



# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

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March, 1997

## Industry Canada Reneges On Delegation Project

Written by Jacques d'Avignon, VE3VIA

February 18th was truly "Black Tuesday" for the joint RAC - Industry Canada Amateur Delegation Working Group (ADWG) when senior Industry Canada officials abruptly shelved the program for the delegation of the administration of the Amateur Radio Service on the eve of final approval of the project. In a letter to RAC President Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD, Mr. Jan Skora, Director General Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulatory Branch, advised that the Department had decided not to commit to long term funding of the Delegation Project at present, saying that the risk associated with making a long term commitment was currently deemed too great. Mr. Skora added that a decision on the options for the long term funding is scheduled to be rendered only later this year. In this context RAC understands that "a decision on options for long term funding" means approval of a mechanism which would permit retention of a portion of collected licence fees by the service company, ARAS-SARA, enabling it to be completely self-supporting in the second phase of the program, which would be full service operations a year after startup. Contrary to its previous position, Industry Canada apparently has decided that until it has that decision, it is now unwilling to provide support in next fiscal year for the first phase of the project, which is the startup and test of the new service concept.

Therefore, until Industry Canada takes its decision there is little more that RAC can do. RAC and ARAS-SARA were ready to begin the program. RAC will continue to monitor the situation and will consider opportunities to cooperate with the Department in this regard.

The Delegation Project was initiated by Industry Canada at the first Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board meeting in September, 1993. RAC was asked to participate in the project, and the joint RAC - Industry Canada ADWG was formed in early December that year. Since then, the ADWG has proven the feasibility of Delegation, developed and costed a concept to implement it, and developed the tools that would be necessary for effective administration of the Amateur Radio Service by a service company. Jim Dean, VE3IQ, RAC Vice-President, Government Affairs and Co-Chairman of the ADWG, "the plan and virtually all the work that the ADWG could do were completed in September, 1996. The ball was clearly in Industry Canada's court to finalize the funding and secure Government approval. Industry Canada members of the ADWG indicated that the approval process was in place and proceeding satisfactorily. This eleventh hour decision very significantly jeopardizes the project."

The Delegation Project has the potential to significantly improve the provision of various examination, licensing and call sign selection services to Canadian radio amateurs, as well as to benefit Industry Canada. RAC moved its headquarters to Ottawa and committed funds to the project development in anticipation of the project's approval. Given the circumstances of the Officials' decision, RAC had no alternative but to minimize its financial risk by withdrawing from active participation in the project until the Department sorts out its priority and funding approval.

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

# RAMBLER

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## The 1996-1997 OVMRC Executive

President: Dan Reardon, VE3GUU, 836-2633  
Vice-President: Vacant  
Treasurer: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, 728-3666  
Secretary: Earl Andrews, VE3AB, 828-5955

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Amateur Radio Exhibit: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 828-3839  
Amateur Radio Training: VACANT  
Field Day: Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, (819) 684-5669  
Flea Market: Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823  
Historical: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565  
Membership: Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, 747-9577  
Newsletter: Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214  
Publicity & Programs: Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749

Radio Operations: Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, 748-6597  
Technical: Bob Shaw, VE3SLY, 737-9443  
Novice: Joe Donnelly, VA3JJD, 488-3299

## OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM  
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**

**SEE THE OVMRC WEB PAGE:**

<http://www.takeone.com/public/ovmrc.htm>

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

## Mark Your Calendar !

### Next general meeting:

Thursday, March 20th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. It's the meeting we've been waiting for - Home Brew Night ! Club members will be displaying their wonderful gizmos and thing-a-magings that do all kinds of tricks. It's a fun evening so plan now to attend this meeting.

### Deadline for next Rambler:

Thursday, March 27th, 1997.

