THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 39, Number 8 - March, 1995

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VE3JW Is Officially On Air Again !

It was four years in the planning, development, design and construction and, finally, on March 2nd, 1995, with the flick of a few "on" switches and the push of the PTT pedal on the microphone, VE3JW was officially on the air !

Considerable time and effort have been put into the planning etc., of the station by a volunteer committee composed of Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, Cy Webster, VE3SIY, Joel Morin, VE3OPS, Craig Delmage, VE3OP and the staff of the Museum of Science and Technology.

As part of the development process, Cy Webster initiated an application to Health and Welfare Canada for a New Horizon Grant to purchase much needed equipment for the station. The application was favourably received and resulted in the station receiving a grant permitting the purchase of a new Kenwood TS850 radio, an ALS600 linear amplifier and a seven element beam antenna. In addition, as much as possible of the older equipment has been recommissioned making VE3JW the envy of local amateurs.

Inasmuch as VE3JW is housed in the Museum of Science and Technology it is a national station which can be operated by any licensed amateur operator (within his/her licensed limits). However, to ensure operating maintenance and regulatory compliance that station is supervised by Jerry, VE3CDS and Cy, VE3SIY. Jerry and Cy are organizing an operating schedule for the station and are looking for volunteer operators for Saturday and Sunday afternoons as well as week day afternoons. Volunteers are encouraged to contact Jerry or Cy.

See, too, "A New Twist To An Old Story" on page 8

VE3JW is officially on the air ! Operating packet from a temporary lap-top computer is Maurice-Andre, (left) VE3VIG, while Jerry, (on the right) VE3CDS, just finished a QSO with an amateur in Florida.

The amateur radio operators who joined forces with staff from the museum to form the committee that planned and designed the new VE3JW. From left to right, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, Joel Morin, VE3OPS, Cy Webster, VE3SIY and Craig Delmage, VE3OP

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

The *Rambler* is published monthly by:
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Mark Your Calendar !

Next general meeting:

Thursday, March 16th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. It's "Home Brew Night", a fun time evening with prizes for the 'best' home-made items. Also featured will be the Silent Auction of surplus club equipment. Viewing starts at 1830 hours.

Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, March 24th, 1995.

OVMRC's Repeater:
VE3TWO , 147.300MHz (+)
444.200MHz (+)

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.
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Smiths Falls ARC, Smiths Falls, 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

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

Ramblings

Wise words from our President,

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ

We have had a busy month since I last reported in this column. Larry, VE3WEH, brought us an excellent presentation of the Corel products at our February meeting. We owe him a hearty "Thank You". I can assure you there was no collusion in my winning the CorelDraw 5 door prize. It was blind luck which I hardly ever experience. The blind luck does have a bit of a down side. My present computer cannot handle this software, so I will have to spring for a better machine. Much like winning a good antenna and then having to buy a transceiver to be able to use it. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue a few of us put on an amateur radio presentation for a group of Girl Guides during their Guides On The Air weekend. The girls were enthusiastic and hopefully we may eventually see one or two of them as future students in our radio course. I feel that as a Club we should take every opportunity to promote amateur radio with the younger people as they are the future of this hobby. By the time you read this . The Museum demonstration station, VE3JW, will have been operating for a few weeks. It has some very good equipment including a new linear and exceptional beam antenna. Being part of a national museum, it is available to all radio amateurs. If you would like to operate the station contact Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, he is looking for volunteers so he can set up a regular staffing schedule.

Our next regular Club meeting will be a rather busy one. As noted elsewhere in this issue, we will be disposing of some surplus Club equipment, considering some proposed changes to the Club's bylaws, presenting an interim financial report and bringing forward some 'supplementary estimates' in addition to conducting our annual home brew night. So that we can have as much time as possible for the home brew part of the program, I would like to dispose of the business aspects of the meeting as early as possible in the evening and ask for your cooperation and attentiveness to accomplish this.

This month the column is being shared with our Flea Market Chairperson, Ken Barry, VE3KJB, who has some wisdom to impart about the forthcoming event. Over to you Ken...

Thank you Mr. President.

