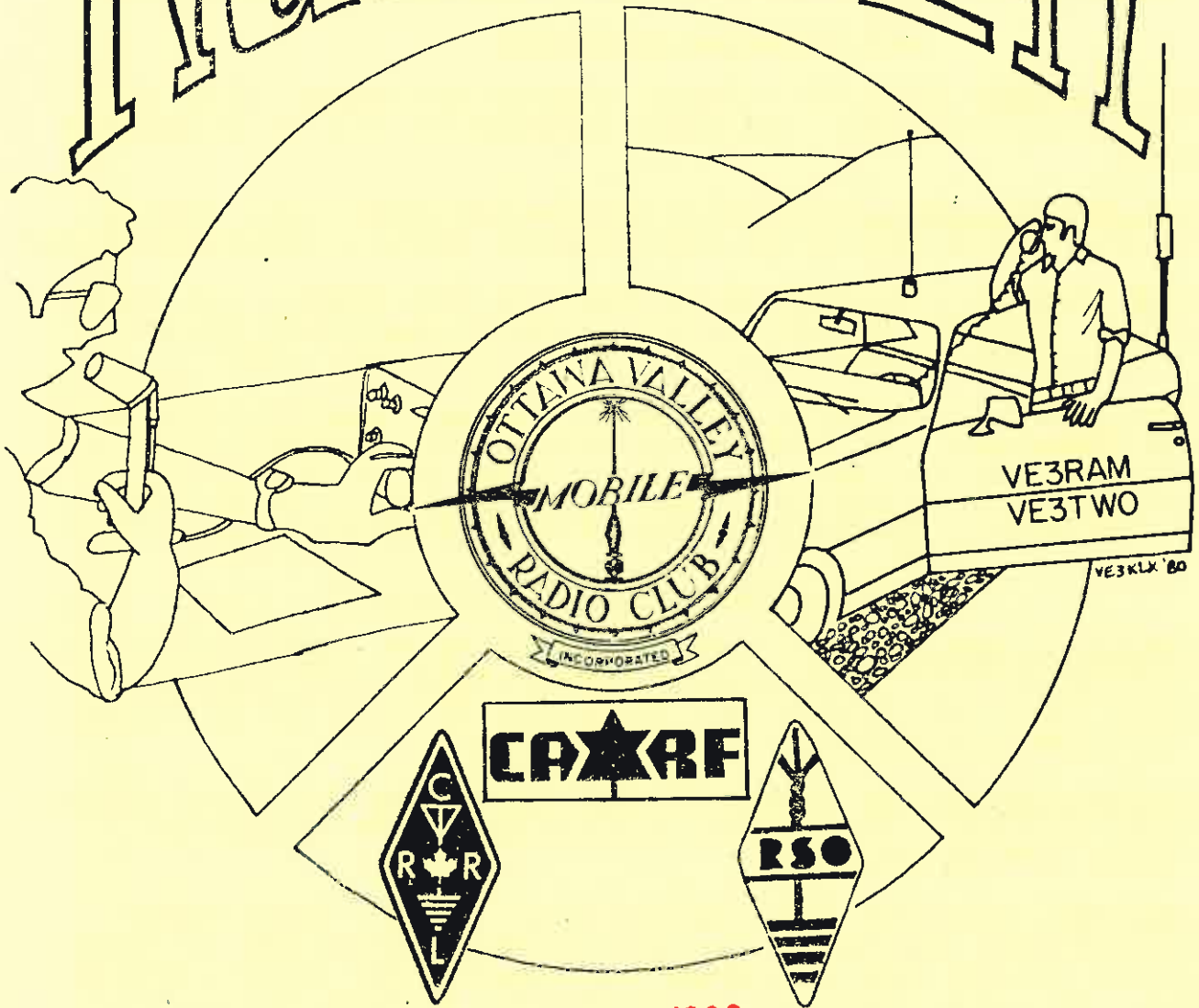


# RāmBtER



JAN 1983

THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED

1982-1983 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Russ Pastuch	VE3FSN	828-9235
VICE PRESIDENT	Dave Coutts	VE3KLX	829-2537
SECRETARY	Tim Evangelatos	VE3EWE	722-1358
TREASURER	Pat Brewer	VE3KJQ	725-1528
TECH ADVISOR	Dave Harris	VE3KNV	234-7812
PUBLIC REL.	Mike Shacklock	VE3LAR	523-1571
EDITOR	Jerry Wells	VE3CDS	225-7374
PAST PRESIDENT	Ray Ferrin	VE3FN	225-8132

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CLUB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

POT-HOLE NET- OVMRC Net - Every Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 local time on 3.76 MHz SSB. All radio amateurs are welcome to participate

THE WISE OWL NET - OVMRC Net - Ragchew net each Friday evening at 20:00 local time on the club repeater VE3TWO - 147.90/147.30 MHz.