### OVMRC's Repeater:

**VESTWO , 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.  
Halifax ARC, Halifax, N.S.  
Heritage ARC, Cobourg, ON  
Kingston ARC, Kingston, ON  
Lambton County ARC, Sarnia, ON  
London ARC, London, ON  
Metroplex ACA, New York  
Ottawa ARC, Ottawa, ON  
Pioneer ARC, Nepean, ON  
RAC, Kingston, ON  
Rideau Lakes ARC, Smiths Falls, ON  
Scarborough ARC Inc. Scarborough, ON  
Seaway Valley ARC, Cornwall, ON  
Sudbury ARC, Sudbury, ON  
Surrey 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  
WorldLink Internet Services Inc. Ottawa, ON

# Ramblings

Wise words from our President,

Dan Reardon, VE3GUU

## AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

At our February executive meeting we considered a proposal which would recognize one of our Club members for his or her contribution to amateur radio during the past twelve months. The member so selected would be presented with an appropriate plaque designating the recipient as the "OVMRC Amateur of the Year". The selection process would be based on our memberships' nominations. A complete explanation and nomination form will be found elsewhere in this edition of the Rambler.

## ELECTIONS

Time has a tendency to pass quickly so, again, I would remind everyone the Club's June election is not that far off. I would ask each of you to start thinking about possible "candidates" for the executive. We need a full complement of officers who can share in the work of administering the Club. I am sure you will agree that it is not fair to ask some of the executive to carry out the duties of two positions. We have appointed an Nominating Committee which will be chaired by Dan Doctor, VE3XDD. I urge you to give Dan your full cooperation.

## TECHNICAL GROUP

We will be initiating a new Technical Group this month. You may recall that at our last Club meeting I asked for volunteers for this committee which I am pleased to report brought forth some excellent candidates. I am hoping to get

work started as soon as possible to adjust the repeater.

## FIELD DAY

There is still snow on the ground and the temperature requires we wear winter clothing, but a reminder to all that field day is not that far off. Our Field Day Chairman, Jake, VE2TQX, has started his planning for the big event. If you have any ideas regarding any aspect of field day I encourage you to contact Jake and pass your ideas along. Additionally, Jake requires a lot of help setting up and take down, and, of course, the very necessary operators for both phone and CW. Get your name in early to ensure you get the shift you want.

## GIRL GUIDES ON THE AIR

The Club extends a hearty congratulations to Jerry Wells and his crew of volunteers who operated the VE3JW over the February 22 and 23 week-end for the annual Girl Guides On The Air. Jerry reported that they had over 100 Guides, many of whom could be prospective amateurs, turn out at the station and talk to other Guides across Canada.

## OUR NEXT MEETING

I am looking forward to our March meeting when many of you will be bringing in all of your "home brew" items. It is usually a fun night. I hope to see you there!

# Minutes

## OVMRC Regular Meeting February 20, 1997.

The meeting was called to order by President Dan, VE3GUU, at 1933 hours. A group of Ottawa high school students, attending the meeting as guests, were asked to stand and introduce themselves; the group included Frank, David, Morgan, Jade, Celv, Fatima, Mitchell, Judith, Isabel, Al Kai, and Dianne Stumer and her husband.

President Dan reminded members to complete and turn in the questionnaire in the current issue of the Rambler. He emphasized that members' input would be very helpful in planning programs for next year.

The week-end of February 22 and 23 is Girl Guides on the Air. Station VE3JW will be one of the stations to host Guides. Operators are required for both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers are asked to contact Jerry Wells. Ken Barry reminded members that the flea market is fast approaching, April 26th. Thirty-one tables have already been reserved by private and commercial vendors. Anyone planning on getting a table is urged to reserve one early.

President Dan pointed out that it is time to start thinking about our June election of Club officers. He asked members to think about possible candidates as well, as volunteering themselves as candidates.

The Club is still looking for a volunteer to perform the annual audit of our financial books. The volunteer must have some accounting or bookkeeping experience and be familiar with a computerized DOS accounting system.

Jake, VE2TQX, provided an update on arrangements for field day. The Club will, again, set-up on the lawn of the museum. He is looking for volunteers to help in the set-up of antennas, tents, etc.

