

# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club  
Incorporated



Oct 2011

Edition 56

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## MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2011

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Darin VE3OIJ called the meeting to order at 19:30. There were 30 people in attendance.

### 2. GUESTS

Rob VE3SJM.

### 3. BUSINESS

#### 3.1 Election of President

Doug VE3ATY volunteered to fill the vacant position of President. There were no other nominations.

MOTION: Moved by Michel VE3EMB and seconded by Mathieu VA3ECM that Doug VE3ATY be elected President.  
CARRIED

#### 3.2 Budget

Joe VE3EUS presented the budget for fiscal year September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012. Members were particularly interested in discussing the capital expenditure proposed for the amateur radio course and the membership expenditure for the amateur radio exhibit.

MOTION: Moved by Sandy VE3HAZ and seconded by Kirk VA3DKG that the budget for the fiscal year 2011-2012 be adopted as presented.  
CARRIED

## 4. REPORTS FROM CHAIRS

### 4.1 Amateur Radio Exhibit

Darin VE3OIJ encouraged members to become volunteers at VE3JW, to interact with the public, and to experience the various equipment located there. He also invited members to visit the on-line store located on the Club website.

### 4.2 Amateur Radio Training

Ernie VE3EJJ and Bob VE3SUY talked about the additional curriculum for the amateur radio course that will start on September 27, 2011. Tuesdays will be dedicated to theory and Thursdays to more practical aspects. The course fees for unlicensed individual, which cover all theoretical and practical sessions, will be \$400. The Thursday sessions will be open to licensed individuals. The course fees for the practical sessions for licensed individuals will be \$100. Eight members indicated that they were interested in taking part in the practical sessions. Full details of the course are posted on the Club website.

### 4.3 Emergency Preparedness

Paul VE3NJS reported that the trailer had been used on a number of occasions since it was refurbished. Paul solicited advice

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## Meeting Date

### Club Meeting:

Oct 20<sup>th</sup>

from members with respect to the use of solar cells to charge the batteries located in the trailer. Some members offered to assist.

### 4.4 Membership

Guy VE3VCF informed the audience that, already, 34 members had completed membership forms for fiscal year 2011-2012.

### 4.5 Radio Operations

Ante VA2BBW informed members of the schedule for nets for the coming year. Full details of the net schedule are (Continued on [page 3](#))

## OVMRC Executive 2011-2012

### President:

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY  
[doug.carswell@rogers.com](mailto:doug.carswell@rogers.com)

### Vice-President:

Darin Cowan, VE3OIJ  
[Ve3oij@amsat.org](mailto:Ve3oij@amsat.org),

### Treasurer:

Joe Lemieux, VE3EUS  
[ve3eus@rac.ca](mailto:ve3eus@rac.ca),

### Secretary:

Guylene Rodrigue, VA3GLN  
[guylenr@yahoo.com](mailto:guylenr@yahoo.com),

## Standing Committee Chairpersons

### Amateur Radio Exhibit:

Darin Cowan, VE3OIJ  
[ve3oij@amsat.org](mailto:ve3oij@amsat.org),

### Amateur Radio Training & Accredited Examiner:

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

### Historical:

Guy Charron, VE3VCF  
[ve3vcf@yahoo.ca](mailto:ve3vcf@yahoo.ca)

### Membership:

Guy Charron, VE3VCF  
[ve3vcf@yahoo.ca](mailto:ve3vcf@yahoo.ca)

### Publicity & Programs:

Vacant

### Radio Operations:

Vacant

### Technical:

Mathieu Goulet, VA3ECM  
[va3ecm@rac.ca](mailto:va3ecm@rac.ca),

### Emergency Preparedness:

Paul Labbé, VE3NJS  
[paul.labbe@usa.net](mailto:paul.labbe@usa.net)

### Special Events:

Martin Gillen, VA3SIE  
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### Newsletter Editor:

Robert Cherry, VE2AGE  
[robert\\_cherry@hotmail.com](mailto:robert_cherry@hotmail.com)

### Webmaster:

Chris Wiesner, VA3SM  
[va3sm@rac.ca](mailto:va3sm@rac.ca),  
613-837-2667

*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](http://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](http://ovmrc.on.ca/ve3jw.htm)

Canada Science & Technology  
Museum

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*Submit articles to the editor or by e-mail to:*

*[Robert Cherry, VE2AGE](mailto:Robert.Cherry.VE2AGE)  
[robert\\_cherry@hotmail.com](mailto:robert_cherry@hotmail.com)*

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**Visit the OVMRC Store  
at**

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

(Continued from [page 1](#))

posted on the Club website.