Well another Flea Market is coming on May 13th and it's time to start promoting it. It will be held this year at McNabb Arena on Percy Street. Access is the best. As was the case last year, vendors will be able to drive their vehicles right into the arena to unload and load the wares. Wheel chair access is good both in entering the arena and at the washrooms.

We have an impressive list of commercial vendors - the same as last year plus new ones. R & S Electronics from Dartmouth who couldn't make it last year will be here this year. And I am pleased to report that we have a totally new face this year, Pro Printers who makes QSL cards to your individual specs and station log sheets. The other commercial vendors who have so far rented tables are - Atlantic Ham ; Bytown Marine ; Canadian DX ; MacFarlane ; and Seaway Communications.

The door prize this year, donated by Bytown Marine, is an AOR wide band scanner, Model AR1500A. This scans AM, FM, and has a BFO for sideband scanning. It's range is from 500Khz to 1300Mhz. As usual there will be no admission charge and parking is free. Come One - Come All for either eyeballing or buying or just sitting around drinking coffee and eating doughnuts !

Minutes

OVMRC Regular Meeting
16 February, 1995.

The President called the meeting to order at 1935 hours. He welcomed the large number of visitors from other local amateur radio clubs who had been invited to the meeting. Visitors from outside our area included Wayne, VE6BLW from Edmonton and Richard, W1NMZ from California.

Larry, VE3WEH, introduced our guest speaker for the evening, Michelle Paradis and John, VA3JBS, both representatives from Corel Corporation.

Michelle gave a most impressive demonstration of some of Corel's new software. She demonstrated the versatility of Corel's new CorelDraw 5.0, Corel Photo Paint 5.0, Corel Ventura 5.0 and Corel Move 5.0. Michelle demonstrated a number of exciting options and functions that can be used in so many different ways that you are only limited by your own creativity. She pointed out that all Corel products are designed to operate Windows and are available on CD. Corel now has several of the programs available in French and CorelDraw in a number of foreign languages. The system requirements for CorelDraw 5.0 is a 486 computer with 66Mhz (it will work with 33Mhz) , 16 Mgs of RAM and 50 Mgs of system memory. Michelle concluded her demonstration with an impressive display of what can be done with Corel Move. From the number of ooze and ohs heard during Miss Paradise's demonstration, it can be unequivocally stated that all those present were very much impressed.

Corel Corporation provided a number of prizes , the winning tickets for which was draw by Michelle. The winners were: Lillian, VE3ZDK, A Winter Sports Images CD; Carl, VE3HEX, A Canada Images CD; Richard, VE3UNW, Corel Art Show #5 Int'l Contest Entries; Clayton, VA3CBJ, Corel Flow; and Ernie, VE3EJJ, a Designer Envelope which contained a gift certificate for Corel's new CorelDraw 5.0 software package.

Larry thanked Michelle for her very impressive demonstration and pointed out the terminology she used was very familiar to the amateur radio community.

Ernie thanked Al, VE2TYJ and Ray, VE3OMI for providing the sound system.

The President announced that Ron, VE3UWR, due to circumstances beyond his control, has resigned as Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Gord, VA3GRB, has agreed to complete the balance of Ron"s term of office.

Ken,VE3KJB, is looking to borrow a guillotine to cut the Flea Market raffle tickets. The raffle prize is a wideband scanner AOR AR1 500A.

Rick, VE3IHI, advised that has upgraded the 2M repeater with a new 35AMP power supply. The 70CM repeater is inoperative due to a burned out final RF transistor. Rick said he was having difficultly finding a replacement transistor.

Ernie pointed out the Club's new banner proudly displayed on the curtain behind the stage.

Jerry, 0VE3CDS, advised that VE3JW will be officially opened March 2nd. Licensed amateur wishing to operate the station are asked to contact Jerry, VE3CDS.

Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG, David, VE3ZZU, and Ernie, VE3EJJ, will be operating a demo station for the Girl Guides at Inniskail. Members were asked to tune into their frequencies so the demo station will have amateurs to talk to on Saturday morning.

Members with suggested amendments to the Club's Bylaws are asked to provide Mike, VE3BGP , with them so they may be considered.

Ernie advised the March meeting will be a busy one with a silent auction of the Club's surplus equipment; Homebrew night ; and there will be some business matters to consider.

