



SOME HISTORY ABOUT OUR REPEATER - VE3TWO, 147.300 MHz (+) and 444.200 MHz (+)

by Larry Wilcox VE3WEH
Historical Chair

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 Amateur Radio season! I hope all of you have had a good summer in spite of the cool weather and so much rain. Hopefully, this hasn't dampened your interest to attend our first meeting on September 24, 2009. I hope to see many of our members there and I'm sure our new Executive will do an excellent job providing leadership and many interesting meetings for you to attend.

I've been asked by our Executive to provide the history of our repeater, which was one of the subjects discussed at our last Executive Meeting. What follows is a bit of a revision and rewrite of a past article that appeared in our Rambler some time ago.

The draft OVMRC History dated 1977, notes the members voted to purchase and maintain a 2M repeater. In May, the Club Repeater was licensed as VE3TWO and by November, it was temporarily on the air.

During the Executive meeting held on 20 Dec., 1978, Mike Shacklock VE3LAR made a suggestion to move the repeater to The Highlands, 525 St. Laurent Blvd and this would be reviewed by the Executive at a later time. Hugh VE3DWL, donated a rack for the new repeater site in May 1979 and incidentally, these minutes also note that, VE3GOS has the club outhouse, a tower and guys in preparation for Field Day. Nothing further appears in the records until 27 Sept 1979 when VE3LAR advised that the new repeater construction was progressing well with VE3FSN having two of the three PCBs etched and drilled and a work party to install the repeater would be requested.

George Morgan VE3JQW, informed the Executive on 22 Nov. 1979 the paperwork involved to install VE3TWO in the Sir William Logan Bldg, 580 Booth Street was underway. On 29th day of November, 1979, an Agreement was signed by George and Mike Shacklock, Vice-President OVMRC and the Department of Public Works Canada for the installation of the station. There seems to have been a delay. The Executive, in Jan 1980, wanted to send a letter to companies which had supplied assistance, advising why the repeater was not operational yet. Russ VE3FSN, also wanted to ensure all bugs were out before the move was made and George noted the antenna would be erected next weekend if administrative details between DPW and EMR could be worked out.

March 1980 Executive minutes make note that Russ VE3FSN said the repeater is working like a charm. The 23 May minutes note the Technical Advisor stated the lightning arrester has been purchased and the repeater raising is scheduled for Sat. 31 May, 1980.

During the 25 Sept 1980 executive meeting, Russ VE3FSN, said there was a problem with the repeater being de-sensed and he was trying to borrow some cavities to see if they would help, and he was also working on a power fluctuation problem. There was a discussion about selling the back-up repeater at the Museum station. Russ reported to the Executive at the October meeting the problems with

the repeater were solved. However, at the 27 Nov. meeting, he said the repeater still needed cavities. In Jan 1981, Ray VE3FN, suggested trading the old repeater for a beam. During the March meeting, the executive decided to sell the old repeater at auction for \$300.

The 26 Nov. 1981 minutes note that a letter was required to Energy, Mines and Resources regarding a 70cm metre repeater to be co-located with VE3TWO in the Sir William Logan Bldg, 580 Booth Street. Paging interference was discussed, some improvement in paging operator cooperation, with DOC follow up action resulted in marginal improvement. Technical Advisor Dave VE3KLX in the Dec., 1981 Rambler stated DOC had finally been convinced of the excessive level of spurious emissions from the paging system that caused havoc in the operation of VE3TWO. Some improvement has been noticed and the subject of a suitable cavity is being investigated.

In the January 1992 Rambler, Dave reminded members at the general meeting that code practice sessions were being broadcast on VE3TWO and the schedule was published in the Rambler.

VE3STP-UHF LINK The October 28, 1982 minutes note that Russ Pastuch, VE3FSN had sent a letter of intent to Tom regarding their installation of a UHF link at the VE3STP site to link Ottawa with Toronto. Russ discussed this with Norm VE3UE for some time and offered the BARF (Boat Anchor Radio Federation)/OVMRC system for use in the link. Russ VE3FSN, Co-President BARF, wrote in March 1982 issue of the Rambler, that BARF is an Ottawa based amateur radio club with 50 members, formed three years earlier by amateurs interested in 70 cm fm operation. They have no meetings, dues are 1 cent, have no publication but are a growing and active concern. The name of the club arose due to the type of equipment in use by the members at the time, obsolete commercial gear, full of tubes and should have been scraped long ago. BARF owns and operates a 70cm repeater on 449.100 MHz.

Russ VE3FSN wrote a lengthy description of the repeater in the March 1992 issue of the Rambler. It is too lengthy to reproduce here, but noteworthy to mention the repeater consists of a Marconi DT-65 mobile radio transmitter and receiver, a controller was in place and the transmitter was loafing along at 15 watts output, with coverage over a 20-25 mile radius, which may seem meagre, compared to other repeaters in the area but one must realize that VE3TWO was designed to be a local coverage, rag-chew repeater.

