

THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 40, Number 3 - October, 1995

Hams Help Horses With World Record 50-Horse Hitch!

Written by Larry VE3WEH (with information taken from the Horse Source published by Equicentre Publications, Ottawa, with permission of the editor)

The "Navan Fair 50 Horse World Record Hitch" was televised by the British Broadcasting Corporation and the video will act as proof of its success for inclusion in the next issue of the "Guinness Book of World Records". The event was organized as a tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Navan Fair. The "hitch" was completed on August 13, 1995 when Mr. Williard McWilliams took hold of the 150 foot long reins attached to fifty Clydesdale horses and proudly drove the "hitch" for two hours around a very long 3.5 kilometres course in the town of Navan. He sat proudly in his wagon seat 14' off the ground. Mr. McWilliams, along with his son Wyatt, and other volunteers had re-built the wagon from the ground up starting with the 150 year old wagon axles which he bought in Indiana.

A tremendous amount of volunteer time and effort went into making this event safe and successful for the spectators and the horses. After all, controlling 50 Clydesdale horses, 12 rows of four each and two lead horses on one "hitch" is no easy feat! The "hitch" was so long (about 170 feet!) that stop-and-go communication was done by radio and coloured flags. Many volunteers provided assistance, especially the Cumberland Emergency Radio Group which organized over 30 volunteer amateur radio operators from various local amateur radio clubs for communications and crowd control from 28 positions along the route. Estimates of the

total number of spectators varies from 30,000 to 50,000 ! The radio operators stayed at their positions for about an hour after the event to assist with crowd control. History was made by Ric Guidone VE3XL and Marcel Gervais VA3MG who organized and then very effectively controlled the world's busiest "World Record 50 Horse Hitch Net"! I interviewed Ric and Marcel later about their "worst fears" regarding the "hitch". Ric said "My worst fear was the possibility of a runaway, a very real possibility caused by people or things deliberate or otherwise, like someone deliberately setting off a firecracker or honking a horn, or driving a vehicle. The actual running of the net was just like any other net, if you have traffic, you pass it, you hold it but the real threat, the real fear was if those horses got out of control. We had contingency plans in effect but it turned out nothing did happen. That was my biggest concern the whole time, I wasn't concerned about whether or not we could keep up with the traffic, that's just everyday net control." Marcel said he "heard after the event that they were very afraid of stings from bees because apparently bee stings will get these horses going crazy!" Ric exclaimed "Gets me going crazy, imagine what it would do to a horse! Marcel agreed and exclaimed, "As far as net control is concerned, I don't think I have ever seen a net control so busy in all of

Continued on page 5

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

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Doug Carswell, VE3ATY
Gerry King, VE3GK
Fred Noble, VE3BAJ
Jerry Wells, VE3CDS
Bill Wilson, VE3NR

Joining or Renewing RAC Membership

When joining or renewing your membership in RAC, remember to quote "OTT-101" on your application. This will reimburse the OVMRC \$3 of your RAC membership dues which will be passed back to you in the form of a credit on your next year's OVMRC dues.

OVMRC CODE PHONE - 737-0197

The OVMRC gratefully acknowledge the support of the Corel Corporation in producing the Rambler.

Mark Your Calendar !

Next general meeting:

Thursday, October 19th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. Our guest speaker will be Jim Dean, VE3IQ, Vice President Government Affairs, RAC. Always an interesting speaker, Jim will be bringing us up-to-date on negotiations with government.

Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, October 27th, 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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Heritage ARC, Cobourg, ON
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Surey ARC, Surrey, B.C.
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

*Our President, Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ,
would like you to know...*