#### 4.6 Special Events

On behalf of Martin VA3SIE, Doug VE3ATY presented information about Club sponsorship of a special event call sign commemorating the centennial of Parks Canada.

An Islands on the Air (IOTA) event will take place at 10:00 on October 15th at the Long Island lock station, North of Manotick, on the Rideau Canal. The Rideau is one of Canada's historic canals which is maintained and operated by Parks Canada. Those who wish to participate in the event should meet in the parking lot of the Long Island lock station. Participants may choose to walk or drive across to Nicholls Island. Operations from the Island will count towards the Canadian Islands on the Air event. Those interested in participating can contact Martin at [VA3SIE@gmail.com](mailto:VA3SIE@gmail.com).

#### 4.7 Technical

Mathieu VA3ECM made a detailed and illustrated presentation summarizing the current status of the Club repeater VE3TWO. He reviewed the site and the equipment installed there. He presented a number of options to upgrade the installation. Members discussed the pros and cons of various options and proposed a number of possible configurations of equipment. The full details of presentation made by Mathieu are posted on the Club website.

### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

#### 5.1 Willenweb Antenna System

Michel VE3EMB offered, to members, a Willenweb directional

antenna system that the Club had acquired. That system is extremely efficient at finding hidden transmitters. Ante VA2BBW volunteered to take it home!

#### 5.2 Mini Flea Market

The Club held a mini flea market and sold a number of pieces of equipment that had been donated. Proceeds of the mini flea market amounted to \$445.

### 6. PRIZES

Proceeds of the 50:50 ticket sales were \$42.00. The 50:50 draw (\$21.00) was won by Pat VA3LTN.

Door prizes were won by Darin VE3OIJ, Ante VA2BBW and Sandy VE3HAZ.

### 7. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club Executive will be held at 19:30 on Thursday, October 6, 2011.

The next general meeting of the Club will be held at 19:30 on Thursday, October 20, 2011. 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. All should check the Club website to confirm these dates.

### 8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00 at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio.

### 9. SIGNED

Guylène VA3GLN, Secretary.

### VE3JW Monthly Merit Award - August 2011

August was a slow month for contacts at VE3JW, but we did get our callsign out there under some decent radio conditions. It was also a very busy month for visitors to the station, and that always makes us happy at VE3JW.

#### Made by Guests & Visitors:

None. Unfortunately, we had no guest operators in August.

#### Made by regular ops:

6. Best SSB QSO (Distance): VE3VIG to RT3DX, 7160 km
7. Best CW QSO (Distance): VE3VCF to CX5BW, 9107 km
8. Best HF Digital QSO (Distance): VE3OIJ to RV6ALI, 8016 km
9. Best Satellite QSO (Distance): VE3LTN to K6YK, 3819 km

Five QSO list for August 2011: VE3VCF, VE3VIG, VE3OIJ, VE3LTN

#### Most contacts for August:

- Regular op: VE3LTN, 31
- No guest operators in August

Total QSOs at VE3JW for August 2011: 102

Volunteers hours for August 2011: This month our operators have totalled 165 hours and 25 minutes.

We had over 1000 visitors to VE3JW in August and nearly 500 stopped to ask questions and interact with the station. This is a new record since we have been recording the statistics, and

contributed greatly to the low number of radio contacts... we were just too busy showing the station to the public!

## **VE3JW MMA SEPTEMBER RESULTS**

Contacts were down at VE3JW in September, in part due to the Museum being closed for annual inventory and maintenance week. Our operators were out in force, and we had lots of interaction with the public.

