

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club
Incorporated



Jun 2011

Edition 55

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President's Ramblings

I would like to start my monthly column by congratulating Alan VA3STL, Bill VA3WMH, Bob VA3QV, Doreen VE3CGO and Ed VE3GX. They are all recipients of a Volunteer Service Award from the Government of Ontario. The award recognizes their commitment and dedication to OVMRC and amateur radio. They will receive their award, a certificate and lapel pin, during a ceremony organized by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, June 10.

Alan VA3STL is the recipient of a 5 Year Award. Alan got his amateur radio license in 2002. Within the OVMRC, Alan served as Assistant Field Day Chair for one year, Field Day Chair for two years and guest lecturer at the training course. He has established and organized the OVMRC two-meter simplex competition for four years and authored articles for the Rambler. He is the writer of a blog on amateur radio for nearly three years. Alan gave talks at the OVMRC and at other amateur radio clubs. Alan is involved with the Ottawa Amateur Radio Digital Group and runs their Saturday morning net. Alan helped establish the Carleton University Amateur Radio Club. He helped several students get their amateur radio license. Check out Alan's blog at va3stl.wordpress.com.



Alan VA3STL operating at VA3CUA, the station of the Carleton University Amateur Radio Club.

Bill VA3WMH receives a 10 Year Award. Bill has been involved in the production of the club's newsletter since September 1999. He played various roles such as editor, distributor and publisher.

Bob VA3QV is awarded a 5 Year Award. Bob has his amateur radio license since 1991. Bob served as OVMRC president during 2005-2006. He has been the Special Events Chair for 2010-2011. Bob is also involved in various other amateur radio activities such as the National Traffic System (NTS). Go to va3qv.wordpress.com to read Bob's amateur radio blog.

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Meeting Date

Club Meetings:

June 16th

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OVMRC Executive 2009-2010

President:

Michel Barbeau, VE3EMB

Michel.barbeau@sympatico.ca

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Standing Committee Chairpersons

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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 support of our activities:

- **Acceptable Storage**, Ottawa, ON
- **Bytown Marine**, Ottawa, ON
- **Elkel Ltee.**, Trois-Rivières, QC
- **Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc.**, Mississauga, ON
- **Travel-Mor Trailer Sales**, Ottawa, ON

The club's web site is hosted by:

Magma Communications Ltd.

www.ovmrc.on.ca

OVMRC Life Members

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

Ed Morgan, VE3GX

Bill Wilson, VE3NR (SK)

OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 MHz(+)

444.200 MHz(+)

Amateur Radio Exhibit

VE3JW

Web site:

ovmrc.on.ca/ve3jw.htm

Canada Science & Technology
Museum

The Rambler is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated 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, its officers or its 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:

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robert_cherry@hotmail.com

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www.ovmrc.on.ca

**Visit the OVMRC Store
at**

<http://www.cafepress.ca/ovmrc>

MINUTES GENERAL MEETING

May 19, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held in the main parking lot of the Canada Science and Technology Museum. There were more than two dozen people in attendance.

2. PROGRAM

2.1 Mobile and Portable Radio Show and Tell

Despite the miserable weather throughout the day, the Club was treated to a pleasant break on Thursday at 19:00 for the annual Mobile and Portable Show and Tell. Everyone in attendance was treated to a look at some very interesting installations and operating ideas.

All participants had their show and tell evaluated by this year's three judges: Darin VE3OIJ, Gordon VE3XGD and Martin VA3SIE. Prizes were awarded in the following categories for this event:

Mobile Category: The installation and equipment was intended for use while driving or moving around.

Portable Category: The installation and equipment was intended for use in a fixed manner, but portable to the operator's usual base of operations. Within this category were sub categories of Basic and Advanced. This year, we saw some very interesting equipment.

a) Mobile Category

Jacques VA3TQX brought mobile direction finding gear. This consisted of a roof-mounted phased antenna array for 2 metres and a Doppler system. This allows the user to drive around and see an

indicator to the direction of a signal displayed in real time. The equipment itself has a long history within the Club. It was well used in the bunny-hunting days of the 1990's. Jacques also showed an HF antenna built out of a whip and a bucket-based loading coil.

