## TECHNO DAYS ARE BACK!

Our Historical Chair will remember well the special event in which we used to participate at the Museum of Science and Technology during the summer season. The Museum kept one weekend aside each year to show some of the artefacts, which were normally stored away. This took place out in the open air, on the front lawn. They were also inviting OVMRC to demonstrate Amateur Radio in the park for the visiting public. They called the event "Techno Days".

Also, I remember well my participation during the early 90's and in particular this one summer when I set up with Packet Radio and connected to the world wide converse mode through Internet wormholes. The footprint of my equipment was at minimum as I was using an Intertan XT laptop and an HTX-202 interconnected through a small Kantronics KPC-3. (I still have the whole set-up)

A visiting gentleman from Dutch origin was intrigued by what he was seeing on my screen. He did not believe we were actually conducting international contacts with a tiny 19-inch antenna and he wondered if we were using a makeshift software program to make it look that way.

I said to him "Name a country you would like to have a contact with". He said "Holland". I scrolled through the list of connected stations and found a PA station. I immediately connected to him and asked him if he would like to chat with one of our visitors on this special event day. He acknowledged and our visitor came to the keyboard and started typing in "Dutch!"...

The conversation went on in Dutch for about 10 minutes after which the visitor let me sign off. He was convinced this was genuine. So much so that he requested all the information for becoming a Radio Amateur. He owned an electrical shop in Athens, Ont., and a few weeks later he wrote to me indicating he was well on his way to obtain his license. It didn't take long before he wrote again announcing he had his Basic and Advanced license, VA3BDA.

This was before interest peaked up on Internet. After a decline of several years, Packet Communications is coming back strong, especially South of the border where



Steve, hosting youngsters at his display

*Photo courtesy: Maurice-André Vigneault*

they consider it to be the backbone of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. It is also picking up momentum in Canada.

This year, the Museum revived the Techno Days and we were again invited to participate during a three-day event, July 19-21, 2007. Steve, VE3SBC, coordinated our part of the special event. He also had a great showcase table filled with different radios from early years; a tiny 2-inch two transistors hi-fi radio; a hand built one tube transmitter (tuned-plate, tuned-grid); and a boat anchor Hallicrafter S-40 amongst his display. He was showing Larry's collection of Morse code keys with oscillators, which were of great interest to youngsters who were invited to tap out their own initials in Morse code.

Larry, VE3WEH, also had a table as part of our display, and he presented an eclectic gathering of incongruous radio paraphernalia. Although, his main show was a computer demo of Amateur Radio photos and videos. He assisted Steve during the three days.

Terry, VE3TWC, offered his motorbike/mobile set-up including his remote control satellite communications antenna, but the weather was uncertain on Thursday and he came over to help with the tent display. On Friday, it was a complete wash out.

The rain forced the Museum display to stay inside.

Martin, VA3SIE, came along on Saturday, a gorgeous day, and he walked around the outside display tents with his pedestrian/mobile for HF attached to his body. He drew quite a bit of attention with a small Elekraft radio and a huge backpack antenna. His first CW QSO was with VA2MA/M3, not exactly DX, but thereafter, he completed some excellent contacts with about 1 (one) watt on 20m, the furthest being 995K away. He also worked the 40m band.

The VA2MA mobile was on display on Thursday and Saturday. Using the TS-570D from the rear seat position, I completed contacts on Morse code and SSB voice, and then tuned in the SSTV frequency on 20m and heard good signals. I brought up the PSK31 software (Digipan) and had an interesting contact with VE7TUB, the Nanaimo Bathtub Race Special Event, who were celebrating their 40th anniversary. What a coincidence! I replied that we were also celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Sci&Tech Museum in Ottawa.

I had the APRS system working and monitored some local stations using WinAPRS on the laptop computer. I switched it off, as I needed the TH-D7Ag to connect the Packet system. After reading and answering the

# Rambler

## OVMRC Executive 2006-2007

**President**        VACANT

**Vice-President**   Jean Crepeau
VA3JCN
613-

**Treasurer**       Robert Plante
VA3SHO
613-

**Secretary**       Jacques Choquette
VE3TSC

### Standing Committee Chairpersons

**Amateur Radio Exhibit**
Maurice-André Vigneault
VE3VIG, 613-749-9010

**Amateur Radio Training**
Ernie Jury
VE3EJJ,  613-728-3666

**Accredited Examiner**
Bob Kavanagh
VE3OSZ, 613-225-6785
Ernie Jury
VE3EJJ,  613-728-3666

**Field Day**
George Steeves
VE3ZQH, 613-596-5015

**Historical**
Larry Wilcox
VE3WEH, 613-747-5565

**Flea Market**
Jake Guertin
VE2TQX, 819-684-9496

**Field Day**
George Steeves
VE3ZQN

**Membership**
Gerry Trottier
VA3GLT, 613-745-5828

**Publicity & Programs**
Steve Cochran
VE3SBC

**Radio Operations (UHF/VHF)**
Matthew Hall
VA3MHB, 613-745-9752

**Radio Operations (HF)**
Patrick Tunney
VA3CMD

**Technical**
Jake Guertin
VE2TQX, 819-684-9496

**Emergency Preparedness**
Ken Halcrow
VE3SRS, 613-837-3261

**Newsletter**
Bill Hall
VA3WMH, 613-830-5580

**Webmaster**
Elias Zaydan
VE3EKZ

*Note: all e-mail addresses are:*
callsign at rac dot ca

## Sponsors

The **OVMRC** acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities:

- **Acceptable Storage**, Ottawa, ON

- **Bytown Marine**, Ottawa, ON

- **Elkel Ltee**., Trois-Riviéres, QC

- **Kenwood Electronics Canada** Inc., Mississauga, ON

- **Ottawa Camping Trailers Ltd.**, Ottawa, ON

- **Travel-Mor Trailer Sales**, Ottawa, ON

The *Rambler* is produced using **Corel's Ventura™** 8 software.