To get your name in the Monthly Merit Awards, you have to operate VE3JW! Entrance to the museum is free if you are coming to VE3JW to operate. The station is manned most days, but please contact one of our operators to be sure there will be someone to open up the station. You can contact Darin (VE3OIJ) at [ve3oij@amsat.org](mailto:ve3oij@amsat.org) if you'd like to become a volunteer operator or just want to operate for a little while.

## **September Results**

### **Made by Guests & Visitors:**

1. Best Voice QSO (Distance): Rachel (with VE3VCF) to [RN6HCW](mailto:RN6HCW), 8167 km
2. Best CW QSO (Distance): VE3MKX to [K5NOW](mailto:K5NOW), 1857 km

### **Made by regular ops:**

6. Best SSB QSO (Distance): VE3VIG to [RT5A](mailto:RT5A), 7157 km
7. Best CW QSO (Distance): VE3VCF to [Z21BB](mailto:Z21BB), 12708 km
8. Best HF Digital QSO (Distance): VA3CEW to [UX2IO](mailto:UX2IO), 7787 km
9. Best Satellite QSO (Distance): VE3OIJ to [EA8/DL7TLX](mailto:EA8/DL7TLX), 5465 km

There were a lot of long QSOs this month to interesting places. VE3VCF worked Zimbabwe and Israel, there were many satellite

QSOs to Europe, and a lot of digital activity into Russia and Ukraine.

\* Five QSO list for September 2011: VE3VCF, VE3VIG, VE3OIJ, VE3EJJ, VE3HAZ, VA3CEW

\* Most contacts for September 2011:

- Guest op: Rachel, 2
- Regular op: VE3VCF, 44

\* Total QSOs at VE3JW for September 2011: 84

## **Volunteers hours for September:**

This month our operators have totalled 96 hours, 55 minutes.

Well done everyone!



## **North East Ontario Regional Directors Report**

### **October, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Regional Directors was held on October 29, 2011. Several items were discussed that may be of interest to you.

The Board of Directors has been considering the transformation of TCA into an electronic format for several months now. I think it is a good idea for many reasons. Firstly it would allow the use of hotlinks to be embedded in the articles, as I have done in this report. If you are looking for more information on a subject a quick click will let you obtain it. It would also allow full colour and there would be no limit on the size of the magazine, subject to bandwidth issues. It would also allow us to get it to you faster as compared to snail mail. And it will be lot cheaper to get it to you as we would not have printing and mail

costs. There was some concern about some Amateurs not being able to receive it electronically but I think all Amateurs are pretty tech savvy and will enjoy this new format. Let me know what you think.

Thanks to the efforts of former Honorary Legal Counsel, Steve Pengelly, VE3STV; Steve, Southern Ontario Director Jeff Stewart, VA3WXM and myself have a meeting with the Ministry of Transport Assistant Deputy Minister and his Director of Safety regarding the Distracted Driving Legislation in Ontario. We will present our case why not allowing Ontario Amateurs to use their mobiles is not good legislation. I want to thank all of you who have sent me letters from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties offering support to Amateurs in Ontario. If you want to send in a letter it is still not too late. As soon as I have any further information I will let you know.

It will come as no surprise that it takes money to keep RAC afloat. And where we get most of our revenues is from members. I would encourage you to talk to your fellow Amateurs in your club to consider joining RAC. So no one thinks we are living well on your memberships, my trip to Toronto later this month is sponsored by the Bank of Bill.

RAC is considering some new insurance options, so stay tuned for that as well.

There is a lot of special callsigns operating this month, for a complete listing go to:

<http://www.rac.ca/en/amateur-radio/regulatory/callsigns/special-event.php>

Finally and possibly most importantly remember that October 15 is the Simulated Emergency Test. It is our chance to see how we would do if the "ship hits the sand". I hope you would consider volunteering some of your time for this worthwhile endeavour. For more info go to:

<http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/public-service/ares/simulated-emergency-test/>

If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [ve3xt@rac.ca](mailto:ve3xt@rac.ca).

