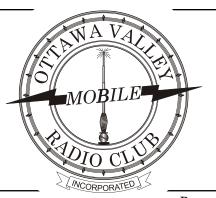
Rambler

Newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated



Nov 2016 Edition 61 Page: 1

President's Ramblings

s advertised, Paul Dufresne, VE3OTB, gave a wonderful presentation to the Club at our October meeting. Over 40 members and guests were in attendance. Paul's talk was all about his development and implementation of an internet gateway that bridges communications between cell phone SMS texting and the messaging service of the Automatic Packet Report System (APRS) that operates throughout North America on 144.390 MHz. Paul's development was driven by his need to communicate with his wife and her cell phone while he was out trekking in the bush in his Jeep and out of range of any cell phone service but where there is APRS digipeater coverage. Paul encouraged folks to try the system; it is open to all radio amateurs. He has hundreds of users in North America and many in Europe who can access APRS and wish to communicate with North American SMS subscribers free of charge. For more information on his system, go to his web site at: smsgte.wixsite.com/smsgte

Our other presentation of the evening was given by our own Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ and her new found love participating in amateur radio public service events; these include the CN Cycle for

CHEO, the Rideau Lakes Cycle Tour, and the MS Bike Tour. She encouraged OVMRC members to consider volunteering to help provide communications for these events next year. We are including in this issue an article submitted by Earle DePass, VE3IMP to TCA magazine for which we have permission to re-print. This article was indicated in Nicole's presentation and includes a mention of OVMRC volunteers.

The meeting also included a showand-tell of a collapsible yagi antenna presented by Jocelyn Tremblay, VE3JCT. Also, Douglas King, VE3YDK showed pictures of his project to build a magnetic loop antenna complete with a homemade variable capacitor and stepper motor control. We look forward to Douglas's report on how well this compact HF antenna works for him at a future meeting.

Important Club business was dealt with at our October General meeting. This followed the October executive meeting where a vote was unanimous to dispose of the Club trailer. This trailer was often used on Field Day and other Club operational events but recently, it has been considered more a liability than an asset to the Club, especially by the Club executive members that are responsible to care for it. The travel trailer is a 1972 model and very much (Continued on page 3)

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Club Meetings:

Wednesday, Nov 16th 7:30 P.M.

OVMRC Meeting

Aviation Museum

Speaker: Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN Subject: Confirming Contacts in 2016

Wednesday, Dec 21st 6:00 P.M.

OVMRC Christmas Dinner

Verona Pizza House

1682 Cryville Road Ottawa

Confirm attendance with Sandy, VE3HAZ@RAC.CA



OVMRC Executive 2015-2016

President:: Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC

ve3lc@rac.ca

Vice-President: Barry Allison, VE3NJK

ve3njk@rac.ca

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ovmrc.treasurer@gmail.com,

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VE2KOI@rac.ca

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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

• METAL PROS,

"The Small Quantity Metal Shop" Ottawa, ON

Web site: www.metalpros.com

• PEPPERS RADIO SALES,

Rockland, ON

Email: peppersradio@videotron.ca Web site: www.peppersradio.net

RADIOWORLD TORONTO

Web site: www.radioworld.ca

OVMRC Life Members

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM Doug Carswell, VE3ATY Doreen Morgan, VE3CGO

OVMRC Repeater

VE3TWO

147.300 Mhz (+) 100 Hz tone FM & Yaesu System Fusion Digital Operation

Amateur Radio Exhibit VE3JW

Web site:

ovmrc.on.ca/ve3jw.htm

Canada Science & Technology

Museum

Is temporally 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:

Robert Cherry, VA3AOD

Visit the OVMRC Store

at

http://www.cafepress.ca/ovmrc

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(Continued from page 1) showing its age. Although the Club was given the trailer many years ago at no cost, considerable money over the years has been spent on outfitting it with solar power, batteries and maintenance requiring new tires and other repairs. The outcome was to raise a motion for membership discussion and vote to authorize the executive to sell the trailer to Club member, John McGowan, VA3YJK who expressed an interest in buying it. After some discussion and concern by a few long time members of the Club, a vote was taken and the motion was passed by a majority of Club members. To see the exact wording of the motion refer to the minutes of the meeting included in this issue of the Rambler.

