



OVMRC Life Members at OVMRC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Party

*Photo courtesy of Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH*

## OVMRC FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY DINNER PARTY

How best to qualify how successful a celebration dinner party is: by the number of bodies who manage to crowd into the room, by the amount of alcohol consumed, by one's inability to communicate with her/his neighbour because of the noise we all are making, by how few lengthy, boring speeches we must endure or by the sense of camaraderie and good vibes all around. I vote for the latter. Able to distinguish many ongoing, lively conversations among our 55 participants throughout Robbies Spaghetti House the evening of November 15, I must assume that unfermented fruit juices, tea and coffee were what many of us chose, the best automatic gain control I know. How often have I attended get-together like these where the

food was not something I'd remember. Not so this time. Friendly service and appetizing meals contributed much to the sense of well being expressed by nearly everyone I talked to. Lots of voices that I recognized and faces that I knew and many I did not, something I had looked forward to.

A welcome change from the low-pitched tones and sober faces at our meetings was the number of ladies in our group. YLs were everywhere - we delete the X from our tired acronym since the women seem not to like it.

Steve Cochran, VE3SBC and sidekick Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, to whom we owe full credit for our enjoyable celebration had wondered how many of our life-time members we might attract. As it turned out, all six were there, Bill Wilson VE3NR, Ralph Cameron VE3BBM, Doreen Morgan VE3CGO, Ed Morgan VE3GX, Doug

Carswell VE3ATY and Maurice-André Vigneault VE3VIG. This was especially significant to us because of the fiftieth anniversary of our club. Two of these members, Doreen and Ed, were honoured for their unceasing efforts to spread the gospel of CW in our region.

Many things are said about the amateur fraternity, a bit of a misnomer given the number of licensed women among us. Some socially-oriented groups that I have known are friendly but not forthcoming. Others, more technical in interests, don't always leave one with warm and fuzzy feelings. I found that the people at our dinner party did, sufficiently so for me and, I think, for others that many of us look forward to a similar event in the near future. Our thanks, again, to those who quietly put it all together behind the scenes. ❖



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## 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

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## RAMBLINGS

Since reminders of December's holidays are all about us, you will excuse me if I take up a different theme this festive month, one that continues to preoccupy me.

Once I had agreed to serve as president of OVMRC, as the relatively new guy on the block, I sought advice from several members as to what they thought my goals should be. Having presided over groups like ours before, I had to smile and reserve comment when one of the people with whom I spoke said that I should promote my personal perspective, my "dreams" about what an amateur radio club should optimally be. Another much more cautious consigliere told me to function as the oil to an already well-established machine, this latter view closer, in fact, to relevant statements in our bylaws. A non-bureaucrat by nature, I find little to redeem a task that emphasizes organizational and political skills more than imagination and innovation. I am not so naive, however, to suggest that one person should attempt to radically change the direction or basic philosophy of a long-existing club. To succeed as president, especially if the office holder is proactive, the opinions and aspirations of club members must be clear. The following incident serves to illustrate the problem.

We are discussing what image of our club we wish to project within The Rambler to persons in- and outside OVMRC. We should show "this" and talk about "that", my friend on the other end of the phone line says. With some reticence, I respond by wondering out loud whether or not, by so doing, we will convey the impression that we are almost all old-timers in our group, with old-timer interests and old-timer views. His rejoinder came back without pause. "That's okay with me," he says. "The average age of hams is pretty high, you know".

While my friend's views are but one voice, I have the distinct feeling that many people in our club would side with him. Anyone who will have read my column in last month's Rambler will know that I take a rather different view. Lest some of you conclude that I raise a non-issue here. May I point out that the focus of our programs in upcoming meetings as well as the activities we project for the year cannot but have a significant impact upon future numbers in terms of members.

In short, I do not believe that I can fulfill my responsibilities adequately without some feedback about what people in our group believe we should be and do. Is our chiefly

social orientation with relatively few social functions something that might explain part of the disaffection by erstwhile members? Do we want to shift the focus a little by encouraging more participation by technically-oriented people? Do we want to confine our outside activities in the community to things we have done successfully in the past or should we augment these events with new projects that may involve younger participants?