Interference with the repeater was getting worse in November 1982 and Ray VE3FN would write a letter to the Minister of Transport. Russ would be installing the 400Mhz repeater in the spring. Jan. 1983 minutes note that President Russ will be buying new batteries for the repeater and the 70cm repeater is almost ready to go, waiting for permission from EMR to go up and install it.

No pertinent information regarding the repeater appears in the minutes until Aug. 30, 1984 when it was reported that the repeater exciter was being worked on by Russ VE3FN, who would try to reactivate the repeater on Sept 4, and considerations of 20 Amp supply to allow a boost in output power to 50 watts and consider purchasing a squirrel cage fan to cool the repeater during heavy duty cycle Code practice use. The club was deeply involved with the RSO Convention at this point and no mention is made of the



OVMRC Executive 2009-2010

President:

[Michel Barbeau](mailto:Michel.Barbeau@sympatico.ca), VE3MB
Mailto:michel.barbeau@sympatico.ca,

Vice-President:

[Beth Webster](mailto:cemwebster@canada.com), VA3CEW
Mailto:cemwebster@canada.com, 613-862-6160

Treasurer:

[Robert Plante](mailto:plantrj@rogers.com), VA3SHO
plantrj@rogers.com, 613-231-6044

Assistant Treasurer:

[Arthur Smith](mailto:Arthur.smith@rogers.com), VA3BIT
Arthur.smith@rogers.com, 613-795-1154

Secretary:

[Joe Lemieux](mailto:ve3eus@rac.ca), VE3EUS
ve3eus@rac.ca, 613-745-5074

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit:

[Maurice-André Vigneault](mailto:vig@mondenet.com), VE3VIG
vig@mondenet.com, 613-749-9010

Amateur Radio Training & Accredited Examiner:

[Ernie Jury](mailto:es282@freenet.carleton.ca), VE3EJJ
es282@freenet.carleton.ca, 613-728-3666

Historical:

[Larry Wilcox](mailto:larrywilcox@rogers.com), VE3WEH
larrywilcox@rogers.com, 613-747-5565

Membership:

[Chris Wiesner](mailto:ve3cuz@gmail.com), VE3CUZ
ve3cuz@gmail.com, 613-837-2997

Publicity & Programs:

[Peter Noel](mailto:ve3dnp@rac.ca), VE3DPN
ve3dnp@rac.ca,

Radio Operations:

Vacant

Technical:

[Cam Milne](mailto:cmilne@nortel.com), VA3FO
cmilne@nortel.com, 613-763-8068

Emergency Preparedness:

Vacant

Special Events

Vacant

Newsletter:

[Chris Wiesner](mailto:ve3cuz@gmail.com), VE3CUZ
ve3cuz@gmail.com, 613-837-2997

Webmaster:

[Chris Wiesner](mailto:ve3cuz@gmail.com), VE3CUZ
ve3cuz@gmail.com, 613-837-2997

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.

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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

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:

ve3cuz@gmail.com.

Continued from page: 1

repeater until the Jan 26, 1985 Executive meeting, it was reported the repeater is in good condition and operating on a full 30 watts. The new power supply is also most ready for installation and establishment of a club repeater committee was discussed.

Sept. 1985, President, Bob VE3KLLK expressed concern about the sound of the repeater. Kathy VE3OWY said Russ VE3FSN had repaired the board and she would go to the site to replace the board. Formation of a Repeater Group was considered again. Russ had great ideas and contributed a great deal but did not have time to keep the repeater functioning properly. Russ was also deeply involved with the OVMRC training course at this time.

In Nov. 1985, the President informed the Executive of a complaint that our repeater was causing interference to repeater VE2CSO following their move of their repeater location and this would be resolved in discussion with John Bertrand VE2DZY of the Quebec club. It was also decided to limit access to the repeater site by submitting a letter to the security personnel with the names of a few people authorized to have access.

In Jan. 1986, President, Bob VE3KLLK, mentioned the sound of the identifier on the repeater. Russ was aware of this and in Feb, there was a problem with the repeater going off air during the net. There are no minutes for March, May or June 1986 but the April minutes report that Russ VE3FSN, wanted to purchase a controller for the repeater. Russ provided a description of the added capabilities for the repeater including the possibility of an auto patch, muted tones for security and full backup. The price was \$500. It was noted money was available so this would be brought to the attention of the membership. During this year, the club was also quite involved with six projects at the Museum Station VE3JW.

In the June 1986, RAMBLER, OVMRC President, Bob Campbell, VE3KLLK, reports in Rumblings (no thats not a spelling mistake, but the way it was spelled!) that our repeater was well on the way to state-of-the-art status will be fully operational by the end of the summer. Russ, VE3FSN noted the new repeater controller and a touch-tone decoder had arrived and should be assembled and installed in the backup repeater over the summer. In the

Sept, 1986 issue of the RAMBLER, Russ reports the backup repeater was nearly completed, RF portions were tested and control circuitry was being tested and by mid-Sept. there should be a new voice coming from the site.

