

THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 39, Number 4 - November, 1994

It's "Party" Time !

HT Power Supply

If you missed the last party - experience dictates that you not miss this one !

And this party is tentatively planned for January, 1995. Wil Warren, VE3XMT, the organizer of the January, 1994 Filter Building Party has announced that he is now organizing a second building party - this time to assemble a hand held AC power supply.

These building parties are supervised sessions in which participants are given complete instruction on what to do and how to do it. Participants are given a full kit which contains all the necessary parts to build a CSA approved power supply. The cost for each participant will be kept at a minimum, about \$25, and will include the parts kit and use of all the necessary equipment. The location of the party has not yet been confirmed.

After the success of the first building party and the number of amateurs who expressed disappointment at not attending - better reserve a spot at the work bench early by contacting Jacques, VE3TSC, phone 748-6597 (after 6:00pm please) who is coordinating reservations. Space is limited - so its first come , first served !

Your Protest Support Required

The OVMRC executive fully endorses RAC in its efforts to have the government rescind EMCAB-2, "Criteria for the Resolution of Immunity Complaints Involving Fundamental Emissions of Radiocommunications Transmitters."

RAC has consulted with a number of technical advisors and has concluded that EMCAB-2 fails to address technical and

PC Boards

Find out what a printed circuit (PC) board is - how it is made - and make one yourself ! Its easy - its fun - its an opportunity to learn a very useful technical skill.

All of the foregoing is possible when you attend a PC Board Building Party to be held Sunday morning at 9:30am , November 20th, 1994 at the Museum of Science and Technology.

Organizer of the party, Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, has advised that each participant will produce their own PC board during the two to three hour session. Bob also advises that if anyone has a need for a small PC board, they can contact him and he will, time permitting, develop a design for them.

This party will cost each participant \$5 which covers the cost of all materials and the use of all the necessary equipment. Interested participants are asked to contact Bob Shaw during the day , phone 737-9443. Space is limited so don't delay in reserving space.

And by the way, for those interested, you may watch or participate in the OVMRC's Pot Hole Net on HF as it originates from the Museum each Sunday morning at 10:00am.

other issues which need to be addressed. RAC needs the support of every amateur in their objection to this flawed directive. You are urged to use the enclosed form letter; sign and mail it to your MP with a copy to the Minister. No postage is required when writing to a Minister of the Crown or an MP.

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

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The 1994-1995 OVMRC Executive

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Vice-President: Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749

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Amateur Radio Exhibit: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 225-7374

Amateur Radio Training: Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, 737-9443

Field Day: Allan Barnes, VE2TYJ, 246-8924

Flea Market: Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823

Historical: Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, 739-8871

Membership: Ron Clement, VE3UWR, 744-6672

Newsletter: Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214

Publicity & Programs: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565

Radio Operations: Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, 748-6597

Technical: Rick Furniss, VE3IHI, 224-2604

Ramblerites

Contributors to this issue:

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Doug Bannard, VE3SPF

OVMRC Code Phone - 746-2065

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Corel Corporation in producing the Rambler.

Mark Your Calendar !

Next general meeting:

Thursday, November 17th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. Our guest speaker will be nationally renowned Jacques d'Avignon, VE3JLP, who will be speaking on HF Propagation and will be providing a free handout.

Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, November 25th, 1994!

OVMRC's Repeater:

VE3TWO , 147.300MHz (+)

Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC exchanges newsletters with the following organizations:

Algoma ARC, Sault Ste Marie, ON
Augusta Amateur Radio Assoc. Augusta, ME
Border City Radio Club, Windsor, ON
Chatham-Kent ARC Inc. Chatham, ON
Calgary Amateur Radio Assoc. Calgary AB
Comox Valley ARC, Comox, B.C.
Halifax ARC, Halifax, N.S.
Heritage ARC, Cobourg, ON
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Lambton County ARC, Sarnia, ON
London ARC, London, ON
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Saskatoon ARC, Saskatoon, SK
Thousand Island ARC, Brockville, ON
West Island ARC, Dorval, PQ
Winnipeg ARC, Winnipeg, MAN

Sponsors

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

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc. Mississauga, ON
Corel Corporation, Ottawa, ON

Ramblings

Wise words from our President, Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ



There has been a change in the executive with the resignation of our Membership chairperson, Dave Scobie, VA3AE. Dave has accepted an opportunity to further his education and feels that he cannot do justice to both his studies and the duties of the Membership chair. On behalf of the Club I want to thank Dave for his efforts and wish him well with his studies. Ron Clement, VE3UWR, has agreed to assume the responsibilities of the Membership chair.

