

SEPT 1988

THE RAMBLER

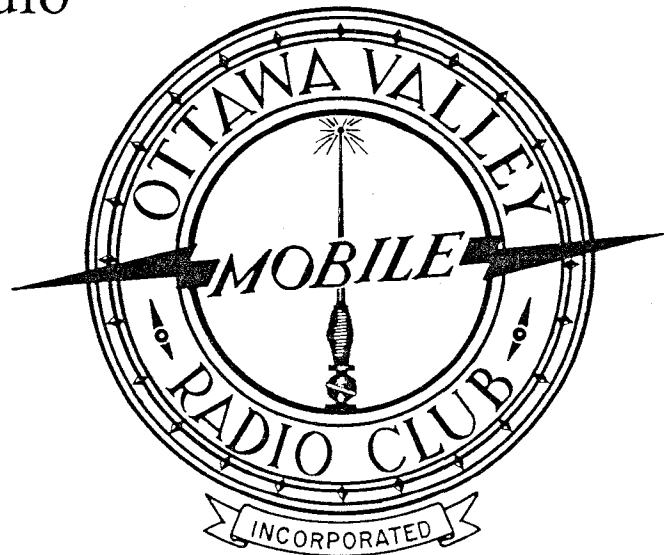
The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio
Club Incorporated

P.O.Box 5530

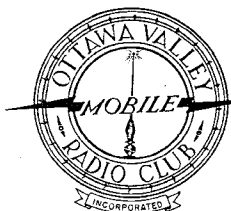
Station F

Ottawa Ontario

K2C 3M1



NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1988
PLACE: THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
TIME: 7:30 P.M.



The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.
P.O. Box 5530
Station F
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 3M1

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1988-1989**

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**THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB
INCORPORATED**

OVMRC SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

POT HOLE NET - OVMRC NET -
Every Sunday, 1000 local time on 3760 kHz, SSB. All Radio amateurs are welcome to participate.

THE WISE OWL NET - OVMRC NET -
Rag chew net every Friday evening at 2000 local time on the club repeater VE3TWO - 147.30/90 mHz.

VE3JW - Amateur radio station of the National Museum of Science and Technology. The OVMRC helps maintain the station and schedules 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 TV is also demonstrated. For information or if you wish to operate the station, contact the Public Relations Coordinator.

AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITIES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL:

POT LID NET - Sponsored by Ed Morgan VE3GX. An informal slow speed CW net meets each Sunday (except July and August) at 1100 hrs. on 3620 kHz to provide and stimulate interest and proficiency in CW procedures.

CAPITAL CITY FM NET - Sponsored by the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. every Monday evening at 2000 hrs. local time. Conducted on VE2CRA repeater 146.94/146.34.

SWAP NET - Sponsored by Ed Morgan VE3GX, each Sunday as part of the Pot Hole Net, and each Monday as part of the Capital City FM Net (except July and August). Ed may be reached at 733-1721 for listings and queries.

THE MILITARY NET - Sponsored and conducted by Frank, VE3MSC, Tuesdays at 2000 hrs. on VE3TWO 147.30/147.90 mHz.

Membership in the OVMRC is open to all those interested in Amateur Radio. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 2000 hrs. unless otherwise posted. Meetings normally take place in the auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology on St. Laurent Blvd. (south of the Queensway).

The OVMRC provides code practice 24 hours a day. Dial 825-0786.

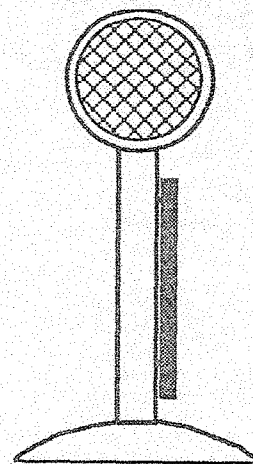
The Rambler

Volume 31, Number 8
September 1988

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The Rambler is put together by a top-notch publishing team, spearheaded by Fred Haire, VE3NMF, along with Eric Still, VE3OTT and Don VE3PUZ. George Caskey, VE3NJJ, tames the beast that spews out the printed pages.



