

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 49, Issue No 3



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QCWA Oct 15-17
Convention

Club Meeting Oct 21

Club Exec. Meeting · Oct 28

Rambler Deadline · Nov 5



OVMRC 2004/2005 Executive

Photo: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

WANTED - OVMRC WEBMASTER

by Larry VE3WEH

We have a fabulous and interesting position available! John Rodger VE3JR, our long time and very valued Webmaster for the OVMRC Web page is looking for an assistant to train and to eventually take on his Webmaster's position. John and his wife have plans to retire to the West Coast of Canada in about a year. In the meantime, he would like to advise, inform and if necessary, train a replacement for himself to look after our club Website: www.ovmrc.on.ca

Our club webpage is still sponsored and hosted by MAGMA Communications Ltd: www.magma.ca

If you are experienced as a Webmaster or have always wanted to do this sort of task, here is your opportunity! John tells me the rewards are much more than financial! The satisfaction and enjoyment of providing an important link to our club and for our members by keeping the Web page up-to-date is more rewarding than any financial remuneration.

Applications are now being accepted from members of the club to fill this important and fascinating position! If you are interested, please contact John Rodger by email: jcr@magma.ca

Rambler

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.
P.O. Box 41145
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 5K9



OVMRC Executive (2002-2003)

President	Paul J. Henry VE3CPH 569-5442, ve3cph@rac.ca
Vice-President	Ken McKenzie, VA3NEK 829-4884, va3nek@rac.ca
Treasurer	Dan Caracaleanu VA3XYO 746-1674,
Secretary	Patrick Tunney, VA3CMD 851-9764, va3cmd@rac.ca

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit	Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG 749-9010, ve3vig@rac.ca
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, lycott@istop.com Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666
Accredited Examiner	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
Field Day	Adam King, VA3PIP 831-9970, va3pip@rac.ca
Historical	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
Flea Market	Vacant
Membership	Adam King, VA3PIP 831-9970, va3pip@rac.ca
Newsletter	Bill Hall, VA3WMH 830-5580, va3wmh@rac.ca
Publicity & Programs	Duane Avery VA3ODD 599-8409, DuaneEAvery@Rogers.com
Radio Operations	Patrick Tunney, VA3CMD 851-9764, va3cmd@rac.ca
Technical	Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, va3tgx@sprint.ca
Emergency Preparedness	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, ve3srs@rac.ca



OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)
53.030/52.030 MHz



OVMRC web page

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>
Webmaster: John Rodger,
VE3JR, jcr@magma.ca



Next Meeting

Oct 21
Rambler Deadline
Nov 5

OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron	VE3BBM
Doug Carswell	VE3ATY
Doreen Morgan	VE3CGO
Ed Morgan	VE3GX
Bill Wilson	VE3NR

Club Website

The OVMRC **Rambler** is available on-line at the club website:

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca/rambler.htm>

Sponsors

The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities by providing them with courtesy copies of the Rambler:

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
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OVMRC NEWS

Ramblings

Paul J. Henry VE3CPH
ve3cph@rac.ca, 569-5442

Welcome to this, my first column as your new president. While this year has gotten off to a slow start due to the delay in elections, we still have plenty of interesting events and presentations to look forward to over the coming months. We, your executive, are always looking for suggestions for speakers at our monthly meetings. Please contact our new Publicity and Programmes Chair, Duane Avery VA3ODD, with your suggestions.

And of course, we look forward to regular OVMRC programming, including Home Brew Night, Field Day, the Lighthouse Event, and new last year, the 2m Simplex Contest. We are also considering new ideas for other contests. If you have an idea, please contact a member of the executive.

Those who read last month's Rambler will note Ken Gill VA3KJG's Financial Report including our budget for this fiscal year. We are still running a deficit budget, which, as Bob Shaw VE3SUY pointed out in his article in the same issue, impacts the sustainability of the club in the long term. For the next few months, we will be working towards developing more balanced budget which will be presented at next year's AGM. Your ideas on how we might balance our budget are always welcome.

Many thanks to outgoing President, Ken McKenzie VA3NEK, who assumes the role of both Past President and Vice President for this year. Thank yous are also due to Ken Gill VA3KJG, outgoing Treasurer, for his capable fiduciary management.

