Minutes cont'd

18. Editor Chuck, VE3PDK, introduced a new Club member - Ron McIsaac - who was warmly welcomed by President Doug and members present.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

19. There was no CRRL rep in attendance.

20. The CARF rep reported that the current CARF Bulletin was not yet available.

21. President Doug next called on Past President Alan, VE3LNH, to introduce the evening's Guest Speaker, Jim Cummings, VE3JPC, of DOC. Past President Alan said that Jim had been to Africa assisting Third World countries in applying communications technology to their problems and was planning to return to work on 2 addtional projects. He noted that Jim has been a Ham for 13 years and had been involved in the DOC restructuring of Amateur Radio.

22. Guest speaker Jim's talk was in two parts: part 1 - past projects, and part 2 - future projects. Jim visited Dakar, Senegal, in May 1987 to attend a conference of non-governmental organizations, mostly African, but some Asian, European and North American. It was sponsored by the Reseau Africain pour le Developpement (RADI) and aimed at solving local problems, using modern technology. Jim's contribution was demonstrating the application and operation of Packet Radio in connecting remote villages with population centres. RADI has funding for a 3 year project which will consist of setting up 8/9 packet outstations with access to a central BB located about 40 km away. The stations will have a 10W XCVR, TNC and Model 100 computer. It is hoped to increase the number of outstations to 21 in the future. They are endeavering to procure the required equipment in Canada along with maintenance contracts. With these stations remote villages will be able to check the BB for current commodity prices, order required parts and supplies, etc. While in Senegal Jim set up an HF Packet Gateway station using an ICOM 735 HF XCVR, FT 490 VHF XCVR, KAM TNC, antenna tuner and dipole providing a link to the Canary Islands. Jim showed a number of interesting slides of village life, training, agriculture and local equipment. Local power comes from wind generater charged batteries and solar panels. He noted there was only one amateur radio club in the country; some of its hams supported the Paris/Dakar car/cycle ralley with packet radio.

With respect to future projects Jim mentioned one in Lesotho to provide communications for remote areas, however, the actual requirements have not yet been defined.

In January 1990 Jim heads for Khartoum to discuss a project for the Eritrean Relief Agency, an NGO. The project envisages HF AMTOR comms between remote areas and Khartoum. One native had been brought to Ottawa for training, however, he had not made it back to put it into use. The project is currently having equipment problems and Jim will do some trouble shooting there. He will also take with him new software - AP Link for AMTOR operations - which may help correct some of the deficiencies.

Minutes cont'd

Jim expressed his gratitude to the local Ottawa Packet Radio Group which had helped him immensely in his efforts.

During his travels Jim hopes to find some time to put "ST" and "3A" lands on the air with RTTY, so, you avid DXers, here's your chance for some rare ones.

There followed a question and answer session covering the history and customs of these countries which, for many of us, will remain unvisited and unknown.

23. President Doug thanked Jim for his excellent presentation and expressed envy of his exotic travels as part of his job and an offshoot of Ham radio, then declared a 15 minutes Coffee Break during which Jeff, VE3RCI, would pick up the questionnaires all members were requested to complete.

23. President Doug reconvened the meeting at 2120 hrs and announced there were a limited number of Local Directories available for $3.00 a copy.

24. The draw for the door prize, an AM STEREO TUNER, was conducted with Chuck, VE3PAP, emerging as the lucky winner.

25. President Doug introduced Peter, VE3LBW, who had brought to the meeting a R9000 communications receiver currently under evaluation. This is a top notch, all mode receiver with a frequency range from 100 kHz to 2 gHz, 1000 memory channels, and excellent sensitivity. It has four antenna connections on
the rear apron and a built-in CRT which displays TV video when tuned to a TV channel. Price range - $7,000.00. (Ask Santa for one!)

26. There being no further business, President Doug asked for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Joe, VE2JHT, and seconded by Bob, VE3PUE. Meeting adjourned at 2130 hrs. Lee Demone, VE3OWD Secretary

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Once again, here is our monthly review of club bulletins from across the country. Let's start with some words of wisdom for new hams from Mike, VE3FFK in the Ottawa Groundwave. "There is often a big gap between theory and practice in hamming. Don't be afraid to ask what you think is a 'dumb' question. They usually end up being the same questions we asked when we first got on the air." The same bulletin contains a list of mistakes made by a new ham in the Hamilton club, such as "carefully load up and tune a new antenna, then realize that it isn't connected, or confidently check into a two-meter net on the output frequency." I've done both of these.