Frank VE3YY showed his mobile setup. This is an all-band, all-mode construction that includes 220 MHz. Convenient layout of equipment and access to fuses made his vehicle into an effective mobile communications station.

Peter VE3XEM showed his mobile setup. This is also an all-band, all-mode construction with continuous APRS. The APRS equipment can turn the radio on when it needs to send a beacon, even if the vehicle is turned off. The truck mounts a number of antennas for the various bands, on pretty much every potential mount point.

b) Basic Portable Category

In the Basic Portable Category, we were looking for simple and man-portable. There were two entries in this category. Bob VA3QV demonstrated his mobile QRP HF station. This is based around a Yaesu FT-817, with various antennas and battery power. It fits into a camera bag and weighs about 9 pounds, all-in. Bob demonstrated a 17-metre contact during the evaluation.

James VE3MYZ demonstrated a solar power pack that can charge batteries and run a hand-held. The pack itself can link in series with other solar packs for extra power or battery charging needs. The whole power system weighs approximately one pound and would fit into a large pocket or into a small bag.

c) Advanced Portable Category

Three amateurs showed some fairly complex constructions for this category. David VE3KL demonstrated a number of HF antennas for portable use. These included a 40-metre vehicle roof-mount antenna, the calculations for which included the metal of the vehicle, allowing it to be used easily without a tuner. In addition, David showed a multi-band dipole, of home construction, mounted on a collapsible fibreglass pole, giving coverage from 6 metres to 20 metres.

Maurice-André VE3VIG showed his portable HF digital station operating on a Buddistick. This equipment has had demonstrated performance on many of Maurice-André's adventures over the last few years. This year, he showed the QRP version based on an FT-817 and using the NUE-PSK device for generating the digital signals.

Michel VE3EMB showed a portable all-HF, all-mode station based around a Flex-1500 software defined radio, and backed up with D-Star data at 128 kbps from an Icom ID-1, 1.2-GHz radio. For the demonstration, he used a long Yagi for 23 cm and an Isotron 40-metre antenna. The latter is the ultimate definition of a low-profile antenna for HF, comprising a circular arrangement of elements about the size of a modern satellite TV dish.

d) Prizes

First place in the Mobile Category was awarded to Peter VE3XEM and second place was awarded to Frank VE3YY. First place in the Basic Portable Category was awarded to James VE3MYZ and second place was awarded to Bob

VA3QV. First place in the Advanced Portable Category was awarded to Michel VE3EMB and second place was awarded to David VE3KL. Prizes were solar chargers, something that I am sure will be useful to everyone!

Thanks to all who participated in this event. It was an excellent exhibition, especially for the attendees who are new radio amateurs. It was a pleasure to get to talk to everyone and learn about the kinds of projects that people are doing.

3. BUSINESS

a) Nomination Committee

Glenn VE3XRA, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, reminded members that the elections for Club Executive would be held at the General Meeting of June 16, 2011.

He urged all members to consider offering their services to the Club, particularly for the position of President, Treasurer or Secretary. Recent graduates of the amateur radio course should consider becoming Executives at Large.

In connection with the elections, members are also encouraged to review the by-laws of the Club that are published in the Forum on the Club website.

4. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club executive will be held on Thursday, June 2 at 19:00.

The next general meeting of the Club will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 19:30. All meetings take place at the Canada Science and Technology Museum, 1867 St Laurent Boulevard, Ottawa,

Ontario. All local or out of town radio enthusiasts are welcome to attend.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Darkness and a few small mosquitoes having appeared, the meeting was adjourned at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio.

6. SIGNED

Darin VE3OIJ
Vice President



Elections: OVMRC Executive 2011-12

Elections for the OVMRC Executive will take place at the Annual General Meeting, 16 June 2011. All positions are open for election. As members we all appreciate the work the executive members do on our behalf to ensure that we are able to participate in the many interesting activities that take place each year. It is important for the club that all positions are filled – please consider helping out where you can. Don't hesitate to express an interest in a position where someone else has also expressed an interest. In many cases members have agreed to help out in one position and would be quite willing to do another.