73

Bill VE3XT  
North East Ontario Regional  
Director  
Radio Amateurs of Canada

## **Special Event Station VA3IF**

### **November 5-11, 2011**

The Guelph Amateur Radio Club is once again setting up a special event station at the birthplace of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae House in Guelph Ontario. John McCrae was the author of the poem "In Flanders Fields". The special event station, in honour of peace and remembrance, will operate from the McCrae House Museum from November 5 to November 11. We will be operating with the call sign VA3IF on 10m, 15m, 20m, 40m and 80 m, as well as IRLP, node 2260.

Terry Maurice, VE3XTM

## **RAC Bulletin 2011-031E - RAC Insurance Program for 2012**

**2011-10-02**

\$10,000,000 Total Liability  
Coverage to continue....

Liability coverage raised to  
\$5,000,000 from \$3M/event with  
no increase in premium....

Equipment loss/damage to continue  
at no increase in rates....

Home, Car and Travel Health  
coverage coming !

The Radio Amateurs of Canada is pleased to announce that the highly popular RAC Insurance Program will be available again in 2012, and with increased coverages at no increase in rates. The Program provides several types of coverage including liability insurance for Club activities and its members, equipment loss/damage coverage for Affiliated Clubs and their RAC members, and new this year will be the availability of additional insurance coverage for a RAC member's house, car and travel health insurance, which will be of particular interest to Snowbirds. All of these coverage's are the best available in Canada and are offered at an extremely competitive rates. The RAC Insurance Program is provided as a benefit of membership for RAC Affiliated Clubs and their RAC members.

Highlights of the Program for 2012  
include:

- Liability Insurance for Affiliated  
Clubs of \$10,000,000/\$5,000,000  
per occurrence for 2012 at the  
lowest cost in Canada.

- Equipment loss/theft/damage  
coverage for only \$10/\$1000 of  
actual equipment value per year.

- RAC members of Affiliated Clubs  
in the program get liability  
coverage extended for their home  
stations at no charge.

- Liability coverage's for portable  
operation, advertising liability and  
personal injury.

- Home, Car and Travel Health  
coverage coming soon.

Complete details of the 2012 RAC  
Insurance Program and how to  
apply for or renew coverage can be  
found on the RAC website at  
[www.rac.ca/insurance2012](http://www.rac.ca/insurance2012).

For questions concerning policy  
and coverage details please contact  
Jerry Beneteau VE3EXT, the RAC  
Insurance Program Advisor, at  
[ve3ext@primus.ca](mailto:ve3ext@primus.ca)

For questions about how to apply or  
renew, please contact Linda Friars  
VE9GLF, the RAC Insurance  
Program Administrator at  
[ve9glf@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:ve9glf@nbnet.nb.ca)

Applications for 2012 are available  
on the RAC Website and must be  
received by the RAC Insurance  
Program Coordinator by November  
15<sup>th</sup> for new applicants and  
December 1st for renewals. Please  
note the new address.

The applications should be sent to :  
RAC Insurance Program  
Coordinator  
PO Box 51  
Saint John, NB E2L 3X1

Geoff Bawden, VE4BAW  
President and Chair Radio  
Amateurs of Canada

**RAC Bulletin 2011-030E -  
Simulated Emergency  
Test - SET**

**October 15, 2011**

**2011-09-18**

The simulated emergency test is a North America-wide exercise in emergency communications, administered by the ARRL and the RAC Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. Both the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS) are involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency communications capability within your community, while interacting with NTS nets. The deadline for receipt of reports at RAC HQ is January 31, 2012.

As you prepare for SET:

- Sign up all available radio amateurs in your area. It's a great recruiting tool.
- Call a meeting of all ARES members and prospective members to outline the plan.
- Contact served agencies and explain the intent and overall purpose of the SET.

- Arrange publicity in local papers and radio and TV stations.
- Set up liaison with one or more NTS local/section nets.
- Formulate your plan around a simulated disaster.

One of the first steps to a successful SET is to get as many involved as possible, especially new Hams. They might like it so much that they stick around.

Please visit the RAC website for all of the rules and guidelines and enjoy!