CODE PRACTICE - Transmitted on VE3TWO by Dave VE3KLX. Wed. 19:10 20 wpm, 19:25 7, 10 & 13 wpm, Fri. 19:10 25 wpm, 19:25 13, 15 & 18 wpm. Both sessions end about 19:55; all times local.

VE3JW - Amateur Radio Station of the National Museum of Science and Technology. The OVMRC helps maintain the station, schedules provides operators for the station as part of an Amateur Radio public relations display. VE3JW operates on all HF bands, both CW and phone. Slow scan Amateur TV is also demonstrated.

LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO NET ACTIVITIES

POT-LID CW NET- Sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX. An informal slow speed CW net meeting every Sunday (except July and August) at 11:00 local time on 3.62 MHz, to promote interest and proficiency in CW and CW procedures.

CAPITAL CITY FM NET - Sponsored and operated by the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. every Monday at 20:00 local time on repeater VE2CRA. 146.34/146.94.

SWAF NET- Sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX. Every Sunday (except July and August) as a part of the POT-HOLE NET and every Monday (except July and August) as a part of the Capital City FM Net. Ed may be contacted at 733-1721 for listings and queries.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS BULLETIN GLADLY ACCEPTED

Membership in the OVMRC is open to all those interested in Amateur Radio. Regular Club Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 20:00 local time unless otherwise posted. Meetings normally take place in the auditorium of the National Museum of Science and Technology on St. Laurent Blvd. (south of the Queensway).

VOL 26 NO 1

JANUARY 1983

THE PRE SEZ

I would like to first wish everyone the best in 83 and hope that you had a good holiday. If the numbers shining forth on my scale are any indication, I had a fantastic and high calorie Christmas.

As I mentioned some time ago, I was thinking that the OVMRC could have a winter get together, however, lack of snow could be a problem. Well, how does a skating party sound. Any takers? We can discuss this at the January meeting.

The present executive is about half way through its term and you know what that means. Give some serious thought to running for an executive position. I know it's early but it does sneak up on us.

That's it for this month, see you at the meeting.

Frez Russ

VE3FSN

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The following article was published in a fall '82 issue of the VE2TD newsletter, written by the late Walter Dolphin VE2TD. Walter's newsletter which was widely read in Canada was always a most welcome publication for this editor.

OUR HOBBY

Our hobby of Amateur Radio is our lives together, what we have to offer each other - the giving and receiving of radio units, parts, components, gifts, books, advice, suggestions etc., just like the exchanges that go on between friends or members of a family, and indeed our hobby, like the family, is in fact a basic social unit of society.

It is made up of many things, the ambition and noise of great driving forces, of curiosity and exploration, of buying and selling, (sometimes without scruples), of greed and haste, of the desire for instant gratification when one buys a new rig, of getting it on the air immediately, of envy and jealousy, of endeavour, and of purpose.

Too often, unfortunately, it is made up of the image of our objectives, rather than the substance, such as engaging in static things, things that lead us nowhere, instead of involvement in the stuff that is dynamic and objective. These are the things of inspiration, progress, and achievement, - the things that nurture us rather than deprive us.

Those things have little to do with antennas, or transceivers or the paraphernalia of ham radio. What they amount to is a third reality of our hobby and of ourselves, - not too easy to express in words. Nevertheless that reality is everywhere, in all countries, among all peoples, but not all of us are necessarily able to recognize it when it becomes visible. Like the ball on the pin-ball machine, the third reality gets bounced around from pillar to post before reaching it's goal, but it never becomes dented, scratched or rusty.

The reality of hobby is also made of steel and it lasts and lasts, changing a little with the times occasionally, but remaining constant in the structure forever. If this reality ceased to live, our hobby would soon die of undernourishment, and people would give it up.

A good way to sustain it in good health is by performance, but this is not the same thing to all people at every place, and at all ages. The best criterion of performance is the answer to the question, "Have our thoughts been transferred into a positive action?". This leads to mandatory requirements for us to be tolerant of the activities and the aspirations of others, for there is not one single thing in amateur radio that deserves the derisive phrase, "It's for the birds"!