At the last meeting I mentioned the need to respond to Industry Canada's EMCAB 2 document that gives new signal levels to be used in resolving interference complaints. With this copy of the Rambler you will find a prepared letter on this subject that you should sign and forward top the Minister of Industry. I also intend to prepare letter from the Club on this matter for signature by as many members as will be available for signature at the November meeting - - do your bit to protect the future of amateur radio in Canada, come to the meeting and sign this letter. The speaker at the November meeting will be Jacques d'Avignon, VE3VIA, who will take the mystery out of HF propagation forecasting.

The results of the survey of the Club interests were presented in preliminary form by Larry, VE3WEH, at the last meeting. We are certainly indebted to Larry, Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, Len, VE3LGZ, and the Chairpersons who helped in the drafting, tabulation and analysis of the questionnaire. Some of the results, such as the Rambler mailing date and more "how to" training sessions are already being implemented. For those who missed the last meeting I have asked Larry to repeat some of the survey results in capsule form. And so it's over to you Larry !

Thank you Ernie .

Your executive is providing highlights of the survey to all members who were unable to attend the general meeting last month. As noted in the report, all percentages shown here are to the nearest 5%. The survey was mailed to 221 members of the Club and was made available at our September meeting. A total of 53 responses were received. Although this represents 25% of the total membership, we did not employ any method to ascertain the extent to which this 25% response is representative of all the Club membership.

About half of the 53 members that replied are 50 years of age or older and one quarter are 40 years of age and younger. About half of those responding have been licensed for 3 years or less. Individuals are involved in many ham activities, however, VHF at 80% and HF at 70% lead the way. Interestingly, 45% of the respondents are involved with Morse code and 90% indicated they attend our Club meetings. Less than half the respondents participate in specific OVMRC activities we listed in the survey but the most popular activities are field days at 45% and Club nets at 40%. Some of the other activities that members would like to do - 60% would like to participate in training and building workshops and 40% would like to have breakfasts on the week-ends. The \$2 admission to our flea market was evenly split at 45% (**your executive has decided not to impose an admission charge to our flea market**). 50% of those responding favour a membership card while 40% said no. Many, 50%, offered to help organize, set-up, or operate field days, flea market 35% Techno days 30%, club nets 25%, and bunny hunts 15%. A surprising 90% of the responding are satisfied with the range of the Club's 2 meter repeater to their home location. The question of establishing a link with VE3ULR is 45% in favour versus 40% opposed; 45% of those interested would work on this as a special project. Leading the range of subjects for our newsletter - technical articles at 85%, with legislation 75%, home brew 70%, RAC news 50%; we expect to see more of these subjects.. Many suggestions and comments
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Minutes

OVMRC Regular Meeting
20 October, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Ernie, VE3EJJ, at 1934 hours.

The membership welcomed four visitors and three new members who are Barry, VE3BGA, Jim, VE3JBA, and Gaetan, VE3IET.

Seeking assistance, a member was looking for help in hooking up equipment to set-up a packet station. It was suggested he speak with Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG. Another member was looking for a length of RG8X cable - some was offered. Paul, VA3HOE, is seeking advice on the special use of a TS450S. Can any member help here ?

The meeting was turned over to Larry, VE3WEH, who gave a preliminary report on the result of the recent membership survey. He prefaced his comments by saying the analysis of the survey identified flaws in the wording of some of the questions. Nonetheless, the results were informative and interesting and will give the club's executive some direction on the memberships' preferences. Larry thanked those who assisted with the survey, Ernie, VE3EJJ, for initiating the project, Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, for his assistance in compilation of results, and Len, VE3LGZ, for his analysis. Full results of the survey will be published in a future edition of the Rambler.