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RAMBLINGS

By Alan Boyce VE3LNH

I can't let this issue go by without commenting on the Rambler. Does this look like a professional publication to you? I am impressed. And I think that it will be getting even better as more refinements are made each month.

What about September's meeting? You have read the notices, but I'll bet that you put off doing anything about it. September 15 is closing in on us, and if you are going to ask a guest, you had better get moving. All you Elmers call up that neighbour kid who keeps asking questions about the funny aerial on your roof. Put on your nicest Uncle Bill smile and go out and recruit someone for the hobby. How else are we going to find OVMRC presidents for the next decade?

Your executive is putting together a very special program for September's meeting. As is mentioned elsewhere in this

issue, the theme will be "An Introduction to Amateur Radio" and we will feature presentations and displays tailored to the non-amateur. There will be information on what we do in the hobby, how to get started, how much it costs, and how to find out about courses. There will also be working demonstrations of HF (DX, we hope) and packet.

We will be serving doughnuts, cookies, soft drinks, milk, and coffee, and it will all be free. We are also lining up a generous selection of prizes with free raffle tickets for all guests and anyone bringing a guest.

I have already invited my eleven year old nephew, three people who work with me, and an interested neighbour who may also bring his son.

I believe that this meeting should set the tone for the remainder of the year. We have decided that our goal is to attract some new members to the hobby

and to the club, and this meeting is the kickoff for that program. If some of the visitors leave with a good impression, then they may come out again in October. They may sign up for the course. If the evening is a roaring success we may polish it up and run it again in the spring. So try to make our guests feel welcome, and PLEASE don't overwhelm them with esoteric terminology (QSL?).

Please note that the meeting will start a half-hour earlier than usual in order to accommodate our younger guests; starting time is 7:30 and everything should be finished by 9:30. It will be held in the usual place: the auditorium of the National Museum of Science and Technology, off St. Laurent Blvd., on Thursday, September 15, 1988.

This hobby has given you many years of enjoyment. Why not do someone else the favour of introducing him to the hobby?

EDITORIAL

By Bob Baillargeon
VE3MPG

The first issue of the new re-designed Rambler hit your mailboxes last month. Was it a success? You bet!!! From the calls at home and the comments on the repeaters, all of you liked the new Rambler. Thank you!!!

That first issue involved a complete redesign from scratch, using a new, unproven, desktop publishing system and related software. The inside cover caused a lot of midnite oil burning and altogether there were approximately 24 revisions done to that masthead page prior to final laser printing. This month a few subtle changes were incorporated. Simple things like incorporating the name RAMBLER somewhere in the publication instead of just on the mailing cover. You'll see it at the bottom of each page too. Ah yes, a spell checker is now being used. All text is input using Wordperfect for the Amiga. The desktop publishing program is Professional Page by Gold Disk of Mississauga Ontario. The program even does four color separations. It will be a while before you see color here!

The Best of VE3JF on the last page of the August Rambler raised a few hackles and you'll find the comments in the Letters to the Edi-

tor section. The Best of VE3JF is downloaded directly from the packet BBS, run by Barry VE3JF. Another Morse Code related download is included in this issue.

Deadlines for copy to the Rambler editor is usually by the 25th of each month, and any format except Apple format can be accepted at this time - but I'm working on a fix for that. If you are active on packet leave your contributions or comments to me on VE3JF for retrieval. When you do send your documents include a hard copy version so that I may check it against your disk version.

After six long years teaching the club's Amateur Radio Course, Russ Pastuch, VE3FSN is stepping down due to work commitments. A job well done Russ! In the meantime the course is still on with Doug Carswell, VE3ATY doing duty as teacher, along with Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ and Alan Boyce VE3LNH. We are still looking for two extra bodies to help teach the code portion of the course. So if you wish to participate, call either Pat or Doug.

