

Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club
Incorporated



May 2016

Edition 60

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President's Ramblings

I hope OVMRC members enjoyed the April Program. We had a workshop on Amateur Radio Direction Finding in preparation for our planned Fox Hunt event Saturday, June 4th. More about that at our May general meeting. Our April general meeting featured a very informative presentation by Dave Green, VE3TLY about his Off-Grid Power System for his Quebec summer QTH where he operates using his alternative call sign VA2GN. I found particularly interesting the choice of lead acid batteries to use for powering our radio equipment and the internal physical differences of the deep discharge type vs the ordinary automotive type. Dave brought to our attention the MFJ-4415B "Battery Booster" and "N8SJK Boost Regulator" products that supply a regulated 13.5 volts necessary for proper operation of your radio gear even as the supply battery drains down to 9 volts. Thanks for the very tutorial talk Dave.

Our program for May will start with a Workshop on Monday May 9th for a Field Day Planning and Education session. For those in our Club that are new to amateur radio, Field Day is an annual affair always the last weekend in June (25-26). It is a test of our ability to set-up in a "field" our HF and VHF radios and demonstrate the gear running on

non-commercial power. This means power by portable gas generators or solar panels and battery or any other means of novel power sources that are practical to use. Our field day will be on the grounds of the Aviation and Space Museum the same as last year; we have now been given permission by Museum officials to proceed with our planning. Of course, Field Day operations is a 24 hour operating contest starting 2 pm Saturday and running through to 2 pm Sunday. Setup and tear down immediately precede and follow the operational event. We particularly need our new radio amateurs at Field Day since you folks constitute a special operating category for bonus points. Besides folks actually making contacts and erecting antennas and masts, we will need support in keeping the troops fed and nourished. It would be nice this year to keep the stations operating throughout the night in the tents and trailers we will have for shelter. Full rules for the event are found at: arrl.org/field-day; these will be reviewed at the Field Day workshop.

For our May 18th General meeting, I am planning to give a presentation on RMS Express radio e-mail client software that works in conjunction with the Winlink 2000 Network of internet connected servers dedicated for e-mail messaging via amateur radio. We will describe how this system works and how you can set

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Meeting Dates

Club Meetings:

Workshop:

Monday May 9th

Field Day Planning

This session will be for all club members that plan on participating in the Amateur Radio Field Day June 25-26. We need new amateurs at the event to score bonus points for the club.

&

Wednesday April 20th

E-mail WinLink Network and RMS client software by Norm, VE3LC

This presentation will show you how to do e-mail by amateur radio.

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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:

• **KENWOOD ELECTRONICS CANADA INC.**,
Mississauga, ON

• **TRAVEL-MOR TRAILER SALES**,
Ottawa, ON

• **PEPPERS RADIO SALES**,
Rockland, ON
Email: peppersradio@videotron.ca
WEB site: www.peppersradio.net

RADIOWORLD TORONTOWEB site: www.radioworld.ca**OVMRC Life Members**

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

OVMRC Repeaters

147.300 Mhz (+) (no tone)

444.200 MHZ (temporarily off-air)

Amateur Radio Exhibit**VE3JW**

Web site:

ovmrc.on.ca/ve3jw.htmCanada Science & Technology
Museum

Is temporarily off the air due to the closure of the Canada Science and 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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Visit the OVMRC Store

at

<http://www.cafepress.ca/ovmrc>***Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Incorporated******PO Box 41145******Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9******www.ovmrc.on.ca***

(Continued from [page 1](#)) up your HF or VHF FM Packet radio to work with this system. Here in Ottawa, we have access to this system by way of packet radio on 145.03 MHz via the VE3OCE Winlink gateway. Having this radio e-mail software ready to run is good to have in your ham radio tool box in case of emergencies. Using this system will provide us with a means to send a Field Day message by radio to the RAC "Section Manager" for more bonus points on the Field Day event.

In this issue of the Rambler, OVMRC course graduates should check out the description of the special door-prize give-away of a HF station we are offering at the May meeting. This will be

restricted to this seasons course grads that have HF privileges as well as course grads from last season that maintained their membership into the 2015/16 season of the Club. The equipment is not exactly new, but it will get you on the HF ham bands.