In the Nov. 1986 Rambler, Russ VE3FSN wrote a very long report. The repeater has a different twang to its voice due to the new microprocessor repeater controller that was installed. It replaced the original controller installed some eight years earlier and which gave excellent service, despite going through two fires! The new controller had more features: it would identify VE3TWO OVMRC the first time it was keyed up, had a courtesy beep, impending time out was indicated by a stream of 10 dits over your transmission and timeout would occur after three minutes of continuous transmission followed by TO, short for Time Out. This controller was installed in a 2m repeater owned by BARF and thus was really a complete change of transmitter/receiver and controller. The original equipment was to be rebuilt and reinstalled, with the BARF equipment available as a backup in case of failure of VE3TWO. Tests indicated the receiver was more sensitive. The repeater did not have any user accessible features. Russ was having problems with the design of the equipment used to charge the back-up power batteries and began to doubt their practical use due to maintenance problems. The Jan. 1987 Rambler Financial Statement 1 August - 31 December, 1986 shows the Repeater Controller cost \$215.22 (less than half of the expected \$500 suggested by Russ in Jan. 1986).

Leo Desjardins VE3NVL in the April 1989 RAMBLER wrote, The Wise Owl Net had its debut on January 23, 1980 as the result of an Executive meeting decision that a 2-metre net would be a good medium to bring club news to the local ham fraternity, especially to those who were not able to check into the Pot Hole Net. Leo noted the net was originally run on Wednesday night at 20:00 hours but due to rescheduling of the former net managers study program, the day was changed to Friday. In the early days, interest was low but the average number of check-ins grew to 18. The poor initial interest may have been due to the location of the VE3TWO repeater at VE3JW at the National Museum of Science and Technology. It was later moved to the tower of Energy, Mines and Resources (now Natural Resources Canada) at 580 Booth Street.

In Jan. 1991, the Repeater Committee, consisting of Dave VE3MKV, Russ VE3FSN and Ed VE3VLF, were giving serious consideration to using a sub-audible tone on VE3TWO Repeater to counteract the increasing inter mod appearing all over the city.

With respect to lightning protection, this issue featured a front page article by Dave Harris VE3KMV, Transient Protection - The Fundamentals and he covered the types, origin of and hazards of transient energy to Amateur radio equipment. He noted a direct lightening strike typically averaged 20,000 amperes and may run as high as 200,000 amperes giving a new meaning to the term solid state. He recommended the most effective protection is to isolate equipment from the power line and to physically pull the plugs from the wall and not to rely on switches that only switch one side of the line. Mike VE3BGP informed members attending the December 20 General Meeting that membership was unchanged at 180.

Today, Cam Milne VA3FO our Technical Chair, along with help from Mike Kelly VE3FFK and assistance from Gaetan Piette VE3IET, our liaison contact at NRCan, are all congratulated for their work in replacing the UHF 70cm radio. Cam ordered the parts and rebuilt the radio from scratch, installed it, made adjustments, tuned things up and it is in operation. Thanks Cam for all the time you have devoted to this project. Thanks go out to Mike who has traditionally assisted with the technical side of our repeater, done a lot of work over many years and is always willing to assist with any problems or repairs. Gaetan, a member of our club who works at NRCan, arranges for and acts as our Security escort to the repeater site during week days only.

Our club repeater has served us well over the years and provided very good coverage for the Ottawa area. The cost free site at 580 Booth Street has considerable advantage with its height of 21 floors along with an emergency power supply provided by the diesel generator which supplies power to the entire building in the event of failure.

In future, serious consideration will be given to modernizing the equipment and spending additional funds to replace the equipment, some components are 30 years old.

73, Larry Wilcox
Historical Chair

MINUTES — OVMRC GENERAL MEETING

June 18, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

David VE3ZZU, called the meeting to order at 19:50. There were 21 people in attendance.

2. GUESTS AND VISITING AMATEURS

Gabriel VA2DMI, Jean VE3DNI, Reg VA3REG

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Geoff VE2XYB requires crystals for any of channels 1 through 40 for a Radio Shack CB radio.

4. COMMITTEES

4.1 Amateur Radio Exhibit

Larry VE3WEH informed the audience that the chair of the amateur radio exhibit, Maurice-André VE3VIG, was currently in the Netherlands as a Canadian representative to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Face to Face Meeting scheduled for June 18-19 at the European Space Research and Technology Centre. Among other duties, Maurice-André will be giving a talk on the Canadian school experience. Maurice-André has devoted a considerable amount of time and effort to make the Canadian ARISS program a success. Well done Maurice-André!

4.2 Amateur Radio Training

Ernie VE3EJJ informed members that changes to the schedule and to other aspects of the amateur radio course that the Club offers to the public each year are being considered. As well, he reported that three members have expressed an interest in teaching some portions of that course. Any other members interested in joining the faculty should contact Ernie.