If the reactions that I get enjoin me to do little more than ensure that the existing machine functions "efficiently and smoothly," then I will endeavor to do this to the best of my ability until the end of my term. If, on the other hand, reactions tend to be less conservative in nature, then expect to hear a little more from me in terms of new directions. ❖

## COMING UP

December 20 regular meeting, a bit more festive and less structured than usual, a good occasion to warm up with good coffee, satisfy that sweet tooth if one you have, and of course, chat about what you hope to do next spring. While you boast about your most recent contacts, you're likely to see yourself in one or more of the videos and slides that will serve as a background at the gathering. If you or someone you know likes to bake goodies, then let's have them. Jerry, VE3QSO, has promised to bring along two of his special fruit-nut cakes that are heavy with the rum he puts inside them. One or two pieces and you're guaranteed to feel a whole lot better than when you came. We'll look for you at 7:30 or so at the museum.

First meeting of OVMRC in 2008, Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at the museum at 7:30. How does one use antenna analyzers, measure RF field strength, read forward, reflected and SWR, accurately read for voltage, current, resistance and the like, all without ever looking at a display? Jerry, VE3QSO, will demonstrate, first by showing and explaining solid-state circuits he uses in some of his measuring instruments, then turn on these auditory instruments themselves to illustrate just how they work. Who knows: you may find some of these techniques useful at your own stations.

Plans are afoot for a weekend of fun late in May. We're not sure yet exactly where and what we'll be doing, but stay tuned. Hopefully, we'll get a peek at some of the YLs and harmonics who we rarely see.

And, cold and snowy as it is, field day is coming. Think about what you'd like to do and what you'd like to have happen this coming year. George, the man in charge, will welcome your suggestions. ❖

## From OARC's December Groundwave

RAC Winter Contest - December 29, 2007. Are you looking for a little diversion during the holiday season, something to draw you away from a table loaded with turkey, mashed potatoes and fattening desserts? Do you need a little time away from the in-laws - time spent doing something you love to do? If this sounds like you, then have you considered signing up to operate VA3RAC, the official Ontario RAC station from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, December 29, 2007 (7pm Dec 28 to 6:59pm Dec 29, 2007)? The OARC will once again, this year, sponsor VA3RAC. Its great fun, a low pressure contest where everyone is your friend. No one is on your case to take out the garbage, or to tell you that you put on a few pounds since they saw you last.

The RAC Winter Contest Rules are found elsewhere in the Groundwave. Look them over, and you'll see that it's a simple straightforward contest. All bands (except WARC, 12, 17 & 30 metres) are used, as are phone and CW. It is preferable, but not mandatory, that you use the official RAC software (a.k.a. CANADAY Contest Software) to log your contacts and it is available for free download from: [http://www.qrp-canada.com/wp/?page\\_id=41](http://www.qrp-canada.com/wp/?page_id=41) If you feel you need a little help getting into the contest scene, a tutorial is available from: <http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/noscript.html> As we cannot coordinate our contacts and in order to avoid duplicates (i.e. Dupes) we call ACQ RAC Canada Winter Contest@ and this allows the other station to look after Dupes.

I'll be co-ordinating operators, and bands, as there cannot be more than one operator per band at any given time. I'll also consolidate the loggings into a single log for submission. If you are interested in operating VA3RAC, send me an email with your preferred operating time(s), bands and mode to: [ve3ytz@rac.ca](mailto:ve3ytz@rac.ca) or call me at 613-236-9291 and I'll help get you away from that second piece of fruit cake. Greg Danylchenko/VE3YTZ ❖



## VE3TWO Christmas Day Net

There will be a special Christmas Day Net on repeater VE3TWO and all radio amateurs are encouraged to join in. This net will be an opportunity to convey Christmas greetings to your radio amateur friends (you do have radio amateur friends, right!).

If you have been good all year, you will be able to use the new rig you got for Christmas. :)

This is an opportunity as well to introduce any visitors you may have over Christmas in your home to amateur radio, in a fun and informal way.

