2014 VHF Contest Planning

Doug Leach – VE3XK

WCARC Vice President

My Objectives for a New Venue

- Increase club participation, especially by experienced VHF contesters, by finding a location close to Ottawa. No need for a weekend commitment, camping or motel room.
- Space for three towers plus microwave.
- Secure indoor operation room. No tents.
- Adequate AC power. No generators.
- Inside washroom. No rented outhouse.
- Close to fast food for those not wanting to brown-bag.
- Affordable for the limited financial resources of WCARC.

The New Contest Venue - 1

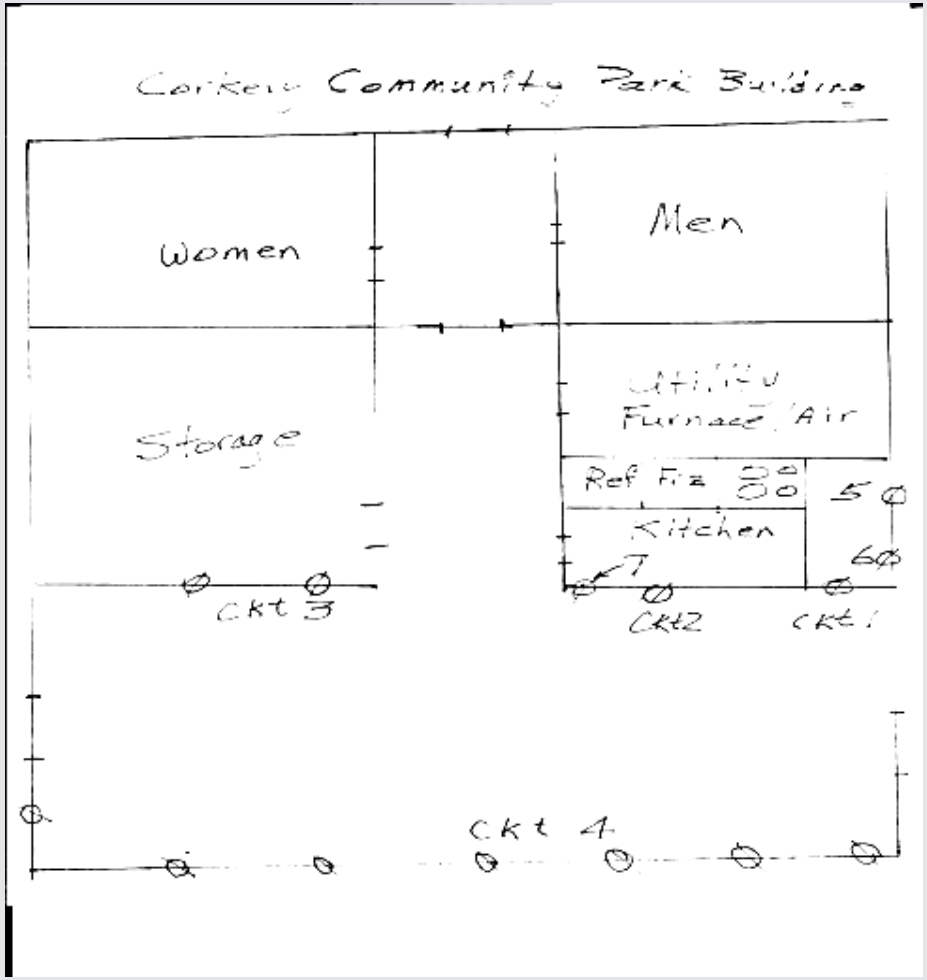
The New Contest Venue - 2

Amateur Radio Ham Radio Maidenhead Grid Square Locator Map

Enter any address, city & state or zip:
or Enter any call sign: Data provided by QRZ.com
or Enter any a 4 or 6 character grid square: FN15xg

Grid Square: FN15xg

The New VHF Contest Venue - 3



How Does Corkery Rate?

- All my objectives have been met. Soil depth for the stakes now confirmed, and tower locations marked.
- Not only indoor operation, but heated and air conditioned.
- 25 yr old building has steel locking doors and window bars.
- 60 amps of 115V in the room and more in the kitchen.
- Two washrooms.
- 10 km from FN25 and about 25 km from grid intersection.
- Less travel time and fuel costs for members.
- Only $110 for the weekend, which is less than the rented motel room, rented outhouse and generator fuel at FN04xa.

Thank You

- George Roach – VE3BNO for the donation to WCARC of 300 ft of 3/8” heliax and 50 ft of ½” heliax
- Ray Perrin – VE3FN for the donation to WCARC of 275 ft of 3/8” heliax, 25 ft of ½” Superflex heliax, 30 ft of 7/8” heliax and six RG-400 coax jumpers.
- The anonymous donor of $1000 to help cover the cost to replace the VO1NO equipment used in past years at FN04xa.
- Greg Milley VA3ITB for repairs and loan of a CDE-44 rotator.
- The WCARC members who are lending cables and equipment to help make 2014 another WCARC June VHF Contest success.

