
THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 37, Number 6 - June 1994

OVMRC's Family of Nets

**Written by Rick Furniss, VE3IHI, Leo Desjardins, VE3NVL
and Steve Middleton, VE3RUU**

Almost since its inception, the OVMRC has sponsored a net of one sort or another on the amateur bands. According to various club sources the club's first sponsored net was the Pot Hole Net on HF. Since first coming on frequency in May, 1959, this net has come a long way.

The Pot Hole Net has a dedicated following each Sunday morning at 1000 hours on 75 meters at 3.760 Khz. Its stated purpose is to announce forthcoming amateur activities, bulletins and, of course, rag chew, as well as one of its features, a swap net.

Most Sunday mornings the net is operated from the Museum of Science and Technology on the club's Kenwood 850 rig. Anyone interested in acting as Net Controller for the Pot Hole Net is invited to contact either Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, or Cy Webster, VE3SIY.

The next net to receive club sponsorship was in January, 1980, when the Wise Owl Net first invited check-ins on the club's two meter repeater, VE3TWO. In its fourteen years of existence the Wise Owl Net has grown in popularity to the point where the average number of check-ins is between 25 and 30 each week.

While the net's main purpose is to announce club news and items of general interest to the amateur community, rag chew has become its predominate component. Originally, the net was held on Wednesday nights, but due to the study program of its first Net Manager, Dave Coutts, VE3KLX, it was moved to Friday evenings where it has remained.

Since the nets inception in 1980, over 6,750 check-ins have been logged, consuming over 184,470 minutes (approximately 3,075

hours) of repeater time. More than 345 nets have been managed and controlled by dedicated volunteer Net Controllers.

The Wise Owl Net sponsors many special events. One such event which generates considerable interest each year is the "qualifying nets" for the coveted Wise Owl class A or class B certificates. It is held from mid-January to the end of March. Over the years there have been over 107 class A and over 82 class B Wise Owl Certificates awarded to qualified amateurs who have checked into the net the required number of times.

Another rather special event is the Xmas morning Wise Owl Net controlled and managed by Sydney Moorcroft, VE3VGI. This special net facilitates the exchange of Xmas greetings between amateurs. The net's popularity is readily seen as Sydney has logged in more than 120 check-ins for a total time of more than 700 hours of repeater use in the few short years this net has been operating.

It is interesting to note that the most active amateur on this net over the past years is the club's Senior Life Member, Fred Noble, VE3BAJ. Fred has checked into the Wise Owl Net a total of 314 times out of a possible 345 nets. Congratulations Fred!

The Wise Owl Net operates from the first week in September to the last week in June. If you have not already done so, you're invited to check-in any Friday evening between 2000 and 2100 hours on the club's repeater VE3TWO, 147.300, positive offset.

In 1992, the club approved the start-up on Wednesday evenings of a second 2 meter net

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The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

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The 1993-1994 OVMRC executive

President: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 225-7374
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, 246-8924
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

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OVMRC Code Phone: 746-2065

Mark Your Calendar!

Next general meeting:

Thursday, June 16th at 1930 hours. This will be the club's annual general meeting with the nomination and election of officers and the presentation and approval of the club's 1994-95 budget.

Next executive meeting:

Thursday, June 23rd at 1900 hours in the volunteers room at the Museum of Science and Technology.

Deadline for the next issue of the Rambler:

Thursday, July 21st, 1994.

Affiliated clubs

The OVMRC exchanges bulletins with the following organizations:

Augusta Amateur Radio Association, Augusta, ME
Border City Radio Club, Windsor, 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
RAC, Kingston, 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 Wise words from our President, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS



It is the month of June, the start of summer and the end of another club year. In retrospect, the 1993-94 year was a reasonable one for the club with a variety of programs and a number of successful activities for the members. The radio course was well attended and quite a few new amateurs have joined our ranks. Several impromptu activities were carried out by the members with good participation and success. I'm thinking of the bunny hunts and social get-togethers among hams.

I have found the role of President to be quite rewarding with good support from the members and, particularly, those elected to the executive. I hope that the club will continue to provide an interesting forum for amateurs in the Ottawa area. To my successor, I extend my support and look forward to next year with a different role in the club.