A surprise speaker followed Larry, Len, VE3LPH. Len gave a presentation on the proper manner in which to handle emergency calls on the radio. His presentation included the information required by agencies responding to such calls, i.e. CAA, ambulance, police and towing services. This was followed by a very informative and entertaining demonstration on a simplex frequency on the WRONG way and then the RIGHT way to handle emergency calls. He was assisted by Jake, VE2TQX, Larry, VE3WEH and Dan, VE3XDD.

The President made the following announcements.

Dave, VA3AE, has, with regret, tendered his resignation as the Membership Chairman so that he may pursue an opportunity to

further his post secondary education. Ron, VE3UWR has agreed to fulfill the balance of the term as Membership Chairman.

Jerry, VE3CDS, reported that he has received a good response to the proposed CW course which he hopes to start in mid November. Anyone interested in enrolling in the course is asked to contact Jerry.

Jerry also reported that he plans to erect the VE3JW beam antenna in early November. Volunteer help would be welcome.

Bob, VE3SUY, held a PC board making session for this year's radio course class which generated considerable club interest. He is prepared to conduct a similar session for club members if there is sufficient interest.

Wil, VE3XMT, is organizing a hand held AC power supply building session, to be held in early January, 1995. Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Jacques, VE3TSC, any evening after 6:00pm to reserve a space.

Jacques, VE3TSC, asked that anyone interested in acting as a net controller for the club's nets contact him.

Larry, VE3WEH, provided a preview of the upcoming themes and guest speakers for future meetings. He cautioned that some of the speakers have not yet been confirmed. The door prize was awarded at the last minute to Jim, VE3GJY. He has a choice of a \$25 gift certificate at Bytown Marine or a 1936 edition of the 200m and down manual. Jim chose the manual.

The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours for a social hour with coffee, tea and cookies.

Don't throw those old woolen socks away !To reduce the wear and tear on your HT, keep it in an old woolen sock. If you have more than one HT, use different coloured socks for each radio. By doubling the sock back over itself you can double the protection you give your valuable investment.

Special Events Station VA3CGD

Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Centre

Written by Bill Cousins

C.G.D.B.T.C. was started by Bill and Jane Thorton in 1984 in their garage. Now, some 10 years later, they celebrated their tenth anniversary on August 27th of training dogs to assist the visually impaired. And instead of conducting training in their garage they have graduated to a ten acre site in Manotick.

To mark this tenth milestone, special events station VA3CGD went on the air for the first time on August 27th from the front veranda of the main building at the training centre. Actually three stations were in operation, one on 80/40 m, another on 20m and a third on 2 metres. The operators logged close to 200 QSOs.

Several visually impaired hams operated the rigs, Jerry, VE3MPH, Ian, VE3PSK, and Roy, VE3FVI. Some of the interesting stations logged were GONJE, a guide dog training centre in England; VE3CNE, the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto; VE3RAM, the OVMRC's booth at the Central Canada Exhibition in Ottawa; VE7RCN, Commonwealth Games. In addition the centre in Manotick had a long list of visitors from many parts of the world, plus local TV

reporters and newspaper journalists.

Mike Cardill, "Guider" project manager has designed a special events QSL certificate especially for the tenth anniversary as well as a general QSL certificate for any other time you have a QSO with VA3CGD.

The station is planning other events such as Field Day, Canada Day, etc. Efforts are being made to involve as many visually impaired operators as possibly in the operation of VA3CGD. Plans are also in the mill to equip VA3CGD as a complete amateur station with specially modified rigs for the visually impaired. Amateur Equipment for the visually impaired is modified to include a reader which tells the operator at what frequency the rig is set.

VA3CGD is independent from any one amateur radio club. However, it welcomes support from both individual amateur operators as well as all clubs in the acquisition of equipment for VA3CGD. If you have some equipment you would like to give to VA3CGD or if you want any additional information, please contact - Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Centre, P.O. Box 280, Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A3.

A n R S G B Convention

Reprint from Northern California DXer

Recently my employer sent me to a trade show in the UK. During a break, I found the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) annual national convention in progress.

The RSGB convention had familiar aspects, but something unique as well. Apparently RSGB members enjoy home brewing, experimenting, QRP gear, etc. more than American hams do.