And finally, I would be remiss as your chief executive if I did not ensure my own successor. This coming spring, when elections roll around, give some thought to becoming involved in the running of your club.

-73- Paul VE3CPH

Pot Lid Net

On Sunday September 12, 2004 at 11 AM local time on 3620 Khz, the Pot Lid Slow Speed CW Net (PLN) starts operation for another season!

February 2005 will mark 32 years of continuous operation every Sunday morning except for the months of July and August!

The purpose of the NET is to provide slow speed CW practice for beginners and old timers. The speed varies from about 8 to 12 WPM depending on the operator. Everyone is welcome to participate!

If you would like additional information do not hesitate to call Ed Morgan VE3GX, a 733-1721.

vy 73
Ed VE3GX@rogers.com

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2004

General Discussion

Ken VA3NEK our President presented brought the meeting to order with the first order of business which was to present Victor, VE3WVP with a proper Diploma from Last years course(His previous diplomas were misprinted with the wrong callsign).

Ken VA3NEK discussed the difficulty in finding volunteers for the various positions that are required for the club to maintain itself and would encourage all of us members to consider what we can do to help out...please consider the various positions on executive as well as taking part in the other events that are organized under the OVMRC banner, i.e., Field Day, VE3JW.....ask questions about the projects we get involved with- what is most important, maintaining what we have(our repeater, VE3JW) should we take on new projects, or how we should take them on etc.

A motion was put forth to accept the budget as presented in the September 2004 Rambler by Jake VE2TQX, seconded by Steve VE3SBC

Motion carried

OVMRC executive

The executive for the upcoming year were acclaimed due to only one person running for each position that needed to be filled.

The following people stood in for the necessary positions

Paul VE3CPH-President

Ken VA3NEK-Vice President

Patrick VA3CMD-Secretary/Radio Ops

Dan, VE3XYO-Treasurer

Duane VE3ODD-Publicity and Programs

A motion was put forward by Victor VE3WVP to accept the above people as the current executive of the OVMRC

The motion was seconded by Jose VA3PCJ

Motion to accept the executive was passed.

George VE3BNO

Reminder about the QCWA Convention is in Ottawa this year, all are invited to participate, there is a registration fee of 20\$. Check out for more information.

Ken VE3SRS- Made a presentation with slideshow of a recent CASARA Exercise taking place in Elliot Lake. Ham radio was used in a simulated Search and Rescue exercise to link aircraft in the Elliot Lake area to a command center as well as to Ottawa via HF and IRLP.

73 de Patrick,
<http://members.rogers.com/va3cmd>
va3cmd@rac.ca

CASARA (Civil Air Search and Rescue Association)

Elliot Lake (CYEL) SAREX Amateur Radio Participation Report

BACKGROUND INFORMATION. From the CASARA Ottawa web site -:

“CASARA is a national volunteer organization which assists the Canadian Armed Forces in their mandate of providing air search and rescue in Canada. CASARA also has the mandate to promote flight safety in support of Transport Canada.

CASARA members are pilots, navigators, spotters and ground staff who are trained to carry out searches from light aircraft or to work as spotters on military aircraft.

While CASARA operates primarily in support of the Canadian Armed Forces, CASARA Ontario also has a memorandum of understanding with the Ontario Provincial Police and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to provide air support to ground SAR taskings”.

INTRODUCTION:

On August 21st and August 22nd 2004 the Ontario Provincial Wing of CASARA (Civil Air Search and Rescue Association) held a SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise) in Northern Ontario. The Search Base was in Elliot Lake Ontario, operating from the Elliot Lake Airport (CYEL). The Ottawa and Niagara Units of CASARA with support from members of the Ottawa, Manitoulin Island, Elliott Lake, North Bay and Sudbury amateur radio communities demonstrated AMATEUR Radio Communications.

In addition to the AMATEUR Resources and operators listed in the following report Airband frequencies were also used with some highly skilled communicators operating.

