



RAMBLINGS

As called for in our bylaws, I was to have published in this issue of The Rambler a slate of officers to be considered and voted upon at our upcoming regular meeting on June 19. I very much regret that I am unable to do this since, to date, no one, to my knowledge, has agreed to stand, whether or not our proposal to rescind 9.3 Term of Office is approved. While most of our Standing Committee Chairpersons will probably remain, it is less than clear that we will have the minimum-required two Directors (president/vice-president/secretary/treasurer) available, even if, as has been proposed, we again delay elections until the fall. As everyone knows, enthusiasm among members to hold office was already low when I agreed last fall to stand as president. My main objective has been to introduce changes in some of our bylaws and procedures that I hoped would breathe new life into the club. In small ways, we may have been successful. At the most important level, however, the lack of willingness to stand appears to have increased rather than diminish. Although there are those who continue to be willing to direct affairs from the sidelines, few persons, either within the Executive Committee itself or within the membership seem predisposed to make formal commitments to our club, a rather ominous sign I believe.

Much as I have enjoyed working with the Executive and editing the newsletter which, I maintain, is vital to OVMRC, I do not feel that I can function in a meaningful capacity as future president with the promise of so little support. I have delayed in my decision with the hope that the Nominations Committee would have at least something to bring to our next meeting. However matters proceed, I wish good luck to those who will continue to conduct official business of the club. ❖

LAST REGULAR MEETING OF THE YEAR

Our last meeting of the year will start, as usual, at 7-30 Thursday evening at the Museum of Science and Technology. We have important things to do as well as what promises to be an interesting presentation by Dr. Gordon James of the

Canada Com Research Centre. He will speak to us about CASSIOPE, Canada's next satellite. We have motions concerning bylaws to consider, the one of most immediate concern, 9.3 regarding Term of Office (see below). And, of course, we elect our officers and standing committee chairpersons at that time. Finally, we'll have an update by the president on Field Day. See you at the meeting.

N.B. Anyone who intends to bring rigs to our Field Day site or who is willing to assist us with getting things set up should join us at the museum at 6-30, one hour prior to the meeting.

Also, please note that our first meeting in the fall has been rescheduled for one week later, the new date, September 25.

9.3 Term of Office

"No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same Executive office."

There was total agreement by the Executive that bylaw 9.3 is too restrictive and prevents the club from continuing to function by making it difficult to find new volunteers to serve on the Executive in the key Directors' positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

As a result, we will propose at the meeting that this bylaw be rescinded. ❖



Len Gelfand SK

a long time member of the OVMRC

Submitted for publication in The Rambler by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH.

From the Editor's Desk on the front page of the Ottawa Vintage Radio Club Newsletter (OVRC), Volume 16, Number 1, Spring 2008.

We at OVRC were saddened to learn of the death of long-time member Len Gelfand. Len was always a force to be reckoned with at club meetings and events, and he will be missed.

Leonard Gelfand 1924-2008

OVRC member Leonard (Len) Gelfand has died at the age of 84.

Len was a man of many interest and was active in many hobbies. In his youth, photography was one of his passions, including enlargers, developing tanks and other required paraphernalia. As noted in his obituary in The Citizen, he had a passion for fast cars (he had a Jaguar XK140 and often attended the Watkins Glen and Mossport races), gliding, ham radio and electronics. It was these latter two interests that drew him to the Ottawa Vintage Radio Club. In fact, it's said that Len was interested in radio before WW 2, and when he joined the Air Force, it was a natural progression for him to become what was then called a "Wireless Mechanic".

After serving in WW 2, he studied at university (primarily philosophy and psychology) both at the University of Manitoba and the University of Toronto, and ultimately became a statistician and market researcher, and also an instructor in marketing at Concordia University. After retirement he was a consultant in these fields, in one case even doing work in India.

Len was a glider pilot and had his own sailplane. In later years he and some friends flew a Cessna 172 across Canada and through much of the USA. Len was a true adventurer.

He became part of the amateur radio fraternity and collected equipment and repaired it with great enthusiasm. By joining the OVRC, Len kept up a broader interest in antique electronics, and perhaps satisfied a certain nostalgia for the old days of radio equipment and programming.

He was also an audiophile, beginning in the early days of "hi-fi" and progressing through the advances in technology as equipment and recordings improved. His friend Ernie Jury reports that Len's audio equipment in the living room was in some ways a tour through his advancement in technology, there so many elements of different eras connected together into an audio system.

We were happy to have Len on board at the OVRC, and he will be missed. ❖



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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 Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 Mhz(+)

Amateur Radio Exhibit VE3JW

Web site:

<http://ve3jw.tripod.com>

Canada Science & Technology Museum

The *Rambler* is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. And is published 11 times a year (monthly, except for July). Opinions expressed in the *Rambler* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC Inc., it's officers or it's 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 to the editor or by e-mail to:

jerry.neufeld@rogers.com.

