Newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)



April 09 Volume: 53 Edition: 9 Page: 1

MINUTES, OVMRC GENERAL MEETING

March 19, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The President, David VE3ZZU, called the meeting to order at 19:30. There were 25 people in attendance.

2. GUESTS AND VISITING AMATEURS

Jamie VA3JME

3. PROGRAM

3.1 Canadian Ski Marathon - Radio Operations

Harold VA3UNK, presented an illustrated talk on the role of volunteer amateur radio operators in support of the Canadian Ski Marathon, a non-profit event held annually during the weekend of the second Sunday in February. Operators come mainly from the Montreal-Ottawa area, but some come from elsewhere in Ontario, some from the United States, and others from abroad.

Although the first annual Canadian Ski Marathon was held in 1967, it was not until 1974 that amateur radio operators began to support the event. Other means of communications such as satellite telephones, commercial radios, digital modes and cell telephones were used before 2-meter VHF and 70-centimeter UHF amateur radios were adopted as standard communication equipment for the Marathon.

Initially, the course of the Marathon spanned Montreal-Ottawa, but it is was subsequently shortened to Lachute-Buckingham. The direction in which skiers travel alternates each year. The Marathon is held regardless of weather conditions. During the 43 years of its existence, there has been only one day, in 1973, when skiing had to be canceled. Snow conditions, temperature, cloud cover, precipitation and wind speed can vary considerably during a given Marathon and between successive ones. Cold temperatures and high humidity can have an adverse impact on coaxial cables, antennas, batteries and liquid crystal displays. As a result, radio techniques and equipment that perform well during a given Marathon may need to be modified in subsequent years.

During the Marathon weekend, there is a need for radio operators from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. Based on the amount of time that they can volunteer, operators can participate for the duration of the entire Marathon or for any portion of it. Planning for radio operations is accomplished entirely through web sites, e-mail and telephone: There are no face-to-face meetings!

Fixed indoor deployments are normally at high schools in each of Papineauville and Buckingham as well as at the Fairmont Le Château Montebello. These locations are where net controllers are deployed. However, most operators are deployed at checkpoints which are fixed outdoor locations. Several are deployed in roving vehicles. Ski safety patrols operate as portable stations. Operators are normally first to arrive at their assigned position in the morning,

some as early as 03:45. They are generally last to leave their position at night.

Two nets are used during the Marathon, one using repeaters for communications of net controllers with checkpoints and mobile vehicles, and another using simplex frequencies for communications among checkpoints and between checkpoints and ski safety patrols. Some of the repeaters are linked while others are portable. When propagation is good, three repeaters normally suffice. However, when communications are difficult, up to six repeaters may need to be used. In 2009, Radio Mobile freeware was used to analyze radio propagation between stations.

Over the years, more than 250 amateur radio operators have volunteered their time for the Marathon. Some 50 to 60 usually participate in any given year. Their contribution represents some 2,000 to 2,500 volunteer hours annually. Each year, operators provide, probono, the use of radio equipment worth thousands of dollars.

The next Marathon will be held on February 13-14, 2010. For information on volunteering as an amateur radio operator in support of the Marathon, visit http://radio.admin2.ca.

3.2 Homebrew Projects

Alan VA3STL brought to the meeting equipment that he built, over the winter of 2008-2009, as part of three homebrew projects. He presented an illustrated talk on the operation of this equipment and on some of the novel techniques used to build it.

a)QRSS Transmitter: Alan is among the small group of individuals pioneering QRSS technology which transmits very low-power, narrow-band, slow-speed CW. The signals are received using a waterfall display of the type most familiar to PSK enthusiasts. Some experimenters are using wind or solar energy to power their transmitters. Online receivers (QRSS grabbers) show where, around the world, specific transmissions are being detected.

b)Z-Match Tuner: Alan built a Z-match tuner rather than a less efficient T-match tuner to support the many low power (QRP) and other homebrew equipment that he uses.

c)Surface Mount Technology (SMT) Crystal Tester: QRSS requires very high levels of stability. Alan talked about the tester that he built to determine the motional parameters of crystals based on a design by fellow amateur radio operator G3UUR. He described how he uses Dremel rotary tools to draw circuit connections on substrate rather than etch them with unpleasant chemicals.

d)For detailed information on these homebrew projects, visit Alan's website at http://va3stl.wordpress.com.