Richard, VE3UNW, said the OARC's Advanced Radio Class is doing quite well. He also thanked the OVMRC for sponsoring the Welcome Mat Net and the new Computer Net.

The President adjourned the meeting at 2128 hours and was followed by a social hour with tea, coffee and cookies.

PACKET RACKET

Written by Ken Asmus VA3KA

What's all this "racket" about Packet? This was the title of an 1985 QST article in which the author, Harold Price, NK6K (one of the "father's" of packet as we know it today) tried to explain this new form of ham radio communication to the masses. It has now been 10 years since this article was published - about the same period of time that I have been involved in packet. During this decade there has been a tremendous explosion in the growth in this mode of communications, especially during the last 4 - 5 years. Over the next few months I will try to provide some information on packet radio hopefully of interest to both newcomers and "experts" alike! This month I will try to answer a few basic questions about packet for those who are still asking "What's All This Racket About Packet".

A Bit of History

For those who are unaware, packet radio was "invented" in Canada! In the late 1970's a group of amateurs in Vancouver (the Vancouver Amateur Digital Communications Group - VADCG) adopted a set of operating procedures or protocol for amateur radio packet operation. At the same time, Doug Lockhart, VE7APU designed a terminal node controller (TNC) that ran the VADCG protocol. This TNC became known as the Vancouver board.

In 1981, the Tuscon Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) Corporation was formed and designed a TNC with a modem that became know as the TAPR board.

In 1982, at a meeting of the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) a new packet radio protocol based on the commercial packet protocol CCITT X.25 was adopted. This new protocol became know as the "amateur X.25" or the AX.25 protocol which we hear about today.

During 1983 and 1984 a number of companies including GLB, AEA and TAPR produced TNC's that could run both the VADCG and TAPR protocols. Soon after, the AX25 protocol became the standard for Amateur radio and it is still in use.

What is Packet

Packet radio or simply "packet" is the common name for a digital mode in amateur radio that provides an error-free method of communicating, in other words what you type is received at the other end with no errors induced by noise, interference etc. The best way to describe packet is the marrying of your computer to ham radio! Packet allows, in it's basic form, the transfer of letters and numbers entered on a keyboard or from a computer file to be sent from one amateur station to another. For those that have been around for a while, this sounds a lot like RTTY. But as you shall see, packet certainly has a number of benefits that make it stand out from other amateur digital modes.

What can Packet do for Me?

The following are some of the things that you can do with packet:

1. Chat with packet friends in real time (while at your terminal), keyboard-to-keyboard, locally or around the world.
2. Send and receive Electronic-Mail (E-Mail) as well as files to other amateurs on packet around the world in "non-real" time (you don't have to be at your terminal, in fact it does not even have to be on to receive mail!).
3. Information transfer. Using Bulletin Board System's (BBS's) find out what is going on in ham radio (i.e. propogation reports, dx reports, keplerian elements, amateur news, swap shops etc etc)
4. Get on the information superhighway via Internet Gateways
5. Get the latest DX spots on a Packet DX Cluster
6. Talk to the Space Shuttle or the Russian space station MIR

Next month I will talk about what is needed to get into packet and start describing some of the things you can do on packet. If you would like to send me a note with ideas or suggestions for this column, I can be reached on packet at the following addresses:

AX25: va3ka @ ve3nav.#eon.on.can.noam
AMPRNET: va3ka @ va3ka.ampr.org
Telephone: 613-256-0700

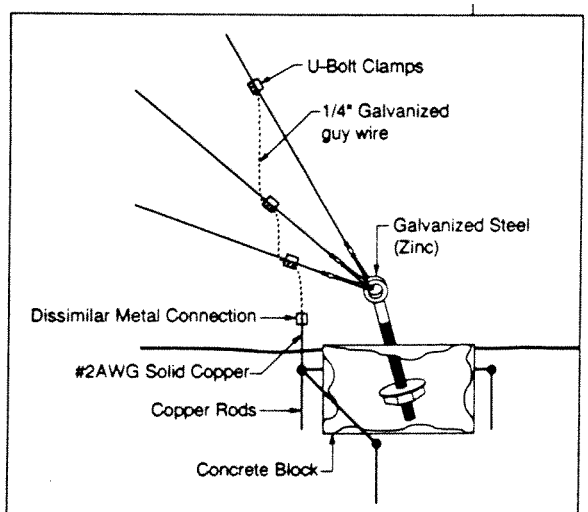
Part Two

Ham Radio Station Lightning Protection

This is the second in a series of articles which appeared, starting in the February, 1994, issue of the "Striking News" from PolyPhaser on lightning protection information for ham radio stations.