Despite the efforts of the Nominating Committee there are no candidates for several of the executive positions at present. Hopefully this will change before or during the June meeting. The following members have expressed

a willingness to serve on the executive:

- President: -
- Vice-President: Darin Cowan VE3OIJ
- Treasurer: Joe Lemieux VE3EUS
- Assistant Treasurer: -
- Secretary: -
- Amateur Radio Exhibit: Darin Cowan VE3OIJ
- Amateur Radio Training: Ernie Jury VE3EJJ
- Historical: Ante Laurijssen VA2BBW
- Membership: Joe Lemieux VE3EUS
- Publicity & Programs: -
- Radio Operations: Patrick Tunney VA3CMD
- Special Events (includes Annual Field Day Event): -
- Technical: Mathieu Goulet VA3ECM
- Newsletter Publisher: Bill Hall VA3WMH
- Newsletter Editor: Robert Cherry VE2AGE
- Emergency Preparedness/Communications Trailer: Paul Labbé VE3NJS VE2AJS
- Webmaster: Chris Wiesner VA3SM
- General Meeting Chair: Beth Webster VA3CEW

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Bob VA3QV operating his portable HF QRP station.

Doreen VE3CGO is the receiver of a 40 Year Award. Doreen got her amateur radio license in Fredericton NB. Her call sign was VE1ABT. She moved to Ottawa in 1957 and was assigned call sign VE3CGO. She became a charter member of the OVMRC that same year. In 1959 she began the Monitoring Service for the OVMRC, from home daily on 3760 KHz and the VE2CRA two-meter repeater, to provide phone patch emergency and general communications for local and province wide radio amateurs for a period of 17 continuous years. She participated in all club Field Days. She served as Manager of the OVMRC Pot Hole Net for several years. She served in various club executive positions and as President during 1971-1972. She organized and purchased gifts for the Club member's Children's Christmas parties. She organized Club amateur radio communications for each checkpoint of the Miles for Millions Walks and served as the Net Control Station from home for the duration of the Walk. These walks occurred for several years. She served as the Amateur Radio Emergency coordinator for the Ottawa-Carleton area for several

years. She served as the Amateur Radio Archivist for the Quarter Century Wireless Association for four years. For a period of 31 continuous years, she served as volunteer leader, trainer and in other positions within the Girl Guides of Canada.



Doreen VE3CGO at her amateur radio station.

Ed VE3GX is awarded a 40 Year Award. Ed got his amateur radio license in 1938, in Ottawa as VE3AQM and VE3LM. During 1947-1949, he was active in Brandon Manitoba as VE4LM. During 1949-1957, he operated in Fredericton NB as VE1PF. Since 1957, he has been in Ottawa and owns the call sign VE3GX. Ed is a charter member of OVMRC since 1957. Ed is responsible for the establishment of amateur radio station VE3JW at the Canada Science and Technology Museum. The official opening ceremony was March 19, 1974. During 1969-2005, he operated an on the air Swap Net each Monday evening on the VE2CRA repeater, as part of the Capital City FM Net, and every Sunday morning on 3760 KHz, as part of the OVMRC Pothole Net. In 1973, he started and managed the

Pot Lid Slow Speed Morse Code Net on 3620 KHz for the benefit of new radio amateurs and others wishing to improve their Morse operating ability. This net has been in continuous operation since the start date and continues to date. Ed participated in many Club Field days and emergency radio activities. He served on the executive and was President of the Club in 1967-1968.



Ed VE3GX at the amateur radio that his shares with his lovely wife.

I wish to conclude this last column of the 2010-2011 fiscal year by thanking all the people who supported the OVMRC during that period. I would like to thank in particular all the executives for their commitment and professionalism.