On the list of activities coming up this month we have our three day Techno/Expo Days at the Museum of Science and Technology on the week-end of June 17, 18 and 19. We will be setting up a station on the front lawn of the museum which we will be operating during the daytime hours. We will be setting

up Friday morning. If you are available come out and meet the public and help with the station set up and operate on twenty and forty. The following week-end is Field Day and, again, we will be located on the lawn at the Museum of Science and Technology. We start the set up on Saturday morning, June 25. Be sure to come to the museum and participate in the set up and, then, the operation of the various stations. It is fun, it is fellowship and it is what amateur radio is all about. Radio operations start at 2:p (1400 hours) on Saturday afternoon and continue for 24 hours, until 2:00 pm Sunday. After the close of operations we have to take every thing down and you certainly don't want to miss that! See you there.

The most important club activity this month is the annual meeting on the t of the month. Election of officers will take place and this will be your opportunity to both choose and meet your new executive. It will also be your opportunity to say farewell to the current executive. I hope we will have a good turnout for this meeting so a majority of members will have a voice in the selection of those who will be leading the club for the next year.

June 16, 1994

Nominations & Election of Officers

BE THERE & VOTE !

Minutes

OVMRC Regular Meeting 19 May, 1994.

Call to Order

President Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, called the meeting to order at 1945 hours following an interesting display of members' mobile rigs in the parking lot. The rigs included HF, VHF and UHF types fitted into all common modes of land transportation.

Many copies of QST from the 1970's, from the estate of VE3CXY, were made available to club members by John Moffat, VE3NJ.

Assistance was sought by Jake, VE2TQX, in the form of a computer program to provide a packet interface function for a Tandy computer.

Greg Johnson, VE3GJZ, a student from McGill is looking for information on weather satellite imagery and antennas for mobile application. He is involved with a solar car project that needs up-to-the-minute sunlight forecasts.

Guest Speaker

The speaker for the evening, Dr. Terry McComb of the NRC, was introduced by the Vice President, Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH. Dr. McComb gave an extremely interesting presentation on "Lightning and Protection From It". His overhead, slide and narrative presentation was well received by those present. Dr. McComb closed his talk by providing the following recommended references:

All About Lightning - Martin A. Uman
The Lightning Book - Peter E. Viemeister
CSA B-72 Code for installation of Lightning Rods

Dr. McComb's talk was followed by a lively and informative question and answer period.
Show and Tell Winners

The President announced that the judging of the mobile installations exhibited earlier in the parking lot is very difficult because of the range of technologies shown and the high level of innovation evident. The winners will be announced on the club nets during the coming month.

The President read a letter of regret from Minister John Manley in response to an invitation to attend the club's field day event,

extended through club member Gilles Morin, M.P.P., VE3VGW.

A letter from Les Scouts et Guides du Canada requesting access to amateur radio stations next October when the organization holds its annual jamboree was passed on to Maurice Andre, VE3VIG. The President asked that other French speaking club members assist Maurice Andre in responding to this request.

Bill Balke, VE3NPG, spoke of available access to the Foymount repeater through VE3HPY, a repeater owned by the Mariposa Amateur Radio Club of Ottawa. It is hardwired into the Foymount hub. A well executed repeater map is available from Bill or Marty.

Committee Reports

Al Barnes, VE2TYJ, gave a report on Field Day, June 25 and 26. Brice Wightman, VE3EDR, asked for CW operators to volunteer for 4 hour shifts. Al gave his correct telephone number, 246-8924.

The Seniors Committee reported that Health and Welfare has verbally advised that the auxiliary grant of \$2150 has been approved. Lorraine, VE3VAT, reported a turnout of over 600 at the fleamarket held on May 14th. A net profit of \$671.18 was made despite the extra cost of having to rent tables at the last minute. The winner of the HT radio donated by Bytown Marine was Bill Rockwell, VE3FGW.

Announcements

Doug Carswell's nominating committee will be telephoning club members to generate a slate of nominees for the election at our June meeting.