For our November 16th meeting, we plan to have a presentation by OVMRC member, Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN on Confirming Contacts. Bryan has been an amateur radio operator since 1959 when mailing a QSL card cost 3 cents to mail. How do we do it today? Come to our November meeting and find out all about QSLing in the modern age from Bryan.

Into the New Year, we hope to have a presentation about the Ashbury College application for a Contact

Proposal to communicate with the orbiting
International Space Station by Amateur Radio.
Ashbury student, Max Kelland is driving this proposal with the assistance of his father, Bob Kelland,
VA2BIG. If the application is accepted by the ARISS program, the communications team led by Steve
McFarlane VE3TBD will need help to set up the station. I am sure there will be many OVMRC volunteers to provide assistance.

As usual, there will be no OVMRC Wednesday December 21st General meeting; instead on the same evening Sandy Haggart, VE3HAZ is organizing a Club Christmas dinner gathering. He reports he has reserved the same location as last year, however; it is now under new ownership and name. It is now called Verona Pizza House at 1682 Cyrville Road. They are offering us a buffet with roast beef, vegetables and salad bar for \$20 plus tax. Want to attend? Please contact Sandy at VE3HAZ@rac.ca

de Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC ve3lc@rac.ca

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/Welc ome.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)

Contest Calendar

All Contests

hornucopia.com/contestcal/

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW, Nov 5-7 arrl.org/sweepstakes

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB, Nov 19-21 arrl.org/sweepstakes

CQ World Wide CQ DX, Nov 26-27 cqww.com/rules.htm

RAC Winter Contest,

Dec 17 <u>wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-rules/</u>

Reverse Beacon Network (RBN)

reversebeacon.net/

Did you ever wonder how you are getting out, but the bands are empty and there is no one around to respond to your CQ or give you a signal report. A simple solution is to put out a CW CQ with your call sign on your favourite HF band and see if it has been received by any stations that make up the "Reverse Beacon Network."

The Reverse Beacon Network consists of automatic amateur radio receiving stations utilizing "Software Defined Radio" (SDR) hardware and software technology that have the capability of receiving signals over a broad range of radio spectrum at the same time. Any particular receiving station may be set up for a single band of reception or may cover several bands simultaneously. The RBN SDR receiving stations work on a computer that also runs multi-

stream Morse code decoding software that is capable of decoding many CW signals simultaneously throughout the reception bandwidth and reporting these decoded signals to a server that can then be searched by call sign at the RBN web site. This system was made possible by the CW Skimmer software developed by Alex Shovkoplyas, VE3NEA; see his web site page at: dxatlas.com/cwskimmer/. Some RBN receiving stations will also support decoding and report reception of RTTY (radio teletype) signals. At any one time, there may be 125 to 150 RBN receiving stations out there listening.

Below are the results from the RBN web site from my station during some recent CW activity.

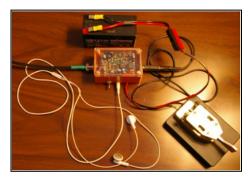
The ones showing a frequency of 7039.9 and 7040 kHz came from my QRP 1/2 watt "Rockmite" kit transceiver.

<u>qrpme.com/?p=product&id=RM4</u>. The reception report from W7HR was at 10 PM local time across the

continent in Washington State; pretty good from a 1/2 watt CW station on 40 metres. The 3620 kHz report was from my tuning up activity before the Pot-Lid CW Net on 80 metres the next morning while running 45 watts.