In Sudbury over the summer, hams participated in the Grand Finnish Festival, which attracted about 10,000 visitors, including 1,000 from Findland. The club operated an HF station with the special call sign CF3ANH. They made a total of 44 QSOs to "OH' land and also managed one QSO with their sister city, Kokkola, Findland. The same bulletin includes the second edition

of Packet Racket North with a column on packet basics and some news on the Timmins Amateur Radio Club packet repeater. As an ex-Northerner, I find it amusing that the repeater is located at Raymore, which is about 50 miles form Timmins. Mind you, it is pretty flat up there except for a few old volcanos. Why doesn't someone in our Club write a column about packet?

The Calgary Amateur Radio Association (CARA) participated in the Calgary Hobby Show on November 18. The display consisted of an operating station and booth. CARA also managed to provide communications from all 191 polling stations during the recent civic elections. They have been doing this since 1966. Calgary ARES members were called out for a mock air crash disaster on October 3. Ham radio saved the day when the command post lost all commucications due to a power plant failure. Roy Usher, VE6EA is celebrating 60 years as a Ham. Do we have anyone in Ottawa what number of years?

In the London LARC Bulletin, the president reports on a meeting of presidents of seven local amateur radio groups to organize their involvement in CANWARN (a severe weather watch system, using amateur radio). He suggests that because the MUF (maximum Useable Frequency) falls near 10 Meters these days, you can work stations well inside the skip zone, using backscatter propagation. Yo do so by aiming your antenna, not at the station, but along an open path and then calling the near station,. The "Woodpecker" uses this effect for "over the horizon radar."

Both the London bulletin and the Scarborough bulletin contain interesting articles on Reginald Aubrey Fessenden. He was born in Canada and on December 23, 1900 was the first person to transmit the human voice. The later includes a reference to his invention of a type of sonar. Both articles agree that he died in 1932 and was buried in St. Mark's Church cemetery in Bermuda, but they vary on his epitaph. It was either "His mind illuminated the past and the future and wrought greatly for the present" or "By his genius, distant lands converse and men sail unafraid upon the deep." A biography of Fessenden in my library favours the former as the true epitaph. It says that the latter quote is from a tribute by Fessenden's son. There is a line under the epitaph on the memorial stone written in ancient Egyptian picture writing, which is interpreted as "I am yesterday and I know tomorrow." The origin of that quote is another story.

DX DU

Jeff Wilson VE3RCI

CQ CQ CQ DX DE VE3RCI! Calling all OVMRC members. Bring me your best DX catches of the month, any mode, any band (yes, VHF and above, too!). This new DX column is based on the reports that you provide to me at each monthly meeting. You can also call me at 837-9598 or send me your loggings via Packet Radio to VE3RCI @ VE3JF. This column will only work if you support it. Let's hear who you've been working.

DX DU cont'd
ON THE HF BANDS

From Lee, VE3OWD

HC3SL (Ecuador) Nov 6 0425Z 14.034 CW; UA0KBL (Asiatic RSFSR) Nov 8 0148Z 14.055 CW; UD6DKZ (Azerbaijan) Nov 8 0355Z 14.048 CW; UF6FDI (Georgia) Nov 8 0421Z 14.048 CW; UM8MM (Kirghiz) Nov 8 0431Z 14.030 CW; UL7ABA (Kazakh) Nov 11 0337Z 14.013 CW; 9Q5DX (Zaire) Nov 8 1900Z 21.022 CW; TA2AO (Turkey) Nov 12 1620Z 24.905 CW; GU4XGG (Guernsey) Nov 2 1508Z 28.530 SSB; OH3VV/OH0 (Aland Is.) Nov 4 1505Z 28.488 SSB; EL2FQ (Liberia) Nov 16 1643Z 28.044 CW. Also talked to DL0PTB and G4UOS via simplex FM 29.440 between 1505 and 1739Z Nov 4.