Every aspect of our hobby has it's utility and positive elements. It depends on our point of view, and this is always changing as we gather more insight and understanding of the nature of things, and as we grow older, gather a little more wisdom around us.

VE2TD

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MIC GAIN vs MODULATION by VE3DSW, Pete, from the "Feedline" Niagara Peninsula ARC

Two terms frequently misunderstood and often wrongly used interchangeably are "mic gain" and "modulation". The difference is fairly simple: Modulation (in FM) is the deviation (plus or minus) from centre frequency of the transmitted frequency. Mic gain determines the audio level needed (at the microphone) to produce a modulation level.

The modulation (deviation) control in an FM rig is set to limit the amount of deviation to a set value (usually plus-minus 5 Khz. This is done with the audio limiter in limiting. This means that no amount of audio input will cause the rig to modulate over the set value. Any audio not sufficient to drive the limiting stage into limiting, however, will cause the modulation to be lower than the set value.

Varying the mic gain will vary how loud (or how close to the microphone) a person must talk to reach a certain amount of modulation. Everyone has heard the person with an overabundance of mic gain. You can hear his every breath, the car next to him, and his kids yelling in the back seat. His voice may sound distorted if he talks loudly into the mic. If he drives the limiter into hard limiting, there will be much distortion in the audio after the limiter. We tend to form mental pictures of people we talk to and are shocked when those people don't really sound like they sound over the air, much less look like we had pictured them.

The overmodulated person (overdeviated person??) has another problem. His transmissions, while not necessarily including his kids, road noise, and the like, go beyond the pass band of the receiver, and, in weak signal areas, contribute highly to his breaking up in the receiver. The modulation control was probably set up (wrongly) to correct for low mic gain or low output from the organ of speech. When the rig was sold to a person with higher audio output, the rig overmodulates.

Undermodulation is the condition that no audio level, no matter how much, at the mic terminals, will not modulate the rig to the 5 Khz limit. Low mic gain occurs when normal audio levels will not modulate the rig to the set level of modulation.

THE STUDENTS CORNER

Here it is January, almost down to the last few days before you try your exam on Feb. 9. You should find the time every day to get in some cw practice. Don't forget the regs, read your book several times during the next few weeks.

In the last issue of the Rambler we said that we would tell you a bit about antennas. Almost every new amateur faces the same problem, "What kind of antenna do I put up." The more you read and ask the more confusing it becomes. Some people will tell you to buy a vertical others will say build or buy a tuner and you can use anything for an antenna. I'm sure you've heard the stories about the ham who uses the window screen or the bed spring or the door knob - suitably matched of course to the transmitter output. It all sounds great but all you will be interested in when you get your licence is how to ensure that you are getting out.

In the beginning keep it simple. Most transmitters, either home built or purchased are designed to work into a 50 ohm load. In order to get the RF from the transmitter to the antenna you must have a reasonably close match. That is when the antenna is hooked up to the transmitter, the antenna looks like a 50 ohm resistive load. If it doesn't there will be losses on the transmission line and little output from the antenna.

The entire field of HF antennas is almost a black art in that what happens in theory and what happens in practise are often very different.

The simplest antenna is a basic half wave dipole. It's easy to make and the ground rules are simple. A dipole has an input impedance of approximately 70 ohms. Depending on how it is suspended the impedance may be less-closer to 50 ohms if the ends are lower than the centre like in the inverted V configuration dipole.

Suspend your antenna as high as possible and in a straight line if you can. If you can't the ends may be bent left or right or down, it will still work. Dipoles are shorter in length as the frequency is raised. 10, 20 or 15 meter dipoles can be easily installed in the attic of your home. (I've got three - 10, 15, 20). They work very well.

An excellent 40m antenna to start with is a dipole which is 67 feet long. This antenna can be fed directly with 50 or 75 ohm coax and will couple directly into any of the commonly used transceivers.

A better arrangement is to feed the antenna with open wire line. The length of the open wire transmission is critical and must be either 33 feet or 66 feet. By using a simple antenna tuner this antenna will work well on both 40 and 80.

In the next issue we will tell you how to build a simple tuner for this antenna.

Jerry  
VE3CDS

PR FRATTLE

Here it is, the New Year, and I'm caught with my resolutions down! I have a little news to pass along, but not a heck of a lot. I intend contacting all of the VE3JW operators in the next few days to see how things are going with their shifts. I intended to do that before Christmas but I fell victim to a "bug", not the CW type either! It left me kind of tired so much so that "a bunch of the guys" Jerry, the Editor; Dave, the VP; and Pat, the Treasurer had to come over to put the December Rambler on the street. As I lay upstairs, I could just hear the questions "I wonder what this control does?". Anyhow, they did a great job and didn't leave any mess behind! I will be able to turn the Rambler printing over to some really capable people when situations dictate my giving up the duty.