A new column appears next month - **press<return>to continue** - a column all about computers and ham radio. If you have unpublished articles related to packet, satellite tracking, DX programs, anything for the popular computers used by hams, lets have it. There's so much happening out there in the

microcomputer world that affects our daily lives let's read about how it affects our hobby. It's certainly a darn good way to attract new potential amateurs. After all, our children are exposed to computers early on in the education system and most love it. Let's show them this hobby can be fun, and at the same time foster new levels of learning in electronics and computers. The future of the hobby depends on new blood, new ideas and most of all fun!

Thanks to all of this months contributors - a job well done! It was great to read those individual writing styles while inputting them. You see, there is some untapped talent out there - let's have more of the same. Bravo!

Each issue of the Rambler is knocked together by a top-notch publishing team that includes Fred VE3NJJ, Eric VE3OTT, Don VE3PUZ and the keeper of the beast, that spews out those finished pages, George VE3NJJ. George, thanks for putting up with all four of us for a whole evening.

Remember, each issue depends a whole lot on your input. Get inputting! See your stuff in print.



No Code?

I refer to the no-code licensing controversy (back page, August 1988, Rambler).

KA9Q/W2JUP'S arguments are irrefutable, but here is a hypothetical situation: a motorist calls for help on his cellular phone - but he finds it is unserviceable (or Ma Bell is on strike). Look though, he has a pencil and paper, a boy on a bike is nearby - and suddenly he realizes he does not know how to hold a pencil. Moral: sophisticated equipment will get you through, but if it is not available, sometimes simpler means will serve.

It is important for us to recruit young people to our ranks, with fresh, eager minds. But often they are a bit short of cash. They see VE3JW, and they learn that a state-of-the-art transceiver can cost \$3000, a tower and beam another \$2000. They are discouraged. But now tell them that a good used CW rig can be found for \$200. Maybe even Home-brewed equipment is an alternative. With a little help from friendly grandpa, our teen-age licensee can be on HF the day after getting his Call-sign, proud to use those magic sounds that a thoughtful ITU has made him learn. And he'll have just as much fun with it and get almost as far.

The ITU legislates for what is primarily a hobby, though KA9Q has listed the more serious reasons for its existence too. Hamming is for pleasure, like TV (without the commercials). Thus if ITU does anything to enhance that pleasure, I am for it. Once the code is learned, it becomes an artistic achievement, akin to music. One can constantly improve, and if you are in form, enjoy it greatly.

There are not a few licensees who, for reasons of faulty hearing cannot understand chatty users of SSB. I am one of them. I can get 2M FM, and Ma Bell on the twisted pair, but I have only used my mike on HF three times in twenty years. My personal preference is obvious. Code is delightfully private talk, none but the privileged can share it, even though we have nothing whatever to hide. Accent is no disadvantage.

In a scenario similar to our opener: suppose you have all the gear you need for CW, SSB, FM etc., and you get an SOS in code. Can you imagine yourself as a licensed radio operator who cannot read what follows, even at 5 or 10 wpm?

Serge Stucken, VE3JRG

THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT.....

Greetings from the Gateway of the North. I guess it has been quite a while since I entered some utterances onto the printed page.

This new president guy seems to be a real mover and a shaker and we all know how painful that can be. I suspect he may even be a cunning linguist.

I was quite impressed with the quality of the layout of The Rambler and the mind-sucking fonts.

I was also impressed to hear the mention of the ubiquitous Amigal. I am composing this article with an Amiga 1000. The only tricky bit is getting a disk to the editor. Transfer via 1200 baud modem is also possible but costly. I am settling for simply composing and dumping to the printer and submitting my article in hard copy form.

I have managed to be in Ottawa quite regularly over the past several months although I have maintained radio silence most of the time. I can be heard on final approach and on departure and occasionally during the tour of duty in Ottawa, but activity is definitely on the wane.

On a more upbeat kind of theme, I had the pleasure of being in attendance in Oakville in June for Pat, VE3KJQ's wedding. I am sure everyone joins me in wishing Pat and Janet all the best for their future. The scariest thing about these recent weddings is that I am running out of male friends who are still bachelors; there must be a new world order.