4.3 Historical

Larry VE3WEH brought to the attention of the meeting the tribute to George "Joe" Ernest Blanchett VE3BAD which appears in the June issue of the Rambler. Joe became a silent key on May 11, 2009. Many will remember the presentation that he made on Camp X at one of the Club meetings in early 2000.

4.4 Newsletter

Larry VE3WEH reminded members that they are encouraged to submit articles for the Rambler. Articles should be sent to the newsletter editor, Chris VE3CUZ.

4.5 Publicity and Programs

Michel VE2BPM informed members that Dave VE3AE, the winner of the Club show and tell held on May 21, would receive a certificate, a travel coffee mug and a \$20 coffee card.

4.6 Radio Operations

Larry VE3WEH reported that the celebration of the anniversary of the Pot-Hole Net was an unqualified success. Over five Sunday mornings during the month of May, 35 different amateur radio operators checked into the Net, which is held between 10:00 and 11:00 on 3,760 MHz. Participants will receive certificates, along with a copy of the history of the Pot-Hole Net prepared by Larry with the assistance of Ed VE3GX.

4.7 Technical

Larry VE3WEH informed members that Cameron VA3FO and Mike VE3FFK were in the process of re-installing the UHF equipment at the Club repeater VE3TWO.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Club Officers and Chairs for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010

The nominating committee, chaired by Michel VE2BPM, developed a list of candidates for all positions of officer and for most positions of chair of committees of the Club for next fiscal year 2009-2010. No position had more than one candidate. Those standing for election made brief statements before the membership.

MOTION: Moved by Michel VE2BPM and seconded by Darin VE3OIJ that the list of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee be appointed for fiscal year 2009-2010. Carried

As a result of the adoption of the above motion, the officers and chairs of the Club for 2009-2010 are as follows:

Officers

President: Michel Barbeau VE3EMB

Vice-President: Beth Webster VA3CEW

Secretary: Joe Lemieux VE3EUS

Treasurer: Robert Plante VA3SHO

Assistant Treasurer: Arthur Smith VA3BIT

Chairs

Accredited Examiner: Ernie Jury VE3EJJ

Accredited Examiner: Bob Kavanagh VE3OSZ

Amateur Radio Exhibit: Maurice-André Vigneault VE3VIG

Amateur Radio Training: Ernie Jury VE3EJJ

Historical: Larry Wilcox VE3WEH

Membership: Chris Wiesner VE3CUZ

Newsletter Editor: Chris Wiesner VE3CUZ

Newsletter Publisher: Bill Hall VE3WMH

Special Events and Field Day: Peter Noel VE3DPN

Technical: Cameron Milne VE3FO

Webmaster: Chris Wiesner VE3CUZ

There were no candidates proposed for the chair of each of Emergency Preparedness, Publicity and Programs, and Radio Operations. Anyone willing to volunteer for any of these positions should contact the Club.

5.2 Vote of Thanks to Outgoing President

On behalf of the Club, Michel VE2BPM thanked David VE3ZZU for having served as President during 2008-2009 to which members responded with a very warm round of applause.

5.3 Membership Renewals

Prior to the meeting, there was one membership renewed for the current fiscal year 2008-2009 and 13 renewed for the coming fiscal year 2009-2010.

5.4 Discounted Membership Fees

Members discussed a proposal made by Larry VE3WEH on behalf of the executive to discount membership fees for new members only who join the Club partway through the year.

MOTION: Moved by Larry VE3WEH and seconded by Arthur VA3BIT that the membership approve the reduction of membership fees to \$15.00 for new members who join the Club after January 1st. CARRIED.

5.5 Bill 118

Larry VE3WEH encouraged members who have not already done so to express their views on Bill 118 before the deadline of June 18 through the Radio Amateurs of Canada blog.

5.6 Volunteer Needed to Play Santa Claus

Larry VE3WEH informed members that the Canada Science and Technology Museum has requested that the Club identify a bilingual volunteer to play Santa Claus in December.

Since the early 1960s, children visiting the Canada Science and Technology Museum have had the opportunity to talk to Santa Claus "at the North Pole" through low-power 2-metre simplex amateur radio. Volunteers dressed as elves walk around the Museum offering children the opportunity to talk to Santa Claus on the radio. Santa is required to be available from 13:00 until 16:00 on one Saturday and one Sunday before Christmas. Children who talk to Santa receive a certificate from the Museum. Those interested in playing Santa Claus should contact Larry.

6. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club executive will be held on Thursday, June 25 at 19:00.

7. DOOR PRIZES AND DRAWS

Door prizes were won by Beth VA3CEW, Reg VA3REG and Gord VE3XGD. The 50/50 draw (\$11.00) was won by Geoff VE2XYB who graciously donated his prize to the Club. Thank you Geoff.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:15 at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio.