The past month has been a busy one - the Club's nets have started again after the summer hiatus and other club activities are getting under way. The Tailgate/Swap meet at Vincent Massey Park on 23 September was an outstanding success. The Program and Publicity Committee, Len, VE3LPH, and Moe, VE3CTD, is to be congratulated for organizing such a popular event. Good news on the 70 cm transmitter for the VE3TWO repeater. It has once again been received, in good order this time, and hopefully will be in service by the time you read this, although I seem to remember writing these same words before. The code phone is being re-instituted in a less costly form. It will embody some of the newer telephone technology to gauge the amount of use being made of it, so that an informed decision can be made as to its continuance in future years. With a most informative and interesting speaker at the September meeting, the Program and Publicity Committee has once again set a very high standard to maintain. VE3EGO's presentation on ham satellites was most enlightening, and now has me thinking about a 10 metre dipole so I can listen for "Dove". I fear my 10 metre vertical does not have a good pattern for satellite service, except possibly when the bird is near the horizon. At the meeting last April you will recall that I asked for a show of hands as to whether the club should form interest groups, and got a very positive response. I have since contacted the Calgary Amateur Radio Association, an organization just over twice the size of the OVMRC, that has interest groups. Don Birks, VE6NOD, very graciously gave me a detailed response on the

mechanics of how such groups are handled in CARA. I have since considered a similar approach, and brought it up for discussion at our recent executive meeting. The consensus was that we should proceed, and the following ground rules were agreed upon. - For the formation of an interest group it is only necessary that individuals with a common interest hold a meeting, develop some written objectives and elect a spokesperson. The spokesperson presents the request to establish an interest group and its objectives at the next executive meeting. If the interest group is accepted, the spokesperson becomes their representative on the executive committee. The group arranges its own meeting place and time so as not to conflict with any other club activities, and the spokesperson is expected to keep the executive and the general club membership apprised of the group's progress/problems. The executive will do whatever it can within its mandate and resources to help the interest group to achieve its objectives. If the group undertakes revenue raising activities, the treasurer will set up an account for the monies raised, to be held for use by the group. At budget time, the group may submit a request for funds to be considered along with all other budgetary items. I hope this approach will encourage the formation of one or two interest groups within the OVMRC, and would welcome any comments from the membership on the foregoing. We have had the first frost. Now is the time to get at that antenna work that has been put off all summer!

Minutes

OVMRC Regular Meeting, 21 September, 1995.

President Ernie, VE3EJJ, called the meeting to order at 1932 hours with a welcome to all after the summer recess. He particularly welcomed several visitors and new Club Members.

Amateurs seeking assistance - an amateur residing in Orleans wants to establish a packet station and needs help. Rick, VE3IHI, will lend assistance. Ernie, VE3EJJ, asked if any amateurs had had any experience with Digital Frequency Counters as he is considering acquiring one. Two members responded and both reported good experiences with it.

Len, VE3LPH, introduced our guest speaker, Syd Horne, VE3EGO from Belleville who spoke about, "Satellites Today and Tomorrow". Syd opening his presentation by talking in general terms about satellites and then zeroed in on how he got started in this aspect of our hobby. He referred to low and high orbiting satellites, explaining the difference between them and how much data you can download on each of the 7 or 8 passes they make each day. Syd then showed an interesting and detailed video of his shack and antenna set-up at Belleville. He also showed a video on the new AMSAT Phase 3D satellite which will be launched in May, 1996. The members' interest in Syd's presentation was evident by the large number of questions asked about this fascinating aspect of amateur radio. Syd invited any of the members interested in getting more information about satellites to write to him at Syd Horne, 521 Victoria Avenue, Belleville, Ontario, K8N 2G6.

Ernie thanked our speaker for an extremely interesting presentation.

Ernie announced that the Pioneer Radio Club's eastern and western receivers, VE3TEL, have been down and are undergoing repairs. They are asking everyone to be patient, that they will be back in operation as soon as possible.

Ernie announced that Ed Strange, VA3CEJ, has agreed to assume the Chairmanship of the Flea Market. However, the Club is still looking for a volunteer to chair Field Day. Also the Club is looking for a volunteer to

take on the editorship of the Rambler in July, 1996. Anyone interested in volunteering for these positions is asked to contact Ernie, or anyone on the Executive.

John, VE3NJ, announced that there is still room for 3 additional students in the Radio Course. He also advised that the Code Phone would be starting up in about a week, and the phone number will be 737-0197.

Ernie pointed out that Jerry, VE3CDS, would run a morse code course again this year provided there was sufficient interest.

Ernie did a quick survey, show of hands, of those who would be available next year to work the International Air Show.