Speaking of new world order I see Ottawa now has the '911' system. That is definitely a good sign. Now if Ottawa could stop this constant refurbishing of its roads it would make my life much easier. Navigation was never a strong point with me and having fresh charts of Ottawa has always been a way of life. In spite of all this planning I still always find myself cursing the mystery roads that spring up and the familiar beaten paths ripped apart under construction.

This is not to say North Bay is much better. Our biggest joke on motorists is "the bypass". It is a funny four-lane section of road that is Highway 11 and Highway 17 simultaneously. Here's the best part - it doesn't bypass too much. It is true that the city proper is on the shores of Lake Nipissing, but the city is growing like Chernobyl mutant vegetables and the end result is a bypass that actually bisects the city into two halves. The only other jape at the motorist's expense is poor snow removal. Be thankful ye Ottawans that you have very good snow removal. Our volume really isn't any more than yours, it's just that this isn't as big a priority here for some reason. Although one thing I have learned from being a "Fed" is not to try to figure out the ways of government as it makes for a condition known as "brain overload". The first symptoms are characterized by uttering expressions such as "I've figured it out.....I understand now". These pronouncements go over with colleagues about as well as the General Electric employee that invented a new light bulb that never needs replacement.

In closing I leave you with a thought first asked by Steven Wright: "If you are driving at the speed of light and you turn on your headlights, do they do any good?"

Dave Coutts, VE3KLX
(YYB) North Bay Bureau

GO GET A LICENCE!

It was often frustrating, sometimes mysterious, always bordering on suicidal and terribly lonely. All of that aside it was easy and worthwhile. Now about that seafront property in Saskatchewan.....!

This refers to my endeavour in getting my Amateur radio operators licence. It seemed to me that to accomplish something this important, that two things were necessary: a definite need and not quite enough time. Heaven knows I qualified on both counts!

The real message here is that you get your licence yourself. The three instructors we had said so. They were all very knowledgeable, and very kind, but made it clear beyond any shadow of a doubt - if you don't want to work for your ticket, that's your problem - we've already got ours!

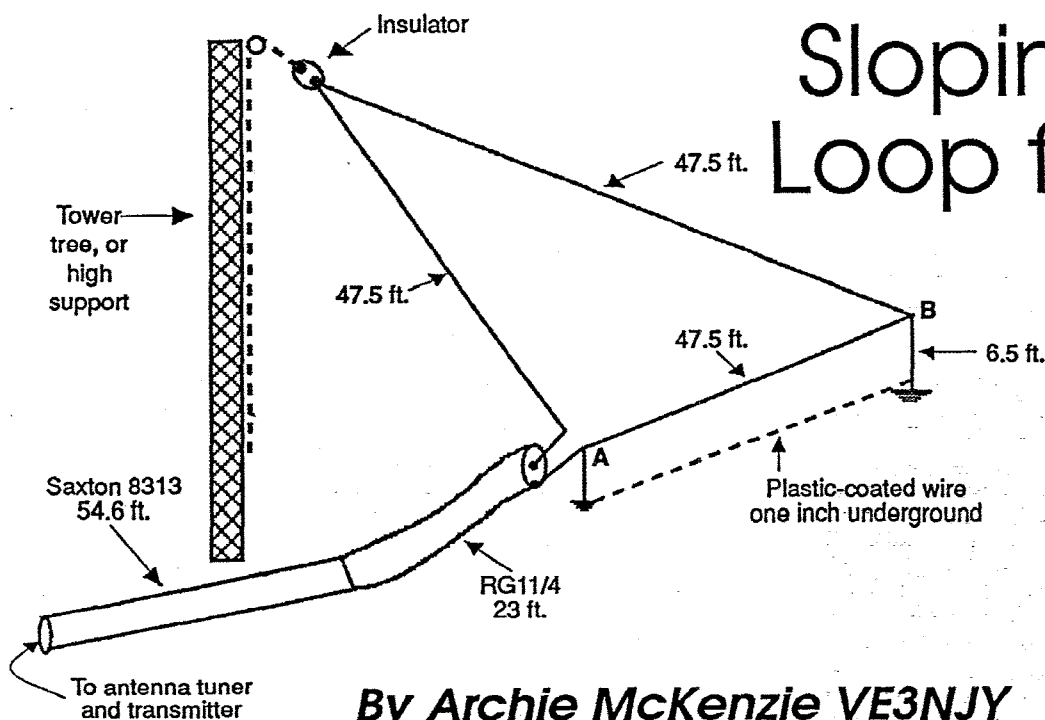
Thank you to Russ FSN, Pat KJQ, and Jim AHN. They worked real hard to get us through. It's a good hobby and I should have got a licence thirty years ago.