MY BIG GREEN WAGON: THE WAY TO GET FROM HERE TO THERE

by Jerry Neufeld, VE3QSO

Have any of you tried to carry on your back a 4-foot antenna tripod, portable antennas, transceiver, antenna tuner, battery pack, CW paddle and antenna analyzer? If you have and made it out your door, you've been spending far too much time in the gym. Like an ever-increasing number of amateurs, I live in a house whose back yard is just large enough to accommodate a grill, a table and a few chairs. Anything resembling an antenna, big or small, is, of course, out of the question. I do have the good fortune of living across the street from a spacious park, fine for my two labs but of questionable benefit to a ham who likes to play with wires. So, what to do?

I laid the question before the folks I speak with nearly every day on VE3TWO. Although I don't really know who came up with the concept first, it wasn't long before we were exchanging remarks about how to build the cart to get my gear from my home to the afore-mentioned park and back. Should it have 2 wheels or 4? How much cargo could it hold? In jest, someone suggested that we motorize the thing. And then, of course, we had to choose a color. From the outset, a major participant in these discussions was Steve Cochran, VE3SBC. Shortly after, I'm pleased to say, talk turned into work, Steve the driving force behind it all. Into my shop rolled the ideal vehicle for my needs, a sturdy I-frame, two feet by four, on four pneumatic tires, something most kids would call a wagon with pull handle and all. On the phone, on the air and in my shop, Steve and I exchanged ideas about how to build the rectangular wooden box and what it should incorporate. Fun as all of this had been, the project seemed like one more project, little more. As we worked together, however, the coffin-like appearance of our conception began to evolve into something more exotic, more innovative. A drop leaf was added as were two special end doors. And what to do with the massive 75 ampere-hour lead-acid battery that was to be the primary 12-volt power source for my mobile station? While not visible in the photos, Steve crafted a robust metal sling that was welded to the under side of the frame, both to give the wagon balance and to preserve all the cargo space for other gear. Two short weeks later, it was time to wire up and install equipment.

At 10 AM on Wednesday, June 4, in the company of Steve, Larry, VE3WEH, and Don, VA3GFD, cart fully loaded, I grabbed the handle and, crossing the street before my house, headed for the park (photo 1). I should say at this point that we had been a bit concerned about the safety of j-walking a big green wagon across a busy road where drivers of oncoming trucks and cars might be more focused on the cart than on my white cane. We needed some kind of signal. After much searching, I found a company in Chicago that makes strobe lights for tops of school busses. I ordered one. When crossing streets, I connect this strobe, atop a three-foot pipe at the right front of the cart lid to power. I'm told that it is visible a considerable distance away.

Now for a bit about the box. The wooden structure is 2 feet wide, 4 feet in length and 18 inches in depth, the interior divided into upper and lower levels. In the upper level (photo 2), there is ample space for as much communications and test gear as one could want, each piece held in place by bungee cords. At the opposite end is the electrical control panel (photo 4) and tool compartment. Below, running the full length of the box, is the compartment in which I place por-

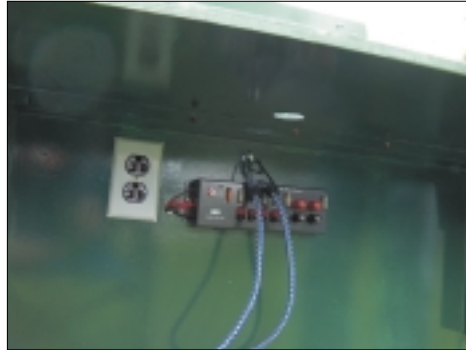


Photo 4.

table antennas (photo 3), break-down masts and the like. Along the crop leaf side of this compartment are 1000 watt



Photo 3.

inverter, two chargers and two 18 A-H lead-acid batteries (secondary power 12



Photo 1.



Photo 2.



Photo 5.

& 24vdc). The control panel (photo 5) has four toggle switches connected to four heavy-duty relays for 1) system on/off, 2) main/secondary power source, 3) 12/24vdc for motorized antennas and 4) inverter on/off. Also visible on the plate is a buzzer that sounds when voltage of power source a/b drops below 11vdc. On the outside of the box, operator's side, is a drop leaf that, when up, provides 4-1/2

additional feet of table-top surface area. On the side itself, facing the seated operator (photo 5), is an Anderson type power strip, a standard 120vac dual outlet and ac input for battery chargers.