Available Coaxial Cables

- RG-58 and RG-8 Station Jumpers – UHF connectors
- RG-400 Station Jumpers – Type N connectors
- LMR-400UF Antenna Jumpers – both UHF and Type N
- 3/8” Heliax – most with PL-259 UHF connectors
- ½” Heliax and Superflex – with Type N connectors
- 7/8” Heliax – with Type N connectors
- Donated cables were cut to size and connectors installed (thanks also to Paul VE3PLE). Cables all swept 1-1500 MHz, with the losses noted by band, for use in selecting which to use.

Cable allocations based on minimal end-to-end loss.

The notations under Type are the target feedline length from station and connector type.

Notation under Length is the actual total feedline length using these cables.

Band	Cable #	Type	Length (ft)	Conn	Loss (dB) (Sel Band)	Owner	Tower	Ant Jmpr	Stn Jmpr	Adapters
6	28	LMR-400UF	12	U/U	0.10	WCARC	1	x		
6	10	3/8" Heliax	163	U/U	1.50	WCARC	1			"
6	29	LMR-400UF	12	U/U	0.25	WCARC	1		x	"
		186 U	187	ok	1.85					
2	30	LMR-400UF	12	U/U	0.40	WCARC	2	x		
2	32	LMR-400	120	N/N	1.30	VE3XRA	2			^
2	41	LMR-400UF	25	N/Nf	0.80	WCARC	2		x	$
		153 U	157	ok	2.50					
125	31	LMR-400UF	12	U/U	0.65	WCARC	3	x		
125	33	1/2" Heliax	100	N/N	1.40	VE3XRA	3			^
125	12	RG-8	3	U/U	0.60	VE3XK	3		x	^
		120 U	115	ok	2.65					
70	39	LMR-400UF	25	N/Nf	1.60	WCARC	3	x		
70	37	7/8" Heliax	75	Nf/Nf	1.60	VE3XRA	3			<
70	40	LMR-400UF	25	N/Nf	0.90	WCARC	3		x	<
		120 U	125	ok	4.10					
35	25	LMR-400UF	18	N/N	2.15	VE3XRA	3	x		
35	36	7/8" Heliax	100	Nf/Nf	2.30	VE3CZO	3			
35	17	RG-400	3	N/N	1.70	WCARC	3		x	
		120 U	121	ok	6.15					
23	21	LMR-400UF	18	N/N	2.80	WCARC	3	x		
23	34	7/8" Heliax	100	N/Nf	3.30	VE3CZO	3			
23	18	RG-400	3	N/N	2.30	WCARC	3		x	#
		120 U	121	ok	8.40					

Coaxial Adapters	Totals
# - N(f)/N(f)	1
< - N/N	2
" - UHF(f)/UHF(f)	2
^ - UHFf/Nf	3
$ - UHF/Nf	1
~ - UHFf/N	0

Equipment Offered - 1

Make	Model	Description	Source
Transceivers andTransverters			
Kenwood	TS-590S	Transceiver - HF, 6M	VE3XK
Icom	IC-9100	Transceiver - 6, 2, 70	VE3FN
Icom	IC-9100	Transceiver - 6, 2, 70, 23	VE3XRA
Yaesu	FT-736R	Transceiver - 2,125, 70, 23	VA3KA
DEMI	903	Transverter for 33CM	VA3KA
Icom	IC-251A	Transceiver for above	VA3KA
Amplifiers			
Elecraft	KPA-500	500 W Linear Amp - 6M	VE3XK
Beko	HLV-1000	1000 W Amp - 2M	VE3FN
Cushcraft	Unknown	100W Brick Amp for 125 CM	VA3KA
Unknown	Unknown	300W Amp for 125 CM	VE3FN
Unknown	Unknown	100W Brick Amp for 70 CM	VA3KA
Unknown	Unknown	500 W Amp for 70 CM	VE3FN
Homebrew	Homebrew	70 W Amp for 33CM	VE3CZO
Homebrew	Homebrew	20W Amp for 23 CM	VE3CZO
W6BQL	Unknown	150 W Amp for 23 CM	VA3PJ
Kuhne	MKU-PA23CM	400W Amp for 23 CM	VE3FN

Equipment Offered - 2

Antennas			
A50-6	Unknown	Yagi 6M - 6 Element	VE3BYT
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi 6M - 5 Elements	VE3CVG
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi 2M - 14 Elements	VE3CVG
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi - 2M - 15 Elements	VA3KA
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi 125CM - 6 Elements	VE3CVG
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi 125CM - 5 Elements	VE3CZO
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi 125 CM - 17 Elements	VA3KA
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi 70CM - 19 Elements	VE3CVG
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi 70 CM - 22 elements	VA3KA
Jbeam	MultiBeam	Yagi 70CM 46 Elements	VA3PJ
Unknown	Unknown	Loop Yagi 33CM - 19 Elements	VE3CVG
Unknown	Unknown	Yagi 33 CM - 33 Elements	VA3KA
Unknown	Unknown	Loop Yagi 23CM - 19 Elements	VE3CVG
Unknown	Unknown	Paragrid - 13 CM	VE3CVG
Unknown	Unknown	Helix - 19 turn - 13 CM	VE3CVG
M2	23CM35	Yagi 23 CM - 35 Elements	VA3PJ
Unknown	Unknown	Dish 10GHz	VE3CVG

