

MARCOGRAM

VE2RM

The Western Quebec VHF-UHF Radio Club is located on Mount Rigaud. The site features a newly constructed building on a fairly heavily wooded lot. The building's interior is presently in the process of being finished, though it is evident that two main rooms are provided. One houses the repeater equipment while the other will be used for contests and small social gatherings. The repeater antenna array, supported on a 112 foot tower, is almost completely hidden by the trees. At last count membership in VE2RM totalled 65. Dues, donations and other revenues have proven sufficient to cover all operating and capital expenditures.

The club grew from VHF activities on Mount Rigaud by Joe Unsworth, Bruce Hermiston and Fraser Sypher. After a number of QSO's and relays into the city by fellows on the hill, Cam Campbell became interested in the establishment of a repeater for communications between his cottage at 16 Island Lake and Montreal. Thus the Western Quebec VHF-UHF Radio Club was formed in January of 1967: officers were

President - VE2JO
Vice-Pres.- VE2ALE
Secretary - VE2CK
Treasurer - VE2BU

Unfortunately Mr. Campbell died soon after the formal establishment of the club and did not see the repeater go into operation.

In April of 1967 VE2RM went into operation using a repeater that was made available by Joe Duncan. The antennae were installed on a wooden frame tower, still standing, near the present site. Operation has been continuous since that time with one exception; lightning struck on July 3, 1968 and the station was off the air for 24 hours.

Many refinements have been introduced in the original station and of course many problems have had to be solved. Many combinations of radiators were tried before settling on the use of folded dipoles in a vertical array which were made by VE2JO. UHF links are used as slave repeaters and for the control functions. One such link to a slave repeater at the VE2CRA site provides access and coverage of the Ottawa area, and plans are in the making to further extend VE2RM's range using this same technique. One of the more interesting features of the system is the Control Console built by VE2AVP. It contains the diode matrix CW identifier, a three minute timer (adjustable) and numerous circuit access intergrator functions made available to the remote control station. Over 60 functions are presently executed and the capacity can be increased should more controls be required.

The Club has recently joined AMSAT. The plans are now being made to enable tacking of future satellites with automatic and remote controlled antennae.

The VE2RM club has thrived as a result of the serious interest and participation of its members and we wish them success in their future undertakings.

- - -

The Montreal Amateur Radio Club is going to have a VHF FM repeater station comparable to the best using the call VE2MT. The theme is solid state/ emergency power capabilities with full coverage of Greater Montreal - Montreal's repeater. Hopefully it will be widely used by Club members and Montreal amateurs generally. As evidenced by the remarkable gains of VE2RM participation of the membership is the key to progress. The story of the Western Quebec VHF-UHF Radio Club Inc. is not intended as a suggested format for ourselves as they have more specific goals than we do, as their name implies. It should however, encourage us to greater interest and participation in our own repeater project.

Jim Custy, VE2BLC