TOWER CONSIDERATIONS

No one should consider using a non-conductive structure for an antenna support.



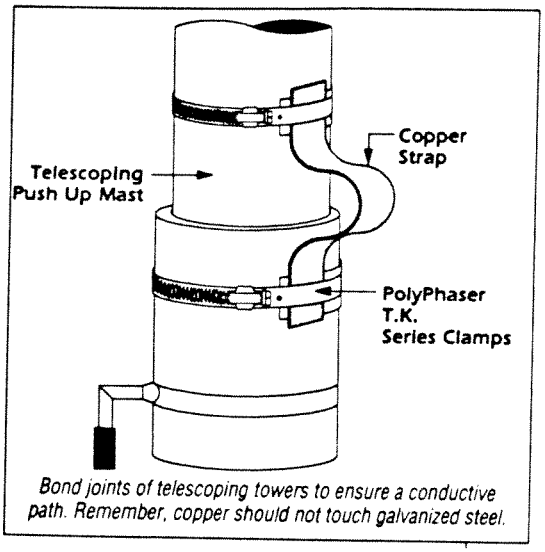
Properly grounded guy anchor. Note downward ground wire dress which prevents surge currents from welding the turnbuckles.

Only conductive towers or metal poles should be used for mounting antennas high into the air. If the tower or pole has sliding contacts (crank-up or push-up) the joints should be jumpered using short section of copper strap attached with PolyPhaser TK clamps. Normal self support and guyed towers will not need such jumpers.

Guyed towers are better from a lightning protection perspective if the guy anchors are grounded properly. Because the anchors are located away from the tower base, at least some of the strike energy will traverse the inductive guy wire to the ground. The more the strike energy is divided, the less there is to go to your equipment.

DISSIMILAR METALS

Copper should never touch galvanized material directly without proper joint protection. Water shedding from the copper contains ions which will wash away the galvanized (zinc) tower covering. Stainless steel can be used as a buffer material.



Bond joints of telescoping towers to ensure a conductive path. Remember, copper should not touch galvanized steel.

However, be aware that stainless steel is not a very good conductor. If it is used as a buffer between copper and galvanized metals, the surface area of the contact should be large and the stainless steel should be thin.

Joint compound should also be used to cover the connection so water can not bridge between the dissimilar metals.

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Lightning Protection

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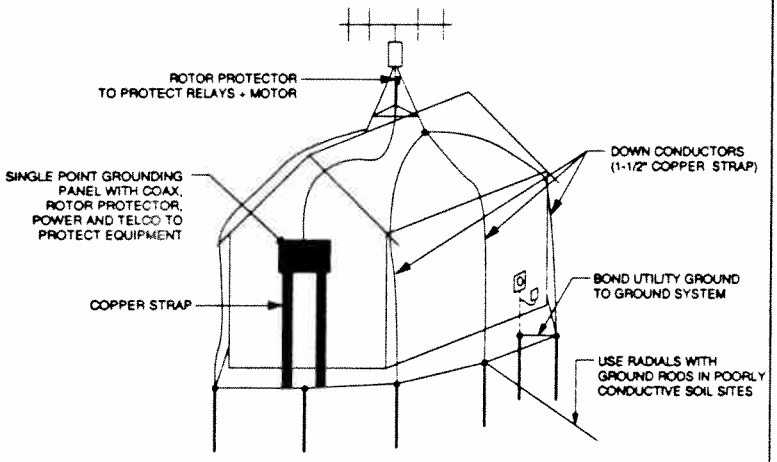

Typical roof mounted antenna with wide copper strap down conductors to a perimeter ground system. Note utility ground connection

MAGNETIC ENERGY

Lightning has a large magnetic field associated with its typical 18,000 ampere pulses. The magnetic field will couple to all conductive materials. There are two ways to minimize the amount of magnetic energy coupling - shield your equipment or place some distance between the equipment and the likely strike location.