73

Doug Mercer VO1DM CEC  
Vice President Field Services

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**2011 - 2012  
Meeting Dates**

**Club Meeting Dates:**

October.....	20 <sup>th</sup>
November.....	17 <sup>th</sup>
December.....	15 <sup>th</sup>
January.....	19 <sup>th</sup>
February.....	16 <sup>th</sup>
March.....	15 <sup>th</sup>
April.....	26 <sup>th</sup>
May.....	17 <sup>th</sup>
June.....	21 <sup>st</sup>

**Executive Meeting Dates:**

November.....	3 <sup>rd</sup>
December.....	1 <sup>st</sup>
January.....	5 <sup>th</sup>
February.....	2 <sup>nd</sup>
March.....	1 <sup>st</sup>
April.....	5 <sup>th</sup>
May.....	10 <sup>th</sup>
June.....	7 <sup>th</sup>

*Rambler submission deadline*

Meeting date minus 13 days

Please submit articles for the Rambler to the editor:

[Robert Cherry](#)

No later than the deadline for the desired edition.

**November Rambler  
submission deadline is:**

**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> November**

## VE3TWO and VE3RVI

### Your Repeaters

147.300

444.200

53.030

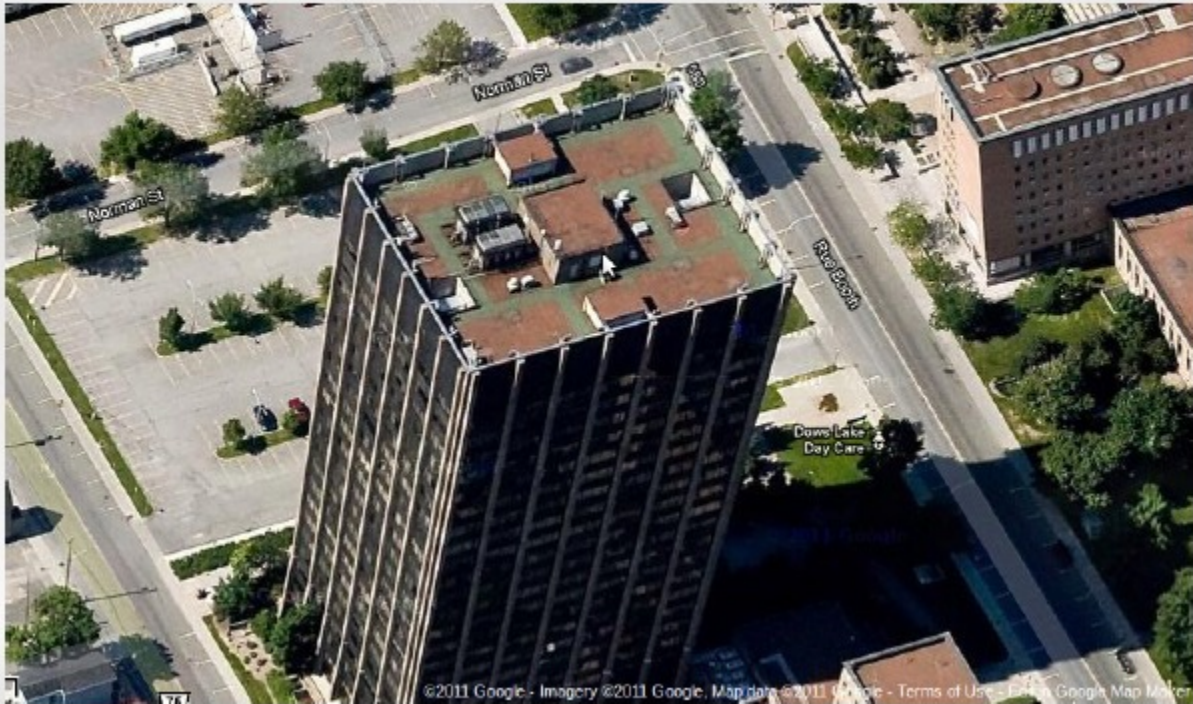
September 22nd 2011

## Sir William Logan Building

- 580 Booth Street
- 21 floors
- Diesel Generators
- Located in the Penthouse, elevator mechanical room, managed by SNC Lavallin
- Lease signed in November 1979 gives us "the right and privilege" to install and maintain a two-meter repeater station.
- Electrical power included in lease
- How much does all this cost the club ?