In photo 6, you see the big green wagon in use. I am seated before my console that I built to control activity of the triple motorized screw-driver antennas made by HIQ that are also visible in the picture. I will describe in detail the operation of this antenna system as well as its performance, so far unknown concretely to me, in the next issue (September) of The Rambler. On Wednesday, I brought my FT-857 and keyer paddle. Once I have finished testing the HIQ system and move to other antennas that I construct, my analyzer and other related equipment will also be with me.



Photo 6.

Photos courtesy of Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

I cannot conclude this piece without expressing many warm thanks to Steve, VE3SBC, who, day after day, sought and brought back various items that we needed and who spent many hours helping in the construction of the project. I much enjoyed his help and, even more, his company. ❖

President's Gavel and Executive Washroom Key Has Been Found!

By Larry Wilcox VE3WEH
OVMRC Historical Chair

Photos of both of these items are shown in this issue of the RAMBLER! They have been missing for more than a year and I am happy to report they turned up recently.

There is quite a history associated with these items, especially, the OVMRC KEY to the Executive Washroom. At the Executive meeting held on 20 Dec, 1978, the minutes note that VE3GOS has the



Executive Washroom Key

Photo courtesy of Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

club outhouse, a tower and guys (in preparation for Field Day).

The Official OVMRC KEY To The Executive Washroom is engraved on the back with the following words.

"Since the only REAL property of this organization was disposed of in 1985, and the key hole, having been lost, this KEY is held, in trust, for members of the Executive, by the President of the OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB, against the day when the facility may be replaced. It will be guarded by him/her



President's Gavel

Photo courtesy of Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

and passed to his/her successor, each year, at the June Annual Meeting of the club. Presented by VE3KLC MCMLXXXVIII."

So, at our next meeting our current President, Jerry VE3QSO will be able to continue the tradition by passing the Executive Washroom key on to the new President of the OVMRC. He will also be able to use the Gavel to officially open and bring the meeting to order! ❖

OVMRC AND FIELD DAY 2008

Field Day this year with OVMRC begins at 2 PM on Saturday, June 28 and ends 24 hours later. While we may not have 20 stations on site at the Museum of Science and Technology, we will be active, how much so depending on how many of you wish to talk, type on keyboards or pound brass. For those who come without a rig, our club facilities will be available. At a minimum, we expect two other stations, one of which will include antennas and equipment for satellites as well as CW and voice. How available the club station will be is, at this point, a matter of conjecture. If you like to operate in the middle of the night, competition shouldn't be a problem.

We hope to have as many of you with us as possible. To this end, I would be grateful if those who intend to bring setups of their own or who wish to use the club station would contact me, Jerry, VE3QSO, by phone (613-828-0959) or in person or by e-mail (jerry.neufeld@rogers.com) to let me know what you'd like to do. In this way, we will avoid conflicts, both with respect to who operates when and what modes and bands can be used at a particular moment. Failing this, it will be catch as catch can, feasible but a little haphazard.

So, to help us out, do come and, if you intend to operate, do let us know of your desiderata. Whatever happens, it should be fun, free supper on Saturday night and free breakfast on Sunday morning for all present at the site. Anyone who wants to use their own rigs but who has no antenna should let us know. We'll do our best to accommodate you, provided we have enough time to get things organized. Come join us.

N.B. Anyone who intends to bring rigs to our Field Day site or who is willing to assist us with getting things set up should join us at the museum at 6-30, one hour prior to the June 19 regular meeting.



Guy Richard, VE2XTD, RAC/RAQI Vice-president, Maurice-André Vigneault, VC3C coordinator, Mario Bilodeau, VE2EKL, RAQI President, Noël Marcil, VE2BR, RAC Director Québec section

Photo courtesy of Jean-Claude Grenier, VE2JCG

RAC/RAQI EXECUTIVES SEND-OFF VC3C ON THE CHAMPLAIN TRAIL

Sunday, May 25, 2008 was when the Sorel AmateurFest took place. Earlier in the year, I had been invited to present our VC3C project. I did not expect to find myself and my display at the honour table with RAQI and RAC displays.

I did the best of it by inviting the executives to pose for a picture in front of the VC3C display. Perfect opportunity for them to send us off on The Trail with good wishes and fare-thee-well handshakes.

We then proceeded outside, where the RAQI emergency communications trailer was set up. This is the trailer that will be available for our Ile Sainte-Hélène, Montréal site, thanks to the Montréal UMS Club (Union Montréalaise des Sans-filistes) Another send-off photo was taken and it was mentioned then that this special event might be the first joint RAC/RAQI special event.

In the picture, we have RAQI President, RAC/RAQI Vice-president, RAC Director Québec section, and VC3C coordinator. Indeed, a nice send-off.

By the time you read this, we would have covered three local Champlain sites. Hope you managed your contact. Or,

catch up with us as we move along The Trail.

See you On The Champlain Trail!

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG
Coordinator

On The Champlain Trail
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