From Henry, VE3OMU

Henry's worked these goodies between Oct 10 and Nov 16: HS3/G3OLU (Thailand) 0409Z 14.017 CW, QSL via G3OLU; OH4ML/H44 (Solomon Is.) 0403Z 21.005 CW; A35ML (Tonga) 0124Z 21.225 and 0220Z 28.555 SSB, QSL via OH4ML; 4U1ITU (Geneva) 2228Z 21.296 SSB, QSL via I1RBJ; 5N29FEA (Nigeria) 2211Z 21.263 SSB, QSL to Elie, P.O. Box 65, Zaria, Nigeria (Oct. 30 was last day for special PX); T32PO (Christmas Is.) 1158Z 21.240 SSB, QSL via NH6PO; TA2BU (Turkey) 1725Z 28.022 CW; EC9KN (Chad?) 1820Z 28.903 SSB; YI0BIF (Iraq) 1656Z 28.447 SSB; LX/DL1SBR (Luxembourg) 1618Z 28.006 CW.

From Jerry, VE3CDS

Jerry's been enjoying the strong openings to Europe in the morning on 10 M working SP9PDF (Poland) 1346Z 28.365 SSB and OK3LA (Czechoslovakia) 1505Z 28.460 SSB. On 15 M he's worked 9H3EH (Malta) 2205Z; LZ2JR (Bulgaria) 0131; and YU3SB (Yugoslavia) 1353Z. Was that SSB or CW Jerry?

From Me, VE3RCI

FY5YE (French Guiana) Oct 27 1221Z 28.030 CW, QSL via W5JLU; FY5EW Nov 10 0324Z 7.004 CW (took me 40 minutes in the pileup), QSL via F6BFH; CU3URA (Azores) Oct 29 1550Z 28.542 SSB; 5W1ML (Western Samoa) Oct 30 0242Z 21.007 CW; C6A/AA5AU (Bahamas) Oct. 30 1259Z 21.008 CW; UL7ACI (Kazakh) Nov 8 1342Z 28.528 SSB; V31BB (Belize) Nov 8 1449Z 28.312 SSB and Nov 10 0217Z 7.002 CW; 7X2CE (Algeria) Nov 8 1903Z 28.516 SSB; EL2CX (Liberia) Nov 9 2241Z 21.014 CW; P40V (Aruba) Nov 10 0117Z 21.004 CW and 0341Z 14.004 CW.

I got a QSL from EA8BTU (Canary Is.) which I sent via the bureau and took almost 6 months for the direct reply which came with a full colour map and travel brochure of the islands. Very inviting!

Thanks to all the contributors this month. It was great getting logs at the meeting, finally...now lets hear from the rest of you DXers. Until next month, 73 es gud DX!

FIELDDAY UPDATE

The Results of 1989 Field Day OVMRC/OARC VE3JW Joint Effort

We got all of our 3474 points from ARRL Contest HQ. Great! So how did we stand up against the rest of North America? For those who don't receive QST (November issue); for our class 2A, we were 148th out of 492 or in the top 1/3 of by far the largest category. Pretty good work gang! Now for those with competitive tendencies: only one Ontario group beat us, a very good showing by Ottawa's own VE3RCMP (4,006 for 119th). Other top 2A Canadians were VE1FO, Halifax ARC (6506 for 24th!); VE6ND, Calgary ARA (4822 for 72nd); VE2CVR, CRA Vallee du Richelieu (4366 for 90th); VE7CVA, Cowichan Valley ARC (4058 for 114th); and VE5NN, Regina ARC (3603 for 141st).

We didn't make the top ten in Canada, according to QST Canada, so that should be our goal for next year, but I'll be happy just to have as good a time (and similar weather) as this year.

PACKET RADIO PRIMER & WORKSHOP - DECEMBER 21, AT 7:30 PM

If you don't know a BYTE from a BAUD, and don't really care, but you would like to know something about packet radio, then December's OVMRC meeting may be what you are looking for.

If you are thinking of getting on packet, but don't know what you need to buy, December's meeting will give you a chance to check out the options.

If you have bought packet equipment, but just can't figure out how to connect it together, then bring it to the meeting in December and we will try to help you out.

Finally, if you have the technical side solved, but you don't understand the operating protocols and procedures, then we will get on the air and show you right there at the meeting.

December's club meeting will offer something new: a Primer and Workshop on Packet Radio.

Ed LeBlanc and I will explain some of the basics of Packet Radio theory, equipment, and operation, followed by a discussion of the equipment and connections, and finally a demonstration of real packet conversations.

Since the presentation will be in a workshop format, we will try to field questions as they come up. In addition, everyone will have a chance to poke at the keyboard of some of the more common packet equipment.

Finally, if you are an experienced packet user, experimenter, or operator, then you are also enthusiastically invited. Ed and I won't turn down an offer of assistance!

So bring your packet questions to the Science and Technology Museum on Thursday, December 21, at 7:30.