Also, in preparation for the June transmitter hunt, see the details in this issue for building the Tape Measure Portable Yagi that Barry VE3NJK built and showed at the last meeting. It's a good project and should work well in helping you find the hidden transmitters at the meet.

I mentioned in last month's Rambler we were looking for folks to stand for executive positions of

Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Chair to replace the incumbents that are retiring from their positions after serving the Club well for several years. Fortunately, we have had Club members stepping up to the plate for these positions for the new season; thank you to all that came forward. However the nominations for these and other positions remain open up to the AGM in June when the slate of Club Executive and Chairpersons will be presented and elected by the membership for the new season.

We hope you all can attend our OVMRC May meetings

73 de
Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC

OVMRC Assets for Sale

Some of OVMRC VE3JW exhibit station assets are for sale.

HF Transceiver, Kenwood TS850S c/w matching

- PS-52 Power Supply
- SP-31 Speaker
- MC-60 desk microphone

VHF/UHF Base/Mobile ICOM ID-880 D-Star Transceiver c/w

- Mobile mounting bracket
- Mobile DTMF-Control Microphone
- Separation cable

Both seem to be in good working condition. All fair offers considered.

If interested in purchasing, contact Norm VE3LC (ve3lc@rac.ca) Leave phone number and I'll call.

If not purchased in advance, these and other OVMRC assets will be for sale at Smith Falls Flee Market, Saturday May 14th.

mWattmeter for 160 to 6 Meters

de Norm, VE3LC

Here's an inexpensive DIY project for the HF QRPer, a RF power and SWR meter with a digital display. It is available for \$28.95 US at: omnia-sdr.com/ and go to "All Products" link. Add a couple of BNC connectors also available at the same site plus the cost of postal shipping into your mail box and it should amount to approximately \$60 Cdn depending on the exchange rate. An enclosure for the project will be extra and should be available locally at Gervais Electronics or Active Components.

Myself and Barry Allison, VE3NJK, have purchased these kits. As of this writing, mine is together and working and tests I've done show it is both precise and accurate in readings. And it is particularly sensitive into the low milliwatt range for very low power QRP work. The upper range limit of the power meter is 20 watts. The display, depending on the mode selected, will produce Forward and Reverse power readings as well as computed SWR. There is also a display scaling option for sub 1 watt power readings.

The design of this kit employs a PIC type processor running custom firmware that senses the voltages developed by the forward and reverse power directional couplers and takes inputs from 3 push button switches and runs the LCD display. The software (firmware) performs computations on these voltages and after digitization, works out the value and displays the resultant SWR. For more accurate RF power

measurements when using this meter, the amateur band being used must be first selected with the up/down push buttons. For each band, appropriate compensation is applied by the software to produce much higher accuracy than a similar non-smart analogue instrument could achieve.

The kit is put together using mostly surface mount devices (SMT) so tweezers and a sharp soldering pencil iron are required for placement of components and construction. However, the number of components to be mounted is small, so I'd well recommend this project for a first time project using SMD. Further information, please contact me at VE3LC@rac.ca

Photo: mWattmeter



*measuring RF power and SWR
of QRP SDR transceiver.
Display is indicating 20 metre
band, Forward Power 1.023
watts and SWR 1.0 to 1 (it's
into a 50 ohm load).*

HF Transceiver Door Prize at May 18th meeting

Open to all current OVMRC members that were Club Radio Course Graduates over the last two years and that have HF operating privileges. This includes Basic with Honours, Basic with Advanced or Basic with Morse code qualification.

The HF Transceiver is a Yaesu FT 101E that was a current product in the late 1970s, so not exactly new. But I have confirmed it does work and puts out 100 watts of RF. I have made several SSB and CW contacts with it and have received reports that it has good audio.

The FT 101E will be complete with:

- 160 to 10 metre operation (does not include 10,12, or 17 m WARC bands)
- Manual
- Internal AC Power Supply
- 12 Volt DC power cable
- SSB and CW filters
- External Digit Display, Yaesu VC-601
- External Speaker/Phone Patch, Yaesu "LandLiner"
- Low Pass Filter
- Desk Microphone, Yaesu YD-844
- Drake MN-4 Antenna Tuner

Thanks to Larry Smith, VE3JLS for donating this equipment to the Club.

de Norm VE3LC



Measuring Tape Yagi for 2 metre Radio Direction Finding for our June 4th Transmitter Hunt Event.