A galvanized steel sheet may be used as a shield to attenuate the magnetic field pulse by 10db. The steel should be at least 30 guage (0.016 inch) and should be connected to the ground system.

Distance is the other means to limit the magnetic field coupling. The strength of a magnetic field diminishes at the rate of one over the distance squared. Since a moderately high tower is much more likely to be struck than any other nearby structure, the placement of the tower with respect to your equipment deserves significant consideration. Factors that should be considered are not only the magnetic energy which will radiate from the tower, but also the benefit of the distance in terms of the inductive loss provided by the length of the orthogonally run coax. This added inductance of the coax line will help buffer the energy entering your equipment area. In addition, the extra distance will provide a little more time for the tower ground system to dissipate the strike energy and thus have less to share with your equipment.

Both of these factors indicate there should be a reasonable separation between the tower and the operating equipment. Distances of greater than 50 feet approach reasonable levels.

For towers already located closer than this, it may be necessary to utilize some shielding to minimize the magnetically induce energy

ANTENNA LOCATION

A ground mounted vertical antenna is very similar to a ground mounted tower. Both have a substantial and low impedance connection to the ground system. However, if the antenna or tower is mounted on a roof, the inductance inherent in the conductors to the ground system will be very significant. So significant, that voltage in the order of several hundred thousands volts will be present. To reduce the inductance in the ground conductors, increase the surface area of the conductor (wider copper strap) as well as the number of conductors.

For the roof mounted antennas and towers (see sketch) the multiple down conductors can be spread over the roof and can be brought down to ground in multiple locations. This will require that the ground system will have to be completely around the building (a perimeter ground) . As an added benefit, this multiple-down conductor approach will reduce the mutual coupling between down conductors and provide a low, unsaturated perimeter ground to absorb the conducted surge. The magnetic fields will also be divided and will, in theory, cancel in the middle of the building. This will help minimize magnetic energy coupling into the wiring inside the building.

Look for the third part in this series of articles in next month's edition of the Rambler.

A NEW TWIST TO AN OLD STORY!

Written by John Moffat, VE3NJ

April 1912. Their great ship had struck an iceberg, opening a sizeable gash that allowed the sea to flood in. There was chaos; people were scrambling to get themselves to the upper decks where they could take to the lifeboats. The ship's wireless operator, J.A. Phillips, had just thrown the station into "transmit" and had begun to hammer out a message that would be heard up and down the Atlantic coast. "Dah-di-dah-dit dah-dah-di-dah dah-di-dit . . . ".

Even though he was an experienced radio operator, and had handled hundreds of routine messages from ships in the past, never had he been required to send a message of such importance or urgency. "He seemed absolutely cool and clearheaded, his sending throughout being steady and perfectly formed, and the judgment used by him was of the best." reported The (Ottawa) Citizen on 16 April 1912. "Dah-di-dit dit dah-dah dah-dah-dit dah-di-dah-dah . . . dah di-dit dah di-dah dah-dit di-dit da-di-dah-dit".

The screaming of the motor-generator set that powered the ship's transmitter complemented the rumbling of the ship's engines and the other creaks and groans that both were transferred to the seat of his pants and the soles of his shoes, and deadened his hearing. The staccato snarl of the spark gap that mimicked his keying punctuated the atmosphere of the wireless room. Surely the message would bring ships rushing to his location. "Di-di-di-di-dah di-dah-dah-dah-dah di-dit di-dit di-dit (the older code for the "period") di-di-di-di-dah dah-di-di-di-dit dah-dit . . .".

The ship was supposed to be invincible, unsinkable, segmented into individual compartments that could be sealed off in case of accident, so that it would continue to float. What they were witnessing was not in the plan. "Di-di-dit dah di-dah-dit di-di-dah dah-di-dah-dit dah-di-dah di - dit dah-di-dah-dit dit dah-di-di-dit dit di-dah-dit dah-dah-dit . . .".