I have no new information on the progress on the construction for the new VE3JW display at the Museum of Science and Technology. I hope to be able to report on that at the January meeting.

I've not seen anything yet in TCA regarding the OVMNC Field Day however I saw a very good article in a recent QST regarding the activities of both the OVMNC and the OARC.

I just thought of an excellent New Year's resolution. I should teach myself to type, so I can work a bit faster on the old Apple II. It would sure make putting these articles together a lot easier!

Well I suppose I have run out of things to write just now so I'll close by wishing you all the best for '83. TTFN.

Mike  
VE3LAR

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VICE VOICE

Well it looks like I managed to survive the 1982 Christmas festivities. Here I am in January 1983 trying to think of something to say.

I guess the first thing is regarding the Wise Owl Net. It's time for the end of year statistics! For the period January 2 to December 25, 1982 we had a total of 751 check-ins. The total elapsed time for the same period was 43.1 hours. The check-in figure of 751 is up from 501 for the previous year.

Once again Sydney, VE3GVI very skillfully.....is that one or two l's?....accomplished with skill - skill-ful-ly adv....oh yeah, two anyway Sydney did a great job on the special Christmas day edition of the Wise Owl Net. Thanks Syd on maintaining the tradition.

Did you catch the fantastic print job done on the December Rambler? A special, highly skilled bunch were hired specially to do the job in Mike's absence. Ok....not quite true....a bunch of raving lunatics descended upon VE3LAR's humble abode and caused the Gestetner to spew forth pages and pages of print in small denominations. In any event, the result has hopefully been delivered by flaming arrow to your domiciles.

I would like to thank the publishers of The New Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary for providing their indirect inspiration and for providing pages and pages of neat words which I use all the time but can't always remember how to spell.

F.S. Don't forget about the Wise Owl Net's third anniversary on Fri. Jan. 21, 1982. From that date to March 25 inclusive you will be given an opportunity to become Wise Owlers. Full details are available from me and also will be blasted to death on Ottawa's supreme repeater VE3TWO.

Well that's the extent of the memory expansion chips this week?.....month.

Place Official Seal  
of Vice Prez Here  
Complete With Water  
And a Fish Or Two.

Dave  
VE3KLX

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#### THE BOTTOM LINE

Here it is 1983 already. I guess that it is not too late to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a good Christmas and that Santa was good to you. I spent Christmas in Calgary and had a nice two week vacation there. I took the two meter rig with me, but found little activity. There is a very small net that meets every evening on a repeater on 146.94. They are a friendly bunch. It is, however, not a very good idea to mention that you are from Ottawa when visiting the west.

As far as the club finances go, this is a very quiet time of year. Our membership now stands at 98. We have picked up four memberships since November. It would be nice to have 100 members in this our anniversary year. Persons joining now only have to pay 50 percent of the normal membership fee. Our book balance to date is \$2458.73. I have not been to the bank since returning from my holiday, so this total doesn't include our December bank interest (about \$14.00).

This month marks the last full month of the amateur radio course. There will be two classes only in February and the exam comes on February 9. For those of us running the course, things are starting to look up. The end is in sight. I may actually have time to play Pacman on my computer instead of using it to generate seemingly endless Morse Code practice tapes. For you, the students, on the other hand, this is a time when the pressure increases. It is time to go over those hazy areas and get them clarified before it is too late. It is also time, if you haven't done so already, to go over the regulations. It is very important to know TRC-25 well. Most of the questions in the reg. part of the exam are based on this document. On the October exam there were three or four questions based on the "Q" codes which appear in the Regulations Handbook. We cannot teach you the regulations. It is something you must learn on your own. Good luck!

Pat Brewer  
VE3KJQ

MINUTES OVMRC MEETING 16 DEC. 82INTRODUCTION:

President Russ VE3FSN opened the meeting at 2000 hours and introduced Jack Fowler - VE3NVI who has just joined the club.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING:

Bob - VE3KLLK moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Jim - VE3AHN, the motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

President: Russ - VE3FSN reported that the 13th week of the amateur radio course has been completed. He feels that quite a few students should be able to pass the DOC exam. A few club members are donating old copies of QST that will be given to the students. The course requires a lot of time and effort on the part of the instructors.

Past President: Absent.