Michel Barbeau, VE3EMB
President
michel.barbeau@sympatico.ca

(Continued from [page 4](#))

Executives at large: -

- Senior Technical Advisor:
Maurice-André Vigneault
VE3VIG

Four of the Executive: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, make up the Directors of the Club. The present by-laws state “No Director shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same Executive Office.” It is not an accident that 2 of these 4 positions have no candidates at present. Certainly, it is good for many members to share the work of the executive over time. However, in recent years, the main problem at election time has not been limiting the opportunities of those who wanted to take on executive positions. Rather it has been the difficulty of filling positions, particularly those of the “Directors” as shown again this year. Members may want to consider whether it is in the interest of the Club to maintain this severe restriction. To change this by-law, a member would need to give notice of motion at a meeting identifying the proposed change and the motion would be considered at the next meeting.

Glenn MacDonell VE3XRA,
Nominating Committee Chair



VE3JW Volunteers Recognized

On 27 April, 2011, the Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation held its volunteer appreciation dinner. This is an annual event where the contributions of all the volunteers for each of the Science and Technology, Aviation and Space, and Agriculture museums are recognized. This year, it was held at the Aviation and Space museum for the first time as a combined event with volunteers from all three museums. This afforded many people an opportunity to see the new construction at the Aviation museum and to enjoy a slideshow about aviation history.

The Museum Corporation, in addition to providing an annual dinner, also grants recognition awards for volunteer service in the amount of 100, 300, 500, and 1000 hours. Volunteers at the Canada Science and Technology Museum have their name engraved on a plaque just inside the door of the museum at 1500 hours – that’s an entire working year of volunteer time based on a standard 7.5 hour day!

VE3JW, and with it the OVMRC are well represented at this event. A number of regular volunteers are already inscribed on the wall: Maurice-André Vigneault (VE3VIG), Ernie Jury (VE3EJJ), Mike Joyce (VE3LTN). This year, a number of VE3JW members were recognized for their ongoing contributions:



Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ (right) received a Certificate of Recognition for 2500 volunteer hours:



Darin Cowan, VE3OIJ (right) received the Locomotive pin for 500 volunteer hours:



Guy Charron, VE3VCF (second from left) and Joe Lemieux, VE3EUS (centre) received the Lighthouse pin

Also in attendance for the fine dinner were Maurice-André Vigneault (VE3VIG), Elizabeth Webster (VA3CEW), James Buck (VE3BUX), Mike Joyce

(VE3LTN), Graham Bennett (VE3GBD), Michel Barbeau (VE3EMB) and Robert Cherry (VA2AGE).

Mme Denise Amyot, President and CEO of the Museums Corporation thanked all volunteers for their efforts, and reminded everyone how much of a contribution the work of volunteers makes to all the museums. VE3JW and the OVMRC received special mention for our work at the Science Museum bringing amateur radio to the public as an active and interactive exhibit.

VE3JW is always seeking additional volunteers. If you like interacting with the people and have some spare time between 9 AM and 5 PM, any days of the week and would like to become a volunteer, contact Darin Cowan (VE3OIJ) at VE3OIJ@amsat.org. If you can't volunteer, but would like to learn about and operate some of our equipment, feel free to set up a time with one of our operators. Admission to the museum is free to licenced amateurs coming to use VE3JW.

73 de VE3OIJ
Darin



2011 Show-n-Tell

Despite the miserable weather throughout the day, the OVMRC was treated to a pleasant break on Thursday at 19h00 for the annual Mobile / Portable show and tell. Everyone in attendance was treated to a look at some very interesting installations and operation ideas. All participants had their show and tell evaluated by this year's three judges: Darin (VE3OIJ), Gordon

(VE3XGD), and Martin (VA3SIE). Prizes were awarded in three categories for this event:

Mobile - The installation and equipment was intended for use while driving/moving around
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Mobile

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Frank (VE3YY) showed his mobile setup. This is an all-band, all-mode construction that includes 220 MHz. Convenient layout of equipment and access to fuses made his vehicle into an effective mobile communications station

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1st Place was awarded to VE3XEM, 2nd Place was awarded to VE3YY.

Portable (Basic)

In the basic portable category we were looking for simple, and man-portable. There were two entries in this category.