Gordon Dewis., VE3XGD, announced a bunny hunt on June 11. It will cover about 2/3 of a mapping grid square. Further information will be forthcoming on local nets.
Adjournment

The President adjourned the meeting at 2130 hours to a social hour of coffee and cookies.

Nominations and Election of 1994-1995 Executive

The OVMRC's next meeting on June 16th is going to be a very important one for all members - our annual general meeting at which time we nominate and elect our new executive for the next year. Additionally, the membership will be asked to review and approve the club's operating budget for the next year. Plan now to attend this important meeting.

Flea Market Draw Winner

Fred Noble, VE3BAJ, drew the winning ticket stub from the drum and Lorraine Boulay, VE3VAT, Flea Market Chairperson, read the name Bill Rockwell, VE3FGW, as the winner of the Kenwood HT radio donated by Bytown Marine. Lorraine, on behalf of the OVMRC, thanks all those who purchased draw tickets as well as those who sold them. Your efforts have made the draw a success!

Show and Tell Prizes to be Awarded

President Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, and Vice President Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, toured the south parking lot at the Museum of Science and Technology inspecting and judging each of the mobile rigs on display - cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles and bicycles. The judging duo found the task so difficult they will be conferring during the next few weeks to decide which of the several excellent entries ranks where. Prizes will be awarded at the OVMRC's June meeting.

Techno Days Helpers Required

The OVMRC will be, again this year, participating in Techno Days at the Museum of Science and Technology the week-end of June 17 - 18 and 19. The club will be operating an amateur radio display. However, operators for both 2 meters and HF are required to staff the display. If you would like to participate - and have fun - contact Steve, VE3RUU.

24-Hour Field Day Needs Your Help

The annual 24-hour FunFest, FIELD DAY, is scheduled for the last week-end of the month, June 25 and 26. This years event will afford participants the choice of operating either indoors (in trailers) or outdoors (in tents). Needless to point out, space in either environment is limited and will be assigned on a first come basis. Al Barnes, VE2TYJ, Field Day Chairperson, advises that the club will be operating 2 meter, HF and packet operations and if there is enough interest 6 meters as well. He also points out there will be a "beginners" CW operation for new hams who can operate cw at 5 wpm. Brice Wightman, VE3EDR, who is coordinating the staffing of operations, has advised that he requires HF Loggers. This latter group need not have any cw experience as their role will be confined to logging what the cw operator do and ensuring there is no duplication. If you would like to participate in Field day, and we urge you to participate, contact Brice and arrange a schedule time to operate one of the rigs. By the way, gourmet food will be prepared by an experienced navy cook for your indigestion pleasure ! It's a fun 24-hours so enjoy the fellowship, enjoy the food, and gain valuable experience.

A Helpful Hint

A Source For QSL Cards

If you have been searching for a source to design and print QSL cards - we have some useful information for you! The Rambler has received a sample QSL card from William Cunningham of Stroud, Ontario, who uses "state of the art" high speed digital printing to produce the cards. He states that you can custom design the card or he can design it for you. The only stipulation is that the QSL block (date, time, frequency, RST, mode) will be a standard format which has already been developed. For more specific details and further information call or write William Cunningham, 1011 Westmount Avenue, Box 375, S.S. #3 Alcona Beach, Stroud, Ontario, L0L 2M0 , telephone (705) 431-0216.

Industry Canada To Issue Policy On Antennas

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) advises that Industry Canada is developing a package of documents explaining the policy and procedures implemented by the government with respect to the erection of antennas and antenna structures. It's expected the package will be available when the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act is proclaimed this fall. Also included in the package is supposed to be an article from RAC suggesting guidelines for the erection of antenna structures

If there are always two sides to every question, how come there is only one answer?

Adopt A Highway Anyone ?

The Ontario Ministry of Highways has approached the London Amateur Radio Club to ascertain whether there is any interest in the club adopting highway 403 just outside London. Club members would be assigned sections of the highway to keep clean. They would receive safety training for the work and would be expected to clean up litter at least three times a year. In return, the Ministry would post a visible sign along the highway, giving the club credit for caring for the highway and advertising the club repeater frequency.