At a wireless shore station, the operator was listening intently to the noise in the headphones. The wind had risen, and it was whipping the waves into a fury, lashing the spray against the windows. Through the glass streaming with water, one could peer out toward the Atlantic. Only the wind, the wind-swept sea, and the star-lit sky were evident. Suddenly the silence was broken by the raspy note of a message. "CQD CQD CQD DE MGY MGY MGY TITANIC 41.46N 50.14W STRUCK ICEBERG REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE 41.46N 50.14W AR K". CQD (Calling all stations - Distress) was the general distress call before the advent of the use of SOS.

March 1995. At the Museum of Science and Technology, the new communications exhibit is nearing completion. There will be exhibits on naval, air and terrestrial communications themes. Within it the amateur station VE3JW will be reinstalled. I have seen the layout, and it is impressive. A long sweeping console that can be watched easily by the general public has space for at least two operators communicating on different bands or modes. There is also ample space for other amateurs present to explain to the public what they are witnessing. A layout like this would be the envy of any seasoned operator. Several HF and VHF stations, complete with accessories, will grace the operating positions. For antennas, there is a VHF vertical, an 80m dipole, an HF multiband vertical, and the brand new seven element beam and tower that were erected in the autumn 94. Soon local amateurs will be requested to provide support by joining a roster of volunteer operators who will put VE3JW back on the air as a regular Museum exhibit. Every amateur who participates will have the opportunity to publicize the Museum and its exhibits, to communicate with amateurs world-wide, and to enthusiastically show off one of the world's best hobbies to the museum's visiting patrons.

And next door to the VE3JW station exhibit is a mock-up of a wireless shore station from a bygone era. Playing in the background you

Continued on page 12

Bits and Bytes

Witten by Ed Strange VA3CEJ

Here I am again with the second column on computers. This month I want to write about the microprocessor. There are really two types of processor architecture that exist in the computer world today. The first is the INTEL architecture which is the most prevalent in the Personal Computer market, having been chosen by IBM for their PC's. The other is the MOTORLA processors which are found in the Apple, Amiga etc. systems. These are supplemented by other companies who tend to manufacture chips that are clones of the two major architectures. In the radio world there are other manufacturers who have implemented different architectures. I will attempt to give a comparison of some of the more prevalent microprocessor chips available today.

In the IBM PC or Clone market the microprocessors used are from the INTEL family. The original PC used an 8 bit processor called the 8088 which had an internal data path of 16 bits but an external data path of 8 bits. It was never replaced in the PC because IBM went to the next generation of chips, the 80286 (there was an 8086 and an 80186 but they were never used to any extent in the PC marketplace).

I am going to compare using the 80286 as my starting point. I will use the term "word size" to describe the internal data bus and the term "data path" to describe the external data bus. Memory size will be a number which refers to megabytes of memory address space available.

These are the more popular Intel processors. Although the table shows no noticeable difference in capacity between the 486DX and 486SX it should be noted that the 486SX does not have a math coprocessor internal to the chip. This means that in order to perform mega calculations as required for CORELDraw or AutoCad you need to install a Math Coprocessor (80487) or upgrade to a 486DX which has the coprocessor built in. On the Motorola front the processors that are being used today are the 68030 and the 68040 both of which contain the math coprocessor and some extensive functions of pipelining to speed up the retrieval and execution of instructions. Motorola has also developed a 64 bit data bus chip with IBM and Apple which is called the PowerPC chip. Apple has already produced a system based on this chip.

If I may express a personal opinion , I would like to say that 64 bit is a bit of overkill unless you are doing massive graphics applications etc. For normal, everyday use 64 bits is just too much power.

Intel has, of course, produced the P5 or Pentium chip. This is also a 64 bit chip and has much to be said for its capabilities in the number crunching world, despite the supposed calculation fault, but that's another story. Intel also recently announced the P6 processor. Very little has been said about this new processor's capabilities but I presume it will be a step up in speed and performance from the P5.

Model	Max. Speed	Word Size	Data Path	Memory
80286	20 MHZ	16	16	16
80386DX	40 MHZ	32	32	4096
80386SX	25MHZ	32	16	16
80486DX	50MHZ	32	32	4096
80486SX	25MHZ	32	32	4096
80496DX2	66MHZ	32	32	4096
80486SLC	33MHZ	33	32	16

Proposed Bylaw Changes

The OVMRC Executive appointed Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, to review the Club's Bylaws and make recommendations to the Executive of amendments required. Mike has made an interim report, recommending three amendments which will be considered at the March 16th general meeting.

