

The Canadian Ski Marathon



“Your mission if choose to accept it is to set up and operate an amateur radio station somewhere between Ottawa and Montreal for one weekend in February.”

Canadian Ski Marathon

Amateur Radio Operations



Objective



- Provide communications:
 - Operations
 - Personnel, Equipment, Trail
 - Safety
 - First-Aid, Trail, Road Crossing, Transport

“Winter Field Day”



- Setup at “public” location
 - Inside, outside, mobile
- Other Setup Criteria
 - Daylight or Darkness
 - Any weather
 - No Mains Power (mostly)
- Operate in any conditions



Event Background



- Started in 1967
 - Lachute to Ottawa
- Radio Operations added in 1974
 - Support Safety and Operations
- Runs regardless of weather

The Start



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Skiers on the trail....



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End of the Day - Gold Camp



Gold Camp (cont'd)



Past Technologies



- Cell Phone
- Satellite Phone
- Commercial Radio
- Amateur Radio
 - HF (80 metres) and 6 metres
 - Digital (DTMF)

Past Pitfalls



- Point to Point Only
- No Service or Poor Service
- Cost

Current Communications



- Amateur Radio - VHF (2 metres)
- Two nets (Amateur Radio)
 - Primary on Repeater(s)
 - Simplex – Safety usage only
- Local Communications
 - Simplex

Radio Operations



- Setup Type
 - Fixed Indoor Location (Schools/Hotel)
 - Mobile (Safety, Ops, Admin)
 - Fixed Outdoor Location (Checkpoints)
 - Portable (Safety Skiers)
- Duration
 - All weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
 - One Day

Fixed Indoor Locations



- Net Control
- Papineauville (Backup Net Control)
- Banquet (Sunday Net Control)

Net Control



Access to Balcony for Antenna

Net Control (cont'd)



VE3AAQ and VA3UNK

Military Comms



Papineauville



VE3EUS and VA3MGY



Time to remove the antenna

Banquet



VE3IHI



VA2RS, VE3KMOV, VA3DRV



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Operations Mobiles



VE3FFK (Admin2)



Operations Mobiles (cont'd)



VE2AAY (OPS7)

VE3ZTU (OPS6)



Checkpoints



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Checkpoint 3

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Checkpoints (cont'd)



Checkpoint 2 Radio

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Checkpoints (cont'd)

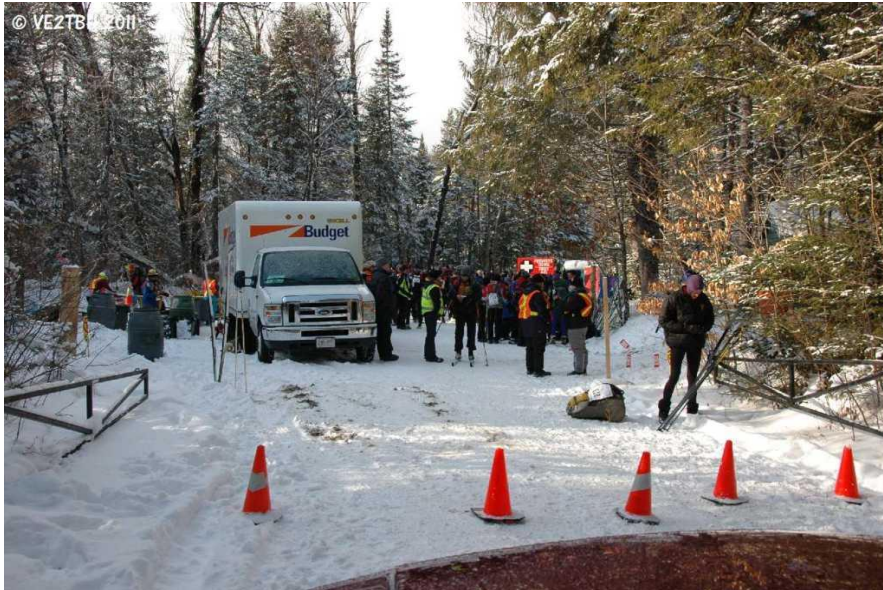


VA2NHH

VE3IET



Checkpoints (cont'd)



Checkpoints (cont'd)



VE3LTN

VE3AAQ



Checkpoints (cont'd)



VA3DGN and VE3DW

VA3JO



Checkpoints (cont'd)



VA3BIT getting some height

Checkpoints (cont'd)



VE3SZR



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Checkpoints (cont'd)



CP Staff passing message



Radio Setup

Checkpoints (cont'd)



Lunch is Served!

VA3JME



Safety



VA3DGN, VE2FFS, VE3UNW

Roberta, VE3GJM, VA2DRU, VE3BDC



Safety (cont'd)



VE3TSD



Safety Staff

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Safety (cont'd)



Safety looking for some help?

