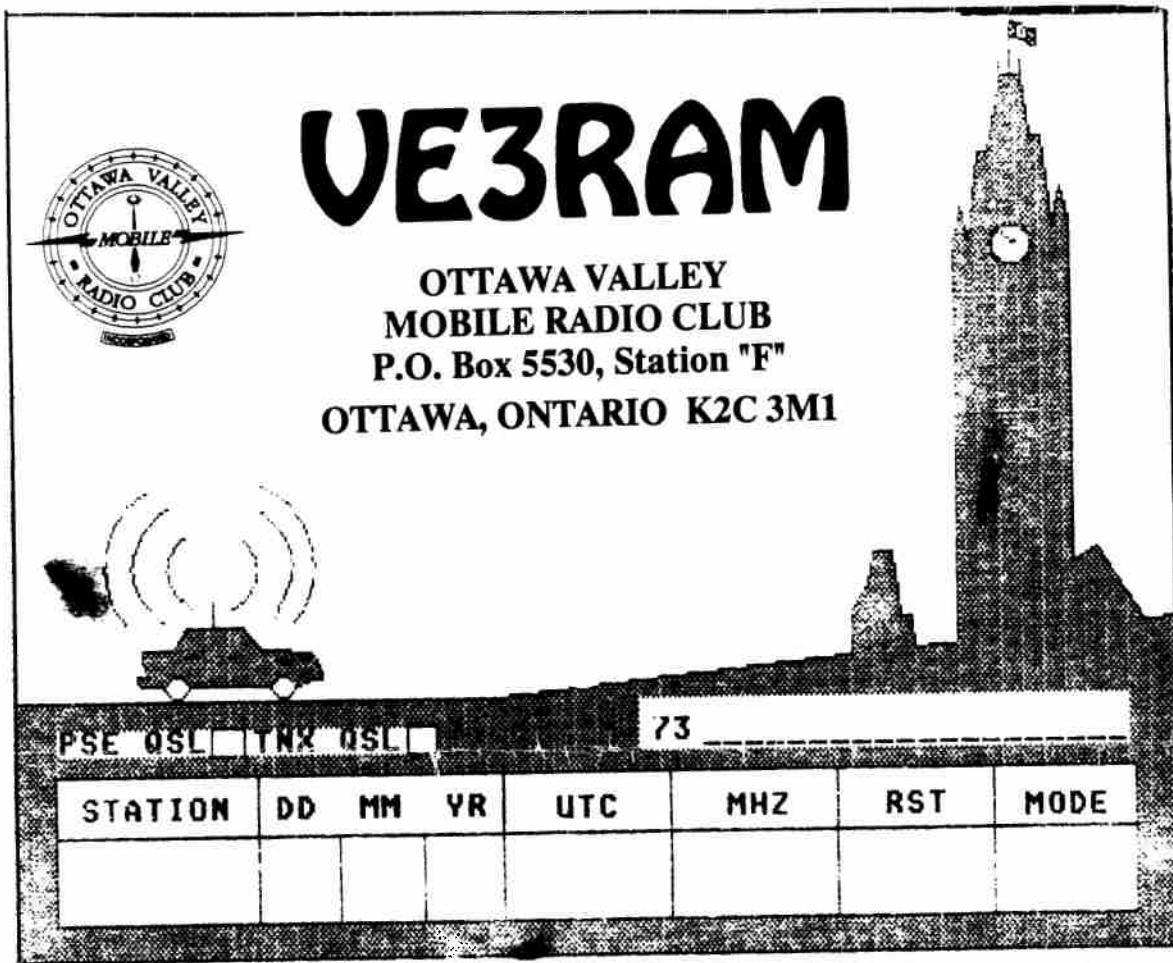
The competition was fierce, the entries excellent, and the judging was difficult, but we have a winner in our Club's QSL CARD CONTEST.

Congratulations, Denis!

The Club Executive would like to sincerely thank the many participants in the contest for their superb efforts!

The winner of 500 cards (with his own call printed) is:

Denis Rule, VE3JGR



TO THOSE OF YOU WHO TRIED AND THOSE WHO WERE JUST  
THINKING ABOUT IT ...

SEE THE SEPTEMBER RAMBLER FOR CONTEST RULES FOR THE  
VE3JGR QSL CARD CONTEST FOR THE MUSEUM STATION!