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



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For information about the duties and responsibilities about all Executive and Chair positions, please visit the OVMRC forums, Member section or contact any member of the Executive.

Sponsors

The **OVMRC** acknowledges the following organizations for their sup- Amateur Radio Exhibit port of our activities:

- Acceptable Storage, Ottawa, ON
- Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
- Elkel Ltee., Trois-Riviéres, OC
- · Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON
- Ottawa Camping Trailers Ltd., Ottawa, ON
- Travel-Mor Trailer Sales, Ottawa, ON

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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(+)

VE3.JW

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:

va3wmh@rac.ca.

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4. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a) Secretary: The President introduced Joe VE3EUS who was recently recruited to fill the position of secretary which had previously been vacant.
- b) Treasurer: Art VA3BIT reported that the Club has assets of some \$15,000, but that for the current fiscal year, there would likely to be a deficit of several hundred dollars.
- c) Amateur Radio Exhibit: On behalf of all VE3WEH present. Larry thanked Maurice-André VE3VIG and the many other volunteers for their diligent work in organizing the very successful 35th anniversary celebrations of the Club station VE3JW which is a permanent exhibit located at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. In turn, Maurice-André reported that the 35th anniversary celebrations of the Club station had been well attended. During the celebrations, some of the operations at the station were recorded by a camera operator from CTV, even though networks were extremely busy at that time covering the visit to Ottawa of the President of the United States. A DVD made from the CTV master will be deposited at the Club station, courtesy of Patrick VE3KJQ.
- d) Amateur Radio Training: Ernie VE3EJJ, reported that planning had begun for the next amateur radio course that the Club will be offering the public in the fall of 2009. Those who want additional information are invited to contact the Club.
- e) Special Events and Field Day: The President asked for a volunteer to fill the vacant chair of that committee. There was no response from the floor. The Club may not hold field day this year unless someone 7. ADJOURNMENT comes forward to organize that event.
- f) Membership: Chris VE3CUZ reported that two new members had joined the Club prior to the start of the meeting. This brought the total membership to 59. He also invited all radio amateurs, regardless of club affiliation, to visit the OVMRC website and to register for the on-line chat feature that was recently implemented. Further, he informed the floor that the problem that occurred on March 18, which resulted in spam being sent through the Club web site, had been resolved.
- Publicity and Programs: Michel VE2BPM reported that a representative of Les Produits Électroniques ELKEL Ltée, of Trois-Rivières, Québec, would be attending the April meeting of the Club to talk about some of the amateur radio products that the company offers. Amateurs will have the

opportunity to speak with the representative average 10 students. The students attend and to place orders for equipment. We look forward to seeing fellow amateurs from other clubs at this meeting.

h) Radio Operations: All of the Club's amateur radio nets are operating as scheduled.

i) Technical: Larry VE3WEH advised that a full technical information report would be prepared for the Saint Lawrence Valley Repeater Council in order to remedy the suspension of the Club's repeater (VE3TWO) from coordination through the Council. Apparently, a request to file a report by the end of October 2008 went unanswered. The website of the Council shows that coordination of a large number of other repeaters in the area has also been suspended for lack of response. Further, Larry reported that bench work is still required before the Club's UHF equipment can be re-installed at the repeater site located on Booth Street.

i) Emergency Preparedness: The President asked for a volunteer to fill the vacant chair of that committee. There was no response from the floor.

5. DOOR PRIZES AND DRAWS

The door prize was won by Harold VA3UNK. The 50/50 draw was won by Jamie VA3JME.

6. UPCOMING CLUB **MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Club executive will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2008 at 19:00. The next general meeting of the Club will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2008 at

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:45 at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio.