9. SIGNED

Joe VE3EUS, Secretary

NEXT MEETING

24th Sep 19:30 Hrs. CSTM

Darin Cowan (VE3OIJ), Digital modes

OVMRC NET CONTROLLERS NEEDED

We do not have enough Net Controllers for this season. Here is your chance to learn how to control a net and enjoy yourself in the process! We will provide the necessary information and help you with your first few times as a Net Controller if you'd like assistance. Don't be shy, you could be a very good Net Controller and enjoy it very much!

Currently, we do not have Net Controllers for any of the following nets:

1. Wednesday Night, 7.00 - 8.00 p.m. "Welcome Mat Net" - VE3TWO, 147.300 (+), do we have any of last years Amateur Radio graduates interested?
2. Friday Night, 8.00 - 9.00 p.m., "Wise Owl Net" - a very laid back, relaxing end of the work week net, perfect for a casual, relaxing evening net.
3. Sunday Morning, 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. "Pot Hole Net" - on 3.760 MHz, get on HF and meet local and some distant stations.

Do we have any Net Controllers out there that would like to volunteer, even occasionally? If so please contact any of our Executive to let them know. We also need a Radio Operations Chairperson, so let us hear from you!

73

Larry Wilcox VE3WEH
Historical Chair

RAC Bulletin 2009-025E - ExHAMiner ©, new release

2009-07-19

An Advanced question bank has been added to the complement of files available for use with ExHAMiner ©, RAC's amateur radio (free!) exam simulation software.

As with the Basic qualification, explanations have been added to the bank and partial exams on specific chapters are possible.

Concurrently, a new version of the program has been released. Major changes include control over the default font, a resizable window and an optional simplified layout for blind users relying on screen reading software.

See the ReadMe file which ships with the program for details.

A full description of the program appeared in the March/April 2007 issue of The Canadian Amateur (TCA, p. 63).

The download address has changed:

www.rac.ca/en/amateur-radio/beginner-info/examiner/

Also on that page, you'll find a selection of diagrams that got lost when RIC-3 replaced the previous RIC-24.

Bob Cooke VE3BDB
President, Radio Amateurs of Canada

Help Requested - ACORN Net

2009-09-08

The Army Cadet League of Ontario is investigating the establishment of a Royal Canadian Army Cadet radio network based on Amateur Radio technology. Dubbed 'ACORN', for 'Army Cadet Ontario Radio Network', the aim is to support optional training and certification of Army Cadets as licenced Amateur Radio operators throughout Ontario.

Possible pilot sites for this initiative include Dryden, Thunder Bay, Timmins, North Bay, Stratford or London, Oakville, Cobourg, 709 Communications Unit at Fort York in Toronto and 2332 Communications Unit in Ottawa.

Radio Amateurs of Canada has been asked to facilitate this project by identifying Radio Amateurs who live in the pilot areas and have the interest, time and qualifications to mentor and provide instruction to young would-be hams, as well as to assist in setting up and managing Amateur Radio stations. Any interested Radio Amateur residing in a pilot area is asked to contact Rod Hardman, VE3RHF, email address rod.hardman@gmail.com. Military experience would be helpful but is not a requirement.

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

**If you haven't already,
please complete the
membership form on
the back of this
Rambler
and bring it along to
our next meeting.**

OVMRC AMATEUR RADIO COURSE

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club offers an amateur radio course each year for those wishing to acquire a government qualification to operate an amateur radio station.

Objectives:

The course will enable students to pass the theory examinations for radio amateurs as prescribed by Industry Canada. Some students may also be able to pass the Advanced level qualification. The objective of the course is to teach a basic understanding of the principles of radio communication as a basis for further individual study of the science. Those wishing to learn the Morse code may do so during three week-ends of intensive instruction (and additional daily personal practice).

Course length:

The course length is 20 weeks, one evening per week, including the Industry Canada examination. (Tuesday evenings 19:00 to 22:00).

Course content:

The course provides instruction on electrical and radio theory, radio regulations, and practical sessions. The course covers the complete syllabus prescribed by Industry Canada for the Basic Qualification. No technical background is required to take this course, but those having a technical or engineering background will enjoy the course. The course begins with an understanding of the fundamentals of electrical charge and magnetism. It develops and builds on these concepts to ultimately bring about an appreciation of the nature and properties of high frequency electrical currents and how to use them for radio communication. Amateur radio use of the internet will be discussed. As stated, the objective of the course is to develop a basic understanding of the science of radio rather than to memorize the necessary answers to pass the Industry Canada examination. The course also develops knowledge of the practical aspects of assembling and operating an amateur radio station. There should be opportunity for practical operating experience at an amateur radio station during the course. The final area of study is the regulations governing the operation of amateur radio stations. A thorough knowledge of these regulations, which are published in Radio Information Circulars (RIC) by the Department of Industry, is mandatory.

Instruction:

The course is team taught by people who are active radio amateurs and experienced teachers. The course uses an instruction manual written specifically for this course by Doug Carswell, VE3ATY. It is supplemented by special notes pertaining to specific subjects.