Nice to meet you all, Eric Still - VE3OTT

"Criticism is prejudice made plausible."

-H.L. Mencken





Sloping Delta Loop for 7 Mhz

"A dipole for the 40 meter band works very well, but at times it can be more convenient to erect a sloping delta loop, which, with a few simple changes, can work on 80 meters also."

By Archie McKenzie VE3NJY

Method: Delta loop 47.5 feet per side, with base 6.5 ft. above ground. Use copperweld wire. The lower corners of the loop, at A and B, are grounded. Attach the ground wires to 5 foot ground rods, pounded in 4.5 feet. Join the ground wires with plastic coated wire buried a few inches below ground level. Since the loop resistance is not matched to the transmission line, it is necessary to insert a quarter-wave matching section of coax. This transmission line transformer is made of RG11/4 (23 feet with a velocity factor of 0.66). Join this to 54.6 feet of Saxton 8313 coax, to the antenna tuner and the transmitter.

For operation on 40 meters, re-connect the ground wire at B. Noise bridge tests were made by VE3JGQ, assisted by VE3LOR.

References: *Ham Radio Magazine*, July 1986, p.66 and *Radio Communications (Radio Society of Great Britain)* Sept. '85.

MEMBERSHIP MUSINGS.....

Like all good club members I'm sure that you have renewed your membership. No?!? Well, you're not alone. In this issue of *The Rambler* there is a membership application and a **RED DOT** has been stuck to your address label as a reminder. Please either send in your membership to the club P.O. box or bring it to the September meeting. Why not bring along a friend too so that they can see what our club and amateur radio is all about.

Pat Brewer VE3KJQ

The Best @ VE3JF

Open Letter to TCA

Dear Editor?

There seems to be a paucity of Editorial discipline in TCA regarding letters to the editor, particularly on the subject of morse code and the amateur licence requirements. Far too many letters get no comment from TCA at the time they are published. Is the reader to assume TCA has no opinion regarding letters published? Most of the letters equate the difficulty of the amateur examinations with the lack of numbers in our ranks. The statistics show otherwise, here and in the rest of the world. Far too many letters show very little respect for the work ethic; anything worth working for is worth having. How long does it take to become proficient in any hobby? A six or ten week course of two hours a night, once or twice a week does not even approach "proficiency".

Myself, and I suspect many others are tired of the thumb-sucking syndrome pandered to in letters to TCA. There are no valid arguments to substantiate lowering the licence requirements. As leaders in the electronics world Canadians have a reputation to uphold if they expect to service in the global communications hobby!

One of your recent letters is authored by a yet to be licenced nimrod who writes "cut out the morse code if you wish and I'd lose no sleep". Morse code, my friend, in case you did not know, is the backbone, the foundation of amateur radio. It is not the spark-gap technology for grey haired grandads. Its the hi-tech mode for satellite beacons, amsat ops, qrp buffs, traffic nets fast and slow, moonbounce specialists, weak signal vhf uhf microwave enthusiasts, to mention a few areas where morse code does it all. Once learned properly it becomes a second language, never forgotten.

I suggest that editorial content of the kind shown in letters denigrating morse code should not be published, as they do nothing to enhance this hobby.

Yours truly,
Joe Caberlin, VE3ABG

Wormhole

A new "wormhole" link between Ottawa and Calgary became operational on July 28. The link, provided by Telesat Canada, uses one of the Anik satellites and runs at 9600 bps. The gateways to the

link are the NET/ROM nodes OTTSAT (VE3RWJ-1) and CGYSAT (VE6PAK-1).