8. SIGNED

Joe, VE3EUS Secretary

The Course Is Looking For Some New Blood

The Amateur Radio Qualification course is give by the OVMRC each fall at the Museum of Science and Technology from the end of September to mid-December on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 19:00 to 22:00. In recent years there have been on

because they want to learn and are enthusiastic. There are two lectures each evening. The subjects covered range from basic DC circuits and Ohm's law through inductors, capacitors, AC circuits, resonance, transmission lines, antennas, propagation and regulations. In other words all of the material needed to successfully write the Basic Oualification exam. The objective of the course is to teach understanding of the material as a grounding for further individual study rather than the memorization of answers necessary to pass the exam. For the past few years the course has been taught by three older hams and two or three specialist lecturers. Two full evening each week is quite demanding for the regulars who would like to involve a few more lecturers to lighten the load and ultimately enable them to move out of course instruction. If you are interested in teaching and can spare a few evenings in the fall, please contact Ernie, by e-mail, ve3ejj@rac.ca .

RAC Bulletin 2009-011E Renewed Memorandum of Understanding between RAC and Canadian Red Cross Society **April 1, 2009**

A renewed Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. and the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Replacing the original 1994 agreement, the MOU updates details and clarifies the role played by Amateur Radio and in particular the RAC Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in time of disaster or other events requiring emergency communica-

The MOU may be viewed in both official languages www.rac.ca/fieldorg/download.htm under the heading "ARES Documents".

All Radio Amateurs involved with emergency communications should become familiar with the document in order to facilitate cooperation between the two signing organizations.

R.D. (Bob) Cooke VE3BDB President Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. ❖

The 5th OVMRC 2m FM Simplex Contest

Date & Time

Saturday 2nd May 2009 from 11 am to 4pm local time. Please note the longer duration this is new for 2009 to accommodate cyclists and pedestrian mobile stations.

How to participate

Using the 2m simplex frequencies (check the RAC band plan) and avoiding the 2m calling frequency of 146.520, make contact with as many stations as you can. Call "CQ OVMRC contest" or "CQ contest" or work stations making such calls.

Pre-arranging contacts by use of repeaters, telephones or otherwise is not allowed, nor in the spirit of the contest.

Once you have logged a particular station you cannot log it again, unless it is a mobile station which has moved to a different city location (see details of what is a 'location' in the next section). Mobile stations calling CQ may want to indicate their current location for example "CQ OVMRC contest Ward 16".

Note: there is a condition on a repeat logging. A repeat logging cannot be made if it results in a station being the same consecutively in the log. For example, if contact 6 is with VA3STL you cannot log that station again as contact 7, even if the station is mobile and moved to another location. Work another station first and then it is possible to make a repeat contact but only if the mobile station is in a different location to the earlier logging(s).

If you decide to call CQ, listen first to see if a frequency is in use. Remember, just because you cannot hear anything does not mean that a QSO is not going on, you may not be in range of one of the stations but you could be within the other's range. Follow good operating practice; listen, ask if the frequency is in use and listen again, then repeat the process until satisfied it is not in use.

What to exchange

When a contact is made you need to exchange the following information:

callsign, contact number, location (use the city electoral ward or district for this) and whether or not you are a OVMRC club member or if you are operating a club station.

Mobile stations give their current location. The **exact location** is important for the location multiplier and longest distance QSO award.

If you are mobile then please try and spend enough time in an electoral ward or district to complete a contact.

Maps of the wards or districts of Ottawa and Gatineau can be found, at the following web locations;

Ottawa

http://ottawa.ca/city_hall/mayor council/wards/final_map.pdf

Gatineau

http://www.ville.gatineau.qc.ca/
cartes-ang.htm#0

Stations outside Ottawa and Gatineau use the local town, e.g. Carleton Place Do not feel that this is all you should exchange, you are encouraged to talk to the other station if you want - find out how long they have been a member, for example. Record each contact on a log sheet and number it sequentially.

Example 1

VA3NEK from VA3STL, please copy number 4, Osgoode member.

Example 2

VA3STL from VE3OSE, please copy number 1, Kemptville, non-member.

Example 3

VA3GLT from VE3JW, please copy number 23, Alta-Vista, club station.