Equipment reviews, for example, contrast sharply with ours. They present complete, detailed testing results and comparisons. There are articles on gear to build - like the QRP stuff I saw at the convention, packet gear, software and antennas. So I joined RSGB. Membership brings their monthly publication, Radio Communications which, by the way, fill the void left by the demise of Ham Magazine. For information, you can write:

Radio Communications,
Radio Society of Great Britain,
Lambda House, Cranborne Road,
Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3JE.

Part 3

Rechargeable Batteries

Summary of a talk given by Doug Bannard, VE3SPF

Voltage Depression - The So-Called Memory Effect

If a charge is continued for too long a time (this is called overcharge) , particularly on a battery that has been only partially discharged, a phenomenon known as "voltage depression" takes place. This commonly occurs with appliances which are left continuously on charge and only used for brief periods not sufficient to discharge the batteries (such as many HTs). The overcharge of a partially discharged battery causes the voltage of each cell to become depressed by approximately 150mV. In an 8.4 volt battery pack for an HT, suffering from voltage depression, the fully charged pack voltage would be only 7.35 volts. Since HTs normally have internal circuitry that disconnects the battery before the HT starts to malfunction due to low battery voltage, the HT stops functioning after a shorter than normal period of operation and gives rise to the myth that the battery capacity has been reduced because Nicads have "memory" In fact, although the HT has ceased to operate, the battery still has lots of capacity left...just at too low a voltage to be useful to the HT. The actual number of amp-hours available has NOT been decreased. Fortunately, voltage depression can be easily cured by simply discharging the battery pack once fully and then re-charging. This is best done by connecting a couple of 6.3 volt (#47) pilot lamp bulbs in series across the battery pack (or a suitable 12V 250mA bulb) .
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DISCHARGE A BATTERY OF ANY TYPE BY SHORT-CIRCUITING IT. TO DO SO COULD RESULT IN EXCESSIVE BATTERY HEATING AND A POSSIBLE EXPLOSION.

ALSO...NICADS MUST NEVER BE CHARGED WITH ANYTHING OTHER THAN A CONSTANT CURRENT SOURCE.....TO DO

OTHERWISE CAN ALSO RESULT IN EXCESSIVE HEATING AND A POSSIBLE EXPLOSION.

The best way to avoid voltage depression in NiCds is to use a timer with your charger so that the charge will be terminated after a suitable number of hours. This results in longer battery life than complete discharges, but of course requires that you keep track of how many amp-hours need to be replaced.

Lead - Acids

Lead-acid batteries need to be charged with a constant voltage source as it is more important with these batteries than with NiCds to prevent their terminal voltages from rising too high during charge. At voltages between 2.4 and 2.5 volts per cell excessive "gassing" starts to take place causing loss of water from the electrolyte. The way to charge these to get the longest life is to use a constant voltage charger with an adjustable current limit. By this, I mean a good power supply with very low output ripple, since ripple current shortens the life of the battery plates. The voltage is set to 2.30 volts/cell (13.8 V for a 12V battery) with the charger disconnected from the battery, then the charger leads are short-circuited and the current limit adjusted to provide a short circuit current of 0.1C. The charger leads are then connected to the battery. For example:

For a 12 volt 100 Amp-hour battery we would set the charger to an output voltage of 13.8 volts, and a current limit of :

$$0.1 \times 100 = 10.0 \text{ Amps}$$

The charger must be left connected for long enough to supply 1.3 times the amp hours used from the battery....and this is tricky with this type of charger since the current

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Rechargeable Batteries

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tapers off as the battery terminal voltage rises. If our 100 A-hr battery had been 50% discharged we would need to leave the charger connected for at least 24 hours to ensure a full charge. The guideline would be as follows. Monitor the terminal voltage and charging current :

- a) If the terminal voltage is below 2.3 volts/cell...continue the charge.
- b) If the current is above 0.002C, continue the charge until it drops below this level.(200mA for a 100 A-hr battery)