(reprinted from RAC's May bulletin)

The Indispensable Man

Sometimes when you are feeling important,
Sometimes when your ego is in bloom,
Sometimes when you take for granted,
That you're the best qualified man in the
room,

Sometimes when you feel your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul.
Put your hands in a bucket of water,
Immerse them up to your wrists,
Pull them out and the hole that remains,
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.
You may splash all you please when you
enter,

You may stir up the water galore,
But stop--and you'll find in a minute,
That it looks just the same as before,
The moral of this is quite simple,
Just always do the best you can,
Be proud of yourself -- but remember,
There is no indispensable man !

OVMRC's Family of Nets

Continued from page 1

The Welcome Mat Net on the club's repeater VE3TWO. This net was initiated in response to the need to provide a semi-formal environment for new amateurs to express themselves. It was also to provide a medium for new and inexperienced amateur to train as Net Controllers. Each Wednesday evening from 1900 to 1930 hours the net welcomes check-ins from amateurs who have been licenced for less than two years and from 1930 to 2000 hours the net accepts check-ins from all amateurs.

In the short two year life the Welcome Mat Net has been operating, an astounding 2,564 check-ins have been recorded which, in the year ended April 27, 1994, involved 1,368 amateurs. As you might have guessed, it takes time to get all those check-ins logged, lined up and ready to have their say. The clock ticked away 3,796 minutes of repeater time this past year, (over 63 hours) leading to an average net time of 67 minutes per net for the 56 nets since April 1, 1993. Those checking into the nets passed a total of 281 pieces of traffic covering a multitude of subjects.

Over the past year or so the net has had the pleasure of hosting several special event nights. Leading off was Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, our club President, who hosted the First Anniversary Net held on June 2, 1993. And on that Wednesday evening a large number of amateurs checked into the net and passed congratulations and best wishes for the continued success of both the club and the net.

About 9 weeks later, Ian, VE3SNX, (now VE4MUD) was Net Controller and said good-bye to all his many friends in Ottawa as he was soon to depart for Manitoba. This net was on the air for 105 minutes, the longest of any of the special nets and was filled with many interesting stories much to the delight of everyone.

As the year progressed, Al Barnes, VE2TYJ, one of the founders of the net, held a packet question and answer night; Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, hosted a very interesting and informative net on amateur radio regulations and proper operating

procedures. Both Al and Jacques co-opted well versed "experts" to respond to the numerous questions posed by check-ins. These special nets were well accepted by the clubs membership and, needless to point out, more of them will be held in the future. As the club's year winds up we would like to add a few words about records for the Welcome Mat Net. There are three records of interest. First, is a new record high attendance. This one is sure to be pushed even higher in the months to come. Next, Eric Still, VE3OTT, holds the record for generosity of time. Each year the net requires 52 Net Controllers and for 8 of those times Eric said, "Sure, I'd be delighted to do it ". Congratulations and thank you very much Eric. David Scott, VE3ZZU, is our leader in being Net Controller over the life of the net. David has been Net Controller 10 times. Congratulations and thank you to David for this outstanding effort. We might add that even though David was ill with the flu, he still accepted the chore of Net Controller making his contribution to the net even more appreciated. The third and most important record set is a perfect score. Without exception everyone who has checked-in or worked on the Welcome Mat Net has had fun and that's one record we cannot improve upon.

And finally the newest club net, the Six Meter Interest Net which started in 1993 on Monday evenings at 1930 hours on the club's repeater, VE3TWO. Interestingly, this net operates from 1930 to 1945 hours on 2 meters so as to include those amateurs who do not yet have 6 meter rigs, and then from 1945 to 2000 hours the net moves to the club's 6 meter repeater, VE3RVI, 53.030, negative offset. Those involved with this net exemplify the true spirit of amateur radio as they help one another with related problems and exchange news items. You are invited to check into the net any Monday evening on VE3TWO starting at 1930 hours.

One of life's ironies is the fact that when you finally master a really tough job - you make it look easy

A Report

1994 Flea Market A Success

Written by Lorraine Boulay, VE3VAT

The 1994 edition of the OVMRC Flea Market is now history. Some 600 people came to visit with their fellow amateurs and hunt for bargains. Forty-eight vendors displayed their new and used equipment. Commercial vendors such as Atlantic Ham Radio, Seaway Communications, Bytown Marine, H.F. MacFarlane Ltd., the Canadian International DX Club, and Radio Amateurs of Canada were back once again this year.