AMATEUR BANDS USED: 2M APRS, 2M Voice, 70CM Voice and 40m Voice

AMATEUR RESOURCES USED:

Repeater VE3KD147.060 IRLP Node 2330 (Sault Ste Marie Ontario)

Repeater VE3LTR 146.670 IRLP Node 2860 (Little Current Ontario)

Repeater VE3RMI 147.270 (Little Current Ontario)

Repeater VE3TOP147.000 (Elliot Lake Ontario)

Repeater VE3TST444.125 IRLP Node 2210(Ottawa Ontario)

Repeater VE3YGR444.200 IRLP Node 2314(Sudbury Ontario)

2M APRS Network 144.390 and IGATES (including VE3NBC North Bay)

IRLP Reflector 9214

40M 7.063.5 (HF Primary)

40M7.255.0 ECARS Net (HF Backup depending on Band Conditions)

40M7.258.0 MIDCARS Net (HF Backup depending on Band Conditions)

AMATEUR RESOURCE DESIGNATIONS:

VE3LTR- Primary Air/Ground*

VE3YGR- Air/Ground (East)*

VE3KD- Air/Ground (West)*

VE3TST- Ottawa Flightwatch*

9214 Reflector Air/Ground*

(*= Linked up via IRLP as needed)

APRS- Asset Tracking (Air and Ground Units)

VE3RMI- Ground Comms (South)

VE3TOP- Ground Comms (North)

40M- Ground Comms Backup (includes Flightwatch)

40M- HF Voice Comms between the Search Base in Elliot Lake and Department of National Defense- JRCC (Joint Rescue Coordination Centre) at Canadian Forces Base Trenton (if required) A distance of approximately 300 miles.

There were 78 CASARA Unit Members at the SAREX not counting the many more involved at the Provincial Management Level along with those assisting at the Units but unable to attend for various reasons.

AMATEURS RADIO OPERATORS INVOLVED:

Call, Name, Designation /Tasking

VA3CAF, Cliff, Fixed station Trenton – Radio Op

VA3NAV, Mike, Aircrew Navigator-Radio Op

VA3RCS, Bob Ground Search Mobile Unit-Radio Op

VA3RDO, Mark, Gound & Air Radio Op/Aircrew - Radio Op

VA3SHQ, Bill, Aircrew Navigator-Radio Op

VA3YOW, Peter, Comms Coordinator Ottawa Flight Watch

VA3YHU, Terry, Support-Ottawa

VA3YRO, Ann, Support-Ottawa

VA3YSH, Richard, Support-Ottawa

VE3DW, Bill, Aircrew - Navigator-Radio Op

VE3PFF, Chuck, Aircrew- Pilot Radio Op

VE3SRS, Ken, Ground & Air Radio Op

VE3UMC, Mike, Gound & Air Radio Op

VE3UNK, Harold, Gound Search Mobile Unit / Aircrew -Radio Op

In addition to the above-mentioned Amateur Radio Operators the Participation of the Net Control Stations of the ECARS Net (7.255) and the MIDCARS Net (7.258) standing by to assist with relays depending on band conditions is gratefully acknowledged.

Amateur equipment shown: Kenwood dual band Mobile rig parked on top of MFJ Power supply. Beside the Kenwood is an ICOM 706, which was using the battery pack for power. Not shown was the 2nd Kenwood Dual Band Radio and the Laptop used for APRS.

EQUIPMENT ALLOCATIONS:

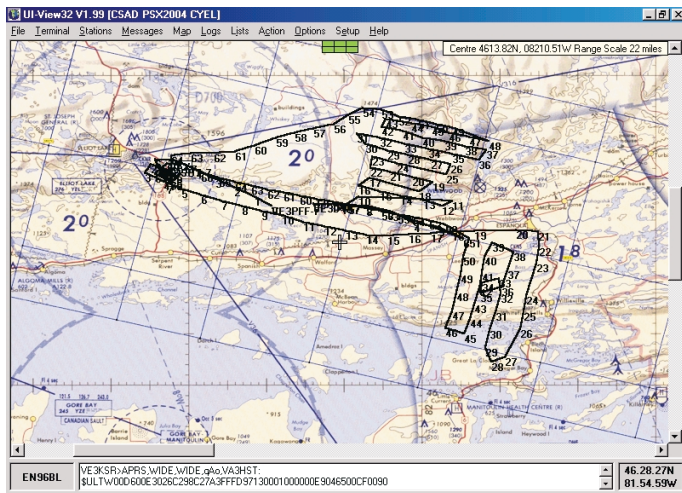
Aircraft- Air band Radios, APRS, 2m/70cm voice
Ground Unit 1- APRS, 2m/70cm voice
Ground Unit 2- 2m/70cm voice, HF Voice
Elliot Lake Search Base- 2m/70cm Voice, APRS, HF Voice, Air band Radios
Ottawa Flight watch- 2m/70cm Voice, HF Voice
Trenton-APRS, HF Voice