If the battery you are charging happens to be a sealed lead-acid, the charging process is completed. If however you are charging a flooded battery such as an automobile battery it is necessary to "equalize it" , after following the foregoing procedure. This procedure ensures that all of the cells are as nearly as possible equally charged. To do this, it is necessary to raise the terminal voltage of the battery to 2.45 volts/cell (14.7 volts for a 12 volt battery) for an hour, keeping the current limit still set at 0.1C. Now the battery is disconnected from the charger.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT A LEAD-ACID BATTERY IS FULLY CHARGED BEFORE STORING IT. A BATTERY LEFT IN A SEMI-DISCHARGED STATE FOR ONLY A FEW DAYS WILL START TO FORM INSOLUBLE LEAD SULPHATE CRYSTALS ON ITS PLATES POSSIBLY RENDERING IT INCAPABLE OF BEING CHARGED.

Some Do's and Don'ts

Do:

- 1) Do use a timer on NiCd chargers to prevent overcharge.
- 2) Store charged batteries in a cool location to minimize self discharge.

- 3) Charge flooded lead-acid batteries every three weeks to prevent plate sulphation and loss of capacity.
- 4) Keep tops of lead-acid batteries clean to minimize self discharge.
- 5) Store NiCds in either a charged or discharged state. Either way is okay.
- 6) Use rapid chargers if the battery supplier recommends it.
- 7) Use the battery supplier's recommended charge procedure and also ask him/her for data on amp-hours vs. discharge rate.

Don't

- 1) Don't store a lead-acid battery in a discharged state.
- 2) Don't store even a fully charged lead-acid battery for more than 3 weeks without charging it. It will die due to self discharge (leaving it on a concrete floor is not the reason - this does not affect batteries) , and will rapidly become sulphated making charging difficult or impossible.
- 3) Don't store or operate any battery at too high or too low a temperature. Low temperatures greatly reduce the capacity of any battery, while high temperatures cause premature aging.
- 4) Don't use partially discharged cells along with charged ones in a battery pack. This will almost certainly cause cell reversal in one or more cells. For the same reason, don't discharge NiCds below 1.0 Volt/cell
- 5) Don't discharge a lead-acid battery below 1.75 Volts/cell. To do so results in a permanent loss of capacity.

In the final instalment of this series of articles, Doug speaks about the "Care and Feeding of Car/Marine Batteries In The Shack - A Few Myths"

Thanks, But No Thanks !

Reprint from Today's Seniors, August, 1994.

I recently retired and in looking at some of the alternatives I may have in possibly relocating from my present house to a lesser, but adequate one, I followed up on the many "mature lifestyle" mini-communities that are both described and advertised in newspapers. I was impressed by the provision of community activity facilities of many kinds....but mention the hobby of amateur radio and not one of the eight communities we have visited would allow an antenna ! An antenna is a basic need to practice this very friendly hobby. "Sure we can sell you a house in our lovely community but you cannot operate your amateur radio here because we don't allow towers !"

I very much enjoy reading lifestyle features in newspapers, particularly those that relate so closely to our needs. However, from now on we will be bypassing all those advertisements and now irrelevant items on mature lifestyle communities.

A World Tour

Reprint from En Route Magazine

Getting there is half the adventure, but how you get around once you're there can be just as much an experience.

London: A ride on the red double-decker starts at 60 pence (\$1.30); a short trip within the central zone is 80 pence (\$1.70).

Venice: Touring the city's canals on a gondola will set you back 70,000 lire (\$60) for under an hour - serenading is extra - but for 500 lire (45 cents) a larger version with two gondoliers will ferry you across the canal.

San Francisco: A cable car jaunt through this city by the bay will cost you \$2

Tokyo: Fares on the immense subway system, complete with its infamous white-gloved people-pushers, start at 140 yen (\$1.95) .

New Delhi: Auto-rickshaw is the quickest and cheapest ride - about 2.50 rupees (11 cents) for the first 1.6 km; 1.20 rupees (5 cents) for

each additional km.

Toronto: Tour the city's neighbourhoods via Canada's only remaining streetcar system; a single fare on the "Red Rocket" costs \$2.

The Brain Train

It's the ultimate in time-efficient learning, geared especially for businesspeople on the go: professional development classes taught on board a commuter train.