At our Amateur Radio Direction Finding Workshop April 11th and our April 20th General Meeting, Barry Allison, VE3NJK showed and told about his homemade "Measuring Tape 3-element Yagi Antenna". The design of this antenna is optimized for Radio Direction Finding. This is an easy antenna to fabricate from breaking apart an inexpensive measuring tape typically available at DollarRama and other similar stores. Although the design shown below uses PVC tubing material and fittings for the boom and element support fittings, Barry chose to use a lighter weight wooden boom with hand hold extensions both forward and behind the antenna.

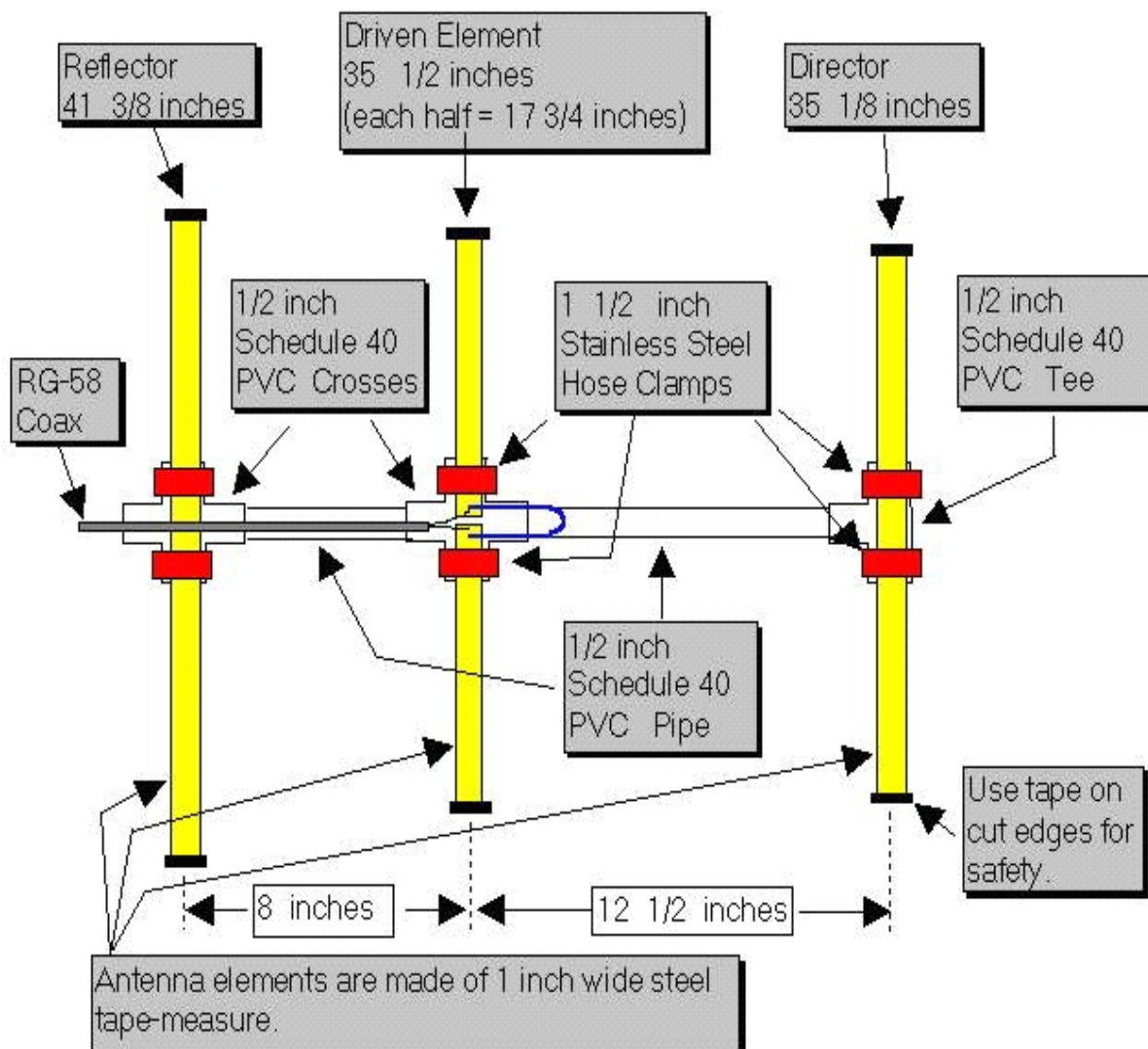
However, whatever material is chosen, the measuring tape elements remain the same as shown below.