COMMENTS:

We were fortunate to have 5 Amateur Radio Operators who were also "Aircrew Qualified" for this exercise. This meant that 5 of the 12 Aircraft used by CASARA for this SAREX had Amateur Comms as well as Air band Comms. The APRS tracking in the 5 aircraft worked flawlessly both in Flight watch and search duties. One of the aircraft carried a mobile Digipeter to increase the effective ranges of the equipment. The HF Band conditions were good considering the band conditions. The IRLP system worked like a charm. Non Amateur Aircrews, CASARA Search Management along with observers from the Canadian Armed Forces JRCC were constantly commenting on the quality and reliability of the Amateur Radio Communications.

Our thanks go out to the operators and owners of the many Repeaters, Node, Reflectors, Digipeaters and IGATES that were used so successfully during the weekend exercises. The cooperation of the local amateur operators (Elliot Lake & Manitoulin Island) who gave up the use of their repeaters so we could communicate freely is also appreciated. Our cousins to the south, the ECARS net and MIDCARS net had offered to suspend regular net operations to assist with our 40M communications if band conditions had been poor. This attempt to show what Amateur Radio could do in an emergency situation was a success thanks to you.

73
Bob Sharp VA3RCS
CASARA- Ottawa Comms
Unit Member
va3rcs@rac.ca



DISPLAY OF APRS TRACKING OF 2 CASARA AIR ASSETS

The above display is a "screen capture" from the laptop computer used to track all CASARA assets that were equipped with Amateur Communications (APRS).

At the time this was taken 2 Aircraft are being tracked.

The laptop was also connected to a projector which displayed the APRS data onto a projection screen which enabled the "Search Master" and Military observers to watch the progress of the search rather than looking at plots on a chart.

On top of the building we had 2 dual band mag mount antenna for 2m/70cm voice communications. On the right side was a dual band Ground plane antenna that was for 2m APRS. A large Telescopic masting held 2 air band antennas.



Part of the Amateur Comms Station

QCWA International Convention

Convention time in Ottawa on October 15, 16, 17! YOUR LAST CALL !!!

The Quarter Century Wireless Association's International Convention is being hosted by QCWA Chapter 70. **All Radio Amateurs** and their friends are invited to attend. QCWA is association composed of a membership of Radio Amateurs who have held their license for aminnimum of 25.

The following sessions and speakers are on the agenda for Friday and Saturday -

<u>Sessions</u>		<u>Speakers</u>
Software Defined Radios for the Masses ·····	Gerald Youngblood	AC5OG
Noise in Receiving Systems ·····	Dave Conn	VE3KL
Top Band Reversible Beveridges ·····	Bert Barry	VE3QAA
Living with Your Neighbours or EMC(101)·····	Ralph Cameron	VE3BBM
Rechargeable Batteries ·····	Dick Bonnycastle	VE3FUA
Field Day 2000 ·····	Brice Wightman	VE3EDR
What's That Racket - HF Digital Modes 101 ·····	Ken Asmus	VA3KA
	Richard Bandla	VE3CVG
Truth and Untruth about Electrically Small Antennas ····	Jack Belrose	VE2CV
Amateur Satellites; Past, Present and Future·····	Clare Fowler	VE3NPC
Moonbounce, Basics and Beyond ·····	Ken Oelke	VE6AFO
Super-Regenerative Receivers ·····	Lea Barker	
Forums: QCWA – QCWW – RAC		

For those who just want to see more of our Nation's Capital or are non-Amateurs, they too will find arrangements have been made for their enjoyment. The Lord Elgin Hotel, newly renovated and located in downtown Ottawa, is a great location situated just steps away from the Canadian Parliament Buildings. Within walking distance are the National War Memorial, the Centennial Flame, the Rideau Canal Locks and the National Arts Centre. Shoppers have a choice of walking to the Sparks Street Mall, the enclosed Rideau Centre Mall or the Byward Farmers' Market. The Market is also the centre of Ottawa's night entertainment district, with restaurants, nightclubs, bistros, etc. On Friday, there is a bus tour of the city followed by a Meet & Greet evening. Saturday begins with a buffet breakfast and concludes in the evening with the Annual QCWA Banquet. Astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk **VA3CSA** may be out guest speaker.