Since September, 1993, Dean College of Franklin, Mass. in cooperation with the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, has offered continuing education courses that cover marketing and management as well on the 60 kilometres between Franklin and Boston.

With the aid of a microphone and portable sound system, a business instructor from Dean College delivers a 50 minute lecture two or three times a week from the last car of the 7.45am commuter train, pausing only for the conductor to shout out the name of each upcoming stop. Homebound, the journey is quieter, with students squeezing in time for reading and assignments.

the commuter courses cost \$330 each, and successful completion can be applied towards a two-year associate of science degree. The courses are especially popular with administrative assistants and executive secretaries seeking to improve the positions

A n t e n n a Nightmares

Reprint from RAC News Bulletin

A Vancouver amateur learned the hard way how tough it can be to get an antenna erected in some communities. His plan was to erect a tower sufficient to support a 20-foot dish for EME (earth-moon-earth) communications. He ran into local requirements for a building permit if the antenna was higher than six feet above the ground. The building standard he was required to meet resulted in the construction of two concrete pads - one 10' x 10' x 6' and the second 8' x 8' x 6' to support his tower.

Ramblings

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were also received; 7 respondents or 15% offered to give talks. One fifth of the respondents are willing to serve on the Club's executive, a smaller segment are interested in serving on a committee or special interest group.

We also received some critical and constructive comments on a variety of subjects which were most welcome and these are being brought to the attention of your executive.

We sincerely thank each of you for taking the time to respond to the survey questionnaire. Your executive thanks you for your views. Your comments will be given due consideration. We again wish to assure you that completed survey questionnaires are strictly confidential and even your executive will NOT be provided with names of respondents. On the basis of results, no doubt the executive will be asking membership to assist with various events and we sincerely hope that those of you who indicated a willingness to do so will provide assistance in those areas which interest you the most ! Again, thank you for your comments, suggestions and taking the time to complete a very worthwhile membership survey. !

Christmas Is Coming

An early reminder to all amateurs !

Circle December 25th to remind yourself to check in to the Special Christmas Morning edition of the Wise Owl Net with Sidney, VE3VGL, as Net Control on the OVMRC's repeater VE3TWO, 147.300+. This special annual net grows in popularity each year as more and more amateurs avail themselves of the opportunity to exchanging Christmas greetings with their fellow amateurs and their families.

AAA... Amateur Auto Assistance

Written by Andre St. Jacques, VA3ASJ

I've been a licensed amateur since March 9th, 1994. I know that amateur radio has many uses such as exchanging information, rag chewing, DXing for those on HF, providing assistance to anyone in a difficult or life threatening situation. I had the unfortunate opportunity of experiencing the latter not too long ago.

I have a physical disability and use a four wheel motorized scooter for most of my transportation between the months of April and December. On Monday, October 17th, I was on my scooter returning to my QTH, which is in Vanier, when I suddenly realized that I was running out of power. I had miscalculated the amount of energy I had left on the battery which drives my chair. Then, at the corner of Metcalfe and Wellington Streets, right in front of the Parliament buildings, the battery ran out and my chair stopped. This wasn't a life threatening situation, but it certainly made me uncomfortable and I required assistance ! Fortunately, I had my 2 meter hand held radio with me so I made a call on one of the local repeaters for help. I made sure to say that I was not in a life threatening situation but I did need help. I also mentioned that I was in a motorized scooter and required help from someone with a truck or van. Immediately another ham responded. It was Marc, VA3MDC, who was in his truck with two friends. It didn't take long for them to arrive on the scene - load my scooter and me on board and drive me home. Luck was certainly on my side for two reasons - first because I was able to find a ham with a truck so quickly, and secondly, to find someone with a large enough vehicle to accommodate me.

My most sincere thanks to all three of these fellows for their help - merci les gars et meilleurs 73. This event has proven that amateur radio is a life saver, literally. Just think of some fellow lost in an isolated area. If he is licensed and has his portable with him - he's practically home free !

Potpourri



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

FCC - This group has fined ACE Communications \$2000 for marketing illegal scanners. ACE had advertised in amateur magazines two different unauthorized scanners that covered the cellular band.