Course Fees:

The instructors give their time without remuneration. The course fee is \$300, which covers the cost of the manual and other printed material handed out. For those participating in a Saturday construction project there would be an additional cost of about \$25 for kit parts. The intensive Morse code instruction is included in the \$300 course fee for those taking the course.

For others wanting to take the Morse code instruction only the fee is \$100. The intensive Morse code classes will be held on the week-ends of October 17 and 18, November 21 and 22, December 5 and 6, from 09:00 to 17:00.

Successful course candidates will receive a year's membership to Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), and to the OVMRC to the end of the following June.

Those achieving a 12 wpm level of competence in the Morse code instruction will have the opportunity to purchase a low power, single band, Morse code transceiver kit for \$50.00.

Who Should Attend:

- Students may be of any age. We have had students from 14 to 70 in age.
- Women typically number 1-3 per year. In 1997, 5 women comprised a class of 12 students.
- Students can have virtually any background.
- Ocean sailors find this course very useful. Once beyond sight of land HF radio is about the only means of communication from a small vessel.
- Retired people find Amateur Radio an interesting retirement hobby.

The course is demanding of time, requiring one evening plus home study time each week as well as daily practice sessions if Morse code skill is being acquired. Anyone following full time studies should consider carefully whether taking this course will impinge adversely on success in their other studies.

Registration:

Course and intensive Morse code training registrations will be at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. Ottawa, at 19:00 on 22 September, 2009.

Please note: We can accept personal cheques or cash but cannot handle credit cards.

For further information contact:

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, ve3ejj@rac.ca
Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, ve3suy@gmail.com



Angelo is alive and well and with new callsign

Some will recall the article in the Rambler telling about how an Italian visitor to the VE3JW station successfully obtained his Canadian Amateur Radio Certificate and was granted callsign VA3ITY (letters picked for Italy).

I received an email from Angelo in Modena (Ferrari plant) telling me that he obtained his Italian Amateur Radio Certificate with callsign "IZ4RCH".

Many club members have met Angelo as he participated in the Christmas meeting and celebration this past December (2008). I had a contact with Angelo during Field Day 2009 while he was using his Canadian callsign I4/VA3ITY. There is a possibility that he will visit Ottawa in the latter part of the year.

So, congratulations go out to Angelo for his new privilege. Give a listen on the band for Angelo and see if you can log his first Canadian contact with his new callsign.

See you all at the September meeting,

Maurice-André, VE3VIG

ARISS-I ESA-ESTEC 2009

HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT and AMATEUR RADIO ARISS-I ESA-ESTEC 2009

From Greek mythology to the Renaissance, the age-old dream of man for flying was a long time in developing through the evolution of mankind. With the observations and the extension of ideas from people such as Kepler, Galileo and Copernicus, the scientific work of Newton and his universal law of gravitation, Jules Verne's adventure fiction based on scientific facts, and, a century ago, the mathematical equations of Konstantin Tsiolkovski for rocket engines and space exploration, humanity forged ahead and is now engaged on a "Moon, Mars and beyond" program.



ARISS-International Working Group in front of the European Module Columbus at European Space Agency's ESTEC facilities



European Space Agency's ESTEC facilities

I just came back from a face-to-face conference at the European Space Agency in the Netherlands in my newly appointed role as AMSAT Canadian delegate on the ARISS-International Working Group. The conference ran from 17 to 19 June 2009.

ARISS is an Educational Outreach program whose main objective is to incite youths toward a career in science, technology, engineering, in order to create a revitalized base of future scientists for the ongoing Human Spaceflight program. We're thinking here about jobs at NASA, CSA and other space agencies, including jobs at contractors for these agencies.

ARISS is primarily funded by the various national Amateur Radio organizations and the multiple AMSAT organizations around the world. Support is also provided by the space agencies participating in the program: NASA (USA), CSA (Canada), RSA (Russia), JAXA (Japan), and the ESA which includes many European countries.

The ARISS Working Group has several committees to overlook the different aspects of Amateur Radio on board the International Space Station. Let's mention a couple. The School Selection and the Operations committees deal mainly with the orderly conduct of School contacts with astronauts/cosmo-

nauts on ISS. The Technical committees deal with the selection or fabrication, testing, evaluation for space and certification, of hardware, cables and antennas.

The yearly conference, this year in The Netherlands (last year at the Russian Space Agency affiliate Energia near Moscow), includes reports on ARISS activities from countries involved in the program, and discussions on hardware and future projects.

ARISS ACTIVITIES

This time around, I was the only Canadian attending the conference. In my presentation of the Canadian Activities Report, I underlined the excellent promotional tool we have in the VE3JW Amateur Radio Exhibit station located at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. It allows us to meet with School Directors and Staff, Teachers, Youths and Parents, and to demonstrate direct contacts with astronauts on the International Space Station.

