

THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 35, Number 11 - November 1992

Giant 2 meter rabbit loose in Ottawa - experts baffled!

by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH & Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC

The "Bunny Hunt" was an informal fun event. There were no entry fees or prizes. The event was not sponsored by the OVMRC or by any other club, individual or group.

Want to know what chickens with their heads cut off look like? Well, read on and learn! The bunny hunt started at 09:30 Saturday, October 24, 1992 and ended at 11:30 when the bunny (Mike VE3FFK) revealed his location - the J.S. Woodsworth, Secondary School on Viewmount. Fifteen participants

organized themselves into ten teams for "The Hunt for White October."

Five teams ended up in the general area of the bunny but they couldn't find the target. Some teams resorted to travel on foot and one team even followed fresh tire tracks! Should we say who? Total frustration greeted most of us. The beams built by Wil, VE3XMT, performed too well and we all learned some important lessons in DF'ing!

Only two teams found the bunny. The first team found "Roger Rabbit" in a record 23 minutes. The team included Al VE3TYJ at the wheel, Steve VE3RUU, Doug VE3UTF, Ian

VE3PSK and dog JD. They put all the high-tech guys to shame with their twisted-together, unsoldered dipole stapled onto a hunk of wood! Congratulations fellas but we all think you lucked out! The high-techies are eating crow and humble pie now. Wanna bet they all start using dipoles in the next hunt?

The second team found the bunny in 54 minutes. Congratulations to Dave VE3KIU and Steve VE3USM. The rest of us are still scratching our heads wondering why we couldn't find the bunny.

See Bunny..... page 13



British amateurs beat the bushes for bashful bunny

Photo:VE3TSC

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

The *Rambler* is published monthly by:

The OVMRC
Box 5530, Station F
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K2C 3M1

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Amateur radio training (acting): Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, 839-5854
Field day: Vic Bajaj, VE3BSV, 726-9270
Flea market: Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823
Historical (acting): Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ, 825-8721
Hysterical: Neil Herber, VE3PUE, 829-4668
Membership: Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, 739-8871
Newsletter: See hysterical (don't ask)
Publicity and programs: Keith Beardsley, VE3SVQ, 731-7912
Radio operations: Ian Kennedy, VE3SNX, 747-8387
Technical: John Pope, VE3ACI, 989-3629

Ramblerites

Contributors to this issue:
Roger VE3XRR, Bob VE3YBC, Leo VE3NVL,
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VE3TSC, Judy VE3PAB, Jerry VE3CDS, Ken
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Get your name in here – impress your friends.

Circulation:

Bill Chapman, VE3RWC
Fred Haire, VE3NJF
Eric Still, VE3OTT
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Mark Your Calendar!

Next general meeting:

Thursday, November 19, 1992 19:30 local time in the auditorium at the National Museum of Science and Technology. Emergency preparedness by the director of EMRG, Joe MacPherson, VE3CAT.

Next executive meeting:

Thursday, November 26, 1992 19:30 local time in the volunteer room at the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Deadline for the next issue of the Rambler:

Thursday, November 26, 1992.

Affiliated clubs

The OVMRC exchanges bulletins with the following organizations:

Augusta Amateur Radio Association, Augusta, ME
Border City Radio Club, Windsor, ON
CARF, Kingston, ON
CRRL, Arva, ON
Chatham-Kent Amateur Radio Club Inc., Ridgetown, ON
Calgary Amateur Radio Association, Calgary, AB
Halifax Amateur Radio Club, Halifax, NS
Heritage Amateur Radio Club, Cobourg, ON
Kingston ARC, Kingston, ON
London Amateur Radio Club, London, ON
Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Ottawa, ON
Pioneer Amateur Radio Club, Nepean, ON
Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Scarborough, ON
Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club, Cornwall, ON
Sudbury Amateur Radio Club, Sudbury, ON
Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club, Saskatoon, SK
Thousand Islands Amateur Radio Association, Prescott, ON
West Island Amateur Radio Club Inc., Dorval, PQ

Sponsors

The OVMRC provides bulletins to the following organizations for their past support of our activities:

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON
Seaway Communications Co., Cornwall, ON

Ramblings

Words of wisdom from our President, Bob Sharp, VE3YBC



Greetings once again. I hope that the month of October went well for you and your family. Fall is definitely here and the "favorite sport" of the season is raking leaves. However, on the bright side, once the leaves are gone it's easier to string out those new dipoles. So get busy and let's get some activity on the HF bands testing out those new antennas.

The Department of Communications Car Rally went quite well as my report states, but did you notice who helped out? Many new hams are getting "club spirit" and are helping out when asked. As they get used to the way I do things they will learn not to return my phone calls. Back to the serious side of things – **A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

Our next planned event is the

"kids talk to Santa" for the Museum of Science and Technology. This is a fantastic event. The look on kiddies' faces when they talk to Kris Kringle is worth more than words can say. Ian VE3SNX is looking after this event and can always use more help.

With recent disasters devastating Florida, Hawaii and the Middle East, our speaker for the November meeting seems quite appropriate. Joe McPherson, VE3CAT, the director of the Emergency Measures Radio Group (EMRG) is coming to talk to us. Emergency measures is a serious topic, and if you only attend one meeting a year, please make it this one.

At the October meeting during the CARF announcements, Dan VE3EBI read a bit about a ham who was struck and killed by lightning while assisting with the hurricane relief effort in Florida. If you have to be outside in a storm please be careful.