Alternatively, for the location the district number, which is given on the Ottawa ward map, can be given.

Power Limit

For this contest the maximum power you can use is 50W but there are multipliers for lower power. (see Multipliers/Awards).

Scoring

QSO points

Contact type Points

Non OVMRC member · · · · · 1

OVMRC member	٠	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	2
Club station · · · ·										5

Club stations are VE3JW and VE3RAM.

Note VE3JW is the museum exhibit station and VE3RAM may be the emergency trailer.

Multipliers

This comes in two stages

- 1. Total number of different locations contacted (not your locations but the locations of stations you contacted).
- 2. The highest power level you used

Power Multiplier

1W or less (new for 2009!) · 3	3
10W or less · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2
over 10W to 50W	1
over 50W · · · · · · · · · · ·)

Final calculation

Final score =

Total QSO points x Locations x Power

Example calculation

You contacted 8 club members, 6 non club members and the club station VE3JW, who were in 5 different locations (some contacts were in the same location) and you used your handie-talkie at 5W of power.

Total QSO points = $1 \times 6 + 2 \times 8 + 5 \times 1 = 27$

Multiplier for locations: 5

Multiplier for power: 2

FINAL SCORE = $27 \times 5 \times 2 = 270$

Disqualification

Disqualification will result if stations break the rules of the contest or the rules under which they are licensed to operate.

Some example situations that would invoke

disqualification are:

• Use of a repeater to pre-arrange contacts.

- Using the 2m calling channel 146.52MHz
- Not following the band plan do not forget the simplex frequencies are effectively 'channelized'. Do check the band plan.
- Intentional interference to other users, contesters or not.

The band plan is available here:

http://www.rac.ca/service/bandpl ans/2mplan e.php

Awards

Awards will be given to the highest score in the following categories:

- •highest scoring base station (a portable station which does move location during the contest will be consider as base station),
 - highest scoring mobile station,
 - · highest scoring newcomer.

(A newcomer is defined here as someone licensed in the last 18 months. This allows graduates from the last two OVMRC classes to aim for this award. Note: this award does not preclude the same station from winning any of the other awards.)

Contact over the longest distance

(fill in your furthest QSO on your summary sheet).

> •Highest score made with a homebrew antenna.

Please briefly describe your antenna when you submit your score sheet and log.

• Km per Watt award. New for 2009!

Contact covering the longest distance per watt of output power. Calculate your km/watt by multiplying the distance by your radio's output power, for example 16km with your radio set to 1/2W would be 32km/W.

Awards will be in the form of a certificate.

All scores will be published in the Rambler.

Submission

Logs should be submitted to VA3SIE before June 31st 2009. Your log should include the complete exchange sent and received for each contact you made as well as your score calculation and claimed final score. Please indicate carefully each multiplier you are claiming.

To support a claim for an award please provide the following information as applicable: how long you have been licensed, the longest distance contact you made (including the callsign and location of yourself and the other station for the contact), and the Read more here: power used to make that contact.

Soap box comments (your story!), pictures, videos etc. are gratefully received and will be included in the results and presentation materials.

Email to va3sie@rac.ca is the preferred submission entry but I will also accept paper entries at the May/June OVMRC meeting.

Teams

Not got a 2m FM transceiver?

In the spirit of having fun and meeting club members it is encouraged that club members that would otherwise operate solo (base or mobile) team up with a member who has not got 2m capabilities.

Amateurs operating as a team can submit a single entry form under names/callsigns.

To help with log checking though please use only one callsign for QSOs.

If you wish to pair up or establish a team it is recommended to join one of the regular OVMRC nets held throughout the week:

On VE3TWO (147.300+):

- Tuesday 8pm "News and History Net"
- Wednesday 7pm "Welcome Mat Net"
- Friday 8pm "Wise Owl Net"

On HF (3760kHz LSB):

• Saturday 10am "Pot Hole Net"

Mobile Safety

Use common sense.

Safe and legal operation of your vehicle without distraction from driving must be your top priority.

Here are some safety tips.

1. If you wish to make contest QSOs on the move consider operating as a team (see Teams). The driver can focus on driving while the partner makes and logs contacts.