So give it a try, call CQ using CW and see how you are received by the Reverse Beacon Network.

de Norm, VE3LC



Picture of my ½ watt Rockmite 40 metre single frequency CW transceiver that produced reception reports on the Reverse Beacon Network across the continent.

showing spots for DX call: VE3LC search spot by callsign		Running multiple Skimmers		rows to show: 100 🗸		
de	dx	freq	cq/dx	snr	speed	time
K1TTT	I ◆I VE3LC	7039.9	CW CQ [LoTW]	5 dB	19 wpm	1545z 30 Oct
N2WQ	I ◆I VE3LC	7039.9	CW CQ [LoTW]	13 dB	19 wpm	1545z 30 Oct
N2WQ	VE3LC	3620.0	CW CQ [LoTW]	44 dB	24 wpm	1455z 30 Oct
W7HR	VE3LC	7040.0	CW CQ [LoTW]	5 dB	22 wpm	0200z 30 Oct

OVMRC 2 METER NET

Call signs in the Log.

Ken VE3EKN is keeping a log of all check-ins to the OVMRC Thursday evening net 8:00 PM on the Club's System Fusion VHF repeater, VE3TWO, 147.300 + offset; 100 Hz CTCSS tone required. Get yourself in the Log – Call in.

September 29	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
VA3AOD VE3LC VE3TXB VE3RUU VE3ZZU VA3HWA VE3NJK VE3LBU VA3ZTF VE3NPO VA3RLA VA3BGO VE3VIG VA3JYK VE3SJN VE3EKN - NC	VE3LC VA3HWA VE3NJK VE3RUU VA3ZTF VE3GIQ VE3TXB VE3LBU VE3RNM VE3VIG VE3EKN - NCS	VA3HWA VE3TXB VE3RUU VE3LC VE3NJK VE3LBU VE3KLT VE3ZZU VE3VIG VE3RNM VA3RLA VE3RMJ VE3NPO VE3EKN - NCS	VE3LBU VE3GIQ VE3ZZU VE3LC VE3NJK VA3AOD VE3NPO VE3RUU VE3TXB VA3ZTF VE2BJZ VA3RLA VE3EKN - NCS	VE3ZZU VE3RUU VE3DRE VA3ZTF VE3TXB VA3RLA VA3PCJ VE3OTB VE3KLT VE3RMJ VE2OCQ VE3LBU VE3EKN - NCS

Radio Course Report

On October 27, we conducted a show-and-tell session with a number of radio course students in attendance. This was a hands-on class.





Professor Norm, VE3LC shows the class the frequency response of a Low Pass Filter using his Spectrum Analyser / Tracking Generator.

Barry, VE3NJK shows the group his Elecraft KX3 station equipment complete with matching Spectrum Panadapter, and 100 watt RF Power Amplifier.

ARRL PODCASTS

The ARRL produces Audio Podcasts for Amateur Radio Operators to tune-in to. Listen to these on your computer or smart phone.

Search and play by title using your favourite podcast app. The "Doctor is In" is conducted by Joel Hallas, W1ZR, author of the column by the same in name in QST magazine and is all about common amateur radio technical subjects. The "ARRL News" is a weekly Podcast with content taken from the ARRL Newsletter.

J Pole antenna Report

Barry, VE3NJK and Peter, VE3XEM are well under way purchasing and preparing materials for this years batch of J Pole 2 metre, 70 cm antenna kits. 35 kits will be available at cost of \$30



blubrry.com/arrl the doctor is in/



arrl.org/arrl-audio-news



each to OVMRC members. So far, 26 folks from the Radio Course have signed up for their antenna leaving the rest to members that didn't get one last year.

Barry will be taking names; see him at the next meeting if you want an antenna

Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, October 19, 2016, 19:30

Location: Canada Aviation and Space Museum

1. Call to Order:

The President, Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, called the meeting to order at 19:30. There were 41 in attendance.

2. Greetings:

Guests and visiting amateurs:

Paul Dufresne - VE3OTB, Denny Zidek - VE3OKD, David Green -VE3TLY, Sevdet Yavuz -VA3ESV Radio Course Students: Frank Harris, Steve Petruska

3. Show and Tell:

Doug, VE3YDK showed slides of his build-in-progress of a magnetic loop antenna. Doug is also building the variable capacitor used to tune the loop. The antenna is designed to work from 10m to 40m.