Len, VE3LGZ, has a large number of old manuals and is making them available for a small charge. Monies so gained will be donated to the Club. Len has already given the Club \$200.

The meeting acknowledged, with a hearty round of applause, the nomination of OVMRC Life Member Bill Wilson to the Amateur Hall of Fame.

Rick, VE3IHI, provided details about the OARC's Joe Norton Award. The \$525 award is available to new amateurs who received their qualifications licence between June 1, 1993 and June 1, 1995.

Larry advised that he will be conducting interviews with a number of "older" members and former members of the Club to record the history of the Club.

Ed, VA3CEJ, asked for a show of hands of those in agreement of holding the next OVMRC Flea Market at Algonquin College. A majority of the members agreed this was a good idea and support the proposal.

Larry asked for volunteers to be Net Controllers for the Military Net which he hopes to revive on Tuesday evenings.

A telegraph key donated by Fred Noble and William Rowe as a door prize was won by Doug Burrill. A second door prize of a 1995 Amateur Radio Handbook, donated by Bytown Marine, was won by Darrell Cooper. The meeting adjourned at 2135 for coffee and cookies and a social hour.

50 Horse Hitch

Continued from page 1

my life!"

According to Marcel, at the post parade gathering, Mr. McWilliams did not want to take all the credit. He made it quite clear that this world event could not have been successful without the help of the complete team. When he named the team, it included not only the horse handlers but also all those behind the scenes including the radio operators, police, fire department and all the volunteers who helped make the event possible.

Marcel noted in a letter sent to all Radio Operators, "It was indeed a team effort and thanks to all the Radio Operators participating, and all the other volunteers, we were all part of the group who helped break the 1976 World Record consisting of a 48 Horse Hitch. We are all to be commended for an outstanding job. It was mentioned that we were not Amateur Radio Operators but rather Professional Radio Operators. I musagree with this comment. You all acted in a very professional manner and demonstrated to the Police and the Fire departments what Amateur Radio is all about. They were very impressed with the Cumberland Emergency Radio Group volunteers. Rick Guidone and I would like to thank you for your dedication and volunteer work in the Cumberland community."

We have certainly demonstrated the value of amateur radio to the community and I am proud to say I was involved with this history making event ! This is probably the first time that so many Canadian amateurs have been responsible for contributing to a new world record for the Guinness Book of World Records. We all received a "Certificate of Appreciation", signed by Brian Coburn, Mayor of Cumberland, and by Sam Dagg, President of the Navan Fair, along with a commemorative gold embossed 6 inch length of rein in recognition of our personal contribution to the success of the 50 Horse Hitch - A World Record - At the 50th Edition of the Navan Fair.

Congratulations Ric and Marcel for controlling such a busy and effective net and

congratulations to all the other amateurs who worked so professionally! Pardon the pun but I must say "It went off without a hitch!"

The organizers were very pleased with the excellent quality of communications and the crowd control provided by the following amateurs and volunteers:

Joe MacPherson VE3CAT,
Bob Sharp VA3RCS,
David George VE3UOL,
Mike Kostiuik VE3KOY,
Terry Duncan VE3KLT,
Guy Ladoceur VE3WGL,
Ian Johnston VE3IJJ,
Mike McKay VE3UMC,
Sally Fish VE3YSF,
Keith Fish VE3XKF,
Russ Lowe VE3LOW,
Bill Balke VE3NPG,
Ed Strange VA3CEJ,
Rick Furniss VE3IHI,
Wayne Greenough VE3JSQ,
Mike Pilon VE3BUP,
Rick Vangastel VE3HVA,
Peter Hafichuk VE3LBW,
Ken Desroche XM49er,
Peter Gamble VE3BQP,
Herb Gillingham VE3HRB,
Larry Wilcox VE3WEH,
Hardy Pallasch VE3FAX,
Richard Hagemeyer VE3UNW,
Craig Lester VE3KMN,
Ernie Jury VE3EJJ,
Brian Santor VEWSJU,
Tim Eyre VE3QDX

For Sale

The following amateur equipment is for sale :

YAESU FT-102 - All mode Transceiver (AC operated) with speaker SP-102, Desk Mike MD-1B8, Dummy Load, SWR/PWR Tester, Key and manuals

Anyone ingterested is asked to contact Ziggy, VE3JDA, telephone (613) 592-0172

Work the World...