Sorry to disappoint you packet DX'ers in the east, but the OTTSAT node is only accessible in the Ottawa area, on the 145.07 LAN frequency. However, mail for VE6-land can be forwarded via the VE3JF BBS in Ottawa to the VE6HWY BBS in Calgary.

Prime mover behind the establishment of this link was Richard, VE3EYJ, of Telesat Canada, with technical assistance from VE6VQ (ex-VE6BOA), VE3JBO, VE3JF, and Telesat staff members (my apologies if I left anyone out).

The link will be available 24 hours a day, for a period of about 2 years. Please send enquiries to VE3JF @ VE3JF.

The network grows!
Barry VE3JF @ VE3JF BBS

The Tonight Show?

To: ALL @ALLCA From: N6GOZ
Date: 28-Aug/0408
Subject: ATV MAKES TV GUIDE MAGAZINE

THE CURRENT ISSUE OF TV GUIDE HAS A LENGTHY ARTICLE ON AMATEUR RADIO AND PARTICULARLY AMATEUR TELEVISION LOCATED TOWARDS THE BACK OF THE MAGAZINE. THE ARTICLE IS A NUMBER OF PAGES IN LENGTH AND IS A GREAT SHOT IN THE ARM PUBLICITY WISE TO THE AMATEUR COMMUNITY AND THE AMATEUR TELEVISION SERVICE. GO HIJACK THE XYL'S SOAP OPERA GUIDE AND CHECK OUT THIS GREAT ARTICLE THAT WILL BE READ BY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. 73 MIKE N6GOZ.

I put on my dark shades (lest I be recognized in public) and bought a copy at the local 7-11. The article is very good, considering the context, but it fails to even mention how an interested individual could become a ham. In preparation for the inundation (well at least a dozen letters or so) to TV Guide from those wanting more information, I suggest some of us write a few letters of our own providing names and addresses of resources (i.e. ARRL, regional clubs, etc) that those interested could be referred to.

73, Paul, KD3FU@W3EAX
Secretary/Acting V.P. of UMARA

7th Annual AMATEUR RADIO COURSE

offered by

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

The course is held Monday evenings at Laurentian High School Between 1900 and 2000 hours. Registration will be held September 12, 1988. Course fee is \$90.00 which includes all books and materials.

The course offers:- International Morse Code
-Canadian Radio Regulations
-Radio & Electronic Theory

For further information call:

Pat Brewer VE3KJQ, at 825-0796

Doug Carswell VE3ATY, at 839-5854

Alan Boyce VE3LNH, at 737-4937



Introduction to Amateur Radio



PLACE: THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 1867 ST. LAURENT BLVD.

DATE: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 1988.

TIME: 7:30 P.M.



SEE WHAT AMATEUR RADIO IS ALL ABOUT! TALK TO DISTANT STATIONS FROM THE MUSEUM'S OWN AMATEUR RADIO STATION.

DISPLAYS SHOWING PACKET RADIO, QSL CARDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, HOMEBUILT AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT, PUBLIC SERVICE USE OF HAM RADIO AND HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A CHEAP HAM STATION WILL BE THERE. SEE VE3JW, THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY'S HAM RADIO STATION IN OPERATION.

FIND OUT HOW **YOU** CAN GET ON THE AIR!

THERE WILL BE A FREE RAFFLE AND FREE REFRESHMENTS FOR ALL GUESTS.

BRING A FRIEND!

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OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALL SIGN

Application Date

Surname Given Names & Initials Preferred Radio Name

NEW RENEWAL
Association Membership

Address Home Ph.

CARF CRRL

City & Province Postal Code Business Ph.

OARC Other..
FOR OFFICE USE

Applies for membership(s) for the MEMBERSHIP YEAR.....19.88./89.
in the following categories:

- REGULAR MEMBER* - Licenced Amateur.....\$15.00 _____
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER* - Radio Enthusiast.....\$15.00 _____
- FAMILY MEMBER(S) - of Regular or Associate Members...\$ 1.00 _____

Given Names:

and encloses a cheque/money order for the sum of\$ _____

* Includes subscription to the Rambler.

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