Jocelyn, VE3JCT showed a 4 element Yagi, back pack portable, 2M VHF antenna. This antenna is available from Arrow Antennas, and is very light-weight, weighing only 20 oz.

4. NVIS Communications Event:

The Ontario NVIS Communications Event, which was sponsored by the Peel ARC Sunday, October 16 was successful. Norm reported a lot of activity on 60M from Kingston stations.

5. OVMRC Antenna Project:

Based on the huge success of the Club's J-Pole antenna project last

year, 36 J-Pole antenna kits will be assembled and offered for sale to Club members this year. Barry, VE3NJK announced that parts have been acquired and manufacturing has begun. Barry also announced that he would be taking orders for the antenna kits at break time, with delivery expected at the December meeting.

6. OARC Joe Norton Award:

Norm, VE3LC spoke about the Joe Norton Trust Award for the Advancement of Amateur Radio.

Each year the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club makes available an award of five hundred dollars along with a commemorative wall plaque. The award honours individuals new to the hobby who demonstrate participation and leadership in ham radio activities and a vision for their future initiatives.

The award is open to all newly licensed radio amateurs in the National Capital Region, having obtained their Amateur Radio Operator Certificate within 36 months of the award closing date.

Application is via a written submission of no less than 600 words and no more than 900 words to the Executive of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. setting out their interests, achievements and plans to contribute to the advancement of amateur radio.

Written submissions must be received before 17:00 November 1st. For more information: oarc.net/norton/

7. Upcoming Club Meetings:

The next general meeting of the Club, will be Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 19:30. The speaker will be Club member Bryan Rawlings, VE3QN, who will give a presentation titled: "Confirming Contacts" and Gone are the days when mailing a QSL card cost 3 cents ...

Upcoming Contests:

CQ World Wide DX SSB, October 29 – 30 ARRL Sweepstakes CW, November 5 - 7 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB, November 19 - 21 CQ World Wide DX CW, November 26 - 27

For more contest information: hornucopia.com/contestcal

8. Feature Presentation:

Paul Dufresne, VE3OTB, gave a presentation on APRS / SMS Text Messaging Gateway.

9. Prizes and Draws:

The door prize this week was three rolls of coax cable.

Prizes were won by Frank Fullum, VE2KOI, Steve Petruska (student), and Tom Mercer, VE3LJS. The 50/50 draw was won by Daniel Lavoie, VE3DCL.

10. Club Business – Disposal of the Club Trailer:

The President, Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, put forth a motion:

"That the Club Executive be authorized to dispose of the Club trailer, less contents, by sale to OVMRC Club member John McGowan, VA3JYK, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar; this under agreement it will

be available to the Club as may be needed for Club events for 3 years, and will not be sold for the same period."

MOVED: Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC SECONDED: Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ

<u>DISCUSSED</u>: Discussion and remarks from several members in attendance VOTED: In favour 29, Against 3

CARRIED.

11. Presentation – The Public Service Aspect of Amateur Radio:

Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ, gave a presentation on The Public Service Aspect of Amateur Radio.

12. Executive and Chair Reports:

12.1. Treasurer - Nicole Boivin, VE3GIQ:

Nicole reports that the Club has \$ 27,250 on deposit.

12.2. Repeater - Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC:

Norm reports that all equipment was removed from the old repeater site at 580 Booth Street, and is currently in storage.

12.3. Membership - Tom Mercer, VE3LJS:

Tom reports that we currently have 35 membership renewals. An email reminding members that their membership needs to be renewed will be sent out.

12.4. Radio Operations – Ken Evans, VE3EKN:

Ken reports there were 6 check-ins to the Sunday morning SSB net and 17 check-ins to the Thursday evening 2M FM net. He also noted that check-ins to the Sunday morning "Potlid" (CW) net are dwindling off.