Build A Gotham Antenna

This antenna which covers 10 - 160 meters consists of a 22 foot tall radiator with an open-air base coil that can be tapped anywhere along its length for loading and impedance matching.

The original base coil was a 10 inch long section of now extinct B & W coil stock measuring about 3 inches in diameter with 6 turns per inch. About 56 turns were tapped/used for 160 M operation, 26 turns for 80 M, 14 for 40 M, 7 turns for 20 M, and experimentally found coax clip points between 2 and 8 turns for 15 and 10 meter operation.

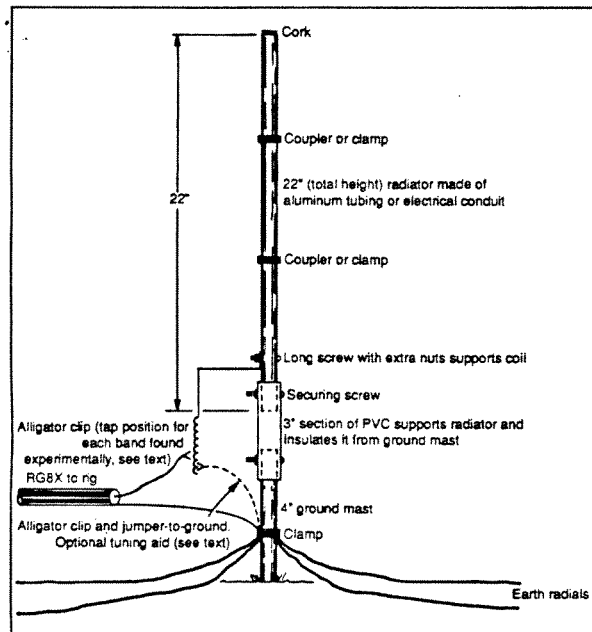
These specs are strictly academic. However, a credible amount of hunting for lowest SWR tap points was (and still is) necessary. Basically this means any home brew coil between 2 - 2.5 inches in diameter and between 30-60 turns can be used. Just move the tap point until you hit resonance. Even WARC coverage is possible when using the replacement coil from a Texas Bugcatcher mobile antenna !

The vertical radiator can be a single length of tubing, concentric pieces of tubing or even electrical conduit cut with a hacksaw and joined by hardware couplers. A thick 3-4 foot mast makes a good base support and ground rod. Mast and radiator sections can be separated by a short piece of PVC tubing or a wood frame with "U" clamps, as desired. Drill a hole through the PVC and tubing sections, insert a heavy bolt to hold each secure, then use extra nuts to connect/mount the coil and ground cables as shown in diagram opposite. Weatherproof bolt connections with CoaxSeal, cap the vertical's top with a cork and you are ready for tune-up.

The Gotham antenna operates as an end-fed Halfwave or longer radiator on 10, 12 and 15 meters; a base-loaded halfwave vertical on 17 and 20; and an oversize/high-efficiency mobile whip on 30, 40, 80 and 160 meters. Matching feedpoint impedance requires patience and a good antenna bridge. An MFJ

impedance or SWR analyzer inserted at the feed point will help you quick spot proper coil tap positions.

One final tip. Sometimes tapping the ground connection to the coil's lower area and moving the coax connection up higher on the coil yields the best match and widest bandwidth.



Assembly outline of classic all-band Gotham vertical. It works similar to an oversize mobile antenna, so any large self-wound and tapped coil can be used.

Talking Alarms

If you're walking through a parking lot, try not to violate "the personal space" of a car equipped with a new talking car alarm. Instead of those monotonous wails that everyone now ignores, these new devices shout "YOU ARE TOO CLOSE TO THE VEHICLE; PLEASE MOVE AWAY !" at 127 decibels (a typical jet plane at takeoff is 100 decibels). This should scare off thieves.

Some Good Advice...

Buying or Upgrading A Computer ?