Jake also announced he was initiating a new net on the Club's repeater, VE3TWO, on Sunday evening from 1900 to 2000 hours. The net will be a quiz, featuring questions on a variety of subjects. General check-in starts at 1900 hours; with the quiz starting at 1930 hours.

President Dan asked for volunteers to join the Technical Group to help share work associated with the repeater. Volunteers need not be engineers but should have some knowledge/experience in electronics.

Doug Burrill, VE3CDC, announced the forthcoming reunion of "Volunteer Radar Men of W.W.II" which take place at the Citadel Inn, Ottawa, October 7, 8 and 9.

The meeting was turned over to our guest speaker for the evening, John Rodgers, VE3KYT. An informative video, produced by Larry, VE3WEH, was shown which provided an insight into the equipment John uses in providing a BBS and packet service. John spoke on packet radio - what it is, what it does and how it does it. As an experienced provider of a BBS, John's presentation provided an abundance of information in an easy to understand form. Following his presentation John conducted a questions and answers period.

The meeting adjourned at 2138 hours for refreshments and ragchew.

## 1997 Canadian Radar Veterans' Reunion

In view of the success of last year's reunion of World War II Canadian RCAF Radar Veterans which was held in Calgary, Alberta, the Association has started planning for another reunion this year. The reunion will take place in Ottawa at the Citadel Inn, October 7, 8 and 9.

If you would like any further information about the reunion or would like to volunteer your help, you may write to the Radar Convention Organization Committee, P.O. Box 84001, Pinecrest Post Office, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 3Z2, or Fax to (613) 828-6306

# Canada Customs and the Amateur Radio Operator

Written by Larry Woram, VE3WLN

It is hard to believe but spring is just around the corner. Spring means treks south to hamfests like Dayton and Rochester. After a full week-end of visiting manufactures' exhibits and all the flea market vendors, you usually wind up with a car loaded down with "must have" bargains headed for home and the border. For some people going through Customs is like a visit to the dentist. However, with a little help and some preventive measures it can almost be pleasant.

Before leaving Canada stop at Canada Customs and have any radio equipment identified on form Y-38 (the 3.5"x5" green card). It is also a good idea to have the "bill of sale" of your rig with you, you can keep it in the glove compartment of your car. This will make your return much easier should Customs question where you acquired the item. I tape mine to the bottom of my mobile radio. This also applies to any other goods such as video cameras, jewellery, etc.

The following is a list of popular amateur radio items which amateurs tend to acquire while in the United States. The Harmonized Tariff is as confusing to amateurs as most amateur radio equipment is to Customs officers. With this information you will know how much duty and taxes you will be paying as well as being able to assist the officer if required.

Item	Tariff Item	UST	MF N
Amateur radio transceivers	8525.20.10.	0%	0%
Amateur radio receivers	8527.39.10.00	0%	0%
Amplifiers, transverters, etc.	8525.20.10	0%	0%
Aerials and rotators	8529.10.99.19	0%	1.4%
Coax Cable (without connectors)	8544.20.00	1%	5%
Coax Cable (with connectors)	8544.41.00	1%	7.2%
Diodes, transistors, similar semiconductor devices	8541.	0%	0%
Receiver or amplifier valves and tubes	8540.81.80	.9%	4%
Power supplies	8504.40.99.20	0%	2.1%

UST, or United States Tariff, applies to goods manufactured in the United States. MFN, or Most Favoured Nation, applies to goods manufactured in most other countries.

Besides the duty, if any, you will be required to pay the Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 7% on the duty paid value of the item. If you are returning to Canada after an absence of 48 hours or more use your personal exemption of \$150 for your items that attract the highest rates of duty. These include items such as offshore clothing and shoes (approximately 20-25% duty). The above are only a small fraction of the 40,000 items in the Harmonized Tariff. Please call your local Customs office if you have a specific inquiry. In Ottawa the number is 993-0534 and after 4:30 p.m., weekends and holidays you may phone 998-3326.

## Approval To Be Sought

Members attending the Club's March meeting will be asked to consider the approval of the purchase of a new Pentium computer to replace the Club's 386 computer.