Proposed Amendment #1
To assist in the expeditious conduct of our annual election of officers, it is thought that the process can be speeded up by eliminating secret ballots. Candidates standing for election would be asked to leave the auditorium and a "show of hand" vote taken.
Bylaw 9.1 METHOD OF ELECTION, now reads - "The Officers of the Club shall be elected for a term of one year by secret ballot of the Full Members present at the annual general meeting.
It is proposed to amend this Bylaw to read - "The Executive Officers of the Club shall be elected for a term of one year by open ballot of the Full Members present at the annual meeting.

Proposed Amendment #2
The experience gained and the expertise developed by the Chairpersons of Standing Committees is being lost to the Club by the restrictive limit placed on the length of time they may serve. While the proposed amendment removes the number of consecutive terms a Standing Committee Chairperson may serve as the head of the same Committee, it leaves intact the two term limit for the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer who are the Directors of the Club.
Bylaw 9.3 TERMS OF OFFICE LIMITED now reads - "No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same Executive Office.
It is proposed to amend this Bylaw to read - "No Director shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same Executive Office.

Proposed Amendment #3
In a move to remove any ambiguity concerning the discretionary spending powers of the Club's Executive Officers, it is recommended that a clarifying sentence be added to Bylaw 10.2.
Bylaw 10.2 DISCRETIONARY SPENDING now reads - "The Executive shall be bound by the approved budget, in that they may not commit funds for other than budgeted items in excess of $100.00 per calendar month without the prior approval of the membership.
It is proposed to amend this Bylaw to read - "The Executive Officers shall be bound by the approved budget, in that they may not commit funds for other than budgeted items in excess of $100.00 per calendar month without the prior approval of the membership. Such discretionary spending shall be restricted to those items or services that further the objects of the Club as defined in Article 1.

Auction Auction Auction

The following are the surplus Club items which will be available to the Club member tendering the highest "closed" bid. Items will be on display on the stage of the auditorium from 6:30 pm the evening of March 16th.
MFJ TNC, Kenwood mobile radio, FT - 101 , Dummy Load, Tonna Communications Terminal, Kenwood TR7200 2 metre mobile, 12 volt DC 5A power supply, power bars, straight keys, antenna switch, 12 volt switch box, Heath IG5282 audio generator, Heath Micromatic keyer, low pass filter, Hombrew 80 metre Xmtr., Micronta signal injector, Microna transister checker, Apple II plus computer, monitor, 2 floppy disk drives. There is a possibility of additional items being made available. Come early, view the display and place your bids. Terms are cash or cheque as the Club has no arrangement to handle credit card transactions. Some items (i.e. radios, etc.) will have a reserve bid.

The Flea Market Season is Coming

The flea market season is fast approaching with amateur radio clubs across Canada and the U.S.A. advertising the dates and location of their market. To assist Club members in planning which of the markets to attend, the Rambler is pleased to provide the following list of flea markets of which it has been made aware:

MARCH

18- Peel ARC Flea Market
Century Gardens Centre,
Brampton, Ontario

25- Ontario DX Assoc. Flea Mkt
Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall
Willowdale, Ontario

APRIL

1- Laval Laurentides Hamfest
Ste. Therese High School
Ste. Therese, Quebec

8- South Pickering ARC Flea Mkt
Metro East Trade Centre
Brock Rd (between Highways 401 & 2)

8- Brownsburg ARC Flea Mkt
St. Philippe, Quebec

22- West Island ARC Auction/Flea Mkt
Transfiguration of our Lord Church
Dudemaine Street, St. Laurent, Que

28-30 Dayton, Ohio Hamvention
Dayton Hara Arena

MAY

7- Rideau Lakes ARC Flea Mkt
Lombard Fair Grounds
Smiths Falls, Ontario

13- OVMRC Flea Mkt
McNabb Arena, 180 Percy Street
Ottawa, Ontario

13- Quinte Region Flea Mkt
Belleville, Ontario

13- Parry Sound Flea Mkt
Parry Sound, Ontario

19-21- Rochester Flea Mkt
Monroe County Fair Grounds,
Route 15A, Rochester, N.Y.