Written by Derek Trepoff of Millennium Systems Canada Inc.

So it's time to upgrade your PC. Two years ago you bought a state of the art 486DX-33 with 4 or 8 MB of RAM. Now you need at least 16 MB with a 486DX/4-100 or Pentium. So what do you do? This is a common problem in the PC industry and means you either upgrade every 1-2 years, or run obsolete software.

Need to upgrade your memory because of Windows 95? Consider this. Your motherboard, if it's a clone, more than likely has 30 pin SIMMs. If you already have 8 MB and want to go to 16 MB, your upgrade path is not as simple as adding another 8 MB memory module. If you have 30 pin SIMMs, and your clone is fairly standard, then you have eight memory slots in your computer, all of which are filled with 1 MB SIMMs. The only way to upgrade this board to 16 MB is to sell your eight pieces of 1 MB SIMMs and buy four pieces of 4 MB SIMMs. Some companies may offer you a trade in, but keep in mind that 30 pin SIMMs are not as popular as they once were. You should expect to get only \$20 to \$40 for each piece. So why would you want to buy a new motherboard with new memory you ask? The problem with buying more 30 pin SIMMs will be like buying discontinued memory. If you want to upgrade to a Pentium at some point, you will find that you need two 72 pin SIMMs and not 30 pin SIMMs. Buying more 30 pin SIMMs (obsolete) is a waste of money.

Another reason to upgrade your motherboard and memory is that buying a good video card is expensive. VESA is dead on the Pentium motherboards and if you buy a VESA video card it will only run on 486 motherboards. PCI is the local bus almost all Pentium motherboards run. To run PCI on a 486 motherboard, you must run a PCI motherboard. Buying a PCI bus video card now will let you port it over to Pentium in the future, by a single screw. Buying a 486 PCI motherboard now might add to the cost of upgrading, but it will save you money and aggravation in the next upgrade.

If you upgraded to PCI a year ago, it was probably not a smart thing to do because there weren't that many compatible motherboards out there. If you bought a PCI motherboard and then bought a PCI video card 6 months later you probably had compatibility problems with that motherboard. This was an expensive way to upgrade.

Remember, before you upgrade, look at hardware trends in the industry, and talk to knowledgeable sales people and technicians who can help you buy the smartest upgrade to save you money later. Find an honest and good computer technician and stick with him. He will save you money in the long run

70 cm. Repeater Back On Air

After a long absence the OVMRC's 70 cm. repeater is back in operation on 444.200 +. As reported at our general meeting, the new repeater was received some weeks ago - but it was damaged and had to be returned to the supplier. A new unit was received a few days ago and, by the time this item appears, it will be operational. Technical Chairperson Bob Shaw warned this is new equipment and could require some adjustments - so please be patient.

It took a long time coming but the wait is worthwhile as using the new repeater could spell the end of alot of intermod problems for those who operate out of the downtown area.

Upcoming Events

October 21- West Island Amateur Radio Club's Fall Auction and Fleamarket at Transfiguration of Our Lord Church, Cartierviulle, Quebec.

October 28 - South Shore Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Place Deslaurier, Taschereau Blvd., Longueuil, Quebec.

Industry Canada Introduces New Antenna Tower Policy

Industry Canada recently provided the OVMRC with a copy of its new policy on the erection of antenna towers, CPC-2-0-03, Environmental Process, Radiofrequency Fields and Land Use Consultation. The policy unveils no new surprises but rather confirms an earlier story carried in the Rambler.

Amateur stations, which the policy considers as "Type 2 stations", must comply with the Department of Health and Welfare's Safety Code 6. Safety Code 6 contains recommended safety procedures for the installation and use of radiofrequency-emitting devices. Maximum exposure levels and duration of exposure are used to determine whether the signal emitted can be considered safe.

CPC-2-0-03 explains that prior to the installation of an antenna structure for which it is felt that community concerns could be raised, owners of Type 2 stations must consult with their land-use authority which is their local municipal authority. There is no specific procedure for this consultation, nor is there any requirement to receive the prior approval from Industry Canada to construct the antenna or its supporting structure. Should the owner of the Type 2 station believe that the proposed structure or change proposed thereto is insignificant, and decide to proceed with the installation without consulting with the land-use authority, it must be with the acceptance of any consequences of this decision.