Ken announced the Larry Wilcox Memorial 2M FM Simplex Contest to be held in the spring of next year. Ken will have additional information at future meetings, leading up to the contest date.

13. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 22:00.

Minutes recorded by Frank Fullum, VE2KOI OVMRC Secretary

The article on the next page also appears in the Nov/Dec TCA magazine and reprinted here with permission.

PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES

RAC RADIO

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry ARES Group participates in MS Bike Tour 2016

Submitted by SD&G-ARES Group Coordinator Earle DePass, VE3IMP

The Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Amateur Radio

Emergency Services (SD&G ARES) Group participated in the annual MS Bike Tour 2016 on August 6 and 7, 2016.

This was the third year in recent memory this group has been involved since the rides first started in 1989. This event afforded Amateurs an opportunity for traffic handling to better prepare them in the event of a real emergency.

Emergency Coordinator Earle, VE3IMP, was contacted by the MS Bike Tour organizers in June 2016 and asked to organize a team of Amateur Radio operators to help with the event. Over the next two months, help was solicited by email requests to operators who had previously helped and to the EMRG/ Ottawa ARES email list, as well as by requests over 2m nets.

Amateur Radio operators were asked to provide communications for the MS Bike Tours ride from Metcalfe to Cornwall and return. They would be needed in case communications by regular methods failed.

Amateurs staffed seven locations which included the finish and start locations plus five rest stops along the 125 kilometre route. Two repeaters; VE3MTA (443.650+ MHz) in Bonville, near in Cornwall and VE3MPC (147.150+ MHz) in Ottawa, were used. The crossover point where both repeaters could be heard was rest stop 3 at Finch.

The event saw 649 bicyclists register for this two-day event in order to raise funds for the MS Society of Ottawa.



Participants rode bicycles from Metcalfe to Cornwall, Ontario one day and then back to Metcalfe the next day.

There were no significant cyclist injuries which required intervention by Amateurs. At the time of this writing (August 14) the event had raised \$506,883.75 to provide for research funds. This ride was just one of 22 similar, planned rides to take place in 2016 across Canada.

After the event, in order to obtain comments for improvements, logsheets of each of the seven checkpoints were requested from each operator. A face-to-face debrief was held at Scores Restaurant in Cornwall after day one of the event on Saturday. Additional debrief activities were held with the operators from the south part of the route on Monday, August 8 by Earle, VE3IMP, on the VE3SVC repeater. Similar debrief activities were conducted by Nicole, VE3GIQ, on Tuesday, August 9 on the VE3MPC repeater. The inputs from these debrief sessions provided some valuable recommendations.

Thanks go to all 13 participating Amateur Radio operators: Richard, VA3RLA, Luc, VA3LDC, Mike, VE3FFK, Ernie, VE3EJJ, Nicole, VE3GIQ, Suzan, VE3EXN, Art, VE3AIH, Stan, VA3JSF, Alan, VE3ZTU, Al, VE3DMR, Doug, VE3HTR, Ed, VE3EAH, Hal, VE3HWG and SD&G ARES Group Coordinator Earle, VE3IMP.

Most Amateurs were members of either the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club (OVMRC) or the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club (SVARC).









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.

	Diago	e print legibly				
Call Sign	Surname		Perferred first name			
Street			Apartment			
City		Province	Postal Code			
Home/primary phone	Work/other phone	E-mail address	E-mail address			
Are you a member of	Radio Amateurs of Canada (R	AC)? Yes / No				
RAC ID:	Expiry (YYYY-MM-DD):					
Do you wish to orde	er an OVMRC name tag? (+	\$12.00) Yes \square	No 🗆			
Callsign for name tag		Name for name tag	Name for name tag			
Full Membership (No Full Membership (RA Associate Membersh	C Member) \$25.	.00/yr 🔲 🔰 \$_	ount Enclosed			
Circle your interests			· /			
Bands Microwave JHF		Building RX TX Antennas Test equipment Other	Other Teaching Speaking/Presenting DF/Fox hunting Contesting DXing Computers/IT Other			
		-				