The "Gremlins" struck again at the October meeting. Larry VE3WEH planned to show you his video feature on Field Day, but the Museum VHS tape players are one-speed units. Rest assured that the video will be shown after we re-record it at the required speed.

[It might actually be better to watch Larry's tapes at high speed. Ed.]

One of these days I hope to chair a meeting where everything goes according to plan. My next attempt will be in November. I am striving to break "Murphy's Law" as soon as possible.

At the last meeting I mentioned that there were two committees looking for new chairs. Currently Doug VE3ATY is the acting chair of the educational committee and Pat VE3KJQ is the acting chair of the historical committee. I am pleased to report that there are people interested in both positions and I hope to be able to introduce them to you at the November meeting.

One parting shot. With Christmas coming up fast, it might be a good idea to think of those less fortunate than ourselves. Please bring a couple of non-perishable food items to the **DECEMBER** meeting (not the next one!). All food items collected will be donated to the Ottawa Food Bank.

That's all I have for this month. See you at the November meeting.

– 73 de VE3YBC –

Mr. Ed lost for second month running!

by Neil Herber, VE3PUE

This is a monster issue of the *Rambler*, particularly appropriate around Halloween.

Some people may be wondering where their prize submission is. Well, there wasn't room! The *Rambler* has to publish club

motions, minutes and related business as a priority. Naturally, words from the Prez should always appear. Regular columns get the next priority since they would start to pile up if I didn't publish them.

The priority for the rest of the items is as follows: letters to

the editor, time sensitive items, items written by club members, Mr. Ed, reprints from other clubs, and finally, non-ham items such as jokes.

Please keep your submissions coming. I need to have some socked away for a rainy day.

–73–

Minutes

from the last general meeting, by Larry Woram, VE3WLN



OVMRC General Meeting,
October 15, 1992

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 19:40 by the President, Bob VE3YBC. Bob welcomed all members, guests and visitors. Visitors welcomed included VE3AB, VE3NHN, VE3UTS and VE3HHS.

2) CARF Bulletin

Dan Holmes, VE3EBI, read the highlights of the latest CARF bulletin. Highlights included CARF's concern over a survey the Department of Communications is conducting in an attempt to determine the feelings of the amateur community with respect to their delivery of spectrum management services. It is felt that the Department is unable to meet its mandate with the demands made on it increasing while resources are decreasing. Nevertheless, amateurs are encouraged to participate in the survey if selected.

3) Education

Doug VE3ATY announced that we have 31 students enrolled in the amateur radio course.

4) Flea Market

Ken VE3KJB was unable to make the meeting however it was announced that this year's

flea market would be held on May 15, 1993 at HMC Carleton Drill Hall at Dow's Lake. More information will follow.

5) Museum

Cy VE3SIY announced that there appeared to be no hurdles to our grant application and that the grant of approximately \$7000 will be received within two weeks.

6) Membership

Mike VE3BGP advised that we presently have 294 members; 222 regular, 6 life, 43 associate and 23 affiliate.

7) Radio Operations

Ian VE3SNX reported that the radio communications for the Department of Communications car rally in support of the United Way was very successful and thanked all volunteers. It was announced that the Welcome Mat net has had over 500 check-ins to date.

8) Announcements

Mike VE3FFK announced that he and Wil VE3XMT will be running a "Bunny Hunt" on October 24 on 2m. No prizes would be awarded – only the fun of the chase. Mike showed a 5-element yagi Wil made for 70cm. A 2m version made from steel brake line would be good for DF use.

Bob VE3YBC suggested that members might wish to consider purchasing club jackets. Moe VE3JTD offered to research this item. Moe will have more information available at the November meeting.

9) New Business

Bob announced that we need volunteers to take over the chairs of two committees – Education

and Historical. Doug VE3ATY is presently acting chair for Education and would like someone to take over for him. Pat VE3KJQ has found that he no longer has the time and is looking for someone to take over the Historical committee. Volunteers are requested to contact any executive member.

A presentation was made to Leo VE3NVL in appreciation of the years that he has run The Wise Owl net as net manager and net controller. The title of "The Great Wise Owl" was bestowed upon Leo together with a certificate of appreciation. After the presentation Leo presented class "A" and class "B" certificates to twenty members.

In the absence of John VE3ACI, Bob VE3YBC made a presentation about the proposed repeater design for VE3TWO as recommended by the Technical committee. The plan was detailed in the October issue of the *Rambler*.

Using an overhead, Bob walked the members through the various phases, time frames and estimated costs. The proposal generated much discussion from the floor, some of which had to be deferred in John's absence. A motion was made from the floor by Ed VE3EFP to go ahead with phases I & II but that they not exceed the budgeted allotment of \$2500. The motion was seconded by Steve VE3RUU. A proposed amendment to the motion was made by Mike VE3FFK to have a separate vote on acceptance of phases I & II. The amendment was seconded by VE3CUZ. After considerable debate on the merits of the motion and the amendment, Chris VE3ULL

See Minutes..... page 7

From the mailbox

by Larry Woram, VE3WLN



[In case you are looking for News and Views, this is it! See Larry's explanation below. Ed.]

When I first started to write this column, I tried to come up with a new name for it. Everyone likes to be a little different from the other person – that's probably why Minto makes different colored homes. However, choosing a new name was not easy or at least not until last week.