An extensive study was conducted by an executive committee which included consideration of updating the 386 computer to a 486 or Pentium, purchasing a used 486 computer and updating its capabilities and finally purchasing a new Pentium computer. The executive has decided to approve the proposed sale, by written bids, to a CLUB MEMBER of the 386 computer and to apply the cash proceeds towards the cost of a new computer. In an analysis of used computer for sale advertisements, it was decided to impose a \$250 reserve bid on the sale of the 386 computer.

The new computer is required in order to take advantage of new software in the production of the Rambler.

Approval will be sought for the expenditure of up to \$2000.

## Nomination Committee Appointed

OVMRC President Dan Reardon has announced that he has appointed the 1997 Nominations Committee which will be responsible for the development and presentation to the membership at the May meeting of a suggested slate of officers for 1997-1998. Dan Doctor, VE3XDD will chair the committee and will be assisted by Jerry Wells, VE3CDS and a third person to be chosen from the membership.

The committee extends an open invitation to the Club's membership to suggest possible candidates, including those who may wish to volunteer to contest a position. Please contact either Dan Doctor or Jerry Wells.

The committee will first present its suggested slate of officers at the May meeting.

## Net Controller Required

We all enjoy listening and/or participating in the various nets which operate across the spectrum. However, as soon as anyone approaches and asks if you would like to be a Net Controller, near panic sets in. While net controlling is a challenge - it is also a lot of fun and not nearly as threatening as some think it to be.

The various Net Managers are always looking for volunteers to be Net Controllers. Amateurs who are hesitant or apprehensive about being a Net Controller are assured they will be given all the support and information necessary to both make them an effective controller and make the event an enjoyable experience.

The Military Net Manager is Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, telephone 747-5565. This net operates each Tuesday evening from 8:00 to 9:00pm.

The Welcome Mat Net Manager is Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, telephone 731-6749. This net operates each Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:00pm.

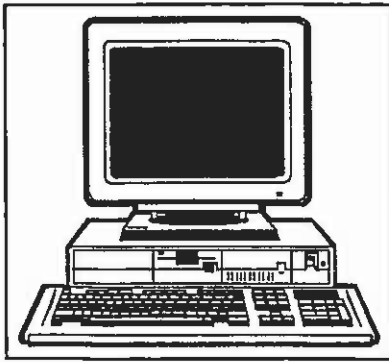
The Wise Owl Net Manager is Leo Desjardin, VE3NVL, telephone 225-0902. This net operates on Friday evening from 8:00 to 9:00pm.

The Pot Hole Net Manager is Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, telephone 748-6597.. This HF net operates on Sunday morning at 10:00am. Obviously, Net Controllers on this net require HF privileges.

If you enjoy listening and/or participating on any of the aforementioned nets ensure their continuation by contacting any of the Net Managers and volunteer to become a Net Controller. Remember, net controlling is fun and is an enjoyable experience.

An Easterner who walked into a western saloon was amazed to see a dog playing poker with three men. "Can that dog really read cards?" the Easterner asked.

"Yeah, but he ain't much of a player," said one of the men. "Whenever he gets a good hand, he wags his tail."



# Timeless Inside !

Reprint from Canadian Electronics, February, 1995

A European laboratory unveiled the world's fastest chip this week. The chip, code named "Timeless," is based on high temperature superconductors and is capable of transferring data signals faster than the speed of light. This makes it possible for a computer based on this chip to produce answers before questions are asked.

Using this technology, the laboratory has been able to produce a program product before the user requirements were known. Industry analysts found the announcement humorous, citing the fact that the computer industry has been writing program products without user

requirements for years. Products created using the new chip are still expected to miss their ship date due to the excessive length of the Fall and Spring planning cycles.

The laboratory is using the same technology to test program products in zero days. Said a spokesperson, "It's amazing. Just preparing to test the software thoroughly causes it to be tested. It's like the system can read your mind." Oddly enough, lab planning experts are reporting that regardless of the productivity gains realized by the Timeless chip, the average test duration is expected to be nine months.