Equipment Offered - 3

Towers			
Radio Shack	**Unknown**	**Light Duty Tower - 30 ft**	**VA3CDD**
Delhi	**Unknown**	**Medium Duty Tower - 30 ft**	**VE3XRA**
Delhi?	**Unknown**	**Medium Duty Tower - 30 ft**	**VA3KA**
Rotators			
Channel Master	**HD9515**	**Rotator - in tower above - 3 Wire**	**VA3KA**
Hy-Gain	**CD-45-II**	**Med Duty Rotator (8.5 sq ft) 8 Wire**	**VE3CZO**
CDE	**CD-44**	**Med Duty Rotator (8.5 sq ft) 8 Wire**	**VE3CZO**
CDE	**CD-44**	**Med Duty Rotator (8.5 sq ft) 8 Wire**	**VA3ITB**
CDE	**MSHD**	**Lower Mast Support**	**VA3ITB**
CDE	**MSHD**	**Lower Mast Support**	**VA3ITB**
Radio Shack	**TDP-2**	**Light Duty Rotator (3 sq ft) 3 Wire**	**VE3XRA**
Masts			
1 1/2"	**10 ft**	**For Upper Bands stack bands**	**VE3XRA**
1 1/2"	**6 ft**	**For 6M**	**VA3ITB**
1 1/2"	**4 ft**	**For 2M**	**VA3ITB**
Various	**Various**	**Various**	**VE3CZO**
Rotator Cable			
Radio Shack	**Unknown**	**200 ft Rotator Cable - 3 Wire**	**VA3ITB**
Keys/Keyers			
Bencher	**BY-1**	**Single Paddle w Speed-X HandKey**	**VE3XK**
Boom Mike/Headsets			
MFJ	**MFJ-3928**	**Headset, Footswitch**	**VE3XK**

Transportation Requirements

- VA3CDD – Radio Shack tower*
- VA3KA - Delhi tower, rotator*
- VE3XRA – Delhi tower, rotator and masting*
- VE3XK – Coax/heliax cables and masting*

* Truck or trailer required for above

- Other equipment on loan for the contest to be transported to and from site in member's vehicle.

Does any member need any help transporting other equipment on loan for the contest?

Storage Requirement

- As a result of the kind donations noted previously, WCARC now owns a substantial amount of coaxial cable, stakes and guy rope piled to about 4 ft diameter X 2 ft high, when coiled tightly, plus some masting.
- Can anyone provide a safe indoor storage place where the cable can be delivered after the contest?

Operating

This is a club effort, so we want to have as many members participating as possible. That is why we chose a local site and provided for the following training:

The June 3 Meeting features a presentation on VHF Contesting and the N1MM contest logging program by contester-extraordinaire Dave Goodwin - VO1AU/VE3AAQ. This is a MUST for those planning to operate in the contest.

Now that we have a local venue that does not require you to commit to a whole weekend, how many members will be participating with WCARC in the June 2014 VHF Contest?

Shift Scheduling

- With this many operators we will have adequate participation to operate in shifts and give the active operators time off to go home or out to eat.
- The midnight to dawn period has been very quiet in the past and we may choose to shut down then.
- Who volunteers to schedule the shifts?

Nourishment

- Tim Horton's and several other restaurants are 10 minutes southwest in Almonte.
- In the kitchen - coffee maker, refrigerator, freezer, microwave and stove. If we have to draw power from the kitchen circuits, the coffee maker and microwave may be problematic as both draw close to the 15A circuit limit.
- **Alcohol is not allowed on site.**
- This is a not a weekend social event with some visitors more interested in eating burgers than operating.
- On-site food preparation and/or consumption should not tie up an operator or be a distraction to other operators.

The Important Food Decision

Shall we just go with brown-bag sandwiches from home or go out for Timmy's soup & sandwich or chili or for pizza, the simplest solution?

- OR -

If the majority vote for on-site food, will a non-operator volunteer to look after food preparation and service?

Agenda for Friday – June 13

- Drive to VA3CDD, VA3KA, VE3XRA, VE3BYT and VE3XK and bring to Corkery the three towers, rotators, antennas and coax.
- Assemble towers, rotators and antennas. Connect, dress and tape feedline runs. Attach guy ropes. Install stakes.
- Erect towers ensuring antennas face south so rotators remain calibrated. Tape off each tower with Caution tape.
- Set up tables with equipment and connect to the six feedlines and three rotator cables.
- Test all equipment and logging software network (to be completed by contest start time - 2 PM EDT Saturday)

Thank You

Please don’t miss the
June 3
VHF Contesting
and N1MM Contest Logging
Training
presentation