Unlike last year when DND provided, at no cost to the club, the building in which to hold the flea market as well as the tables, chairs and their transportation to the location, this year we had to pay for all of these services. However, in spite of these expenses, the club made a net profit of \$671.18.

The St. Laurent Arena was judged to be a good location for the flea market. The building itself was large enough to allow vendors to bring their vehicles into the arena to unload their wares and there was plenty of room for shopper to browse, visit and talk with friends. With the two parking areas within the arena site as well as a third lot nearby for overflow, parking was more than adequate.

The OVMRC table was well stocked thanks to the generosity of a number of club members. The coveted raffle prize, the 2 meter Kenwood HT, TH-22AT donated again this year by Bytown Marine, was won by Bill Rothwell, VE3FGW. Other lucky people who won door prizes were - Leslie McCabe, a gift donated by Karen Goulet; Tim, VE3QDX, a balun donated by H.F. MacFarlane; Frank Stratton, a dumb terminal donated by the OVMRC; Henry, VE3AGF, a 1993 Call Book and Conrad, VE3EHE, a 1994 Call Book donated by Norham; Anne Asmus, VE3TSB, a custom wooden call sign donated by Ron Howe; Steve Fitak, VE3SFL, an ARRL Handbook donated by Atlantic Ham Radio; and Sylvain Labrie, VA3SYL, a RAC membership.

An event of this magnitude cannot take place without the help of a number of volunteers. Therefore, I want to express my thanks to all those who helped make the flea market happen and make it a success.

In no particular order, thank you very much Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, Larry Woram, VE3WLN, Neil Herber, VE3PUE, John Pope, VE3ACI, Al Barnes, VE2TYJ, Ken Barry Jr., Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM, Elaine Richard, Bob Richard, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, Sue Carswell, VE3SLC, Lillian Getkate, VE3ZDK, Roxanne Dalmage, VE3VON, Diane Warburton, Ron Howe, VE3MUD, Bill Guiney, VE3BLG, Earl Andrews, VE3AB, Ken MacLennan, VE3OWN, Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH. I want to especially thank Ken Barry, VE3KJB, for his constant support and good advice throughout the year. Ken also was in charge of table reservations and setting up the arena.

Finally my heartfelt gratitude goes out to the many volunteers who were on hand at the arena at 6 am the morning of the flea market to help unload tables and chairs and set them up according to Ken Barry's floor plan. Most of these same people were still on site for the take down after the flea market. On my own behalf and that of the OVMRC, thank you very much fellows and ladies you made it happen and deserve bouquets for a job well done !

OVMRC 1994-95 Proposed Budget

Appearing on the next page is the OVMRC's proposed 1994-95 budget with comparative data from the 1993-94 budget and actual expenditures to June 1, 1994. At the June 16th meeting, along with the nomination and election of club officers, you will be asked to approve the club's proposed 1994-95 budget.

Proposed OVMRC's 1994-95 Budget

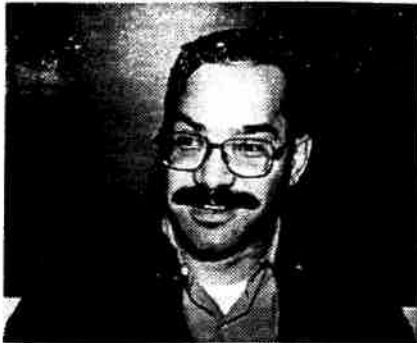
=====			
<u>CLUB INCOME</u>	Budget	Actual#	Budget
	<u>1993/94</u>	<u>1993/94</u>	<u>1994/5</u>
Memberships	3500.00	4374.00	4500.00
Fleamarket Sales	1150.00	1362.00	1500.00
Fleamarket Raffle	1000.00	742.00	700.00
Donations	1400.00	1452.60	1000.00
Bank Interest	100.00	55.19	50.00
Misc Income(Royalties)	1100.00	1026.58	1500.00
Course Registration	4000.00	3959.05	4500.00