There have been rumors of some odd side-effects of the Timeless chip. Some customers have been receiving products before they order them. Most customers we interviewed did admit that they were planning to order the new software when it suddenly arrived. They said that they liked the speed with which the products arrived, but they disliked the new policy of being billed before they ordered anything. Said the laboratory's billing expert, "We knew they were going to think about ordering some software, so we thought we would think about billing them."

Computer companies have made some exciting advances in hardware and software maintenance based on these side-effects. One company has begun a free preventative-maintenance program in which the customer engineers think about fixing all the problems of every customer. Said one service representative, "The program is working very well. Service calls are down 99%. The only calls we're getting now are to fix hardware and software that hasn't been invented yet."

Careful now ! Because if you're thinking about ordering a Timeless system, it's probably on its way to you right now.

## New From Kenwood

Kenwood's new TM-V7A has a voice synthesizer option (VS-3) that can be installed. The VS-3 allows voice feedback of the radio status. It can be programmed from the microphone or the front panel. This feature is very helpful for people who are visually impaired. The voice synthesizer allows the user to identify frequency, mode and offset without having to look at the actual radio display. You do not have to take your eyes off the road to look at the display for status confirmation. An excellent idea for more enjoyable use of your amateur radio and, more importantly, an assist for safer driving.



HE HIT ME ON MY HANDHELD RADIO -- THAT'S BELOW THE BELT, AIN'T IT ?

# Technical Group Expanded

The Club's Technical Group has been expanded to ensure the group's work load is shared by a greater number of amateurs.

President Dan, VE3GUU, said work on the repeater is scheduled to get underway this month. Work will include the installation of the CTCS board and a number of required adjustments to cure the growing number of complaints which have been received about the repeaters operation.

In a move to optimize the use of the club's repeater, the executive has agreed that once the repeater is operating at its potential, its use will be officially offered to other amateur clubs in the area for their nets and special events when they encounter problems with their own repeater

## First Annual Ontario QSO Party

April 26, 1997, 18:00 UTC - April 27, 1997, 18:00 UTC

The Ontario DX Association, Canada's largest short-wave listeners' club announces the First Annual Ontario QSO Party.

**FREQUENCIES;** (Phone only) All HF bands 160 - 10 meters with the exception of the WARC Bands ( 12, 17 and 30 meters ) which by IARU agreement are contest-frec. All VHF/UHF bands.

**USE OF FM:** Operators may not use repeaters for the purpose of the contest. Operators should keep the 2 meter FM simplex calling frequency of 146.520 MHz clear.

**CATEGORIES ;** Single Operator Low Power ( under 100 watts on HF, under 50 watts on VHF/UHF) . Single Operator High Power ( over 100 watts on HF, over 50 watts on VHF/UHF) , Multi-operator, FM-QRP (under 5 watts). Also short-wave listener category.

**EXCHANGE ;** Ontario stations send signal report and county/district/regional

municipality.

Other stations send signal report and Canadian province/territory, U.S. state or DXCC country.

**SCORING ;** Ontario stations work everyone. Stations outside Ontario only work Ontario stations. Score one point for every station worked per band. Score ten points for working VE3ODX and VA3RAC per band. Short wave Listeners log only Ontario stations.

**MULTIPLIERS ;** Ontario stations earn one multiplier point for each Ontario county/district/regional municipality, Canadian province/territory, U.S. state or DXCC country worked.

Stations outside Ontario earn one multiplier point for each Ontario county/district/regional municipality worked. (49 total) .

**MOBILE/ PORTABLE STATIONS:** Mobile and/or portable stations may be worked once per band in each county/district/ regional municipality they operate from.

Short-wave listeners use the same formula as stations outside Ontario.

**TOTAL SCORE ;** Total QSO points X multiplier points.

**AWARDS ;** Certificates to top scorer (Ham and SWL ) in each Ontario county/district/regional municipality, Canadian province/territory, U.S. state, and DXCC country. Free copy of the 1997 "Passport to World Band Radio" by Larry Magne to the top amateur radio entrant in Ontario, Canada, the U.S. and DXCC.