Bob (VA3QV) demonstrated his mobile QRP HF station. This is based around a Yaesu FT-817, with various antennas and battery power. It fits into a camera bag and weighs about 9 lb, all-in. Bob demonstrated a 17m contact during the evaluation.

Jim (VE3MYZ) demonstrated a solar power pack that can charge batteries and run a hand-held. The pack itself can link in series with other solar packs for extra power or battery charging needs. The whole power system weighs approximately 1 lb and would fit in a large pocket or a small bag.

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David (VE3KL) demonstrated a number of HF antennas for portable use. These included a 40m vehicle roof-mount antenna, the calculations for which included the metal of the vehicle, allowing it to be used easily without a tuner. In addition, David showed a multi-band dipole, of home construction, mounted on a collapsible fibreglass pole, giving coverage from 6m to 20m.

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Thanks to all who participated in this event. It was an excellent exhibition, especially for the attendees who are new radio amateurs. It was a pleasure to get to talk to everyone and learn about the kinds of projects that people are doing.

73 de VE3OIJ
-Darin



North East Ontario Regional Director

Just a gentle reminder that I really need letters of support from 3rd party groups and organizations. If you help with communications for any group or are part of an emergency response procedure for your community we need a letter from them.

I am not looking for a letter asking or telling any one that we need to continue to be able to operate mobile but rather a strong statement that Amateurs are important to the operation of their event or emergency preparedness plan. We need to show the bureaucrats and technocrats that Amateurs are a vital group and provide many community services that so far has gone unnoticed. Stated simply, we need to ???get on their radar???. The letters can be addressed to either Kathleen Wynn or your individual group.

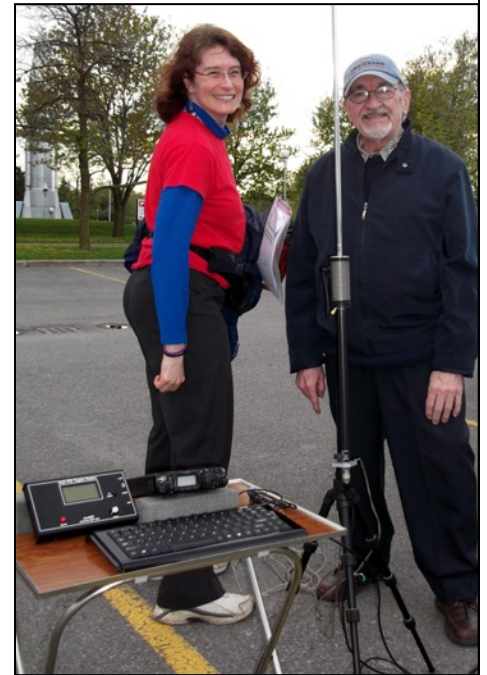
Once the legislators understand that Ontario Amateurs provide a service that fills the needs of many diverse groups and organizations across the province I believe we can change their minds. This logic has worked in other provinces and it will work here as well.

Thanks and please try to get those letters to me soon.

73

Bill Unger VE3XT
wunger@confederationc.on.ca
North/East Ontario Regional
Director Radio Amateurs of Canada

Photos from last club meeting.



Beth VA3CEW Maurice Andre VE3VIG Portable station.



