

RCARES Simplex Exercise 2010-Nov-27

The purpose of this exercise was to test our ability to communicate from locations around the county without the use of the linked repeater system. The following locations were selected based on available personnel – from West to East:

Stonecliffe - Head, Clara and Maria township offices.

Bob VE3YX and Yvonne VE3RYA

Clark PU mast with Cushcraft 3 el yagi (mast raised only 3 sections) 25 W

Laurentian Hills - Intersection of Allan Rd. and HWY 17

Richard VA3BIX

Mobile 5/8 antenna 75 W

Deep River - Town Hall

Bernie VA3SUR and Dom VE3DGZ

20 ft mast with Arrow antenna. 50 W

Petawawa - VE3GPD residence

George VE3GPD

UVS 300 antenna at 58 ft. 10 W

Petawawa Civic Centre

Brodie VA3BDT

Ringo Ranger ARX2B on building

Pembroke - VA3AGN residence

Rob VA3AGN

Indoor antenna.

Killaloe - School

Dale VA3DNA and Mike VE3ODJ

15 ft, 4 sect fiberglass mast with Arrow antenna. 50 W

Burnstown Lookout

Jim VA3JER

Mobile 25 W

McNab – Municipal Building

Mike VA3TJP

Mobile ¼ wave 45 W

Arnprior - Municipal Evacuation Centre

Paul VA3COG

Mobile 3db antenna 50 W

Ottawa - Airport

Don VE3IGN and Ben VE3ZUO

Mobile

We first established communications with all of the participants using the linked repeaters: VE3NRR, VE3UCR and VA3RBW.

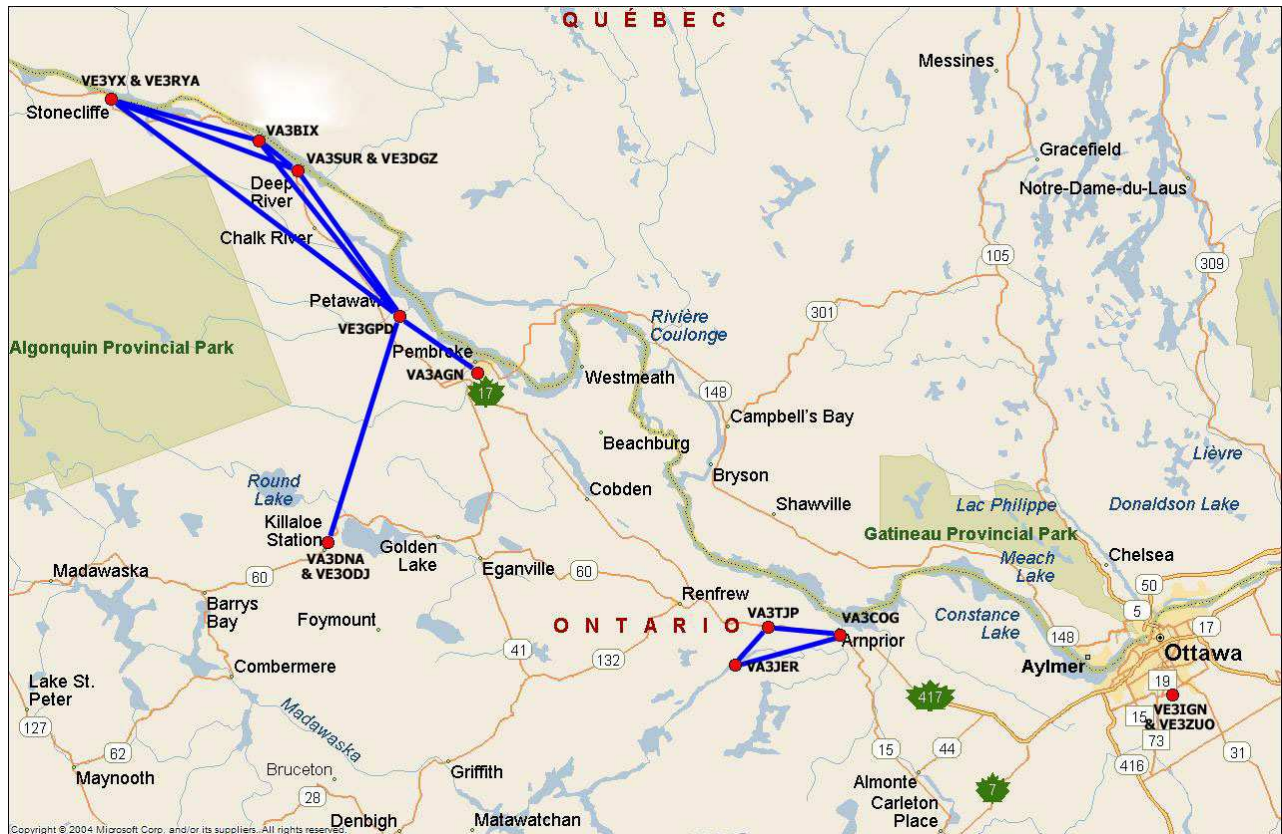
(see <http://www.technifest.com/~rcares/RCARC/RCARC%20Repeaters.htm>)

We then switched to 146.55 simplex and with George VE3GPD as NCS for the West part and Paul VA3COG NCS for the East part, we tested to determine which stations could communicate

with each other. We passed a brief random character message to confirm the stations ability to communicate. The following table shows the results from West to East:

Station **Could communicate with:**

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| VE3YX & VE3RYA | VA3BIX | VA3SUR & VE3DGZ | VE3GPD | | |
| VA3BIX | VE3YX & VE3RYA | VA3SUR & VE3DGZ | VE3GPD | | |
| VE3GPD | VE3YX & VE3RYA | VA3BIX | VA3SUR & VE3DGZ | VA3AGN | VE3ODJ & VA3DNA |
| VA3AGN | VE3GPD | | | | |
| VE3ODJ & VA3DNA | VE3GPD | | | | |
| VA3JER | VA3TJP | VA3COG | | | |
| VA3TJP | VA3JER | VA3COG | | | |
| VA3COG | VA3JER | VA3TJP | | | |
| VE3IGN & VE3ZUO | Only via VE3UCR | | | | |



The blue lines on the map show the stations that could communicate with each other. As can be seen, the East and West groups had good communications within the group, but we could not communicate between the groups. Four of the stations in the West group were using masts with gain antennas. The map shows the range advantage with the better antennas. With similar antennas, Ottawa and Arnprior would probably have been able to communicate. The gap between Pembroke and Arnprior may be too long to bridge with normal masts and antennas. A station in Cobden should be able to fill the gap.

As the exercise was held on a Saturday morning, we didn't have the access we would like to have had to any of the buildings in Pembroke with antennas already installed. It would have been informative to have been able to include the County and Red Cross buildings in Pembroke in the test.

The value of the VE3UCR repeater was demonstrated in this test. Although we had VE3NRR and VA3RBW linked as well, all the participants, from Stonecliffe to Ottawa could work through VE3UCR.

We did get a couple of photos of installations:



This was the mast and antenna at Killaloe. It consisted of 4 sections of fiberglass mast, a length of wood dowel and an Arrow dual band J-pole. (It was guyed to lean against the wind.)



This was the Clark PU mast at Stonecliffe. The wind caused the sections to bind and with only 2 people, the mast could be raised only 3 sections.



This antenna was at the Deep River town hall. The mast is four 5 ft sections of swaged fence top rail and the antenna is another Arrow dual band J-pole.