SWL Logs should show both the Ontario station heard and the station being worked.

If you log two Ontario stations working each other you may count both stations for points.

**SEND YOUR LOGS TO:** Ontario DX Association, P.O. Box 161, Station "A", Willowdale, Ontario, M2N 5S8. Logs must be postmarked no later than May 31, 1997. Logs may be sent on disk in standard text-file format. Results will be published in the October, 1997 issue of "DX Ontario". For a copy of the magazine, please send \$5. Canadian or equivalent. For a copy of the final results only, please send an SASE with sufficient postage.

As this is the first running of the contest, your comments and entry are appreciated.



# RAC Report

Pat Doherty, VA3GD, Director, Ontario North

Radio Amateurs of Canada has reorganized the HF Band Plan Committee. It is now the HF Committee and is responsible for all HF matters. The committee's new Chair is Kenneth D. Pyke, VE3OGM, 43 Elwood Drive, West Hill, Ontario, M1C 2C2. His phone number is 416 284 4580, email address <apyke@sympatico.ca>.

The ARRL has issued an advisory of future changes to the US licensing structure as well as changes to the phone and CW bands. 160, 80, 40, 15 and 10 metres will be affected. The most noticeable change to Canadian amateurs will be the expanded phone band on 80 metres. If the changes are approved, Extra Class US amateurs will have phone privileges down to 3700 Khz. It may be a year or so down the line but we had better start planning now.

The NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) has issued a report, through the U.S. Department of Commerce, for HF (3-30 Mhz) Spectrum Planning Options. A realignment, along with and expansion of 900 Khz, plus a new band at 4945-4985 could be possible in the future. A very interesting document. If anyone would like a copy I have it in WordPerfect 6.0 and can send it as an email attachment.

The World Trade Organization is now involved in the telecommunications field. 68 countries have agreed to a pact. Satellite systems, cellular phones, data transmissions etc will be brought under the WTO's dispute settlement system. WTO says liberalizing telecommunications would mean an additional \$1.36 trillion to the industries income in the next ten years.

Little LEOs' are still chasing amateur frequencies. Check the RAC home page <<http://www.rac.ca>> for updates. Companies are now approaching radio clubs to convince them sharing is possible. RAC along with ARRL and other national organizations are fighting these guys tooth and nail. They want two metres, the base of all our VHF communications. Better take out your membership and support RAC, we need each other.

# Flea Market Taking Shape

We are rapidly approaching the time for the OVMRC's annual flea market. It's time to dig all those "goodies" out of the basement and bring them up for air. And while you're at the flea market you can look for the bargains that will be on display.

This is not the only advantage of going to the flea market, you'll meet all those friends you have been meaning to keep in touch with but never found the time.

This year the flea market will be held at the Stittsville Arena. For those of you who are not familiar with the arena's location, there will be maps at the next club meeting at the same table where the raffle tickets will be on sale. Look for the handsome, tall chap wearing glasses with premature grey hair sitting at a table near the auditorium entrance.

The Stittsville Arena is identical to the McNabb Arena where we held the event two years ago. The only difference is that parking is a lot better at Stittsville. There will be a "talk in" on 147.300 conducted by Maurice Andre Vigneault VE3VIG.

The date for the flea market is April 26th 1997, the entrance fee is \$2.00 per person, tables cost \$10.00 for private, \$20.00 for commercial. And, by the way, if you are planning to have a table at the flea market and have not reserved your table yet, better do so soon! As of the end of February thirty-one tables have been reserved by both private and commercial vendors.

Ken Barry will be calling people to recruit volunteers to help the Friday before the flea market, so be prepared for a telephone call from him.

There is lots of work to be done in setting up the evening before. Work will start at 4.30 pm to place tables and chairs and carry out all the other chores required to prepare the area. When the event is over there is more work to be done - stacking the tables and chairs and picking up all the other equipment.

Ken would appreciate anyone who wishes to volunteer to call him at 746 4823 .