In instances where the owner of a Type 2 station has consulted with the land-use authority but has not received a response, the owner may decide to either :

- 1) Continue to pursue a decision from the land-use authority, or
- 2) Proceed with the installation of the structure and accept any consequences of this decision.

Industry Canada makes it quite plain it expects Type 2 station owners to address the concerns of the community in a responsible manner, and to consider seriously all requests put forward by the land-use authority. Where Industry Canada believes

that the installation of an antenna structure is not appropriate within its surroundings, it may request submissions explaining why the structure should not be altered or removed. Copies of the new policy, CPC-2-0-03, Environmental Process, Radiofrequency Fields and Land Use Consultation, are available from the Industry Canada District Office on Albert Street or you may secure a copy by sending your request to the following Internet address: Spectrum.EOD@ic.gc.ca.

With the publication of this circular, Radiocommunication Policy Circular (RPC) 2-0-01, Municipal Consultation on Non-Broadcasting Antennas and Antenna Supporting Structures, and RPC-2-0-03 (Provisional) Issue 1, Procedures for Considering Environmental Assessment Guidelines During the Processing of Applications for Radio Station Licences are no longer in force.

Operating Practice

Please do not recognize or acknowledge any unidentified stations. Do not recognize a jammer in any way, even with a short comment or in code. Jammers and troublemakers know all the codes and will persist with their interference. On the air, avoid all discussions or references about jammers and troublemakers. These people need and enjoy the topic. Do not give a jammer or a troublemaker the slightest bit of attention. The need for attention is the reason they bother us in the first place. Instead of becoming upset with a troublemaker or jammer, do something about the situation. Put into practice what you have learned participating in Bunny Hunts. Get out in your car and try to track down the jammer's or troublemaker's signal. While performing a 'public service' you can develop your skill in DFing signals.

Driftnet Buoy Transmitters

The recent fisheries dispute between Canada and Spain over Turbo overfishing just off the Grand Banks focused attention on some of the method used by fishermen to rape the seas.

Despite two U.N. resolutions banning their use, driftnets are still employed by the fishing fleets of numerous maritime countries. These hellish contrivances - some miles in length - ensnare every hapless creature they encounter, devastating large areas of ocean with each sweep. Concerted international action has lagged, but environmental groups such as Greenpeace have engaged in direct action at sea, cutting and capturing nets, and even boarding mother ships at great personal risk to dramatize the problem.

The fishermen put radiosonde buoys, operating from 1.6 to 2.0 Mhz on the driftnets to track them. Transponder activation frequencies are 2079 and 2331.5 kHz. Although the use of such radiosonde buoys are illegal everywhere, more than 500 have been logged - over 100 in the 160 meter Amateur band.

Most reports have been from the East Coast, but many operate in the Pacific as well. A West Coast 160 meter operator will eventually encounter them, though they don't transmit for long, and many hams fail to recognize what they hear.

" Most driftnet buoys run a series of three callsigns in Morse, then 'DAID', then silence for four minutes, " says the Longwave Club of America. " They (run) three to six watts, short vertical, rotary keyer with a maximum of six characters, and 5000 hour battery life. Callsigns comprise three alphanumeric characters -2TD, K55, etc." The buoys usually send a one-second carrier first.

Their estimated range is 150 miles. Though illegal to use, Taiyo Misen and others sell them through at least 250 dealers in the U.S. at about \$2000 apiece.

Diversity - Our Greatest Strength

A striking feature of Amateur Radio Operators is the diversity of their interests. There is no typical ham. Our amateur radio interests include fast and slow scan TV, RTTY, packet, CW, SSB, AM, FM, EME, QRP, weak-signal VHF and UHF, traffic handling, public service, contesting, DXing, and much more.

This diversity is to our credit. We are progressive enough to keep adding new interests such as the Oscar satellites.

But when diversity breeds divisiveness, it becomes a weakness instead of a strength, especially if we think what we do or are interested in is more important, useful, or intelligent than what the other fellow does or thinks.