The club's web site is hosted by **Magma Communications Ltd.**

www.ovmrc.on.ca

## OVMRC Life Members

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

Ed Morgan, VE3GX

Bill Wilson, VE3NR

## OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)

## Amateur Radio Exhibit

## VE3JW

Web site:
http://ve3jw.tripod.com
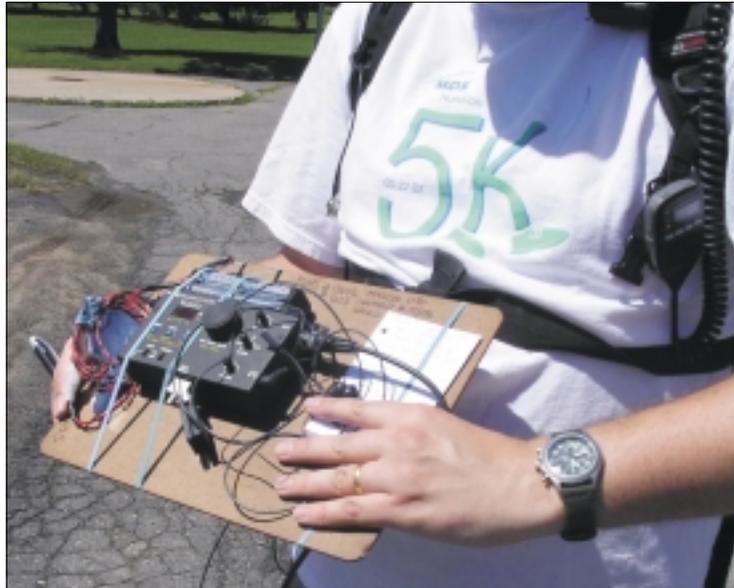
Canada Science & Technology Museum

mail, a quick command got me hooked up to the worldwide converse through our local gate at VE2UQH. I visited the Thames Chat Group, near London, England, and Steve over there was worrying about my mobile speed while doing packet. He congratulated us for the special event and said he hardly heard any mobile packet before.

Holding the VE3JW station was Mike, VE3LTN, on Friday and Ernie, VE3EJJ, on Saturday. We had it arranged so the public outside could talk with them on a simplex frequency as a demonstration effort. Helping out at the outside tents was Robert, VE3AGE and Roy, VA3CKD.

On Saturday, several Radio Amateurs visited the site and most notably, OVMRC lifetime members Doreen and Ed Morgan, VE3CGO and VE3GX. They both thanked us for the interesting displays and activities, "most impressive from a live bunch!" they said.

 A good time was had by all at the "Technical Festival" or "The Festival of Technologies" as the Museum now calls it, and we hope the event will continue for many years to come.

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG


VA3SIE with QRP transceiver. *Photo courtesy: Maurice-André Vigneault*


Steve and Comm Curator Brian Dewalt. *Photo courtesy: Maurice-André Vigneault*

## OVMRC 07/08 Calendar

| Month | Rambler Deadline | Meeting | Exec Meeting |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sep | 7 | 20 | 27 |
| Oct | 5 | 18 | 25 |
| Nov* | 9 | 22 | 29 |
| Dec* | 7 | 20 | 37 |
| Jan | 4 | 17 | 24 |
| Feb | 8 | 21 | 28 |
| Mar | 7 | 20 | 27 |
| Apr | 4 | 17 | 24 |
| May | 2 | 15 | 22 |
| Jun | 6 | 19 | 26 |

OVMRC Amateur Radio Course

Commences 2 October and runs until Dec 20th this year.

*Dates revised since last Rambler

# Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

* The Membership year starts in July and runs to June 30th of the following year.
* Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.
* Associate membership is open to all radio enthusiasts.
* The family rate is for second and subsequent members of the same family living at the same address.
* One form per member.

| RENEWAL | NEW | CHANGE | OVMRC NAME TAG (Cost $7.00) | Yes | No |
|---------|-----|--------|------------------------------|-----|-----|

| Call Sign | Surname | Preferred First Name | **Date** |
|-----------|---------|---------------------|----------|
| Mailing Address | | Apartment Number | **BBN** |
| City | Province | Postal Code | |
| Home Phone | Work Phone | E-mail Address | For Office use only |

One year membership. Regular or Associate.  Includes mailed Rambler - $40/year
One year membership. Regular or Associate.  Without mailed Rambler - $30/year
Family membership. For family of current members. No mailed Rambler - $5/year

Amount Enclosed
$
Cheque    Cash

**My Interests are:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| VHF/UHF Phone | VHF/UHF Digital | VHF/UHF CW |
| Satellite | HF Phone | HF Digital | HF CW |

**Current Occupation**:

**If retired, Former Occupation:**

**Skills:** *(Please list them all)*

### COMMENTS

---✂-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**OVMRC NAME TAG — ORDER DETAILS**

First Name                          Call Sign