2. If you're out there solo operating a vehicle, please stop legally and safely before making contest QSOs then drive to the next location.

http://www.caa.ca/driventodistra ction/

Tips

For all stations:

Check the weather forecast and equip yourself accordingly

A printed copy of the 2m band-plan, ward map, a clipboard and paper/pen to write QSO log information will be useful.

It may make sense to load your transceiver memories with all the 2m simplex channel frequencies ahead of time.

Simplex signals will typically be weaker than repeater outputs so a higher gain antenna might help but the noise floor may be higher due to intermodulation interference especially in the down-town core so: choose your location(s) and antenna(s) carefully.

If you plan to operate from an area where intermodulation interference could be a problem (for example parliament hill or the downtown core), you will find a band-pass filter useful.

If you do not own or wish to build a band-pass filter, you could try a lower gain antenna for example a rubber duck antenna held close to the body facing the station you are trying to work but that may make copying weak stations more difficult.

For fixed stations (/portable):

Choose a high location which has good line of sight to most of the Ottawa & Gatineau wards, and keep the antenna as high as possible (consider using a mast).

If you're in an intermod-free area or are using a band-pass filter, use a high gain antenna appropriate to your location. For example from a hill in the extreme North, South, East or West, a beam might be a good choice. From a hill in the mid-town, a co-linear vertical, J-Pole, big wheel or similar higher gain omnidirectional antenna will work well. Even a ground plane antenna will work!

For mobile stations:

Develop a **route plan**. Know which wards you will be operating from where you will park in each ward (high location, good lines

of sight) and in which order. Know how long you will spend in each ward, how long it will take to travel from ward to ward and stick to the plan.

Remember, except for the rule about not working the same station consecutively you can work all the stations you already worked in a **new ward!**

Some wards are smaller than others so you can move from ward to ward very quickly but this comes at a price. The smallest wards are in the most heavily populated areas of Ottawa and that is also where intermodulation interference will be worst.

Disclaimer

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club and contest organizers are not responsible or to be held liable in whole or in part for harm or injury caused by persons/property or caused to persons/property taking part in this contest.

Please ensure you comply with all laws and regulations. Drive carefully and with due care and attention. Do not violate trespass laws when selecting your operating locations.

Contact

For further information or questions contact:

Martin Gillen, VA3SIE (va3sie@rac.ca). 613-244-3585 ❖

Ramblings

Do we have anyone in the club who can tow our Emergency Preparedness Trailer from its storage location on Bank St South to a site location such as field day?

The OVMRC's positions for (1) SPECIAL PROJECTS & FIELD DAY and (2) EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS are both VACANT. We need someone in the club to step forward for these two positions. It's looking like we may not have a FIELD DAY this year unless someone volunteers.

Dave Scott, VE3ZZU President ❖

A FIRST FOR AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE

An unprecedented experiment for Amateur Radio in space took place at the end of March 2009.

Project Phase 5A is an Amateur Radio effort to build a communications satellite to be placed in orbit around the planet Mars. Ordered by NASA, it is designed to provide communications channels for the expeditions to Mars as a link back to Earth.

AMSAT-DL, which is the German component of AMSAT International, is conducting the project with the help of other world AMSAT organizations. The engineers at AMSAT-DL have been working at it for

several years now and doing exciting experiments to develop the hardware.

Their latest experiment, which took place at the end of March, was to bounce a 2.4 GHZ signal off the planet Venus. They met with great success. The EVE bounce (as opposed to EME - earth-moon-earth) was repeated the following day, sending the letter HI in Morse code.

An incredible feat if you consider that Venus is 50 million kilometres away, farther than planet Mars. They have done it with the help of the Bochum observatory restored for the Amateur Radio mission to Mars P5-A. An ERP of megawatts was required to leave the antenna in order to receive back a sufficient level of signal to monitor.

In an effort to show that low-cost space exploration done by private interest is feasible AMSAT-DL will associate with other European groups in order to help finance this amazing project, the cost of which is mostly due to the Ariane V proposed launch.

Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, AMSAT-DL President signed the news release.

Meantime, the "EXPRESS" high earth orbit satellite is still being worked on for a future launch at an undetermined date. AMSAT-NA (North America) is working on two "EAGLE" HEO satellites, hopefully, one to be geostationary, piggy-backed on an IntelSat replacement satellite.

Join AMSAT and be part of Amateur Radio space exploration.

Maurice-André, VE3VIG *

Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour 2009 Radio Support — Ops Needed

Looking for volunteer radio operators for the weekend of June 6 & 7 to assist in providing radio support for this event. The RLCT has been run annually for over 25 years by the Ottawa Bicycle Club. It involves over 2000 cyclists, riding from Carleton University to Queens University and back in one weekend, a one way distance of 177 km! Amateur radio teams from Ottawa, and the Lanark and Frontenac ARES groups have been providing support along the entire route providing vital linkages between various checkpoints, support vehicles, and to engage emergency services to deal with accidents and incidents, of which there are, unfortunately, several every year.

Operators will be deployed from Carleton University west to Blacks Corners, south of Carleton Place. All operations are done using 2 metres. Experience is not necessary. Newcomers are welcome. Anyone interested, please contact Gord, (VE3FRB) at

OBC Rideau Lakes Tour web site



ve3frb@rac.ca.

SPACE CONTACT!

In Amateur Radio, what is the next best thing to an International Space Station School Contact with an astronaut addressing a class of students and a crowd of onlookers? How about an International Space Station contact with an astronaut addressing perky eyes and opened ears in a group of visitors at the Canada Science and Technology Museum's VE3JW Amateur Radio Exhibit.



Dr Charles Simonyi

Charles Simonyi was born in Hungary in 1948. He studied in the U.S. and became one of the major engineers at Microsoft. He started his own software company and became a billionaire. In April 2007, he became the fifth space tourist. (See Wikipedia)

In March 2009, he went back to the Space Station with the intention of making as many Amateur Radio contacts as he could during his stay. He didn't deceive anyone as



TMA-14 Mission Patch

he was very active on Voice and SSTV, sending pictures of the crew and, through a window, pictures of the ISS and of planet Earth below. (Look them up at ISS Fan Club and AMSAT)

On Saturday, April 4, Darin, VE3OIJ, had activated the VE3JW station and prepared to make a contact with Dr Simonyi in space during the 1:30 p.m. pass over Ottawa. He informed the many visitors to the station on what was coming up, heightening interest considerably.

Many earth stations were calling and getting acknowledged by Charles. Darin attempted a call using the Museum's callsign VE3JW and everyone jumped when NA1SS answered him. A brief contact, but nevertheless, a completed one, good for a special ISS confirmation card.



Charles aboard ISS, Mar 2009, via SSTV

On the following pass, at 3:00 p.m, I wanted to try to demonstrate once more, to a different group of visitors, a genuine ISS contact. Again, many callers kept the space tourist very busy. Charles, by the way, is the holder of U.S callsign KE7KDP, and Hungarian callsign HA5SIK.

When a break occurred, I tried to pique Charles' interest by announcing "Museum of Science in Ottawa VE3JW". He immediately caught on and came back with "Museum of Science, please go ahead". I explained to him that I was demonstrating Amateur Radio to a group of visitors. He came back with his personal greetings to everyone and said that Amateur Radio is a great way to experience science. I thanked him for spending some time with us which was much appreciated by everyone. He signed off, saluting all of us at the Museum.

We had waited 6 years to get a school contact at VE3JW which we completed in 2007. In the meantime, and since, we have had many brief contacts with different crews on board the ISS, but none as intense and personal to listeners attending this impromptu ISS contact.

Thanks to the OVMRC, thanks to the volunteers from the clubs in this region, thanks to the Museum of Science and Technology, we have the facilities, the capability, the availability of a state-of-the-art installation to allow experiencing and training in any band any mode, including a free Satellite Communications course.

Come join us and make use of YOUR Amateur Radio station. Hey! It's all free!

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG Amateur Radio Exhibit Group, VE3JW Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. Canada Science and Technology Museum