While at postal station "F", I leaned over to empty the mailbox when the light came on – "From the Mailbox." It was like the voice that spoke to Ray Kinsella as he walked through the corn field in the movie, *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, he will come." So much for the voices and movies, lets see what we have – "From the Mailbox."

It seems that all editors are having the same problem. The Border City Radio Club newsletter editor is asking their readers for amateur radio related articles.

[No problem here! Ed.]

The BCRC newsletter also noted a report from *W5YI Report*, August 1, 1992, recording the passing of William J. Halligan W9AC, founder and retired chairman of the Hallicrafters Co., on July 14. He started Halli-

crafters in 1933 and continued as president and chairman until 1975. Some Hallicrafters technical firsts were calibrated S-meters, dual diversity receivers, temperature compensated HF oscillators, dual AGCs, bridge T-notch filters and commercially made electronic keyers.

Members of the BCRC have quite a choice of locations to spend their hard-earned dollars. Their latest issue lists 13 flea markets in their area between now and the Dayton Hamvention.

In the first issue of the *Ground Waves* for the 1992-93 season the Windsor Amateur Radio Club featured an article entitled "Award Hunters Haven." The WARC sponsors the "Rose City Award" for working at least five current club members. Also mentioned were three awards offered by the Canadian DX Association. The Canadian Provincial Capitals Award is given for confirmed contacts with amateur radio stations in each of the ten provincial capitals. The Sea Award is given for working ten different amateur stations along the St. Lawrence Seaway. One contact must be made in Thunder Bay, Greater Toronto, Greater Montreal, Greater Quebec City with the remainder in municipalities on the way. The Trans Canada Award is given for making five contacts with each of the eight Canadian call areas of VE1-8, plus an additional five stations in VO1 or VO2 and one VO1 maritime mobile station. For the VE8 call area, one contact must be with a Yukon station (VE8 or VY1) and one must be with an off shore island of the Northwest Territories. So the total number of confirmed contacts is 46.

Down the 401 the London Amateur Radio Club *LARC Bulletin* reported a well attended September meeting featuring a display and presentation of satellite TV by Tony VE3ZAV using "C" band and pictures from ANIK E2. The LARC will be holding their annual Halloween Goblin Patrol again this year assisting the London City Police and the London District OPP ensuring the safety of the children during the door-to-door period and reporting suspicious activities to the police. They provide coverage for all of London and some of the surrounding area. The September issue featured the conclusion of a two-part article on switching power supplies by Mark VE3MNA.

In *Clear Signals* the newly elected president of the Chatham Kent Amateur Radio Club, Cliff VE3NGG encouraged new amateurs to get involved in the various aspects of the club and called upon the rest of the members to get involved in the various committees. Theory classes for up to twenty students have started.

The Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club announced that they are running two amateur radio courses for their members – one for theory and one for Morse code. Eleven students have enrolled. The youngest is Matt Purdy (12 years old) and the most senior is Frances Ryan (75 years young). Congratulations to both of them. In the featured article Jacques VE3AVI took the mystery out of propagation forecasting in "On the Right Wavelength."

See Mailbox..... page 7

Bean counter's bonanza - the audited OVMRC books

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club BALANCE SHEET 30 Jun,1992	
ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Bank - Club Acct. 5314075	5,817.09
Bank - Course Acct.5314075	69.34
Petty Cash	0.00
Miscellaneous Receivables	0.00
Furniture & Equipment	1,868.75
TOTAL ASSETS	7,755.18
TOTAL ASSETS	7,755.18
LIABILITIES	
EQUITY	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	
Equity Beginning Of Year	4,793.41
Equity To Date	761.77
Accr.Memberships 1992	2,200.00
TOTAL EQUITY	7,755.18
TOTAL EQUITY	7,755.18
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	7,755.18
INCOME 1 Jul,1991 TO 30 Jun,1992	
REVENUE	
INCOME	
Memberships	3,228.00
Bunny Hunt Income	0.00
Fleamarket Sales	1,224.86
Fleamarket Raffle	1,005.10
Equipment Loan Deposit	0.00
Donations	0.00
Bank Interest	310.70
Miscellaneous Income	0.00
TOTAL CLUB INCOME	5,858.66
Course Registration Fees	3,280.00
Miscellaneous Course Income	0.00
TOTAL COURSE INCOME	3,280.00
TOTAL INCOME	9,138.66
TOTAL REVENUE	9,138.66
EXPENSE	
EXPENSES	
Rambler Supplies	264.50
Rambler Postage	1,389.93
Code Telephone	394.34
Station Licenses	66.00
Repeater Maintenance	149.50
Rent For Meetings	32.10
Donations	35.00
Field Day Expense	20.00
Membership (Awards Etc.)	27.25
Name Tags	319.24
Insurance	580.00
Office Supplies & Postage	64.18
Bunny Hunt Expense	0.00
Raffle Expense (Fleamarket)	4.00
Fleamarket Expense	678.08
License Plate Holders	496.90
Club Promotional Expense	46.29
Bank Charges	32.11
Miscellaneous Expense	103.80
TOTAL CLUB EXPENSE	4,703.22
Course Supplies	2,551.67
Course Classroom Rent	222.00
Instructor Honoraria	900.00
Miscellaneous Expense	0.00
TOTAL COURSE EXPENSE	3,673.67
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,376.89
TOTAL EXPENSE	8,376.89
INCOME	761.77

These statements have been audited and approved by W.R.Campbell, VE3KLLK, as of September 16, 1992. His signed report and these statements form part of the Club's permanent records. The records are available for examination by any member.

What's yer watts?



by Jerry VE3CDS

How many times have you wondered how much power your 2m handheld is putting out? It is often a topic of discussion when you can't quite make the repeater. Well, you need wonder

no more. At the November meeting of the OVMRC you will have an opportunity to have the power output measured on a Bird watt meter. All you need to do is bring your handheld (make sure the battery is fully charged) and get in line.

I will connect the output of your rig to the watt meter with a short piece of coax. The watt meter will be connected to a 50-ohm dummy load. The watt meter reads directly in watts, and I can check both the high and low power settings. To take advantage of this free clinic, please come early. -73-

Class of '92 lost on bunny hunt! Experts baffled!

If you are looking for the regular Class of '92 article, give up.

The authors were last seen driving a green Pinto with a 20 ft fishing pole baited with a carrot mounted on the roof. They were also heard fishing for ideas on the Welcome Mat net. Give them a hand - they deserve it. Call Roger VE3XRR or Ron VE3UWR.

-73-

Mailbox..... from page 5

The October issue of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club's *Ground-wave* carried an article by Mike VE3FFK, "How I spent my summer vacation," "Plans for Fall" and a short article on the use or misuse of "Q" signals on fone. [*How about the misuse of phone? Ed.*]

The recipient of the Joe Norton Award was announced at the OARC September meeting. This year the award went to OVMRC president, Bob VE3YBC with honorable mention to Roger VE3XRR and Stephen VE3TTW. Congratulations to all three gentlemen. The prestigious award carried a cash value of \$735.

In the October issue of *TelePARC* the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club (Ottawa) reported that they will be purchasing a new transmitter for VE3TEL and that together with a new donated power supply this will put VE3TEL back on track. The Senior's Video Repeater project is on schedule with the support of their members and others in the community. The repeater will be located at CJOH. Additional equipment features are being contributed by EMO. The first official meeting of PARC (Ottawa) was held on April 17, 1969 and 9 of the original 26 charter members are still members of the club.

In *Key Klix* the Calgary Amateur Radio Association

announced that they have graduated 125 amateurs since September 1991 and they now have 451 members. Two work parties were held during the summer by members of the CARA DX Club to repair antennas, install ground rods and radials and to do general maintenance. At the digital section meeting they reported that there have been 21207 connects to the BBS since April 15 for an average of 100 per day with an average connect time of 8min 30secs. Orders for CARA club jackets are being taken, \$85.00 for the winter version and \$42.00 for the summer coat.

-73-

Minutes..... from page 4

made a motion to table the matter to next month. The motion was second

10) Door Prizes

The door prize of a "Third Hand" was won by Andy VE3UIY.

11) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting

was made by VE3TVU and seconded by VE3TTX. Meeting was adjourned at 21:25 and was followed by coffee and ragchew.

12) Entertainment

Due to technical difficulties, Larry VE3WEH was unable to show the field day video.

-73-



Moe VE3JTD the jacket man

Letters to the Editor

Please note that letters are edited. Length constraints and copyright regulations may restrict what we can include.
Ed.

Thanks for the big ears!

This is just a quick note of thanks to all who helped set up my vertical GAP antenna. I was having problems with VHF transmissions, and the inside wire I used for SW picked up the RF from my CPU giving me lots of noise on my receiver. This interference prevented me from using my TNC for the different modes. The purchase of a ground-mounted vertical saved me from hassles with my landlord and it opened my ears to larger horizons. Technical specs? Verification with the receiver showed an increase of approximately 4 to 5 S-units with less fluctuation in the signal! Special mention to VE3SNX, VE3WEH, VE3YBC and VE3MUD who took their Sunday time to help.

*Jacques, VE3TSC
Ottawa, ON*

A posterior pain

In the last issue of the *Rambler* Bob VE3YBC mentioned "jammers" – a pain in the "you know what" to all of us.

He also mentioned that there was no shortage of qualified operators for the various Bunny Hunts, and that it was a shame that with all these qualified persons we cannot find the button pushers.

Well, why doesn't he organize them into a group of Jammer hunters? It wouldn't be difficult. All you need is a map of Ottawa, a couple of the proper type of compasses, and some volunteers with 2m transceivers willing to be on-call when one of these

#\$%&@ jammers comes on the air. If equipment these people have is as good as I hear it is, it should be a simple matter to triangulate the offending transmissions, especially if they stay on the air for hours.

Its about time we put our resources to work to rid the air of this kind of offender.

*Ken, VE3KJB
Ottawa, ON*

Your wish is (almost) Bob's command. Read elsewhere about the bunny hunt. It should be noted that Bob VE3YBC usually appoints people with good ideas to head committees to carry them out. Congratulations Ken! Ed.

What is happening with 2m?

One of the reasons I got my ticket to operate in the amateur bands was that I couldn't stand the attitude of operators and the garbage they spewed on the citizen band. Now, I am starting to hear this same type of verbal diarrhea on 2m. I grant you, it is not as bad yet – but I have a feeling it won't be long before we get to that level if nothing is done.

I monitor the 2m band on occasion. , One evening in early September during one of these monitoring sessions, I heard an unknown station make a number of attempts to perform an autopatch or try and trigger the repeater to get on a link. For all I know, there could have been more than one station trying. For that matter, maybe the repeater was just acting up. After a while, an obviously annoyed operator (who shall remain nameless) came on the air and said, "Why don't you get your damn ticket you bloody idiot?"

I find this kind of behavior

absolutely reprehensible. I thought object of this hobby was to encourage people to learn and experiment with communication, with some help from the more experienced operators. If this kind of comment becomes the norm, many new operators will only be intimidated and will never get on the air.

A better approach would have been to offer assistance on how to proceed or at least to ask if help was required. I can understand that incessant activation of a repeater can become tiresome for someone who monitors continuously, but if it is so upsetting, either offer assistance or simply turn your rig off. I have observed this ignorant attitude and heard this same kind of verbal abuse on HF as well and I find it very discouraging.

I know that there are very few instances like this, and only a small number of operators don't have the patience or the social grace to make this hobby what it should be – an enjoyable learning experience. I would like to ask any operators who don't have the patience to deal with the experimentation of new operators to please turn your equipment off. After all, the repeater is not for your exclusive use.

Let us keep the 2m band as an amateur radio band and not let it deteriorate to the citizen band level.

*Roger, VE3XRR
Gloucester, ON*

Every once in a while, the subject of "jammers" (or button-pushers) comes up. Ed VE3VLF wrote an excellent article on this subject about two years ago. It is republished on page 9. Ed. (Not to be confused with Ed)

–73–

Jammers – the problem that won't go away

by Ed LeBlanc, VE3VLF

[This is an excerpt of an article that originally appeared in the Rambler (Vol. 33, No. 10) in November, 1990. What Ed said then is still valid now. Ed.]

It is important to remind ourselves of some of the basic principles of handling the problem of on-the-air jammers.

Two years ago, I spent some time monitoring the 20m phone band (especially around 14.313 MHz) to see if the reports I'd heard of jamming, swearing, and name-calling were true. Unfortunately, I found them to be not only true, but understated. At that time, I had been a ham operator for some sixteen years and I had never heard such horrible operating (if it can be called that) over the airwaves.

Unfortunately, this type of activity has been appearing on Ottawa area 2m repeaters for some time. Button-pushers jam stations and repeaters by transmitting touch-tones or loud noises, or by bringing up the autopatch and digi-talker. Such antics usually bring most of us to the boiling point – and no wonder. It's heartbreaking to see our long-standing reputation for courteous behavior on the air being sullied by a handful of unknowns, be they hams or not.

It's important to know how to discourage these "airway hoodlums." Here is what you should do when you are being jammed or when you become aware that others are being jammed.

1. Keep your cool

Keeping your cool is the hardest thing to do, but it is by far the most effective. If we are to solve this problem, it must be done with a level head. If we let passions drive us, we will find ourselves turning into the very

jammer type that we are trying to stop. This is evident on the 20m phone band, where passionate "police action" makes it hard to tell the good guys from the bad guys.

2. Don't talk to the jammer

I have heard people try to talk to the jamming station. Such conversations are usually one way, since the jammer never responds verbally. Don't threaten the jammer with DF action or DOC notification, or tell him what a subhuman he is. This is a major mistake on your part and a major victory for the jammer. A jammer wants only two things – recognition and entertainment. If you start to talk to him, you are giving him recognition. The more you yell and scream at him, the more he jams. In effect, you become a circus animal, providing him with a fabulous ringside show. Don't let the jammer get under your skin. Direct your transmissions only to licensed radio hams who identify themselves and exercise courteous operating practices. If the jammer is not a licensed amateur, speaking with him contravenes the Radio Act, so don't talk to him.

3. Don't even acknowledge his presence

A jammer loves to know he's bothering someone. When he knows he is disrupting your communications, he will persist. To prevent this, give him the impression that he is not being heard. Remember, a jammer can't hear how well he is jamming. He needs feedback from his victims. **Don't give in to him.** Frequently, when two stations are talking and someone starts jamming, their conversation quickly turns to the severity of the interference and the low IQ level of the jammer. Unfortu-

nately, this plays right into the jammer's hands. Don't give him the satisfaction of knowing he's succeeding. Ignore him completely. In fact, don't even acknowledge that you are experiencing any interference. Carry on as if everything was normal. If you miss some portions of the transmission from the station you are talking to, don't ask him to repeat it. This only tells the jammer how effective his work is. A complete lack of feedback makes the jammer think he's not getting through. He will soon move on to easier and more entertaining prey. If we all did this, the number of jamming incidents would drop off sharply.

4. Track down and report persistent jammers

If a jammer just won't quit, record as much information as possible on his techniques, operating times, operating frequencies and signal strength. "Direction find" his signal to determine his location. Notify the DOC and supply them with all available information in the form of audio tapes and written records. Such action, with DOC help, has worked in the past to halt illegal operations and it can work in the future.

Conclusion

We can contain the jammer menace, but it can only be accomplished by personal on-the-air discipline. We must not unintentionally "feed the fire" by acknowledging the interference or by reacting to it. This only serves to make a bad situation worse – it makes us losers and the jammer a happy winner.

Let's make jammers the losers they really are!

–73–

OVMRC gives DOC the runaround!

by Bob VE3YBC

At the Kingston Flea Market I was approached by Ralph VE3BBM to see if we (the OVMRC) could provide communications for the Department of Communications Car Rally on September 26th 1992. Given that this was less than seven days notice, it was no easy feat. However, the task was assigned and as usual, the event was well supported by our membership. The rally went well with no mishaps. The assignments for the rally were as follows:

Start Templeton PQ, VE3PUE Neil
CP1 Perkins PQ, VE2TQX Jake
CP2 Buckingham PQ, VE3WEH Larry & VE3TSC Jacques
CP3 Masson PQ, VE3SNX Ian
CP4 Cumberland ON, VE3SKP Steve
CP5 Clarence Creek ON, VE3SOF Peter
CP6 Leonard ON, VE3USL Tim
CP7 Navan ON, VE3SJM Rob
End Orleans ON, VE3IPC Mike



Jacques VE3TSC at checkpoint two

Photo:VE3WEH

Bob VE3YBC acted as control station from 09:00 until 19:30. Neil VE3PUE stepped in between 14:00 and 15:00 so I could grab some lunch. Chris VE3CUZ was the spare operator and was on call for the duration of the event.

Thanks go out to the above listed operators as well as to the Club de Radioamateur de l'Outaouais (CRO) for the use of

their fine repeater, VE2RBH. The repeater gave us excellent communications throughout the day.

Public service events promote our hobby to Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public. Isn't it time YOU joined the team? Give Ian VE3SNX a call and get on the list for the next event.

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Member mania mobs monitors

The OVMRC door wardens were overwhelmed by the huge crowds that surged into the last couple of meetings. Along with a fresh harvest of students, a bumper crop of new members has swollen our ranks.

New members

Be sure to give a warm OVMRC welcome to these new members:

Chris Wiesner, VE3CUZ
(got his call wrong last time)
Yurek Krol, VE3SNZ
Mike Jadayel, VE3MHJ
David George, VE3UOL
Dave Scobie, VE3BOX
Ron Howe, VE3MUD
Pete DeWolf, VE3YYY

Bruce Colman, VE3CLN
Johnny Mroz, VE3EIE
Jim Hastie, VE3NPJ
Tom Hastie, VE3UOM
Steve Dickson, VE3BFG
Paul Griffiths, VE3PGL
Pierre Cyr, VE3ZPR
Jack Thomas, VE3UPH
Paul Brakman, VE3IPB
Rod Riley, VE3BLB
Graham Ide, VE3BYT
Leonard Chodat, VE3LPH
Marc Fournier, VE3TQO
Ryan Allan
Rick Gill
John Rodger, VE3KVT
Doug McEwen, VE3UTF
Michael Hickey, VE3IPC

New student members

The students in the radio class receive a membership as part of their fee. Keep an eye on the class of '93: Willy-Marie Gillingham, Tim Eyre(VE3USL), Gerard Charron, Jim Wright, John Bunker, Francine Poullot, Ernie Jury, Loren Peck, Terry Jadayel, Raymond Morris, Eric Levin, Sam Noufal, Tim Murphy, Peter Bennet, Peter Dodd, Lise Tremblay, Glenn Lindsey, Herbert Schulz, Lorne Merrett, Pemi Paull, Tovya Paull, Len Gelfand, Diane Robinson, Rusty Morgan, Ron Webb

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Product review - ICOM W2A dualband handheld



by Ed LeBlanc, VE3VLF

The W2A is one of the latest dualband handhelds produced by ICOM and it is packed with a variety of features to suit most operating tastes. The W2A has two other cousins, the IC-2SRA (2m) and the IC-4SRA (70cm). Both of these units have separate wideband receivers with a frequency range of about 25 to 950 MHz in FM, AM and wideband FM modes. Although the W2A has wideband receive capabilities, it does not have wideband FM, so it cannot receive FM broadcast and TV audio signals.

The W2A comes with a BP-84 battery pack, a wall charging unit, a rubber duck antenna, a handstrap and a belt clip that can be screwed onto the back. The radio portion measures about 105mm high by 54mm wide by 36mm deep. The actual operating size varies depending on the battery pack used. With the BP-84 battery pack, the unit weighs about 530 grams. The BP-84 is the largest battery pack offered by ICOM and holds the greatest charge, rated at 1000 mAh. The W2A transmits 500 mW on the low power setting and 1.5 W on high with the BP-84.

The W2A is a true dualband handheld. You can receive the 2m and 70cm bands at the same time and you can operate crossband full-duplex. The unit cannot transmit on both bands simulta-

neously. The LCD display is divided into two identical sections with the 2m frequency display on the left and the 70cm display on the right side. The display also includes an S-meter and indicators for memory channel, tone squelch status, power output and frequency offset.

The VHF and UHF receivers perform well. However, performance degrades outside of the ham bands. When receiving "out of band", the W2A suffers from severe intermodulation distortion (IMD) products in crowded RF environments, such as downtown. However, IMD performance improves dramatically in the ham bands.

.....
The W2A has a built in CTCSS encoder/decoder so you don't have to shell out another hundred bucks or so to buy this as an accessory.
.....

The PTT switch is located on the left side of the radio with a function button just above it.

There are 22 keys on the front panel and most of them have two or three functions. The keys are easy to read but not backlit. This makes night operation cumbersome since there are so many keys. The LCD display can be illuminated by pressing the light key. This key is located on the upper right corner of the keypad to make it easy to find in the dark.

The power-on button is located in the lower left corner of the front panel push buttons. Although this makes it easy to find in the dark, I would have preferred an on/off switch at the

top with a solid physical contact. There also appears to be a problem turning the radio off when the battery pack is low.

The internal speaker/microphone is located in the lower right-hand corner of the radio. It provides adequate audio, but not enough in a noisy environment. An external speaker/microphone or headphones are recommended in such cases – but the unit works fine under normal conditions. On-the-air tests revealed no problems with the transmit audio quality.

The top of the radio has separate volume and squelch controls for each band as well as a channel knob. The VHF volume and squelch controls are located near the antenna terminal, making it a tad difficult to perform adjustments, especially if you have fat fingers.

Connections for a speaker/mic and a 12.5 vdc source are also located on top of the radio. The external dc plug is located right next to the antenna and is an RFI problem when using an outboard power source (such as the wall charger) with the rubber duck antenna. Possible solutions for this problem are an external antenna and coax or a shielded power line.

The W2A has 60 memory channels (30 for VHF and 30 for UHF) and a VFO mode. The unit gives standard offsets when the duplex function is activated and it does allow non-standard offsets.

The monitor button opens the squelch of the receiver. In duplex mode, the W2A opens the squelch on the transmit frequency instead of the repeater output. This is handy to see if you can work a station directly but a problem if you want to receive the repeater output unscelched.

See ICOM W2A..... page 12

On course with the OVMRC - full speed ahead!



by Jerry VE3CDS

The amateur radio course is once more under way at the Museum of Science and Technology every Tuesday evening. This year we have about thirty students dilligently pusuing the mysteries of radio with the intention of getting their amateur

licence. There is no doubt that many of them will succeed.

We are already past the initial stages of learning Morse code and the students are into plain language practice at the 5wpm level. Quite a number of the prospective hams are getting solid copy at this level. Looks like a good group for the spring exams.

On the theory side of the course, the students have already mastered the basics of electricity and are getting into Ohms Law, resistors and so on.

At one of our recent sessions the class was introduced to a session of the Welcome Mat net under the control of Larry VE3WEH. Larry was a graduate

of last year's class. The net demonstration gave several students the opportunity to talk on the radio for the first time. Let us hope that this year's graduates will pick up the challenges of getting involved in club activities.

We have a great crew of instructors. Doug VE3ATY is leading as chief instructor with assistance from Jerry VE3CDS, Brice VE3EDR, Bob VE3SUY, and John VE3NJ. As the course progresses, other club members will be coming in to teach specific subjects. We are off to a good start. If any of the students ask for help, please give them a hand if possible.

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ICOM W2A from page 11

The W2A has a built in CTCSS encoder/decoder so you don't have to shell out another hundred bucks or so to buy this as an accessory. The subaudible tone range covers all the standard settings.

The W2A DTMF codes are standard fare. You can hear the tones over the speaker as you punch them in - a distinct advantage over radios that remain silent as you punch up the codes. Unfortunately, only four DTMF memory channels are available to store 15-digit telephone numbers .

The W2A has full scan, programmed scan, memory scan and memory skip scan modes available. The scan resume

conditions are timer scan (the received signal is monitored for five seconds before resuming) and pause scan (the scan stops until two seconds after the signal disappears). The frequency skip function allows you to skip certain frequencies during a scan. This helps eliminate annoying steady carriers in the frequency range you are scanning. Priority watch operation is also available.

In conjunction with the DTMF and CTCSS features, the W2A can be used in pager or code squelch mode. It can be used to develop a selective calling system that would be handy for a group of hams operating at an event requiring special coordination. These features would not be used by most hams.

The W2A has other handy-but-not-essential features such as a clock and timer mode. With these features, the transceiver can turn itself on and off at preset times. I can see it being used as a sort of clock-radio alarm, but you would have to make sure there is a station on the air at the time of activation at a preset frequency. Otherwise, you might wind up sleeping in! The transceiver will automatically turn itself off after a preset time if no button is pushed or no signal is received.

In conclusion, the W2A is a fine dualband handheld offering a wide variety of features. Despite a few drawbacks, it should satisfy the demands of most operators.

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Looney lepus left loose!

Late breaking item: the bunny may reappear! Too late for a report in here, but the rotten

rodent is set to bound onto the scene again at least two more times. Details available on the

air. These are non-sponsored fun events.

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Bunny from page 1

The prime movers and shakers, Wil, VE3XMT and Mike, VE3FFK who "organized" this event deserve another round of applause. They have already received thanks for their many hours devoted to making the hunt happen. It was a resounding success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to Priya Narasimhan (a future VE3???) for the loan of her voice for the bunny. A superb "HT" cake (see right) professionally made by Anne Jeffrey) was presented to the first team and it was quickly devoured by all the participants following a meal at a nearby restaurant. Thanks Anne from all of us. One of the waitresses couldn't believe it was home-made.

