

# Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Ottawa Valley Mobile  
Radio Club  
Incorporated



Nov 2011

Edition 56

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## MEETING MINUTES

**October 20, 2011**

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Doug VE3ATY called the meeting to order at 19:35. There were 24 people in attendance.

### 2. GUESTS

Barry VE3NKK, Georges Ankenmann, Peter Pau and Travis Crawford.

### 3. PROGRAM

#### 3.1 Software for Software Defined Radio

Michel VE3EMB presented an illustrated talk on the many aspects of software defined radio (SDR), with particular emphasis on programming these radios. SDR is used extensively in professional applications, but that technology is still very expensive. Over the last ten years, many amateurs have experimented with SDR as relatively affordable models have come on the market. As a result, getting into SDR is relatively easy, and much experimentation can be done with these radios for a relatively modest investment, especially since there is considerable open-source software available. Michel discussed the advantages and disadvantages of SDR relative to analog radio. The

prevalence of bugs in these radios is one of the major disadvantages.

Michel provided an overview of the important concepts of SDR and of SDR programming. He compared SDR models, including their architecture. In particular, he referred to the FLEX-5000A, the FLEX-5000C, the FLEX-1500 (QRP), the High Performance SDR Radio Project (HPSDR), and the Universal Software Radio Peripheral (USRP) by Ettus Research LLC. These models range in price from less than \$1,000 to \$6,000. Some of them are developed by corporations, but others are developed by hobbyists. Michel made several distant QSOs using some of these models, including a QSO with New Zealand.

Then, Michel talked about SDR programming, which is his main interest with these radios. Programming SDRs requires experience with a programming language such as C++, knowledge of trigonometry, of digital signal processing, of filtering and of spectrum analysis. Some of the key SDR concepts include in-phase, quadrature and negative frequency. Although the later do not exist in the physical world, they exist in the computing environment. He demonstrated a number of points that he made using PowerSDR on the HF and VHF bands.

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## Meeting Date

### Club Meeting:

Nov 17<sup>th</sup>

PowerSDR is a versatile program that readily integrates other applications such as Digital Master 780. He reminded the audience that some aspects of radio such as antennas, receiver pre-selection and transmitter low-pass filtering cannot be accomplished with software. These must continue to be accomplished with hardware.

There were numerous comments and questions addressed to Michel during the presentation. This confirmed that many in the audience (Continued on [page 3](#))

## OVMRC Executive 2011-2012

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### Amateur Radio Exhibit:

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### Amateur Radio Training & Accredited Examiner:

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Vacant

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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](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:*

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(Continued from [page 1](#)) have considerable interest in SDR and much knowledge of that technology. The involvement of Michel in SDR is not only related to his amateur radio hobby, but also to some of the courses that he teaches in computer science and to the academic research that he conducts. Michel is currently on sabbatical. He is writing a book on SDR. Many of us look forward to reading it. For more detailed information on SDR, see Michel's webpages at <http://people.scs.carleton.ca/~barbeau/SDR/> and at <http://ve3emb.wordpress.com/>.

## 4. BUSINESS

### 4.1) Audit of Club Accounts for Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Doug VE3ATY asked for a volunteer to examine the accounts of the Club for fiscal year 2010-2011. The by-laws require that the accounts of the Club be examined by a member on a yearly basis. The task does not require that the volunteer have accounting or auditing experience. Potential volunteers should contact Doug or any other member of the Executive.

## 5. REPORTS FROM CHAIRS

### 5.1 Amateur Radio Course

Ernie VE3EJJ and Bob VE3SUY reported that there are five individuals signed up for the amateur radio course offered by the Club and an additional seven for the practical sessions. The practical sessions will include assembly of components and programming of a PIC-AXE 20M2 microcontroller. The practical sessions start on

Thursday October 27, 2011. Participants are reminded to bring eye protection, pliers, lights and soldering irons. At subsequent sessions, they should also bring a laptop.

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 6.1 Victorian Science Event

Darin VE3OIJ informed members that the Canada Science and Technology Museum is looking for volunteer Morse code and telegraphy operators for the Victorian Science event planned for December 17-30, 2011. One or two operators are required between the hours of 10:00 and 14:00 to explain to visitors how Morse code and telegraphy work and to challenge visitors to text messages in competition with Morse code operators. Those interested in participating should contact, either Catherine Emond, Education and Interpretation Officer, at [cemond@technomuses.ca](mailto:cemond@technomuses.ca), or by phone at 613-990-6427, or Darin VE3OIJ at [VE3OIJ@amsat.org](mailto:VE3OIJ@amsat.org).

### 6.2) SoftRock Software Define Radio

Bob VE3SUY displayed a single-band SoftRock software defined radio receiver that he built from a kit for about \$25.00.

## 7. PRIZES

Proceeds of the 50:50 ticket sales were \$44.00. The 50:50 draw (\$22.00) was won by Peter Pau.