Lately, during the past year or so, with rampant rumours of no-code HF, those amateurs without code have been blamed for trashing two meters.

Yet interference was a problem long before the no-code license. Let's not forget that each of us entered this hobby to communicate - whether with amateurs overseas, or with a spouse across town. And no matter what our license class or interests, we must cooperate. Otherwise we'll have chaos like that on eleven meters.

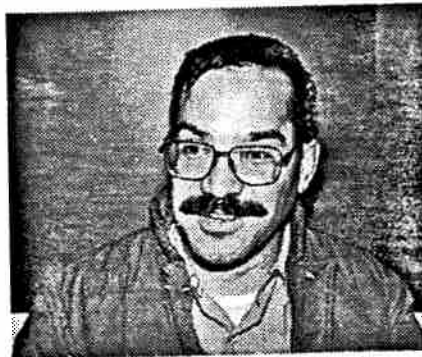
So let us remember to treat other hams as we would have them treat us, whether or not we have the endorsements or share their particular interests

Did You Know ?

During the early 1950's a group of amateurs met in restaurants in the Ottawa area for coffee and meals and made motor trips and picnics around the Ottawa Valley. Their common interest in High Frequency, mobile, ham radio operation led to the formation of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club in 1956. The first meeting of the Club was held in what was the Journal Building on Queen Street with about 30 members attending.

Potpourri

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



Kitchener - A couple used a baby monitor to alert them of a female relative's bed partners. One evening hearing she had someone over, they broke into her apartment and assaulted the male visitor. After being punched in the head and threatened with a knife, the boyfriend jumped through the window to safety.

Monitoring Times (Sept 95) - The Ukraine government has passed a law that "TV programs which are longer than 45 minutes can be interrupted only once for a commercial". (Try to apply that here! VE3TSC)

Winnipeg - The Internet Freenet in Winnipeg now has an amateur radio Web site at "<http://freenet.mb.ca/iphome/a/amrado/index.html>"

Halifax - A DX article had an interesting quote which can make us think twice while chasing distant stations in pileups. "The strongest power amplifier is an optimistic attitude, and patience is the best antenna".

Kingston - Mention was made of the Ontario Beaver Slow Speed CW Net which can be heard on 3645 at 1815 hrs local. It starts at 12 wpm, then at 1830 the speed is increased.

Monitoring Times (Jul 95) - FCC in Tampa, Florida used DF techniques to track down a source of false distress calls on a marine frequency. They homed in on a 12 year old boy who was using his father's unlicensed radio from a boat in their back yard. The owner is subject to fines and possible jail time of up to 6 years, \$5000 fine and payment to the Coast Guard for related costs. All this is on top of another maximum penalty for false distress calls!!

Lambton County (Sarnia) - The ARES group here use a refurbished city bus as their mobile command post. It is equipped with computers, TNC's and radios for aid in any emergency. An example of thoroughness is their CANWARN severe weather system. Their Emergency Operations Center has a communications link with several ham operators (and repeaters), police and media in surrounding towns. They are also connected to local weather offices, Environment Canada and the US National Weather office.

Calgary - A Latvian Amateur Radio Club award can be had by any amateur operator or shortwave listener upon proof of contact with 15 different (YL) stations. The awards may be for specific bands or modes if proper documentation is provided. Send certified lists, GRC's and \$5 US (or 10 IRC's) to CBA of YL2AX or K7GEX, Herbert Anderson, 20148 - 6th NE, Seattle, WA, USA, 98155.

Monitoring Times (Aug 95) - A Michigan FM station recently lost their 370' tower. It was not from high winds or structure flaws but a 17 year old local who had cut the guy wires. A new \$150K antenna was shipped in within days. (Small things amuse small minds? VE3TSC)

Here is a good information source. Radio Amateurs of Canada is on Internet Web Site at "<http://www.rac.ca>" It provides links to additional radio sites, details about RAC, what they do for you and how to join. You'll also find RAC news, RAC bulletins, bandplans information RAC Bookstore, QSL bureaus, etc. Try it, we're sure you'll become a regular user.