<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>12350.00</u>	<u>13462.32</u>	<u>13750.00</u>
Club Equity Funds	N/A	5094.03	
Course Equity Funds	N/A	3925.75	

<u>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>		<u>9019.78</u>	
=====			
<u>CLUB EXPENSES</u>			
Rambler Supplies	1500.00	347.97	716.00
Rambler Postage	1500.00	2076.84	2100.00
Rambler Printing	-	-	1050.00
Code Telephone	400.00	235.33	400.00
Station Licences	72.00	75.00	75.00
Repeater Maintenance	1500.00	1086.25	1500.00
Donations	35.00	20.00	20.00
Field Day expenses	200.00	270.98	500.00
Membership(Awards etc)	-	10.00	10.00
Nametags	300.00	437.28	300.00
Insurance	929.00	928.80	930.00
Office Supplies	100.00	166.69	150.00
Raffle expense	500.00	0	500.00
Fleamarket expense	500.00	1396.36	1250.00
Club Promotion/Pub.	150.00	0	750.00
Miscellaneous exp.(*)	200.00	1372.84	200.00
Bank Charges	50.00	17.00	50.00
<u>TOTAL Club expense</u>	<u>8036.00</u>	<u>8421.34</u>	<u>10501.00</u>
<u>COURSE EXPENSES</u>			
Course Supplies	N/A	1180.69	1100.00
Instructor Honoraria	N/A	750.00	650.00
Miscellaneous exp.	N/A	398.00	500.00
Memberships	-	-	450.00
Manuals	-	-	1650.00
Receivers	-	-	1150.00
<u>TOTAL Course exp.</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5500.00</u>

<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>10238.00</u>	<u>16001.00</u>
=====			
CLUB - FUNDS AVAILABLE		5094.03	
COURSE- FUNDS AVAILABLE		3925.75	
(*) Club Printer			
(#) As of June 1st 1994			

Potpourri



A sampling of news and comments from newsletters and newspapers from across the country - written by Jacques Choquette, VE 3TSC

Kingston - Everyone can benefit from a few reminders about courtesy. Always pause between transmissions. This practice will give others a chance to come into the conversation or ask for the use of the frequency. It could very well be a friend trying to contact you or, more important call for help in an emergency. They won't have a chance to gain entry on the frequency if you keep transmitting. A good practice is to always wait until you hear the courtesy beep from the repeater before continuing your conversation. This procedure will produce the pause which will permit another station to break in. And, by the way, pausing for the courtesy beep is a good method of avoiding being cut off if the repeater times out.

Windsor (Border ARC) - CANWARN, first conceived in Windsor, is a severe weather spotting program of Environment Canada which is used in conjunction with the local amateurs. The amateurs are asked to participate in a training course which teaches them to know what to look for and give the proper observations to Environment Canada's duty weather technician.

W5YI (U.S.A.) - New York city's taxi drivers have started a campaign to install amateur radio gear in all their cabs. Their slogan is, "Ham radio is 100 times better than CB and will keep you from getting killed on the streets".

Sarnia - For all you bargain hunters, here are some timely tips for your next trip to a hamfest: budget your money; have good negotiating skills; test any expensive gear; be sure to record particulars on the vendor just in case the gear you purchased is defective; before making a major purchase

get the advice of an experienced friend ; and finally, remember that the best deals are made in the early or last hours.

London - An ARES meeting was held in April and it attracted 21 agencies with 33 vehicles and/or displays. All sorts of emergency oriented groups showed up i.e. police, fire, medical, industrial, government, etc.

Halifax - At a recent meeting in Halifax, several graphs and tables were used to demonstrate how much power loss occurs in a signal above 30Mhz when using different sizes of coax cable. It certainly pays dividends to study the situation and use the proper type and size of coax to attain the highest possible power output.

The Rambler Is Taking A Holiday

This edition of the Rambler is the last for the club's current year. We will be taking a publishing holiday in July but we will be back in August with a special summer edition.

To one and all - please remember that our children will soon be on holidays and, in their carefree ways, will be playing on or near the streets. Please be alert and watch for playing children when driving.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer, everyone !