Travel back in time on Sunday after brunch by taking a trip on a steam engine train. A short bus ride to the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, then all aboard for 4 ½ hours of entertainment while viewing the colourful countryside along the Gatineau River with a stop in quaint Wakefield. Enjoy the camaraderie of others in our hobby. QCWA invites you to join us in Ottawa at the QCWA International Convention!

Place: Ottawa ON Lord Elgin Hotel, 100 Elgin St. - Reservations 613-235-3333 QCWA Guest

Registration: Amateur \$20, Spouse/Guest \$5

Pre-registration required to attend the following -

Sat. buffet breakfast \$15; Sat. Banquet \$42; Sun. Brunch \$25; Friday City Bus Tour \$15;

Sunday Steam Train, 4 1/2 hr. up the Gatineau River Valley, Quebec \$53 (from and to hotel).

Talkin: 146.34/94 More info at www.qcwa.org or

Contact: Donald Heaslip ve3njh@rac.ca phone (613) 727-2769

A little known fact about our club is our manuals. Thanks to the efforts of Ernie Jury VE3EJJ, Len Gelfand VE3LGZ, and yours truly, we have been selling electronic equipment manuals to raise money for our club since 1999. These manuals were saved from going into the dumpster and donated to our club and sales have been approximately \$5000 since 1999.

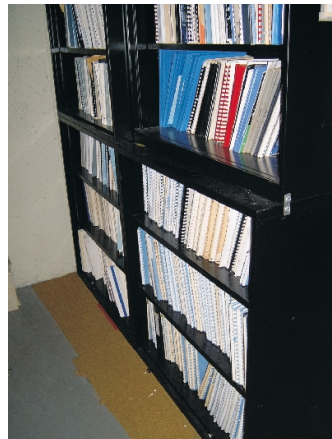
Some manuals contain operating instructions, some contain service instructions and some are a combination of both. Almost all are the manufacturers' originals, clean, unmarked and the majority are in excellent condition. We do not make copies of the manuals but sell the original as is. The price of each manual is determined by the number of pages it contains. We accept orders by email from around the world. All postage charges are paid by the buyer. The full amount must be paid by the buyer before we mail the manual either by surface mail or airmail as requested by the buyer.

We have a list of our manuals on our web page:
<http://ovmrc.on.ca>

Manuals are being deleted and added as the result of sales and donations from the list periodically, so the list may not be accurate at the time of viewing. The list is updated periodically.

We would welcome any club members that would like to volunteer some of their time to assist with email correspondence, preparation or mailing of manuals. In addition, if someone has a place to store and care for these manuals and would like to take on the task of selling these manuals for the club, please let us know.

Currently, we have approximately forty linear feet of manuals on shelving so a large area to store them is a requirement, as shown in the photos below.



New donations to the collection are always welcome. So if you have some manuals you don't require, please donate them to the club.

For information regarding ordering any of the manuals, please send your email request to: Larry Wilcox at: larryw@magma.ca

or Len Gelfand at: lgelfand@magma.ca

If you would like to volunteer storage space or assist with this project, please contact Larry VE3WEH at 747-5565 or Len VE3LGZ at 749-5101.



RAC Bulletin 04-23E

RAC Submits Proposal on Amateur Radio Call Signs to Industry Canada

On 30 August, 2004, RAC President Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA submitted an RAC proposal on Amateur Radio Call Signs to Industry Canada's Director-general, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch, Mr. Jan Skora.

This Proposal, approved by the RAC Board of Directors, makes recommendations to Industry Canada on changes to Call Sign Policy and Special Event Prefixes as the result of the WRC-2003 decisions amending the ITU International Radio Regulations to permit call signs in the Amateur Service to have up to four characters in the suffix.

The Proposal is available in the News section on the RAC web site at <http://www.rac.ca>. Amateurs with questions for RAC should direct them to their regional RAC Director.