Monitoring Times - An FCC official has indicated that the Commission is to issue a directive to allow US Customs to confiscate illegal "cellular capable" scanners now being advertised in the US by Canadian dealers. US dealers/manufacturers are now prohibited from importing for resale and/or building such products.

Sudbury - Reference was made of the "memory effect" from charging nicads as not being real. An action is started by crystal build up inside the battery caused from surplus heat by over charging. "Memory effect" in reality is that the battery cannot hold as much power as before. The "memory" can be erased by repeatedly charging/discharging a few times. Be careful not to overcharge and not let the battery drain too much.

Winnipeg - History of Packet Radio: Montreal, May/78 - first packet system in Canada, Vancouver, Jan/79 - their system called a Terminal Node controller, first newsletter "the Packet", Ottawa, 1980 - first developed a digipeater, Hamilton - wanted a system that allowed them to connect to each other without a master station, VE7APU developed a protocol for them that eventually spread to the US.

West Island (Montreal) - Globe & Mail - A

crane used at Simcoe Place was having its electrical system attacked by radio and micro waves. A new DC motor runs on a frequency close to these wavelengths. The transmissions seem to emanate from antennas high on the CN Tower. (Nice to see others being plagued by EMI - VE3TSC)

FCC - They have issued a letter which validates the authority of US repeater to ban licensed amateurs from operating over their open systems. It permits the individual(s) responsible for the proper operation of a repeater to limit its use to certain user stations.

Metroplex (New York) - A good summary given ref the weather and conditions associated with the start of hurricane season (ie- winds, water temperature, rain, clouds). A list of the frequencies used by the states/countries and organizations in the Caribbean and US west coast. It showed how useful the amateurs were in times of need.

Lambton County (Sarnia) - A list of social (fun) nets for people new to HF could visit (time in EST):

Ontars (Ont. Amateur Radio System), 3755, daily 0900-1800
TPN (Trans Provincial Net), 7055, daily 0900-1800
Chicken Junction, 3775, daily 1930
Sandbox, 7062, daily 1830-2000
Minnie, 3733, daily 0845
Sanderson Hour, 3726, daily 2000
Quarter Century Wireless Asso., 3772, Sun 0900
Snowbird, 21212, daily starting Oct
White Cane, 3755-3765, Wed 1900
Oatmeal, 3700, daily 0630
Laurentian, 3755 during winter, 7070 end of Apr, daily 1845
Northwest, 3750, daily 2000

Dear Member of Parliament:

I hold an Amateur Radio Licence issued through Industry Canada.

In early June of this year, Industry Canada released a document entitled, "Criteria for the Resolution of Immunity Complaints Involving Fundamental Emissions of Radio communications Transmitters." This document, called EMCAB-2, was issued as an Electromagnetic Compatibility Advisory Bulletin.

This bulletin places no onus on manufacturers for any responsibility in manufacturing electronic equipment, when it is used in proximity to radio transmitting equipment. On the other hand, licensed transmitter owners comply with stringent federal regulations for use of the radio spectrum as a resource. It is only prudent responsibility to do so.

EMCAB-2 ignores the inconvenience to the consumer and the transmitter owner when a complaint occurs and obligates them to resolve an issue, when it is clearly the responsibility of the manufacturer to ensure its equipment is properly designed.

EMCAB-2 alludes to international standards which are not yet in effect and simply, by implication, assumes that such standards will come into force. I believe the Advisory Bulletin will be subject to wide misinterpretation. It complicates its actual purpose because it lacks even a methodology of measurement.

You should be aware that the European Community has begun a proper approach to resolving 80% of these problems by mandating that all electronic equipment must meet some specified level of immunity (rejection) of radio transmitter energy. This will preclude importation unless these standards are met. Why should Canadians accept sub-standard designs ?

More than 42,000 licensed radio amateurs in all parts of Canada and countless individuals who reside in close proximity to radio transmitters could be affected by EMCAB-2. We request that this document be rescinded and withdrawn and that the first step towards resolving immunity problems be technically addressed by manufacturers. Responsible engineering design by manufacturers would obviate the need for EMCAB-2.

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Your Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Your Address: _____

cc: The Honourable John Manley, P.C.
Minister of Industry,
Parliament Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