Show next page (Right Arrow)

# Sir William Logan Building



# Looking North West





## Looking South



## Looking South East



## 6M Repeater

- GE Mastr II 100 watt
- SR4 Controller
- Rented from the Six Meter Interest Group in Dec. 1992.
- May have been purchased from the Six Meter Group in 1999 (If anyone remembers let me know)

## 6M Repeater



## Antenna for 6M



- Located on North end of roof
- Cushcraft AR-6
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  wave design

## Antenna for 6M a closer look



## 2M and 70 cm Repeater

- For a good history lesson September 2009 Rambler
- Marconi DT-65, DT-57 Mobile Transmitter and Receiver
- 30 Watts
- Sinclair Cavities
- Some equipment over 30yrs old
- 70 cm rebuilt in 2009
- If you have more info let me know

## 2M and 70cm Repeater



## Antenna for 2m



- Diamond X500
  - Dual Band Design
  - 3 5/8 - 2m (8.3 dB)
  - 8 5/8 - 70cm (11.7dB)
- Installed October 31 1992 along with the RG-213 coax line

## Antenna for 2m a closer look



Can you spot a problem ?

## Antenna for 70cm



- ISOPOLE-440
- A little too close ??



## Antenna for 70cm, now and then



## We aren't the only ones anymore



## Who are our neighbours ?

- A search of TAFL\* only reveals a license to NRCan 458.2125 and 469.4750 (CGK875) as well as 22325.00 and 22525.00 (VEQ882)
- In 2003 MaxLink abandoned equipment that the club seems to have helped clean up
- DORIS beacon 2036.25 @ 10W and 401.25 @ 5W cone pattern straight up may no longer be active (antenna damaged during icestorm and replaced was/is approx 3 feet from uhf)
- Who owns all other antennas is a mystery !!

\* Technical and Administrative Frequency Lists

## Problems

- Intermod ?
- No receiver on 440 ?
- Bad audio when linked to 6M ?
- Used very little ?
- Even Net attendance is minimal

## Immediate action

- 2 M antenna must be raised
- 70 cm antenna must be separated from the metal pipe and yagi a few inches from it.



## Solutions

- Intermod ?
  - Let's use tones
- No receiver on 440 ?
  - Disconnected from uhf cavities in late 90's early 2000 because DORIS antenna too close
  - Maybe we can try using the X500 temporarily
- Bad audio when linked to 6M ?
  - Maybe a controller issue
- Used very little ?
  - Are there too many 2m repeaters around ?
  - Are we all mic shy?

## Solutions contd.

- Reinstate the autopatch ?
- IRLP / EchoLink ?
- Repeaters in the area
  - 10 M ~ 2
  - 6M ~ 6
  - 2M > 20
  - 1.25 m ~ 4
  - 70 cm > 20
  - 33 cm = 0
  - 23 cm = 2

## Some Ideas looking forward

- Keep what we have until it dies
- Is it worth the effort to try and repair ?
- Replace it with new ?
- Use a phased approach
  - Start fresh replace all (keep cavities)
  - Add to the system along the way
- Can we get Internet in the Penthouse ? Anyone have line of sight ?
- Use a DV Dongle and Link with an XREF create a DV to FM link for Ottawa

## Some Ideas looking forward

- 33 cm
  - Alinco will be offering a dual band 1.25m 33cm HT
  - Alinco DJ-G29T
- 23 cm
  - Alinco DJ-G7T 144/440/1200 HT
  - Icom ID1 and IC-9100, Kenwood TS-2000
- HSMM aka hinternet on 2.4Ghz and higher
  - Possibly some gear on 70cm
- Amateur Digital TV repeater ?
- GMSK packet using D-RATS

## Links of interest

- <http://ovmrc.on.ca/back-issues-2.htm>
- <http://neon.polkaroo.net/cgi-bin/tafl/taflsearch.cgi>
- <http://www.jrmy.net/tafl/>
- <http://sd.ic.gc.ca/>
- <http://www.n5oom.org/hsmm/>