Jim Dean, VE3IQ
1134 Plante Drive
Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1V 9E8
Tel. (613) 733-5585; Fax. (613) 733-7613

RAC Bulletin 02-25E

Resignations of RAC President and First Vice-president

RAC regrets to announce that effective immediately, RAC President Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, and First Vice-president Bob Nash, VE3KZ have resigned from their positions for medical reasons. Both officers have been hospitalized with severe, heart-related problems. The RAC Board of Directors and Executive thank them both for their dedicated service to amateur radio and RAC, and are confident that all radio amateurs wish them a full recovery and fast return to the amateur bands.

The RAC Board of Directors will convene a special meeting of the Board as quickly as possible and in accordance with the Constitution to deal with the vacancies on the Executive created by these resignations.

If any of you have read the British amateur radio magazine Practical Wireless you know that there is a regular set of columns ('VHF DXer', 'HF Highlights' and 'Data Burst') that report reader's loggings. This gives others an idea of what contacts have been achieved recently by amateurs, as well as information on band openings and DX etc.

I like this idea of reporting contacts and I believe that it could be useful to have such a column in the Rambler.

So let me start this off and report some of my loggings I enjoyed making over the Summer.

Contest contacts.

I operated for a few hours only in the Canada Day RAC contest. I decided to operate 40m SSB at 1 W and submit my logs to the Run with RAC contest organised by QRP Canada. With 1W it is surprising what can be achieved. The most pleasing contact was with VY2TT which was my first PEI contact.

During the contest (at 0228 UTC) I heard a German station calling CQ DX and so I stepped out of the contest for a few minutes and turned up the power to 10W (I only have a QRP rig) and managed a contact with DJ7SR and then DJ5EU.

DX

Now, as I operate QRP then for me making a contact across the Atlantic is an achievement. Operating PSK31 on 20m at 4W I was able to have a QSO (0245 UTC 5th July) with UA6ARR located in Sochi near the Black Sea.

Firsts

I use digimodes mostly and with some new software I have started to use PSK63 and MFSK16.

My first PSK63 contact was UR5WCQ in West Ukraine on 20m (1840 UTC 18th July). If you are familiar with the speed of text transmission with PSK31, then it is a surprise when you use PSK63 at how much faster it is with the transmission of text.

The next day I managed my first MFSK16 contact with W4UEF in North Carolina on 20m (0420 UTC).

Special Events

On 15th July on 20m (0201 UTC) I had a PSK31 QSO with the OE3XRC/90KK. This is a special station celebrating Austrian military signallers of World War 1. You can get details about this station and others at www.amrs.at. These special stations with the

/90KK designation are on the air till 31st Oct. 2004, so look out for them.

WAS

I am slowly filling in the States for Worked All States (WAS) for PSK at a QRP level. On 30m I QSOed K5PAX on PSK (0150 UTC, 8th Sept). With his QSL card I added New Mexico to my WAS list; my 40th State. We also had a QRP-QRP contact on MFSK16 and that really showed the strength of that mode, with its in-built forward error correcting.

2m Simplex.

A recent 80m MFSK QSO (7th Oct) revealed the contacted station was local (Embrun). So we switched to 2m simplex. This allowed the testing of a recently installed J-pole. Using my HT at 6W and the J-pole I had a great QSO with Nigel, VE3ELQ.

So I have a set the ball rolling for a possible new column in the Rambler. It needs you to report your logs and I am happy to put the column together - but I do need your contributions. If 40 members of the OVMRC each share the details of just one QSO per month, then that is plenty of loggings to fill a regular column. The QSO could be any one that you enjoyed and was significant to you. It does not have to be record breaking DX, just a QSO that you were happy you made. It could be the first contact on a new rig or antenna, or a DX or special event contact. It could be on a repeater or on IRLP. Whatever was significant for you that month. For those that run the club nets or operate at VE3JW I would encourage you to let us know of any contacts that you think others will be interested in too. My aim for the column is to show what club members are achieving, as well as inform and encourage readers. So, if you want to share your loggings then please e-mail them to me, or pass them on to me at a club meeting. I look forward to seeing your logs and hopefully seeing a new regular column in the Rambler.

Alan Steele VA3STL

va3stl@rac.ca