JUNE

3- Central Ontario ARC Flea Mkt
Bingeman Park
Kitchener, Ontario

New Membership Chair Appointed

OVMRC's President, Ernie Jury, has announced that Ron Clements, the Club's Membership Chairperson has tendered his resignation due to educational commitments which preclude his devoting the time necessary to perform the responsibilities associated with the position. Gordon Beatty, VA3GRB, has graciously accepted to complete Ron's term of office, until June 30, 1995.

Those members who have already ordered OVMRC name tags but have not yet received them are asked to check with Gord to ensure he has your order.

Smiths Falls ARC Changes Name

The Smiths Falls Amateur Radio Club has changed its name to the Rideau Lakes Amateur Radio Club. The club's executive felt the new name is more reflective of its membership and the area served by its repeater.

RAC Membership Can Save You $$

When joining or renewing your membership in RAC make note of the fact on their application that you are a member of the OVMRC. RAC will reimburse the OVMRC $3 for each member who so identifies himself. The RAC rebate will be credited to your next OVMRC membership dues. Instead of paying $15 to renew your OVMRC membership it will cost you only $12. It's simple and easy, and it will earn you a $3 rebate on your next OVMRC membership dues.

Potpourri

A sampling of news and comments from newsletters and newspapers from across the country - written by Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC

Leamington, Ont. (RAC) - Due to budget /staff cuts Environment Canada will no longer be able to assist with volunteer training for the Canwarn Weather Spotters Program. The club is looking at the possibility of conducting the course themselves.

West Island, Montreal - A new Russian satellite RS-15 was recently launched and is available for QSO's. Using USB the frequencies are 145.857-145.897 uplink and 29.357-29.397 downlink.

Monitoring Times (Jan/95) - According to a book titled Spyworld, the US used pigeons to spy on foreign embassies in Washington. Transmitters were embedded into their chests and antenna wires drawn thru their wings. One National Security Agency officer mentioned that these pigeons provided "incredibly good results." Authors of Spyworld are Micheal Gratton and former Canadian intelligence official Micheal Frost.

RAC - From 0000 UTC, 25 March to 2400 UTC, 28 May Canadian amateurs are allowed to use these special prefixes which mark the 50th anniversary of the end of WW2. Ont/PQ use: VA2 -> VX2, VA3 -> VX3, VE2 -> CJ2, VE3 ->CJ3.

Saskatoon - A number of amateurs here have set up an ATV (Fast Scan TV) system using 2 transmitters and cable ready TV's for reception. Their transmissions can be received on channel 60 with a simple UHF dipole (6' per side). They are looking for signal reports on their future transmissions.

Sudbury - Corwichan ARC advises that for security reasons (theft, vandalism) that repeater users should not discuss the location of repeaters over the air. For similar reasons avoid mentioning access codes.

FCC (USA) - These people have a new fine system which includes: $625 - assorted minor violations, $5K - unauthorized equipment use, $10K - for excessive power, operating on unauthorized frequency, $12.5K - use of indecent material/words (lucky this is not applied here as quite a few people would be rushing to the bank for a loan! - Editor), $17.5K - malicious interference, and $20K for transmitting a false SOS. These fines can be adjusted as they are only for first time offenders!

Saint Paul (From the PHD News, Kansas City) - Electricity is a colourless, odourless gas which burns with a bright flame. Light grows from a bulb. An amp is a little animal that crawls along a wire. In the summer, the amp lives in a coulomb. Polarization is the changing of an OHM into a coulomb. An Ammeter is an animal that eats amps. A battery fires amps around a circuit. an amp rides around the circuit on a megacycle. Megacycles are parked on a grid. You receive a shock when an amp isn't wearing any shoes. When an amp falls off its megacycle, it hertz.

A New Twist

Continued from page 8

may hear the sound of a spark signal being received from a ship in distress out in the Atlantic. If you let your mind wander, you can transport yourself back to that day in April 1912 when operators in shore stations just like this one were listening intently for any news of the survivors of the ship Titanic.

I was certainly "on the ship" the day I put my hand to key to operate a low power spark transmitter in order to make that tape recording. Come to the museum, and see and hear for yourself. View the exhibits, and operate VE3JW.