Vice President: Absent.

Technical Advisor: Absent.

Secretary: Nil report.

Public Relations: Absent.

Treasurer: Pat - VE3KJQ reported that the club's current bank balance is \$2448.72 out of which \$700 is to be used to cover course expenses. Pat suggested that the club should spend some of this money. Possibly on a safty belt or for an autopatch facility for VE3TWO.

VE3TWO: Norm Rashleigh - VE3DVF has installed 2 cavities on the output of the pager that is interfering with our repeater. A 20 db. improvement has been measured at 147.15 Mhz. and a similar improvement has been noted on VE3TWO's input.

Constitution: Pat - VE3KJQ reported that a few inconsistancies are to be corrected.

VE3JW: Rene - VE3JKA asked if there was any news on the new station. Since Mike - VE3LAN was away there was no report.

Auction - Jerry - VE3CDS is taking care of the arrangements.

Field Day: Pres. Russ asked for a volunteer to co-ordinate field day activities - no response.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim - VE3JPC reported that Fred - VE3KPK has established a radioteletype "mailbox" on 3631 khz. Anyone interested in using the service should contact Fred. Also Jim asked if the members had any interest in VHF RTTY. Several members indicated a desire to get established on that mode. For those hams who don't have a computer Jim described the availability of an "Apple" compatible motherhood board which can be purchased for \$60; chips cost approximately \$110, and with a cabinet, power supply and keyboard a computer can be built for less than \$500.

Next Meeting: To be held on Jan. 20, 1983 at the Museum of Science and Technology.

Adjournment: Moved by Jim - VE3AHF and seconded by Tim - VE3EWE, the meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

T.V. Evangelatos  
Secretary



Welcome to 1983. Once again the festive season of Christmas and New Years is gone. Listening on the bands there certainly were a number of new rigs in evidence, looks like Santa made a few hams happy. Speaking of happy, I must comment on one of the most enjoyable and satisfying ham activities I have ever participated in. On Dec. 15, along with several other Ottawa hams we visited the Sick Childrens hospital here in Ottawa. Under the sponsorship of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club with Gerry King, VE3GK acting as organizer we gave the children an opportunity to talk to Santa via amateur radio.

The looks of delight and enjoyment from the kids made the evening a real blast.

We did a bit of operating over the holiday. Checked into CNTARS 40 on 7055, good daytime net for provincial coverage. Did a bit of DX on 10 and 15. Lots of good DX was around with good pile ups. 80 and 40 have been very good at night. Oh yes went in the ten metre contest earlier in Dec. Doubled our score from last year. That reminds me I must send some envelopes to the QSL bureau, I got a note with my last batch of cards reminding me that it was my last envelope on file. Must send 3 or 4 more along with postage to The Ontario Trilliums A.R.C. Box 157, Downsview, Ont. M3M 3A3. You might just do the same. They do a good job.

Let us all help to improve our club in 83.

See you at the January meeting.

Jerry VE3CDS

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Next regular meeting

Jan. 20

Museum of Science and Technology

St. Laurent Blvd.

8:00 P.M.

Tentative program:

Ottawa Fire Dept., talk on fire prevention in your shack.

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FOR YOUR READING

The Chip, Electronic Mini-Marvel  
National Geographic, Oct 1982

Computers-Time Jan 3 1983

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FROM CARF NEWS SERVICE

1983 has been designated as World Communication Year and in view of the international nature of the Amateur Service and its contributions to world telecommunications, CARF has asked DOC to assign a special prefix to make the occasion. The prefix "CY" has been requested. It would be effective from May 17th, International World Communication Day, for a period of two months, the maximum time allowed under the Department's special call policy.

The Italian government has formalized the acceptance of a reciprocal operating agreement, effective November 15. It only remains for DOC to announce that it is legal for Canadians.

According to a group of U.S. doctors quoted in WESTLINK REPORT, using an old colour TV as a computer or teletype monitor may be hazardous. Sets manufactured before January 1970 give off a lot of X-ray radiation and although poses little hazard when used for normal viewing, it can become a health problem when you sit too close to one used as a video monitor with a computer or teletype receiver.

FROM CRRL NEWS

DOC has indicated it will likely change to 1-year licences in the very near future. At present, licence fees are collected every year, but actual station licences are issued only every 5 years.

Canadian amateurs will be participating in World Communications Year. CARF has asked DOC to issue a special prefix to mark the occasion, and CRRL will be announcing a special awards program for the 1983 IARU Radiosport Contest, to be held in July.

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