The net starts at 0930 hours EST on VE3TWO, 147.30 receive, 147.90 transmit. It will be just about as informal as a net can get.

I will be net controller, as I have been for more years than I can remember, but it is probably over 25 years.

I would also like to thank the OVMRC for allowing again use of the club repeaters for this net. Ho ho ho!

Sydney, VE3GVI ❖

## National Capital Swapnet ANNOUNCEMENTS

From: Ed, VA3ES

There is now a New National Capital Swap Net Web site!  
[www.ncswapnet.ca](http://www.ncswapnet.ca).

If you like you can post your listing at the new site: [www.ncswapnet.ca](http://www.ncswapnet.ca)

I would also suggest that you repost all your old listings (from the old site [www.igs.net/~swap/](http://www.igs.net/~swap/) ) at the new site too. I can no longer post listings for you, as you must do that yourself now. You will be required to register as a "member". I am still the site "Webmaster", and can still modify, edit and delete your submissions.

The old site will remain active until January 1, 2008, then it will be deactivated. At that time the old URL will be redirected to the new site.

Thanks for using the National Capital Swap Net web site!

vy 73, Ed, VA3ES ❖

## VE3TWO UHF Repeater

Those of us who prefer the UHF side of VE3TWO, when communicating via the repeater, will be pleased to hear that concrete efforts in that regard are underway. The Executive Committee of OVMRC has authorized Cameron VA3FO, our Technical Chair, to replace the 70CM receiver, the existing equipment apparently beyond reprieve. Barring the unforeseen, things should be in order by the spring. ❖

## AND WHO SAYS THAT SANTA ISN'T REAL

For two and three year old boys and girls who cheerfully jump onto Santa's lap in a crowded and noisy mall, whether or not St. Nicolas exists is hardly an issue. But, for six-year-olds, wiser in the ways of this world, already a little dubious about how Santa can be in so many places at once, speak so many languages and sport long beards that would come away with just one tug, that phony-looking, old guy's knees are less enticing. Now, take away the image and leave the sound and what do we have: our budding cynics' eyes fly open and a look of wonder replaces the skeptical expression that we often see when inviting our youthful, school-age children to talk to Santa.

Take away the Image? Leave the sound? For those of you around long enough to know, it's like old-time radio versus the movies and TV. Remember the adventures and the stories we used to listen to, spellbound, how our imagination turned us from nascent couch potato to active, excited participants? If you happen to have been at the Museum of Science and Technology on Saturday or Sunday, December 8 or 9, you may have witnessed a remarkable event. Amateur radio operators - we'll call them elves although they didn't look the part - with handi-talkies, under the watchful guidance of Larry Wilcox VE3WEH, invited children to say hello to Santa at the North Pole. A novel thing to do, the boys and girls were willing to suspend their disbelief, if only briefly, to go along with the game. It was a treat to see their faces as they exchanged words with a passable-sounding Santa who complained of wind and cold. Some, a bit reticent at first, were more than eager to share their hopes with Father Christmas who just had to be real, didn't he! No story book costumes, no man who looked too much like father or Uncle George, just that distant-sounding voice, shivering as he scolded with Rudolf for getting into trouble in the shop.

At least some of the children who came our way must have had their rapidly disappearing fantasies rekindled. At least we hope so.  
❖

## CONGRATULATIONS TO MARTIN AND MARK! WINNERS OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY TRANSMITTER HUNT

Second place went to Larry, Graham and Patrick just as the hunt was drawing to a close. The "double M" team scoring 20 points and Larry and company scoring 18 points. They both found the 2m Bunny transmitter. As for the 80m transmitter, I suppose some hunters thought it was there only as a decoy... as no one found it. Some came very close, I could smell their exhaust, but evidently, they did not have sniffer capability. Realize though, that it was the very first 80m hunt in a very long while.