Bob VA3QV



Bob's VA3QV Rig



Bob VA3QV Antenna



David VE3KL 40M vehicle roofmount antenna



Maurice Andre VE3VIG Portable Station



Michel VE3EMB 1.2Ghz and 40M Antennas



Jacques VA3TQX Willenweb

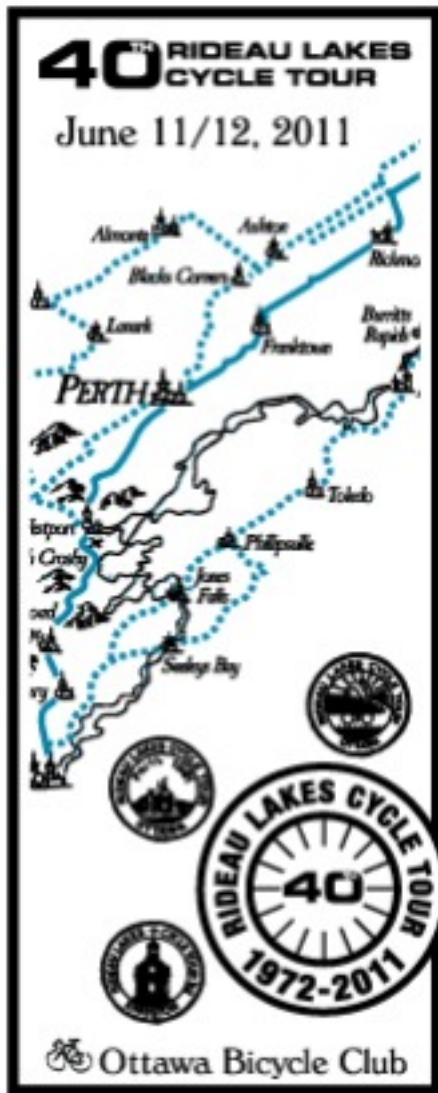


James VE3MYZ



Michel VE3EMB DSTAR and HF QRP portable station

Photos courtesy of: Michel Barbeau, VE3EMB



Here's the short and sweet about this event...

Event: Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour (Bicycle tour leaving Carleton U. On Saturday morning for Queen's University in Kingston, overnight at Queens, and returning on the Sunday)

When: June 11/12, 2011 (Saturday morning, Sunday late morning and afternoon)

Purpose: Provide radio support for the tour -- collaborative effort between Lanark ARES, Frontenac ARES, and the Ottawa EMRG/ARES groups.

Equipment: 2m mobile ops, 25 to 50W for further out stations

Ottawa Coverage area: Carleton U. to Loon Lane between Blacks Corners and Perth

Stations: A dozen fixed mobile locations spaced approx. 5 km apart, one control station, and one mobile sweep vehicle

Appreciate the support for the OVMRC membership in past years. It has really made a difference. Anyone interested in helping out on both or either days can contact Gord (VE3FRB) at ve3frb@rac.ca No experience necessary. New participants are most welcome.

73

NEXT MEETING

**16 June
19:30 Hrs**

Canada Science & Technology Museum

Elections

See You There !!!

Items for Sale

1. Yaesu FT-101ZD HF radio, Yaesu YD147 table mic -- \$300
2. Kenwood AT-200 tuner -- \$200
3. Heathkit SB-614 Station Monitor -- \$200
4. Yaesu FT-227R Mobile 2m (10W) -- \$35
5. MFJ-260 Dummy Load (300W, dry, < 650 Mhz) -- \$20
6. MFJ 407B keyer -- \$36
7. MFJ 812b meter (144/220Mhz) -- \$10 (SOLD)

Contact Darin Cowan VE3OIJ.

Rambler Article Submission Schedule:

Please submit articles for the Rambler to the editor: [Robert Cherry](mailto:Robert.Cherry@rac.ca) no later than the dates below:

August 8th

Club Meeting Dates:

June 16th

Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club,
Incorporated



P.O. Box 41145
Ottawa ON K1G 5K9

MEMBERSHIP FORM

- The membership year starts in September and runs to the end of August of the following year.*
- Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.*
- Associate membership is open to all unlicensed radio enthusiasts.*
- Membership includes an e-mail subscription to the Club newsletter, the OVMRC Rambler.*

Date: **PLEASE PRINT**

RENEWAL NEW CHANGE OVMRC NAME TAG (COST \$10.00) No Yes

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

- Full Membership (Not a Member of RAC)** \$35.00/year
- Full Membership (Member of RAC)** \$25.00/year
- Associate Membership (Unlicensed)** \$15.00/year

Amount Enclosed
\$ _____
Cheque Cash

My Interests are: VHF/UHF Phone VHF/UHF Digital VHF/UHF CW
 Satellite HF Phone HF Digital HF CW

Current Occupation:
If Retired, Former Occupation:
Skills: (Please list them all)

COMMENTS

OVMRC NAME TAG – ORDER DETAILS

First Name:

Call Sign: