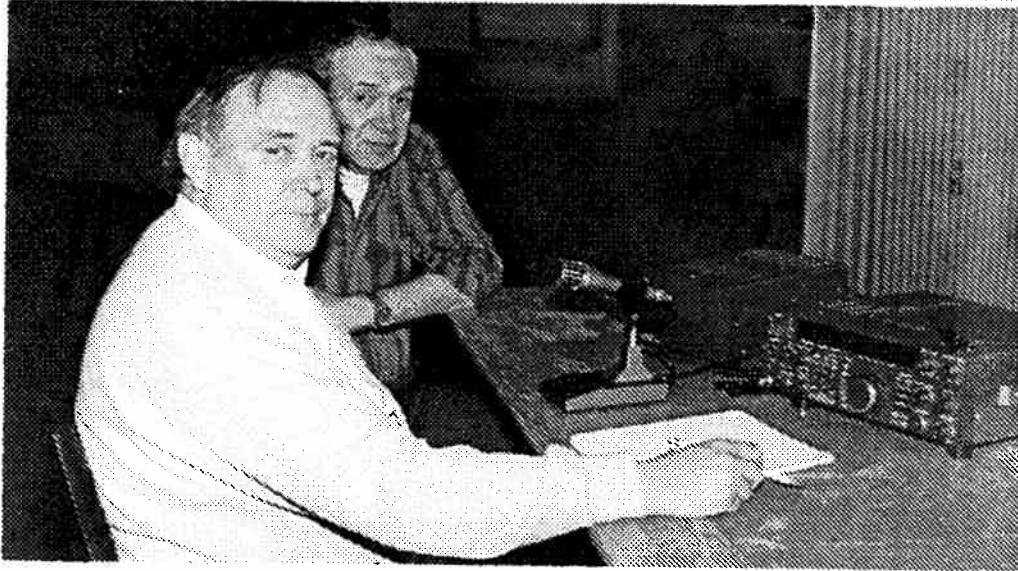


THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 36, Number 11 - November 1993



Jerry, VE3CDS, on the left, and Cy, VE3SIY, on the right, members of the Seniors Group, take time out from their regular Sunday morning CQ calls on the Group's Kenwood 850.

C-Q C-Q C-Q This Is VE3JW

For those of you that listen to the Pot Hole Net on Sunday mornings at 1000 hours you are no doubt aware that the net sometimes originates from the amateur station at the Museum of Science and Technology.

We operate VE3JW from the green classroom from approximately 0915 to 1200 hours each Sunday. We operate with the Kenwood 850 which works very well into the Cushcraft R7 vertical antenna. All the HF bands are covered with the exception of 75 metres but the antenna tuner in the 850 enables us to operate in that band but at reduced efficiency. Reasonably good reports have been received from stations on the ONTARS Net on 3755. The vertical antenna loads up very well on all of the other HF bands and reports that we have received are excellent. As a matter of interest, we spoke with Jeff, VE3WWH, on 40 metres a couple of weeks ago while he was mobile in Nova Scotia (conditions were very

good at the time).

The opportunity to operate with the 850 is open to all club members. We would particularly like to see some of the club's newly licenced amateurs team up with one of the seniors and come out to the museum for a couple of hours and work the air waves with the 850. Operation is available on both phone and CW. The 850 has an electronic keyer built into it and you have a choice of using a straight key or the bencher paddle with the electronic key.

The operation of the station from the green classroom is on an interim basis. When the museum gets the new communications display set up we will move to a permanent location in another part of the museum. Along these lines, we erected the 48 foot trylon tower, which was donated for use by the museum station. The next time you are at the museum take the time to look on the south side, near the

front of the building. We were fortunate in getting the museum to erect the tower, for which we most sincerely thank the curator of the communications display Ernie De Coste, VE3RIM. Ernie, by the way, is a graduate of the OVMRC radio course and is a member of our club.

On behalf of the Seniors Group - a most cordial invitation to all club members to come out and have some fun operating on the HF bands with our 850. Simply contact either Jerry, VE3CDS, at 225-7374 or Cy, VE3SIY, at 733-2371 to arrange a time. Sunday morning is an excellent time to operate HF as conditions are nearly always good.

And by the way, just tell the museum cashier that you are going to the green classroom to operate VE3JW and you won't have to pay to get into the museum.

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

The *Rambler* is published monthly by:

The OVMRC
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Canada K2C 3M1

Opinions expressed in the *Rambler* are those of the authors, and not necessarily those of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Incorporated, its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents, in whole or in part, providing the source is properly acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited.

The 1993-1994 OVMRC executive

President (acting): Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
Vice-President: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565
Treasurer: Richard Adams, VE3EIT, 749-2619
Secretary: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666

Standing committee chairs

Amateur radio exhibit: Cy Webster, VE3SIY, 733-2371
Amateur radio training: Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, 737-9443
Field day: Allan Barnes, VE2TYJ, 746-5994
Flea market: Lorraine Boulay, VE3VAT, 228-7111
Historical: Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, 739-8871
Hysterical: Neil Herber, VE3PUE, 829-4668
Membership: See hysterical (don't ask)
Newsletter: Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214
Publicity and programs: Dave Champagne, VE3QQQ, 567-9233
Radio operations: Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749
Technical: John Pope, VE3ACI, 989-3629

Ramblerites

Contributors to this issue:
Bob Calver, VE3UUH
Jerry Wells, VE3CDS

OVMRC Code Phone: 746-2065

Mark Your Calendar!

Next general meeting:

Thursday, November 18, 1993, at 1930 hours in the auditorium at the National Museum of Science and Technology. Arrangements are being made to have an interesting guest speaker.

Next executive meeting:

Thursday, November 25, 1993, at 1900 hours in the Volunteer Room at the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Deadline for the next issue of the Rambler:

Thursday, November 25, 1993.

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., Ridgeway, 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

We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by DY-4 Limited in printing the Rambler.

Ramblings

Wise words from our President, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS



The following is a reprint of a letter of resignation received from our President, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS.

October 21, 1993.

Mr. Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH,
Vice-President,
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

Dear Larry:

It is with regret that I tender my resignation as President of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club.

I shall continue as an instructor on the Amateur Radio Course and I shall continue my involvement with the OVMRC Seniors.

I extend best wishes to the club and the many friends I have made over the years.

Yours sincerely,

signed Jerry Wells, VE3CDS

Our Acting President Says...

It was with much regret that I received Jerry's resignation as President of the OVMRC. He will be missed by me as well as by many others.

I first met Jerry at the 7th Annual OVMRC Radio Course in September, 1988. I was impressed with his demeanor and unruffled approach to events. His quiet sense of humour and warmth are given without qualification. Since Jerry has never boasted about himself or his past accomplishments, it is difficult to get to know very much about him - so some time ago I asked him to tell me about himself. Bear with me while I brag on his behalf.

Jerry is best described as a "nice guy", approachable, friendly, knowledgeable, who has and continues to devote countless hours of his personal time to our hobby and assisting fellow amateurs. He has been licenced since January, 1951 (I was just a kid then). In the early 1960's, he served as editor of the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club's newsletter and later served for 7 years in the same capacity with the OVMRC. He has been a members of our club for the past 15 years during which he has been actively involved in a multitude of club activities. Over the past 5 years Jerry has

helped teach morse code to students on the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course. He also teaches code on an individual basis to those experiencing difficulty learning it. Four years ago, Jerry was appointed one of the club's voluntary examiners. No doubt I have only scratched the surface in attempting to describe this gentleman's efforts and devotion to our hobby - for this I apologize.

What is a "HAM" ? What does it mean ? "H" have, "A" any, "M" money - some thing most hams don't have because we spend it on our hobby. In Jerry's case, I think he believes HAM means "Help Always Means I will help anyone with the hobby.

I am truly sorry to have received Jerry's resignation. I, along with many others both inside and outside the OVMRC, will miss him as our President. I know I can express on all OVMRC members' behalf, without reservation, a most sincere wish for good health and success in all your undertakings Jerry.

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
Acting President

Minutes

OVMRC General Meeting
October 21, 1993.

Call to Order

Vice President Larry Wilcox, in the absence of President Jerry, called the meeting to order at 1945 hours. He welcomed five guests.

Letter of Resignation

Vice President Larry read a letter of resignation from President Jerry Wells, VE3CDS. Jerry's letter stated he was resigning as President with regrets but that he would continue his activities with the amateur radio course and the Seniors Group.

Life Membership

Secret balloting on extending a life membership to Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, was closed and the ballots counted. Scrutineers reported the outcome of the balloting as seventy-two in favour of granting the life membership with two opposed. It was noted that there are only five other life memberships in the club. In thanking the members for this honour, Doug stressed the need to support RAC by becoming a member of it. RAC needs our membership so it can negotiate with government from a position of strength. As editor of the Canadian Amateur magazine he said he needs the assistance of a technical illustrator with experience working Corel Draw or a similar graphic program. Additionally, he requires the assistance of an experienced French language editor.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was Peter DeWolf, VE3YYY, who spoke about the linking system. Peter traced the history and surprising growth of the Renfrew County Amateur Radio Club's repeater and hub located at Foymount which serves the Ottawa valley. Also mentioned was the Interprovincial Amateur Radio Network (IPARN) which provides satellite links to BC and Alberta. IPARN has plans for future links into Halifax and Charlottetown. There is a link from Ottawa

to Foymount through VE3MPC. This repeater is operated by the RCMP Canadian Police College Amateur Radio Club. However, the link is only one-way, out of Ottawa and cannot be accessed from Foymount. Peter indicated that the RCARC would like to see the OVMRC establish a link to Foymount. Long-term plans could see the OVMRC repeater become an Ottawa hub with systems extended to Montreal and beyond.

Thank You

Larry thanked Neil Herber, VE3PUE, for his assistance in the smooth transition of editorship of the Rambler from himself to Dan Doctor, VE3XDD.

Photo Session

It was announced that immediately following the meeting there would be a photo session for Santa's helpers for the museums station VE3JW. The photo is intended to accompany a story in a future edition of Canadian Amateur magazine.

Joe Norton Trust Award

Al Barnes, VE2TYJ, a graduate of the OVMRC class of '92, was declared the 1993 recipient of the Joe Norton Trust Award. The Award, given by the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, is in recognition of outstanding contributions to amateur radio by an amateur during the first two years after initial licencing.

New VE3JW Tower

It was reported that a new tower for VE3JW has been installed at the museum. Qualified amateurs wishing to operate the station on Sundays should contact Cy Webster, VE3SIY, or Jerry Wells, VE3CDS.

Nominations for President

The resignation of the club's President necessitated the calling for nominations for President as dictated by Section 9.4 of the club's bylaws. Nominations were: Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ, nominated by Ted Paull, VE3KEH, and seconded by Jack Guertin, VE2TQX.

Neil Herber. VE3PUE,

nominated by Moe Cluff, VE3CTD, and seconded by Steve Middleton, VE3RUU. Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW, nominated by Chris Wiesner, VE3CUZ, and seconded by Al Barnes, VE2TYJ.

Additional nominations are invited and will be accepted until the general meeting of December 16, 1993, when an election to fill the vacancy of President will be held.

Other Business

Richard, VE3UNW, enquired why the minutes of the June, 1993, general meeting and the 1993-1994 budget had not been published in the Rambler. Larry apologized for the oversight and explained there had been a change of Rambler editor which may have caused this. Both items will be published in the next Rambler.

Moe, VE3CTD, suggested that the Canadian Police College Club be permitted to speak on whether they will be opening their repeater link for access from Foymount. Howie Foell, VE3OWT, of the CPC Club indicated that they will be responding directly to the Renfrew Club on this matter.

John, VE3NJ, stated that registration for the OVMRC radio course is now closed. However, Jim Cummings, VE3XJ, is organizing a basic radio course which will be held in Rockland. Those interested should contact Jim.

Larry announced that Ron Howe, VE3MUD, of Rockland has been authorized by the department to be a voluntary examiner.

John, VE3ACI, responding to a question from Al, VE2TYJ, said the club's 70 cm repeater should be installed in the next few weeks.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2120 hours and was followed by coffee and cookies and a Santa's helpers photo session.

An unimpeachable source is the person who started the rumour.

Minutes

OVMRC GENERAL MEETING
JUNE 17, 1993

Due to the summer recess and the change of Rambler editor, publication of the June 17th, 1993, meeting minutes was inadvertently overlooked. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this oversight.

Call to Order

President Jerry Wells called the meeting to order at 1950 hours. An OVMRC welcome was extended to our guests and visitors.

1993-1994 Budget

The club's Treasurer, Dick, VE3EIT, presented the club's 1993-1994 budget. A limited number of printed copies of the budget were distributed. It was explained that anticipated income of \$6000 would be offset by proposed expenditures of \$6000.. As well, the OVMRC amateur radio course was self supporting and, as such, did not impact upon the general budget. In response to a question, Dick assured the meeting that funds existed to support the Technical Committee. It was moved by Leo, VE3NVL, seconded by Ed, VE3RDZ, that the 1993-1994 budget be approved as presented. Carried.

Field Day

President Jerry reminded everyone that Field Day was scheduled for Saturday, June 26th, on the grounds in front of the museum. Assistance is required in the set-up of antennas and tents, etc. and operators, particularly those with CW capability. It was pointed out that while Field Day is an interesting experience for all amateurs, it should be of particular interest to new amateurs as it involves complete station set-up and operation.

Announcements

Doug, VE3CDC, reported on a meeting between representatives of RAC and DOC. He reviewed some of the major regulatory changes proposed by the department. It was noted that with new regulatory reforms DOC will no longer prosecute amateur radio offenders but would instead ticket them. Doug also pointed out that there will be tough competition for frequencies in the future and, as such, we need a strong organization which is representative of the amateur community in Canada to represent us. Support RAC by joining now!

Compliments

Bob, VE3YBC, announced that the Ottawa Library has ordered additional copies of the OVMRC Study Guide. The library is very pleased that the guide is both written and published here in Ottawa.

Coax Cable

Ed, VE3RDZ, advised that he has now received his shipment of coax cable. He will be cutting and distributing individual orders on Sunday. All those who ordered this coax are invited to pick-up your order at Ed's home of Sunday.

'TEL' Phone Patch

Jerry, VE3CDS noted that certain people have been causing malicious interference as well as abusing VE3TEL's repeater frequency and telephone patch. The situation has gotten so bad that the TEL telephone patch has been disconnected until further notice. Jerry recommended we not provide an audience to individuals who cause interference on any frequency.

Elections

After considerable discussion, it was decided to hold the club's election of officers for 1993-1994 this evening rather than wait until our September meeting. President Jerry vacated his 'chair' and was replaced by Richard, VE3UNW, who agreed to run the election. The following officers were elected or acclaimed to office for the ensuing year.

President - Jerry Wells
VE3CDS
Vice President-Larry Wilcox
VE3WEH
Treasurer - Richard Adams
VE3EIT
Secretary - Ernie Jury
VE3EJJ
Technical Cttee-John Pope
VE3ACI
Amateur Radio Exhibit-
Cy Webster
VE3SIY
Radio Op's - Steve Middleton
VE3RUU
Flea Market- Lorraine Boulay
VE3VAT
Field Day - Allan Barnes
VE2TYJ
Amateur Radio Training -
Bob Shaw
VE3SUY
Historical - Mike Beausoleil
VE3BGP
Membership - Neil Herber
VE3PUE

Door Prize

The door prize of two tickets to an upcoming Ottawa Lynx baseball game was won by Fran.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2135 hours and was followed by coffee, treats and fellowship.

The older generation thought nothing of getting up at five o'clock in the morning, and the younger generation doesn't think much of it either.

REVISED 1993-1994 BUDGET
OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB

REVENUE - INCOME

Membership Dues	3,500
Fleamarket Sales	1,150
Fleamarket Raffle	1,000
Donation *	1,400
Royalties	1,100
Licence Plate Sales	100
Bank Interest	100

Total Anticipated Income 8,350

* This is a one-time donation received from the sponsors of the International Air Show.

NOTE:

This budget does not include revenues from or expense for the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course.

EXPENSES

Acct. No.	
505 Rambler Supplies	1,500
506 Rambler Postage	1,500
510 Code Telephone	400
512 Station Licence	72
515 Repeater Maintenance	1,500
520 Donations	35
523 Field Day Expenses	200
525 Awards & Door Prizes	100
527 Name Tags	300
529 Insurance	929
530 Office Supplies & Postage	100
533 Fleamarket Raffle	500
535 Fleamarket Expenses	500
540 Club Promotion	150
545 Bank Charges	50
550 Miscellaneous Expenses	200

Total Anticipated Expenses 8,036

Motion To Be
Considered At
Next Meeting

At the club's executive meeting of October 28, 1993, a report was tabled recommending that the OVMRC purchase a laser printer which would meet the requirements of preparing "master" copies of the Rambler. Inasmuch as this one-time proposed expenditure exceeds the executive's spending authority, the following Motion will be presented at our November 18 regular meeting:

"It was moved by John Pope, VE3ACI, seconded by Neil Herber, VE3PUE, that the OVMRC purchase a Hewlett Packard Laser Jet IV printer at a one-time cost of approximately \$1,800 plus taxes."

Do You Have Any
Club Equipment?

The club is updating its inventory of club owned equipment being held by members. If you have any of the Club's equipment in your possession or stored at your residence, please confirm this by contacting either John Pope, VE3ACI, or Cy Webster, VE3SLY.



The Winner - Al Barnes, VE2TYJ

Al Barnes Wins
Joe Norton Award

As reported in the June edition of the Rambler, the Ottawa Valley Radio Club invited submissions for the Joe Norton Trust Award. The award is given annually in recognition of the advancement of amateur radio by a recently licenced operator, within the past two years.

OVMRC member Al Barnes, VE2TYJ, was selected as this year's recipient of this prestigious award in recognition of his efforts to attract new amateurs to our hobby and his organizational drive in organizing a very successful 21 day code course.

All OVMRC members join in congratulating Al on his very deserved award !

Local Nets -

When and Where to Find Them

NET NAME	DAY AND TIME	FREQUENCY	NOTES
Pot Hole Net	Sunday, 1000 hrs	3.760 MHz	includes swap net
Pot Lid Net	Sunday, 1100 hrs	3.620 MHz	slow-speed CW
Telephone Pioneer Net	Sunday, 2000 hrs	3.740 MHz (on or about)	covers Eastern Canada
Rubber Boot Net	Mon-Fri, 730 hrs	147.15 MHz+(VE3MPC)	Ragchew
Champlain Mini Net	Daily, 1845 hrs	147.06 MHz-(VE3STP)	VHF FM net
Kingsmere Traffic Net	Mon-Wed-Fri, 2100 hrs	147.36 MHz+(VE2KPG)	carries formal traffic
Six Meter Group Net	Monday, 1930 hrs	147.30 MHz+(VE3TWO)	6 meter interest group
Capital City FM Net	Monday, 2000 hrs	146.94 MHz-(VE2CRA)	includes swap net
Packet Voice Net	Monday, 2030 hrs	146.94 MHz-(VE2CRA)	Q&A about packet ops.
Renfrew Amateur Radio Net	Monday, 1930 hrs	147.15 MHz+(VE3MPC)	meets via link system
Racoon Net	Tuesday, 1900 hrs	145.290 MHz-(VE3IRO)	an open ragchew net
Military Net	Tuesday, 2000 hrs	147.30 MHz+(VE3TWO)	military ragchew
Welcome Mat Net	Wednesday, 1900 hrs	147.30 MHz+(VE3TWO)	for new & old hams
Amateur TV Net	Wednesday, 2000 hrs	147.03 MHz-(VE3TEL)	Amateur TV ops
PARC Pioneer Net	Thursday, 1900 hrs	147.03 MHz-(VE3TEL)	Ragchew
Wise Owl Net	Friday, 2000 hrs	147.30 MHz+(VE3TWO)	Ragchew
VE2RWC Repeater Net	Sunday, 2000 hrs	146.805 MHz-(VE2RWC)	includes a swap net

OVMRC Code Phone

The OVMRC maintains a 24 hour a day "code phone" which students on the amateur radio course and club members are encouraged to call to practice receiving code. The speed of the code on the code phone mirrors the speed of the code being given on the radio course and gradually increases in speed each week.

During the winter months, instructors of the amateur radio course will use the code phone on stormy days to record cancellation of class notices. Students on the amateur radio course are, therefore, advised to call the code phone on stormy days to ascertain whether classes are to be held.

CODE PHONE NUMBER IS 746 - 2065

MPC To Open Link Into Ottawa Soon

The controversial question of which amateur radio club in Ottawa is going to expand its repeater to include a linking system into Ottawa has been answered.

Norm Rashleigh, VE3LC, VE3MPC repeater Technical Advisor, has advised the Rambler that he still has some work to do on it but the supplementary equipment is almost ready to be integrated into their MPC repeaters present linking system which would provide radio access into the Ottawa area. Norm is reasonably confident he will have the linking system fully operational within the next few weeks.

WHOSE LEGISLATION GOVERNS AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA ?

In Jacques Choquette's "Potpourri" page in last month's Rambler he wrote about two cases involving amateur radio tower and alleged interference emissions. The October issue of The Canadian Amateur Radio Magazine in an item titled "The Clair Antenna Situation", printed a letter from Industry and Science Canada Deputy Minister, Harry Swain, which sheds a little more light on the governments position regarding in whose jurisdiction amateur radio antenna belongs. We are reproducing the letter, in its entirety, for your information.

Mr. J. Farrell Hopwood
President
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

Dear Mr. Hopwood:

Thank you for your letter of May 25, 1993, addressed to the former Deputy Minister of the Department of Communications, Mr. Marc Rochon, concerning the erection of an antenna structure by Mr. Alban Bellefleur, an Amateur radio operator in Clair, N.B. I understand that several letters and meetings on this matter, among the parties concerned, have also occurred. In addition, a copy of the most recent letter to Mr. Bellefleur outlining the departmental position was faxed to you on May 27, 1993.

As indicated during your meeting of April 28, 1993 with Mr. Rochon, by-laws restricting the height of antenna towers are generally ultra-vires. The municipality of Clair was given a copy of the Townsend Report, Canadian Municipalities and the Regulation of Radio Antennae and their Support Structures, which clearly states that municipalities do not have authority in this area.

The Department requires that all applicants/licensees, proposing to install significant structures, consult with the municipality. Unlike other licensees, the Amateur is not obliged to inform us of his plans nor to receive prior approval from the Department. When disagreement occurs between the Amateur operator and the municipality, it is the responsibility of both parties to resolve the situation. The Department may, in certain cases, provide information to facilitate resolution of the situation. In this case, the recommendation to apply for a by-law variance was a suggestion offered to Mr. Bellefleur to resolve a potentially contentious situation. It did not imply that departmental policy requires him to apply for a variance.

I think you will agree that the Department has taken every possible action to resolve this situation. Mr. Bellefleur has a valid Amateur station licence and the municipality has been advised of our opinion with regard to the status of their by-law. I can foresee no further action by the Department in this matter.

I hope that this information has succeeded in clarifying the Department's position. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, I would suggest that you contact the District Director in Saint John, Mr. Clinton J. Landry at 506-636-4125.

With reference to the written submission which you provided to Mr. Rochon on April 28, I understand Maurice Nunas, Director of Spectrum Management Operations, addressed your concerns in his letter dated May 31, 1993.

Again, thank you for writing and bringing this matter to the Department's attention.

Sincerely yours,
Harry Swain.

Nominations Invited For President

As reported elsewhere in the Rambler, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, has tendered his resignation as our club's President as of October 21, 1993. This means, of course, that an election must be held within 60 days to fill this executive position.

OVMRC Bylaw 9.4, titled "Vacancies Occurring" reads as follows:
"Vacancies occurring between elections, with the exception of the Presidency, shall be filled by Executive appointment. A vacancy of the Presidency must be filled within 60 days through nomination by the Full Members and election at a Regular Meeting under the direction of the Vice President."

As will be noted in the minutes of our regular meeting of October 21, 1993, nominations for the position of President were held and three members' names were submitted. They are Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ, Neil Herber, VE3PUE, and Richard Hagemeyer, VE3JUNW. Additional nominations for the position of President will be called for at our regular meetings in November and December and an election to fill this vacancy will be held at our regular meeting on December 16, 1993.

Potpourri

A sampling of news and comments from newsletters and newspapers from across the country - written by Jacques Choquette.



Pioneers, Ottawa...

The Pioneers have reinstated the telephone patch on VE3TEL (147.03-MHz) for a trial period. Anyone making business calls or excessive use of the patch should be reported to the TEL Committee. The world's smallest PC-compatible motherboard is now available from Epson. It includes VGA graphics, ROM and ROM - all in the space the size of a credit card.

Augusta, Maine...

A tropical storm is considered a hurricane when the winds are greater than 65 kph and having rotary circulation. Then a name is assigned to the storm from a list with sufficient names to last six years - and when all of the names have been used they start back at the top of the list again.

Pointe Claire, Quebec...

A story was told of a DXpedition held in 1991 to the St. Paul Islands off the northern tip of Nova Scotia. Seven members made 5500 contacts. The seven West Island club members enjoyed their trip but won't go to any further DXCC islands because they are best known for their ice and/or guano.

Ottawa, OARC...

Mention was made by a club executive that if you have problems accessing their repeater, VE2CRA, with a handheld with a rubber duckie it is too bad but it should serve as motivation to put up a more reasonable antenna.

Saskatoon...

In an effort to assist amateur operators learn and increase their code - operators are reminded that WIAW has morse code transmissions at different times, frequencies and speed.

Kingston...

350 people attended the local flea market. Over 500 people participated in the Terry Fox Run, raising \$8,500 for cancer research. Don't forget, Bell Telephone changes the access codes for Toronto. Metro Toronto stays at 416 - other areas go to 905.

Cobourg...

Members of the Heritage Amateur Club set up a station on a floating restaurant in their area. They sent greetings to promote their town and announce the Waterfront Festival. Contacts were made with over 100 hams in Ont. Que. the Maritimes and the US.

Ham Radio Today (UK)...

The largest of its kind - the Dayton Convention of Europe - at Friedrichafen, Germany. It is the continent's largest amateur radio show. It involved 20,000 visitors, 5 large halls plus an outdoor display area, 280 firms from 19 countries, 20 national radio clubs and a huge flea market of items ranging from used equipment to professional spectrum analysers. (wouldn't an OVMRC excursion to Germany next year be great?)

Montreal...

A packet message received recently advised of the success of a team chasing "button pushers" in the Montreal area. The team confirmed, to 100%, the source of the malicious interference - a person amusing himself by jamming several repeaters. The team was outside the person's house for close to an hour as he caused problems on 4 repeaters. An official report has been sent to the government.

One Man's Opinion...

How often while on the air do you hear someone mention the following complaint? "Having problems hearing you as I'm in intermod alley." or "Your last transmission was wiped out by intermod." These along with traffic and weather seem to be the only phrases we hear.

Hams are supposed to be renowned for tinkering and overcoming technical difficulties yet these comments make us sound like "couch potatoes." There are any number of reference books showing methods to combat this. A tin can cavity could be built or one could assemble a kit such as the one a local ham has designed. Commercial units are also available such as the Texpro TH-147 or the F-193/U from Fair Radio Sales in the US.

The intermod kit is very efficient. Several people, including myself, are very happy with them. I live in an area with several commercial transmitters, including the NRC, and have no more problems. Prior to installing my filter most 2 metre signals on my rig were being jammed!

So please, stop these ongoing complaints and DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

Jacques, VE3TSC

Has it ever occurred to you that in our social system the politician is able to reach a position of responsibility without having had any training? He serves no apprenticeship; he masters no course of study; he need pass no examination as to ability; he receives neither diploma nor licence to practice. The veterinary who doctors our dogs and cats is required to show more careful preparation for his calling than is the politician who seeks to direct not only our industrial but much of our personal life.

Evolutionary Crisis In Ham Radio

by Bob Calver, VE3UHH

The other day, fossilized remains of an amateur radio operator were discovered. This relic still had a trusty straight key clutched to his heart. Also discovered with the remains were several photographs depicting the infancy of ham radio.

Does all of this sound cynical? Well it is and has been done so to make a point. Amateur radio, as it now stands, is on the verge of going the way of the once mighty dinosaur! If we do not change our prehistoric and stone age thinking ham radio is doomed.

There are far too many cro-magnons who think the communication equivalent of banging rocks together to make fire is the be all and end all of ham radio. These "Rockbangers" profess their great affection for ham radio but their actions are the main reason for the possible demise of this hobby.

This small but vocal group are turning off newcomers with such primeval statements as: "Two metres is not ham radio." or "People who do not have code should not be allowed on the executive of an amateur radio club or organization." These are the fossilized attitudes that are keeping the hobby in the stone age.

The big question is why are we insisting that rock-bang, sorry, I mean code, should be used to close the doors of amateur radio? This is followed by a bunch of little questions like: Why must the "we did it and so should you" attitude prevail? Why should a new operator be forced to use code only? And why must a handful of closed minded T-Rexes' be allowed to force their opinions on the next generation of amateur radio operators? Code has a very distinctive and historical place in amateur radio. We should be promoting code as a fun, different and nostalgic form of communication, and encourage it's use not force it down the throats of the next generation of hams.

The time is now! We must examine the privileges that 5 WPM allow. For their dedication to an antiquated communication mode, newcomers are banished to 160 and 80 metres where, with maybe a kilowatt of power and two miles of wire, a contact out of North America might be possible. I suggest opening up 100kHz on all bands for both voice SSB and CW. The latest numbers suggest an increase in newly licenced amateurs - I can tell you that they are not on the HF bands and for that matter, neither are some of the Rockbangers who cry the

loudest about people having to learn code up to their standards!

This is why so many new hams never bother to upgrade, and why should they when the leading edge of amateur radio technology is on the VHF and the UHF frequencies.

Don't get me wrong. There are many more good willed, modern-thinking amateurs, both old-timers and newcomers, than those whose ice-aged attitudes are threatening ham radio. The unfortunate thing is that many of these misguided people are the ones who hold influential positions in amateur radio. There are those amongst us who are quick to squash anything new because change is too frightening for them to conceive. It is much easier to maintain the status quo and complain about any new technology. If we do not dare to be heard and to run for positions of authority then we cannot institute change. We must revise our mouldy, moss covered ways. We must have the courage to propel amateur radio alive and well into the 21st century. It is our responsibility to open the doors of ham radio and insure that HF operations does not become a 'dig site' for archaeologists.

Public Service Policy...

In the beginning was the 'plan',
And then came the 'assumptions',
And the assumptions were without form
And the plan was completely without substance
And the darkness was upon the faces of the
workers and they spake unto their Group Heads,
saying - "It is a crock of s--t, and it
stinketh",
And the Group Heads went unto their Section
Heads, and sayeth:
"It is a container of excrement, and it is
very strong, such that none here may abide by
it",
And the Managers went unto their Directors,
and sayeth unto him,
"It is a vessel of fertilizer, and none may
abide by its strength

A Creation ?

And the Directors went unto their Director-
General, and sayeth
"It contains that which aids plant growth, and
it is very strong"
And the Director-General went unto the
Assistant Deputy Minister and sayeth:
"It promotes growth, and it is very powerful"
And the ADM went unto the Deputy Minister, and
sayeth unto him:
"This powerful new plan will actively promote
the growth and efficiency of the Department,
and this area in particuar"
And the Deputy Minister looked upon the plan
and saw that it was good and directed that the
plan become policy.

Author-Unknown