6 teams participated and they were given instructions as follows: VE3RAM, 80m, 3.760 MHz, 10 watts (SSB) VE3BNE, 2m, 146.580 MHz, 1 watt (FM) 2PM to 4PM Boundaries: FN25dk,dj,ek,ej

The 80m transmitter was right in the middle of the E-W/N-S boundaries but leaning on the side of the grid square where the 2m Bunny was hidden. Careful positioning was done with a GPS. This was meant to confuse the hunter should he not be prepared with good instruments and good maps, as we also instructed that if you find the 80m transmitter, be sure that the 2m Bunny is in the same Grid square. Which Grid square to choose if you're right at the conjunction of 4 Grids?

The location of the 2m Bunny was decided from information on the origin of the Club and it's meeting place which was Billings Bridge. So, the keen hunter on 80m and the knowledgeable hunter on 2m would have an advantage.

At the conclusion of the hunt, it was fun to all gather at Billings Bridge for a sandwich and reminisce about the early days of the OVMRC.

We also listened to all the different stories each team contributed, explaining why things did not go as planned.

A word of thanks to Roy for his great and precise job as the 2m Bunny, to David, ve3zru, who provided grid square maps within the boundaries, although this was meant to have each individual do their own home work in order to increase their skill for the next hunts, and thanks to all those who have participated in this special anniversary hunt.

Martin and Mark have already decided on a date for the next hunt which should be held on Dec 8. They're sure to send us sniffing.

73 de ve3vig Maurice-Andre ❖

## November 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes

20 Attendees, 3 Guests:

- JP VE3JPG
- Mike, VE3MPM
- Jackie, Renfrew, Guest of Jake VE2TQX

5 of the 6 Life Members attended

- Maurice Andre, VE3VIG
- Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO
- Ed Morgan, VE3GX
- Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM
- Bill Wilson, VE3NR

Operating Budget for 2008 was tabled by the treasurer Robert VA3SHO

Budget was approved motion by Darin VE3OIJ 2nd by David VE3ZZU

Maurice Andre VE3VIG, VA2MA mobile made a presentation on the 175th anniversary of the Rideau Canal and the operating of special events station VC3R. During the special events 41 Locks of the Rideau Canal were activated. Maurice André provided a history of the canal as well as a photo presentation of each lock activation.

“Boat Anchor Night”. Many examples of vintage amateur radio pieces were presented by members. The owners made a presentation of the history and use of the equipment. Much discussion followed.

The meeting was concluded by the President Jerry VE3QSO @ approximately 2100hrs.

Minutes submitted by Terry Walton VE3TWC ❖



Photo courtesy of Maurice-André, VE3VIG

# BUNNY HUNT PHOTO'S



Winners of the Hunt, left to right, Mark Malick VA3UMP, Martin Gillen VA3SIE, with 2m “Bunny” Roy Parsons VA3CKD

Photo courtesy of Maurice-André, VE3VIG



Son, Michael Cochran and Father, Steve Cochran VE3SBC with home brewed HF beam

Photo courtesy of Maurice-André, VE3VIG





Maurice Andre Vigneault VA2MA -75m Bunny on the left, with Roy Parsons VA3CKD, 2m Bunny on the right

*Photo courtesy of Larry, VE3WEH*



Mark Malick VA3UMP on the hunt with his home brew beam.

*Photo courtesy of Martin, VA3SIE*



Head table, left to right, Michael Cochran, Steve Cochran VE3SBC Publicity & Programs Chair, Jerry Neufeld VE3QSO President, David Scott VE3ZZU, Graham Bennett VE3GBD, Larry Wilcox VE3WEH Historical Chair



The OVMRC 50th Anniversary cake

*Photos courtesy of Larry, VE3WEH*



Doreen Morgan VE3CGO & Ed Morgan VE3GX Tribute for 35 years operating the CW "Pot Lid Net"





OVMRC Amateur Radio Course Students looking over Artifacts

*Photo courtesy of Larry, VE3WEH*

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEETING PHOTOS



Ralph Cameron's "Big Bottle" & Maurice-Andre "Hammerlund" Receiver



Ed Morgan's VE3GX AM transmitter and Morrow converter

*Photo courtesy of Larry, VE3WEH*

*Photo courtesy of Larry, VE3WEH*