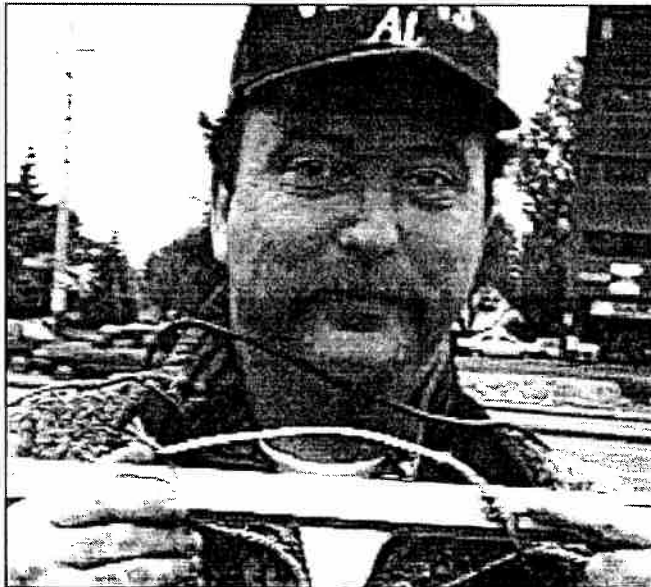
Well, we've finally started to hone our skills [*Speak for yourself! Ed.*] and we're looking forward to the next hunt. Are the winners going to volunteer to organize the next one and write about it????

-73-



The handie-eatie

Photo:VE3WEH



The winning technology

Photo:VE3PUE



The bunny boys and the wascally wabbit

Photo:VE3WEH



Quad erat demonstrandum

Photo:VE3PUE



WEH and TSC found Thumper a stumper

Photo:VE3PUE

Upcoming Events, Help Wanted

Toot Sweet

Net controllers needed for several nets to help relieve the regulars. The Wise Owl net, the Pot Hole net, the Welcome Mat net etc., etc. No experience necessary. We provide training with full pay. Do a good job and we'll pay you twice as much next year! Contact Ian VE3SNX at 747-8387.

Contributed by VE3SNX

December 13, 1992

Talk to Santa event sponsored by the OVMRC at the Museum. Contact Ian VE3SNX at 747-8387. Bilingual operators with 2m handies needed.

Contributed by VE3PUE

December 25, 1992

Special Christmas day net. Net controller will be Sydney Moor-

croft, VE3GVI. Beginning at 09:30 on repeater VE3TWO, 147.300 MHz+.

Contributed by VE3NVL

May 15, 1993

OVMRC flea market. Canadian Forces Reserve Barracks, Dow's Lake, Ottawa, Ontario. Free admission. Doors open to vendors at 08:00, to the public at 09:00. Tables (\$20 for commercial vendors and \$10 for all others) can be reserved by contacting Ken Barry, VE3KJB at 746-4823. Wheelchair accessible. Refreshments. Talk-in on VE3TWO, 147.300 MHz+.

Contributed by VE3NVL

To put a notice in here,
call Leo VE3NVL
at 225-0902.

Items for sale

For Sale, \$0.00

Two 20-foot sections from a 40-foot steel mast. Photocopier, Nashua model 1215 with some toner and paper. All items "as is" free to a good home. Contact Joe VE3PDS at 824-3162 or try on VE3TEL.

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Repeater finances

Financial details for the VE3TWO repeater upgrade were not available in time for the *Rambler* deadline. Copies will be available at the next meeting from John VE3ACI.

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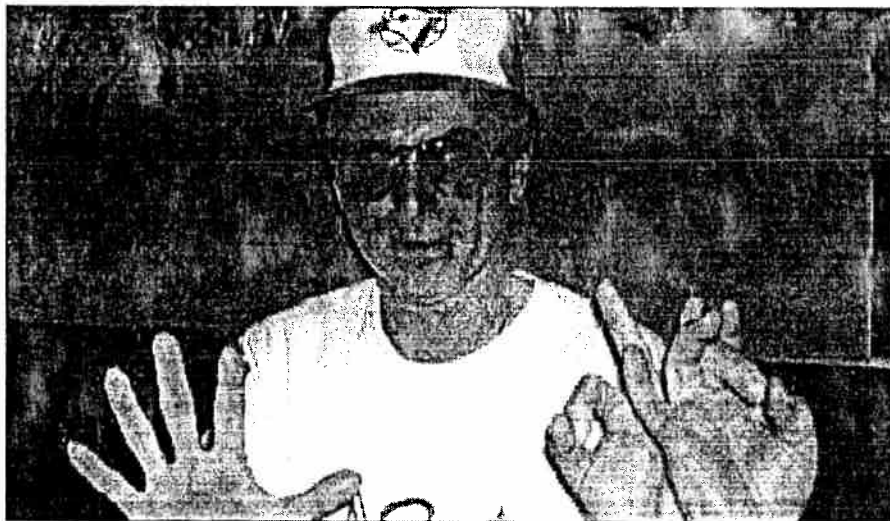
Welcome Mat net tops 500!

The Welcome Mat net recently topped 500 check-ins. Lucky number 500 was Chris VE3CUZ. The net managers intend to honor him in some manner still to be determined.

The editor of the *Rambler* has been promised an article

about the net, complete with statistics: most check-ins, shortest net, longest period of unbroken air-time during which VE3PUE was unable to check in, and so on. Congratulations to the Welcome Matters for a popular innovation.

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VE3CUZ tries to count to 500

Photo:VE3PUE

OVMRC phone directory free with this issue

The last two sheets of paper in this *Rambler* forms a complete phone directory of all club members who were paid-up as of 92.10.24.

We decided not to print a full directory with addresses since it is a waste of paper, and if you know somebodies phone number, you can always call them and get their address.

Associate members are listed first, in alphabetical order, by last name. Regular members are listed in alphabetical order by call.

Please note that this directory is intended for use by members and amateurs only. Commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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