Door prizes were won by Kirk VA3DKG, Sandy VE3HAZ and Travis Crawford. Door prizes were provided courtesy of Joe VE3EUS.

## 8. UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Club Executive will be held at 19:30 on Thursday, November 3, 2011.

The next general meeting of the Club will be held at 19:30 on Thursday, November 17, 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.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 21:20 at which time many of the attendees proceeded, as is customary, to the local coffee shop to talk radio.

## 10. SIGNED

Joe VE3EUS, Treasurer

☺

## Take Note:

Whereas it is desirable that the executive elected at the Annual General Meeting be provided opportunity to prepare and present the club's operating budget for approval by the membership at the following September meeting, it is proposed to be amend the club bylaws as follows:

"Article 3.1.2 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be the Regular Meeting held in June of each year. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall consist of the election of the new Executive Officers, approval of the operating budget for the ensuing year, and the transaction of such other business may be

appropriate." shall be amended to read as follows:

"Article 3.1.2 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be the Regular Meeting held in June of each year. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall consist of the election of the new Executive Officers, and the transaction of such other business as may be appropriate. The presentation and approval of the operating budget shall take place at the September meeting immediately following the Annual General Meeting."

### **Help wanted:**

The Club Secretary has tendered her resignation as a consequence of moving to Clayton. It is with regret that we accept her resignation. As a result the Club is in need of a new Secretary.

Should you be willing to take on the role of Secretary, please contact any member of the Executive.

Further we are in need of an Auditor to review the Club's of the Club's books and to express an opinion regarding the reflection of state of the Club's finances as reflected in the books.

Should you be willing to take on the role of Auditor, please contact any member of the Executive.



**North East  
Ontario Regional  
Directors Report  
November, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Regional Directors was held on October 28, 2011. In reviewing the financial reports presented to the board we are actually operating in

the black again. Not by a large margin, but we are clawing our way to fiscal stability. The other bit of good news we heard was that our membership is also stable now. We were losing more members than were signing up and that has also changed. Membership is steady and one of the points I want to focus on in 2012 is to increase regular membership and those Amateurs who can step up to be Maple Leaf Members. Amateurs all across Canada are realising it's important to support their national organization.

I would also like to welcome Frank Greene the new Office Administer. Frank brings a wealth of business experience and hope you get a chance to say hello to him soon.

There are some changes to RAC Insurance, please see the last RAC Report or the RAC Web page for more info.

The first communiqué of the Ontario Ares Restructuring Committee has been presented to the Amateurs of Ontario. You can see the full statement at the RAC web site and I encourage you to read it and comment. We have made suggestions but it's your Section and if you don't speak up we won't know what you are thinking.

Also in October, Steve VE3STV our former HLC and Jeff, VA3WXM Southern Ontario Director and myself met with the MTO's ADM and his Director for Policy in Toronto. The entire report is on the RAC web page and I encourage you to read it all. We presented a reasoned and logical report and then answered the questions they had. MTO have

committed to contact us early in 2012 with their comments and follow up. Here is the link for both of the documents:

<http://www.rac.ca/>

We are still in need of a Treasurer as Margret is pursuing her studies and schooling does not leave her with a lot of time for RAC. I have to say thanks to Margret as she has done a WONDERFUL job in that position and thanks to her, Chris and now Frank our books are in good shape. If you have some financial experience and are proficient in Quick Books would you consider helping out RAC? If you're interested contact me at the email below.

When talking to, Don VE3HOL in Timmins he told me that their club was chosen by ICOM to receive a new DStar repeater and they are busy setting it up. Congratulations to them. Could we see an article and pictures in the RAC Report some time ahead?

Finally this is a bit of a heads up that the Board is thinking of publishing TCA as an emagazine early next year. We feel Amateurs are a tech savvy group and will adapt to this new format. Tell me what you think.

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

Bill VE3XT  
North East Ontario  
Regional Director



## **RAC Bulletin 2011-037E** **Jack Belrose VE2CV** **appointed to Hall of Fame**

**2011-11-06**

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame has appointed John S. (Jack) Belrose VE2CV / VE3CVV of Ottawa, ON to the Hall of Fame. Jack will be presented with this award at a meeting to be arranged in Ottawa in early 2012, at which time a more detailed summary of his contributions to +amateur radio will be published in The Canadian Amateur magazine.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame must be submitted by Sept.

30th annually. The appointment is to recognize an amateur for outstanding achievement for sustained service to amateur radio in Canada, or +amateur radio at large.

The Board of Trustees consists of an amateur radio representative from each province of Canada.