# Potpouri

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



FCC - The National Institute of Standards has grabbed a bunch of Navy surplus transmitters and will have them on the air to give the WWVB time signal in Colorado a 3-4 times stronger power output. This will be a bonus to the new plethora of clocks/appliances which receive this signal to keep their time accurate.

Monitoring Times (Jan 97) - Cordless phone eavesdropping can be used in the battle of love and war as shown with this letter from Glamour magazine: "Another high trap for those who cheat: I was outside in the garden with the baby monitor nearby when it picked up our cordless phone frequency. I heard my husband leaving sweet nothings on his girlfriend's answering machine!"

St. John's - The Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs will have the VO1AA special event station from the Cabot Tower, periodically between Jan 1- Dec 1/97. For more info contact either pplyercy@nl.net.nf.ca or VO1HE@VO1AA.

Yaesu - WARNING: Nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries are incompatible with it's handhelds and using them could void your warranty. This is due to the fact that these batteries are internally different from NiCads and become very unstable if overcharged.

RAC - For a number of reasons, including the increased cost of paper, market saturation, and increased exchange rate for US books, the RAC bookstore is no longer financially viable. Thus, it was decided to close down the HQ retail sales operation. Books will no longer be sold to clubs or individuals. RAC will continue to publish the study guides, question banks, repeater maps/directories and log books but they will be available through local ham dealer and other retail outlets.

Monitoring Times (Jan 97) - A married couple arrested for a series of New Hampshire

robberies were known to be using 2 way communications to keep tabs on police whereabouts. The man, while robbing, would tell his victim to delay calling the police and holding up a scanner, could tell if he did not comply. The robber's wife would monitor police frequencies and warn her husband via a 2 way radio of any activity. When police raided the couples' home they found large amounts of cash, ammo, over 40 automatic weapons, military style gas canisters and a scanner.

QST Jan/97 - Bill, AA4M, has a 1300 pound Black Angus who "gets feisty during breeding season". This year, it made advances on Bill's 71 foot tower and moved some of the vertical members 6 feet. Thanks to the 3 level guying, the tower stayed up. Bill used power equipment to straighten the base section. He then made a form with two 55 gallon drums around the base of the tower and filled it with concrete. After letting the concrete cure, Bill removed the forms and now has a 6 foot anti-climbing base section strong enough to resist the attentions of a lovesick 1300 lb. bull.

Algoma ARC ( Sault Ste. Marie) - The last Snowtrain Run of winter 96/97 on Sunday, March 16 will have VA3OCR station on board. A couple of HF verticals and a 70 foot dipole stretched over 2 coaches will be used. Frequencies are CW 3545, 7045, 14045, 21045 and SSB 3800, 7260, 14260, 21260. A special QSL card will be used to confirm all contacts.

TeleParc (Ottawa) - The president Doug VE3SPF announced that Radio Shack are selling digital multimeters at \$79 that are a very good value. He tested one in a lab against laboratory standard test equipment and found the accuracy of the meter to be excellent.

# Band Bandits Are At Work

Edited from a RAC Bulletin

Apparently, representatives of large telcom corporations are approaching amateur radio clubs seeking an opportunity to speak with their membership and explain why commercial Little Leo operations are compatible with amateur radio operations and why and how amateurs could share their bands with proposed Little Leo satellites. Some of the Little Leo players are amateurs who launched the amateur microsat program and are now associated with large, powerful telecommunications corporations. Low earth orbit (LEO) satellites would circle the earth providing non-voice data services using the spread spectrum technique.

RAC is absolutely opposed to the loss of our "amateur exclusive" frequency allocation for our VHF/UHF 144-148 MHz, 219-225 MHz bands and to sharing our secondary allocations at 440 MHz and above with Little Leo satellites. The reasons are many including mutual interference and the future erosion of our presence on these bands by large, powerful commercial interests. "Sharing" is an "unequal" position for non-commercial, amateur radio hobbyists in future conflict with commercial financial interests. Government stands to gain huge revenue through auctioning additional frequencies off to commercial corporate interests. Amateur radio options, privileges and freedoms would eventually disappear. A simple land-use analogy is, commercial developers, with government approval, could exploit park lands leaving little or no space for non-commercial public recreation and experimentation.