I also presented future ARISS projects for the station. These include a mock-up of the ISS Amateur Radio area, a live Amateur Radio Television facility (ATV), and the possibility of using VE3JW for ARISS telebridge contacts.

I highlighted the important contribution from our Canadian Operations Team led by Steve McFarlane, VE3TBD, and our Audio Distribution Team led by Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH (also an ARISS contact mentor). 40% of the ARISS contacts

done in Canada so far were from the Ottawa Capital region but we are reaching out to the East and West Coasts and to the Far North. To this date, Kuujuaq in Northern Quebec was the latest Canadian contact on July 1st, 2009, just yesterday.

I then presented Daniel's Report. Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, is the RAC delegate on the ARISS International Working Group. He is also on the School Selection Committee, vetting all request forms for ARISS contacts in Region 2, except for the US of A. His report included the total number of contacts conducted for Canada since the inception of Amateur Radio on the ISS, the number of accepted requests waiting for a date, and two astronaut's pick from Robert Thirsk.

This being my first conference, I did not know what to expect. I built up my presentation searching the reports of previous conferences and I was on the hot seat as the second presenter, just after the European Report, on the first day. No time to adjust anything. Nevertheless, my presentation was well received by the Group. This was confirmed by NASA Education Program Manager who told me that he was impressed by the amount of work that we have accomplished and that he would mention it to the CSA Education Program Office.

Items of concern to participants were brought up as each country tabled its report. Reciprocal agreements, especially in Europe, for unlicensed participants during an ARISS contact were obtained for Belgium, Portugal and Italy. Applications for new telebridge sites in Italy, Portugal and Canada will be sent to Dave Taylor, ARISS-US School Scheduler. After all activities reports were covered, the Working Group attended to the meat and potatoes items on the agenda.

ARISS PROJECTS

Operations Committee noted that with the increase of astronauts on board the ISS we can expect many more contacts in the near future.

Technical and Hardware Committees reported that subsequent to various tests with the D-Star system (digital voice) it was deemed not feasible at this time to carry more work on this suggestion until such technical and operating glitches are worked out, mainly the lost of signal due to the Doppler effect.



Experimental Software Defined Transceiver (SDX)

New equipment for the Columbus module and configuration of existing equipment on the ISS was discussed. As a temporary measure and for immediate accessibility it was considered to use the available Ericsson handhelds, VHF and UHF. Two Kenwood TM-D700 are on board but one is without a faceplate. We could eventually put them both in operation. A Yaesu FT-817nd is available and will be put into service rather than the FT-100D, which exceeds the NASA power limit. Work on a power supply for the Kenwood VC-H1 (SSTV) and the procurement of a dedicated computer is ongoing. NASA requires all computers on board to be identical.

Considerable time was spent discussing the SuitSat-2 project. Another cosmonaut suit is available and it is being readied for launch in 2010. If you were involved in the SuitSat-1 project, you know how much interest it raised amongst the Amateur Radio community, and youths and schools all over the world.

This one will be quite different in that it will carry a repeater, a data transmitter, and will be used to test, for the first time in space, the new SDR (SDX Software Defined Transceiver) planned for future satellites.

(A new structure to replace the spacesuit is now considered)

There will also be a contest, the purpose of which will be to copy as many of the call signs sent in Morse code. Each ARISS delegate was asked to submit the names and call signs of those that were predominantly involved in ARISS and AMSAT activities and deserving of the honour.

CONCLUSION

Thanks to our Working Group Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, and to the European Space Agency for making our stay in The Netherlands very enjoyable. We had a chance to visit the ESA's technical research and testing facilities and the excellent "Space Expo" museum. We were able to walk into the Columbus Space Module full size exhibit and identify the location of future Amateur Radio equipment. Meeting with the Group's highly knowledgeable participants from different areas of the world was very enriching to me.

Now, back to our title for this article. At AMSAT, we have a committee called 'Human Spaceflight'. Will Marchant, KC6ROL, is V-P of this committee. I had a chance to talk with Will and the many other participants in the Group. All totally involved and absorbed by the interesting challenges presented by man in space. But each one had a very down to earth conception of their duties and priorities. Kenneth, who has a son and a daughter, showed me a picture of them with a top inscription: "The reason I live, love, work and sweat for". Francesco has a son and two daughters of which he talks very lovingly indicating that they are his priority in life. Sergey showed concern about his son's new driver's qualification in Moscow. I am sure these youths will all be given enough human "space" to allow them to take flight.

Maurice-Andre Vigneault, ve3vig
AMSAT Canadian Delegate
ARISS International Working Group

For a look at all reports, consult AMSAT Archives at amsat.org

Picture credits:

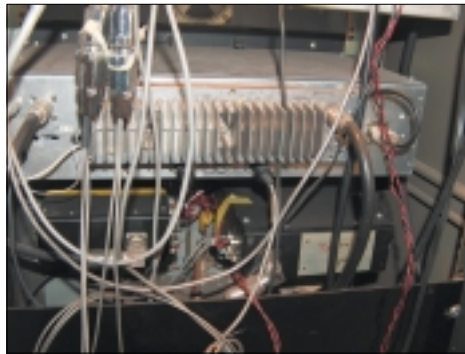
ESTEC Centre – Paolo Pitacco, IW3QBN

Group picture – Mark Steiner, K3MS

SDX picture – Fabiano Moser, CT/PY5RX



Front of VE3TWO.