Repeaters



- Numerous repeaters used
 - Good year: 2-3
 - Bad year: 5+
- Linked
- Portable

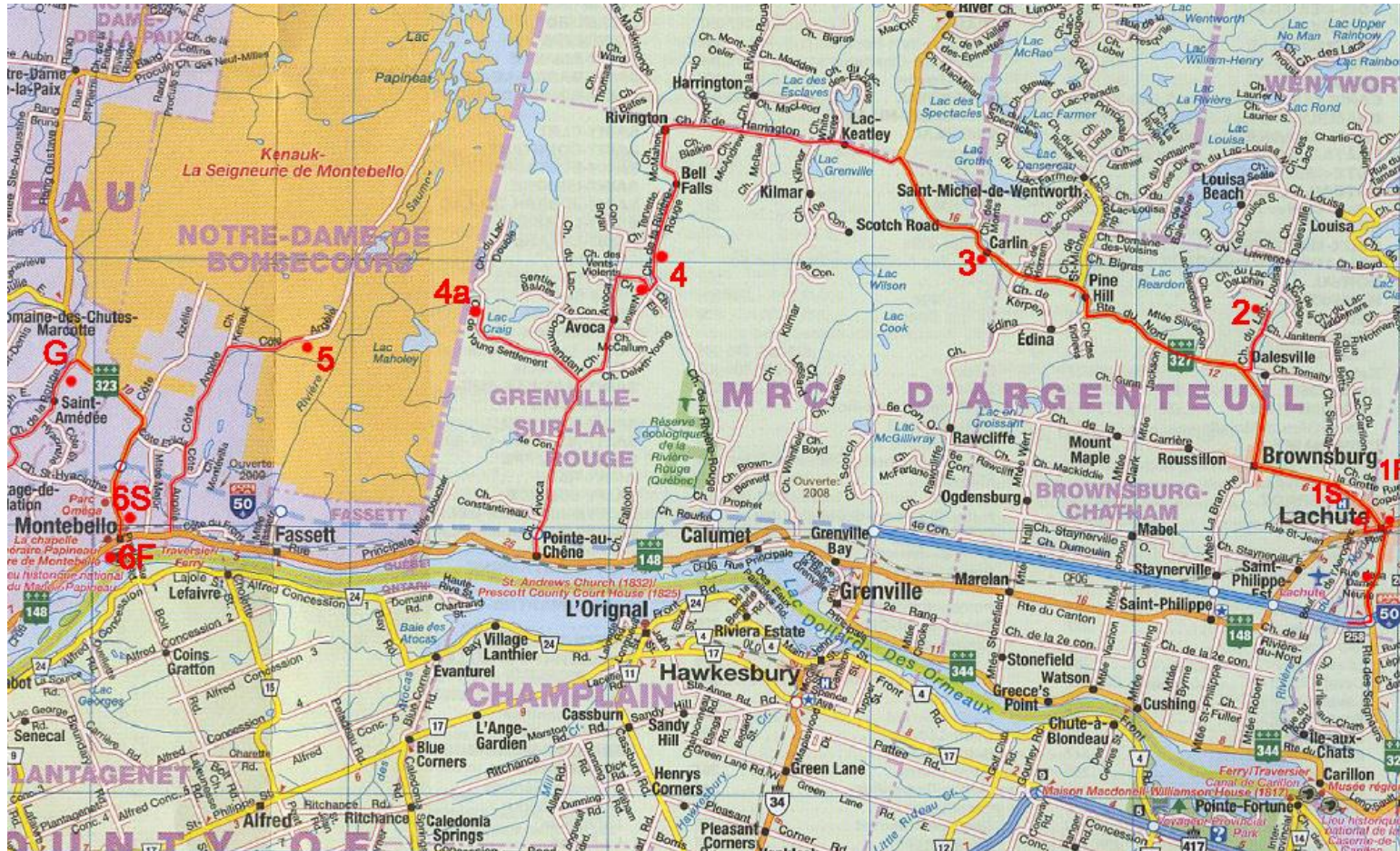


Course and Radio Coverage

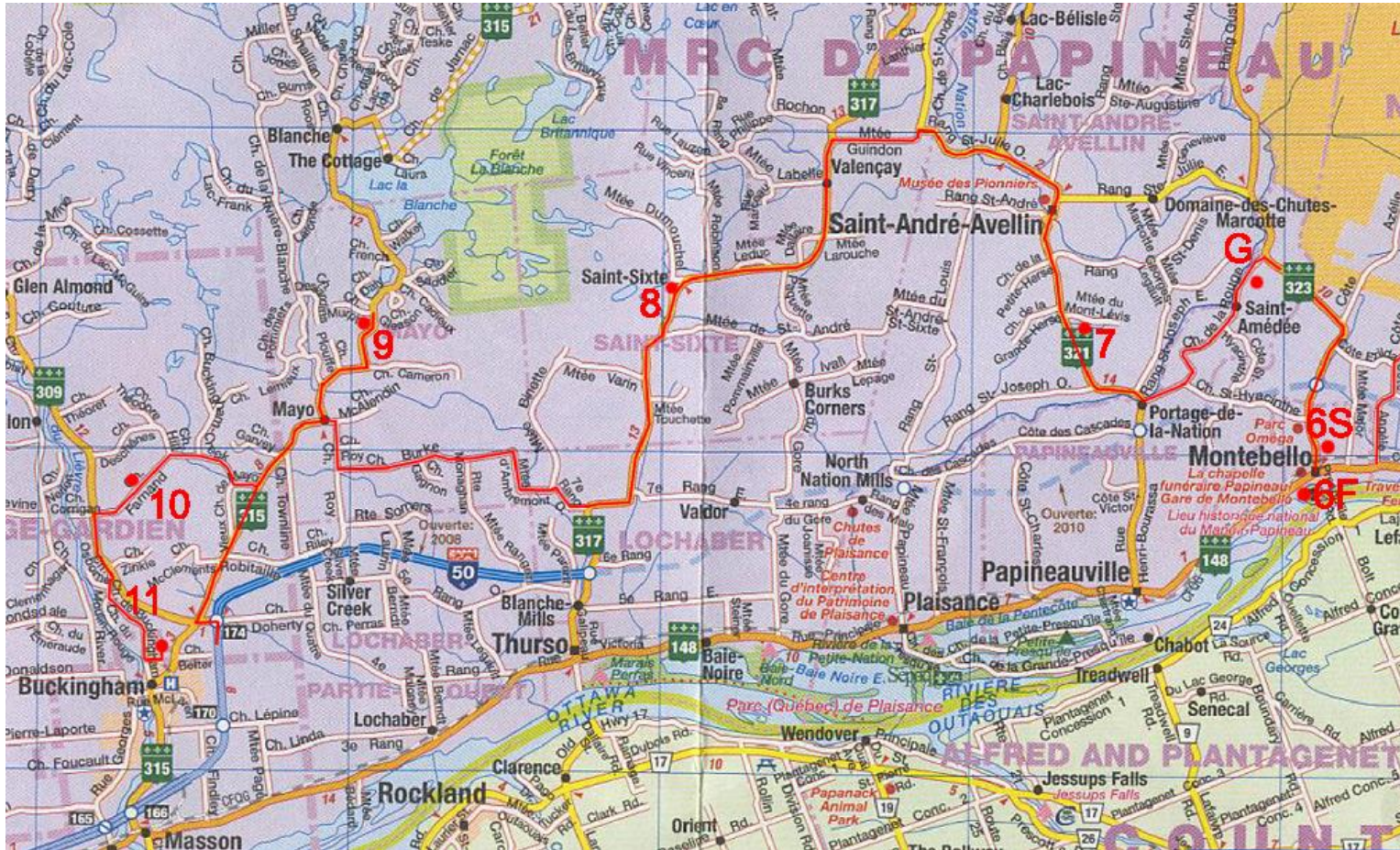


- East of Montebello
 - (Lachute to Montebello)
- West of Montebello
 - (Montebello to Buckingham)
- Terrain – Hills run North/South
- Checkpoints in valleys/low areas

2009 Course East End



2009 Course West End



2011 Course



2009/11 Coverage



- Radio Mobile Session(s)
 - Saturday
 - Sunday

Weather



- Precipitation
 - Varies (Snow, Rain, Freezing Rain)
- Temperature
 - Really cold to balmy
- Wind
 - Varies
- Other
 - Sunny, overcast, no snow, ice

Operating Considerations



- Course changes year to year
 - Direction
 - Layout
 - Distance
- Cold
 - Coax
 - Battery
 - Display
- Wet
 - Antenna
 - Coax

Volunteerism



- 38 years
- 300 volunteers to date
- 50-60 amateur radio volunteers per year
- 2000-2500 hours per year
- Thousands of dollars in equipment
- Varying Level of Experience
 - One year to nearly 30 years

Other Volunteers



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Other Volunteers (cont'd)



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The Future...



- Weekend in February each year
 - 2nd Sunday of the month
 - 2012 : Feb 11,12
- Additional Radio Requirements
 - Change year to year
- Other jobs



For More Information



- Website:
 - www.radio-1.ca
- Email
 - radio1@admin2.ca

Credits



- Thanks to those whose pictures were used:
 - Neil, VE3PUE
 - Arthur, VA3BIT
 - Gord, VE3XGP
 - John, VA3JO
 - Peggy, VA3PGY
 - Jeff, VE2TBH
 - Glen, VE3XRA
- TCA Article: March/April 2008
 - Richard, VE3UNW and Harold, VA3UNK