Two meters is a "bread and butter" band for most amateurs. It is the entry band for 80% of our new amateurs, and is vital to the future growth of amateur radio. It satisfies most of our local communications needs and plays a major role in emergency communications programs with various levels of government and with non-government organizations such as the Red Cross. The 220 MHz and 440 MHz bands are equally important to amateur radio. The

eventual loss of our VHF and UHF bands would seriously jeopardize the future of amateur radio. The traditional opportunity for citizens to engage in serious experimental and recreational non-commercial radio communications at VHF/UHF could be lost forever.

RAC believes that the approach of the Little Leo Interests may be a "divide and conquer" strategy to lull amateurs into agreement with their rationale for band sharing. Having briefed amateur clubs, they could approach government saying that they have consulted with amateurs across the country who greeted them warmly and "did not disagree with their ideas." Radio clubs' usual hospitality and broadminded reception of their guest speakers could be turned against them.

RAC is participating actively in government committees which are reviewing the Little Leo proposals. RAC is doing everything it can to dissuade government and industry from forcing us to share our bands for what we believe is an ill-conceived program, fraught with problems for amateurs and the public, which has so far failed to identify hard markets and the sources of funding to exploit this multi-billion dollar extravaganza. RAC believes that Little Leo Interests want to first capture the necessary keyelement, spectrum allocations, without which their projects cannot proceed. Spectrum allocations on a global basis are vital to their plans. Amateur bands are prime targets!

RAC is feverishly working on future political action to enlist the help of elected representatives at the national, provincial and local levels. RAC will ask for amateur radio operators help at the appropriate time in the future.

The foregoing is one more attack on amateur radio that RAC is fighting against on our behalf at considerable cost of time and money. Keep in mind RAC's major source of funding is from membership dues, your's and mine. Canadian Amateurs need a strong, collective, authoritative voice to represent them and RAC is it!

IT'S A NEW PROGRAM !

# OVMRC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

THE EXECUTIVE, AT ITS FEBRUARY MEETING, DECIDED TO INTRODUCE A NEW ANNUAL PROGRAM WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE A CLUB MEMBER FOR " OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE HOBBY OF AMATEUR RADIO". THE RECOGNITION WILL BE GIVEN WITH A SUITABLY ENGRAVED PLAQUE DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT AS THE "OVMRC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR". IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE THE SELECTION PROCESS AS OPEN AS POSSIBLE AND TO GIVE THE DESIGNATION CREDIBILITY, THE CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP WILL BE ASKED TO NOMINATE FELLOW MEMBERS WHOM THEY FEEL HAVE EARNED THE HONOUR TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE "OVMRC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR" AWARD.

THE NOMINATION FORM AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE IS TO BE USED TO NOMINATE MEMBERS. THE FORM WILL BE REPEATED IN THE NEXT ISSUE (APRIL) OF THE RAMBLER. ALL OF THE NOMINATION FORMS RECEIVED WILL BE REVIEWED FOLLOWING OUR APRIL MEETING. THE THREE MEMBERS RECEIVING THE MOST NOMINATIONS WILL BE LISTED ON A BALLOT WHICH MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE AT THE MAY MEETING AND BE ASKED TO RANK THE CANDIDATES 1, 2, 3. THE MEMBER RECEIVING THE MOST POINTS WILL BE DECLARED THE WINNER AND THE "OVMRC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR" AT OUR JUNE MEETING.

.....DETACH ALONG THIS DOTTED LINE.....

## NOMINATION FORM OVMRC AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ call sign \_\_\_\_\_  
for the "OVMRC Amateur Of The Year".

Please provide a short explanation of why your nominee deserves to be  
honoured.(use an additional sheet of paper if required)

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This nomination was submitted by \_\_\_\_\_