Ed Frazer VE7EF  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame  
Radio Amateurs of Canada



## **RAC Bulletin 2011-034E** **RAC Distracted Driving** **Committee meets with** **MTO Officials**

**2011-10-27**

On October 20th the same day that the Honourable Bob Chiarelli was sworn in as the new Minister of Transportation, Steve Pengelly,

VE3STV former RAC HLC, Jeff Stewart, VA3WXM Southern Ontario Director and Bill Unger, VE3XT North East Ontario Director met with the Assistant Deputy Minister Road User Safety Division and the Director Safety Policy and Education Branch.

One of the questions we were asked is why Amateurs believe we deserve an exemption to operate while mobile. We explained that in order to be proficient in the use of our radio systems including mobiles and repeaters, in order to ensure they are always in working order and in order to ensure we know where they work best and where they don't work well at all, we must continually test them. This is done by daily usage and by providing community service to many diverse groups across the Province. They were told that many communities rely on the Amateur Radio Operators in their areas as part of their emergency preparedness plans. They were also advised that Amateurs have installed, at no expense to the taxpayer, a communications infrastructure that provides a backup to existing telecommunications systems in which authorities can have confidence.

We demonstrated a 2 Metre radio to them and illustrated the difference between Simplex using PTT and Duplex with cell phones. We emphasized that to use our radios and communicate we did not have to remove our eyes from the road.

It was also brought to their attention that we are a relatively small group of private individuals and for us to continue our public service while having to comply with the new

legislation, could be a financial hardship on some Amateurs.

The Ministry Officials raised several other questions as to why we cannot comply with the legislation. They were answered with solid technical and operational explanations as to the difficulties we would encounter in order to do this.

A reasoned set of arguments was presented to allay their concerns regarding safety and to explain why Amateurs should be treated differently than others and exempted on a permanent basis.

Ontario has committed to consult with RAC early in the New Year on this matter so a permanent solution can be found prior to January 2013.

Bill Unger VE3XT  
Chair - Ontario Distracted Driving  
Committee North/East Ontario  
Regional Director  
Radio Amateurs of Canada



## **RAC Bulletin 2011-033E** **Notice to All Amateur** **Radio Operators in ON**

**2011-10-26**

Greetings All;

As many of you know RAC is presently undergoing new changes within the organization and Field Services for Ontario is no exception. As Section Manager for Ontario and your only elected official for field services one of the major concerns that I brought forward to the RAC executive is that for one person to act on behalf of all of Ontario is not a proper voice on two levels. One is that due to many factors like the sheer size of the province it is impossible for

all the amateurs in Ontario to see and have a personal contact with the Section Manager. You need someone close to where you reside that you can have personal contact with.

Since taking this position in October 2005 and being reelected I have tried to do this job to the best of my ability. As many of you know I have had some contact with you through personal telephone calls and e-mails and maybe the odd club meeting or hamfest. However I don't have the luxury or funds to visit all clubs or ARES groups in the province. This is not fair to you and to me. You need personal contact with someone that can take your concerns and comments good or bad to the next level. If RAC is going to be our national voice you need to know who your RAC rep is. Our present government has local MPP's that represent your voice to government RAC needs a similar restructure.

RAC President Geoff Bawden VE4BAW through the direction of VPFS Doug Mercer V01DTM has tasked Bill Unger VE3XT Ontario North Director to over see a committee of experienced amateurs to come up with a restructure of Field Services for Ontario. Attached you will find a document and a new restructure chart with the proposal of having four Section Managers representing you instead of one.

I ask you all to read the following document carefully and send your comments directly to address below [http://www.rac.ca/en/news/bulletins/2011/Field\\_Services\\_Review\\_v8\\_3.pdf](http://www.rac.ca/en/news/bulletins/2011/Field_Services_Review_v8_3.pdf)

As your elected official for RAC I need and want your input about this

proposed restructure before we can move ahead and your voice is very important to me and RAC. I ask your respond back to this address:

[restructont@gmail.com](mailto:restructont@gmail.com)

by the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Once all comments are collected a final report will be drafted.

Have a look and this is your chance to let your voice be heard.

73,

Allan Boyd VE3AJB  
Section Manager – Ontario  
Radio Amateurs of Canada



## Radio Talk 2011

### 26 November

Radio Talk 2011 is a new event being sponsored by the West Island Amateur Radio Club. Radio is many things to the many individuals who make up the Amateur Radio Community.

Radio of all types is being reinvented in these modern times. It is a tool for communications, a means of entertainment, and a source of information.

Radio Talk 2011 will be a day of presentations, demonstrations, and discussions about radio.

Join us Saturday, November 26 at::

Lakeside Heights Baptist Church  
275 Braebrook  
Pointe-Claire H9R 1W1

Doors open 9h - Admission \$5 - 16 and under are free. For further information:

<http://radiotalk2011.wordpress.com>

## 2011 - 2012 Meeting Dates

### Club Meeting Dates:

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 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:

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 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](mailto:Robert.Cherry@rac.ca)

No later than the deadline for the desired edition.

**December Rambler  
submission deadline is:**

**Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December**