A full description and building instructions for this antenna are found at:

theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm .

Let's see a few of these built for our Fox Hunting Competition and Picnic Event planned for Saturday, June 4th.

de Norm, VE3LC



UPCOMING AMATEUR RADIO HAMFESTS & FLEAMARKETS

Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club

Smiths Falls Flea Market Saturday, May 14 at 9 am

details:

ve3rlr.dyndns.org/fleamarket32nd.html

Dayton Hamvention

Dayton, Ohio

(only 12 hours drive from Ottawa)

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
May 20-22

details: hamvention.org/

May / June Contest Calendar

The main contests for May and June are:

May 28-29

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW
cqwp.com/rules.htm

June 11-13

ARRL June VHF Contest
arrl.org/june-vhf

June 25-26

ARRL Field Day
arrl.org/field-day

All other contests, goto:

hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html

2016 Dates

Club Meeting Date:

May 18th

June 15th

Rambler deadlines:

June.....1st

Please submit articles for the Rambler to the editor:

[Robert Cherry](mailto:Robert.Cherry@rambler.com)

No later than the deadline for the desired edition.

May Rambler submission deadline is:

Wednesday, 1st June

What's Happening Elsewhere!

Check it out; let us know what's going on in your club.

Ottawa Amateur Radio Club (OARC)

www.oarc.net/blog/:

Ottawa Valley QRP Society:

www.qsl.net/va3ovq/VA3OVQ/Welcome.html

The Ottawa Valley QRP Society is a group of Amateur (Ham) Radio operators in the Canadian National Capitol Region with an interest in QRP (low-power) operating,

equipment homebrewing and antenna experimentation. The group holds the Amateur Radio call sign VA3OVQ. Membership is free and open to anyone in the National Capitol region with an interest in low power Amateur Radio.

Our monthly dinner meetings are :

At 5:00 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month at Donna's Express Restaurant at the corner of Churchill and Scott Streets in Ottawa.

We have an online discussion group on Yahoo Groups called ov-qrp.

See:

groups.yahoo.com/group/ov-qrp/ for details or email va3ovq at qsl.net.

Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club (RLARC)

ve3rlr.dyndns.org/:

West Carleton Amateur Radio Club

www.wcarc.on.ca

VE3ORF/3730 Group

www.ve3orf.com/

CRAO Club Radio Amateur Outaouais (CRAO)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Incorporated
 PO Box 41145
 Ottawa, ON K1G 5K9

- ✓ *The membership year starts 1 September, and runs until 31 August of the following year.*
- ✓ *Regular membership is open to licensed amateurs.*
- ✓ *Associate membership is open to all unlicensed radio enthusiasts.*
- ✓ *Membership includes a digital subscription to the club newsletter, the OVMRC Rambler.*

NEW RENEWAL UPDATE/CHANGE

Please print legibly

Call Sign	Surname	Perferred first name
Street		Apartment
City	Province	Postal Code
Home/primary phone	Work/other phone	E-mail address
Are you a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)? Yes / No		
RAC ID: _____ Expiry (YYYY-MM-DD): _____		

Do you wish to order an OVMRC name tag? (+\$12.00) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Callsign for name tag	Name for name tag	

Full Membership (Not a Member of RAC)	\$35.00/yr <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Cheque / Cash
Full Membership (RAC Member)	\$25.00/yr <input type="checkbox"/>	
Associate Membership (Unlicensed)	\$25.00/yr <input type="checkbox"/>	

Circle your interests			
Bands Microwave UHF VHF HF LF and below	Modes CW Digital Phone EME Satellite Experimental	Building RX TX Antennas Test equipment Other	Other Teaching Speaking/Presenting DF/Fox hunting Contesting DXing Computers/IT Other

Signature	Date	Initials	<i>By initialing this box, I confirm that I consent to receiving e-mail messages from the Club.</i>
_____	_____		