Back of VE3TWO.



Our antenna.

Our VE3TWO Repeater

Some people don't realize what constitutes a repeater, how large it is and how many pieces there are to make up a repeater, etc. These photos will give some idea of VE3TWO. The photos show most of the front of the repeater cabinet with the door open and a shot of the rear. Most "repeaters" consist of several modules mounted in a 19.5 inch cabinet with locking doors front and back, which provide access to a power supply, repeater controller, the 2m RX & TX, 70cm RX & TX, intermod filters, (our Sinclair "cans" can be seen at the bottom of the front photo) not to mention coax and antennas. The 70cm module containing the Receiver and Transmitter has been removed in the front photo.

Our antenna is the short one in the middle of this photo. It is mounted on top of the building and the repeater is inside this building which also houses the elevator equipment, motors, etc.

Photos courtesy of: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

The 2009 Edition of the OVMRC Show n Tell Mobile Radio Display

The club meeting of May 21st was dedicated to the annual Show n Tell Mobile Radio Display evening. Amateurs brought and presented their mobile equipment to the other members of the club. It was a beautiful perfect weather evening. It was with no doubt one of the most enjoyable meeting of the year. We had on display a total of seven installations presented by David (VA3AE), Darin (VE3OIJ), Doreen & Ed (VE3CGO & VE3GX), Ernie (VE3EJJ), Larry (VE3WEH), Maurice-André (VE3VIG) and Bernadette & Stan (VA3BMZ & VA3SMM). All participants had plenty of time to look at the different installations and ask questions. A judging committee was formed to choose the best display. The committee was composed of Gabriel (VA2DMI), Gordon (VE3OSM) and the author of this text. In the assessment process, the judges have taken into account the spectrum coverage of the equipment, integration of home made items and overall quality of the mobile installation. After a careful review of all installations, the members were unanimous for selecting VA3AE as this year's winner.

David has a very nice setup with HF, VHF and UHF communications capability installed in Suzuki SUV. The main piece of

equipment is an ICOM IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF all mode transceiver. A front panel connected to his radio is mounted in the dashboard of his car and integrated with the car sound system. He can't be missed on the road because of the Hi-Q HF mobile antenna mounted on the back of his car. Dave has also APRS capability based on a FC-301/D, a 2-meter 5-watt FM transceiver, and a Tracker2 TNC, both from Argent Data Systems. His installation required a lot of integration work. Homemade items include a box in the back of the truck containing radios, an antenna-mounting bracket at the back of the vehicle and an egg-beater mounted on the top of the antenna. We have included a few pictures from Dave's gallery of [photographs](http://www.flickr.com/photos/va3ae) (www.flickr.com/photos/va3ae).

Congratulations to Dave!

Another highlight of the evening was the D-Star digital radio equipment demonstrated by Maurice-André and Alan (VA3STL).

Michel Barbeau, VE3EMB
Publicity and Programs Chair

Upcoming Meetings:

September 24th.
Darin Cowan (VE3OIJ), Digital modes

October 22nd. Richard Brisson, Cryptographic machines and spy radios

November 19th: Alan Steel (VA3STL), Amateur radio electronics projects

December 17th: Christmas party

RAC Bulletin 2009-027E Decision Expected Soon on Ontario Cell Phone Issue - Bill 118.

A decision by Ontario's Ministry of Transportation in regards to exemptions to Bill 118 (the Bill to limit cell phone use by drivers in moving vehicles) is expected to be announced at any time.

All Ontario Radio Amateurs who are concerned about the possibility that Bill 118 might curtail the operation of two-way radio equipment while driving a vehicle in Ontario are encouraged to contact their local MPP and Transport Minister Jim Bradley. For the latest information on Bill

118 please visit the RAC Blog site at:

www.racblog.wordpress.com.

Peter West, VE3HG
Vice President Public Relations
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

- *The Membership year starts in September and runs to August of the following year.*
- *Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.*
- *Associate membership is open to all radio enthusiasts.*
- *One form per member.*

RENEWAL NEW CHANGE OVMRC NAME TAG (COST \$7.00) YES NO

Call Sign	Surname	Preferred First Name
Mailing Address		Apartment Number
City	Province	Postal Code
Home Phone	Work Phone	E-mail Address
Are you a member of (RAC)Radio Amateurs of Canada Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> RAC ID: _____ Expiry Date: / /		

Date

BBN

For Office use only

- One year regular membership. \$20.00/year**
- One year associate membership. \$10.00/year**
- Mailed Rambler**
- E-mail Rambler**

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