

OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC.

RAMBLER

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MARCH, 1998

Bill Wilson Receives Highest Honour Canadian Amateurs Can Bestow



J.F. Hopwood, RAC President, recently announced the acceptance of the OVMRC nomination of Bill Wilson, VE3NR, for induction into the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. Bill has been active in amateur radio for more than 40 years. Throughout the same period he has given unstintingly of his time to support the advancement of amateur radio. He was a very effective President of the former Canadian Amateur Radio Federation (CARF). When he was Director General, Radio Regulations in the former Department of Communications, he kept amateurs aware of pending regulatory changes both domestic and international, and provided his recommendations to the amateur radio community without, in any way, creating a conflict of interest with his official duties. He has been a regular speaker on spectrum management issues at various club meetings. He has authored a variety of technical papers and presentations on

such issues as Electromagnetic Compatibility, amateur radio towers, and operating ethics. Bill was instrumental in developing a solution which saved the 220 - 222 MHz band for Canadian amateurs.

Bill has represented Canada at 13 International Telecommunications Union conferences as a delegate, deputy head of delegation and as Head of delegation. He has also represented Canada at numerous bi-lateral discussions with United States representatives on all aspects of radio.

In 1977 Bill was honoured for his work in radio with the Queen's Coronation Anniversary Medal. In 1978, he received the Diplome d'Honneur from the Plenary Assembly of the International Consultative Committee on Radio at Kyoto, Japan.

A distinguished Canadian, a distinguished Amateur Radio enthusiast, who is most deserving of this high honour !

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

RAMBLER

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The 1997-1998 OVMRC Executive

President	Dan Reardon, VE3GUU, 836-2633
Vice-President	Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749
Treasurer	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, 728-3666
Secretary	Earl Andrews, VE3AB, 828-5955

Standing Committee Chairpersons

(First named member is Committee Chairperson)

Amateur Radio Exhibit	Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, 829-7167
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VESUY, 737-9443
	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, 225-6785
	Open
Field Day	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565
Historical	Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823
Flea Market	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, 521-8910
	Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, 747-9577
Membership	Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214
Newsletter	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, 833-2766
	Open
Publicity & Programs	Phil St. Germain,
Technical	Jake Guertin, VE2TQX, 721-9323
Radio Operations	Joe Donnelly, VA3JJD, 488-3299
Novice	

OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron	VE3BBM
Doug Carswell	VE3ATY
Gerry King	VE3GK
Doreen Morgan	VE3CGO
Ed Morgan	VE3GX
Fred Noble	VE3BAJ
Bill Wilson	VE3NR

Practise your CW with the OVMRC Code phone -
737- 0197

Check the OVMRC Web page:

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

Webmaster - John Rodger, VE3JR

jrodger@takeone.com

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

Mark Your Calendar !

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, March 19th, 1998.

It's a highlight meeting that will be informative and entertaining, it will feature "Home Brew Night". Members are invited to bring their gizmos and thing-am-a-jings that they have laboriously worked on at home during those long winter evenings. Plan now to attend this fun night !

Deadline for the next Rambler:

Friday, March 27, 1998

OVMRC's Repeaters:

VE3TWO:	147.300MHz (+)
	444.200MHz (+)

Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC is pleased to exchange newsletters with the following Amateur Radio Clubs across Canada and the U.S.A.

Algoma ARC, Sault Ste Marie, ON
Augusta ARA, Augusta, ME, USA
Border City ARA, Windsor, ON
Chatham-Kent ARC, Chatham, ON
Calgary ARC, Calgary, AB
Comox Valley ARC, Comox, BC
Halifax ARC, Halifax, NS
Heritage ARC, Coburg, ON
Kingston ARC, Kingston, ON
Lambton County ARC, Sarnia, ON
London ARC, London, ON
Metroplex ACA, New York, NY, USA
Ottawa ARC, Ottawa, ON
Pioneer ARC, Nepean, ON
RAC, Ottawa, ON
Rideau Lakes ARC, Smiths Falls, ON
Scarborough ARC, Scarborough, ON
Seaway Valley ARC, Cornwall, ON
Sudbury ARC, Sudbury, ON
Surey ARC, Surey, BC
Saskatoon ARC, Saskatoon, SK
Thousand Island ARC, Brockville, ON
West Island ARC, Dorval, PQ
Winnipeg ARC, Winnipeg, MAN

Sponsors

The OVMRC acknowledges the following organizations for their support of our activities by providing them with courtesy copies of the Rambler:

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON
Corel Corporation, Ottawa, ON
Information Gateway Services
TakeOne Info System

MINUTES

OVMRC Regular Meeting, February 19th, 1998

The previous OVMRC General Meeting scheduled for January 15th was canceled due to the weather phenomenon (ice storm) in Eastern Ontario.

President Dan Reardon, VE3GUU, opened the meeting at 1930 hours. He acknowledged that there had been considerable damage to antennas due to the ice storm and that some members were just not able to make the necessary repairs. The Club is attempting to organize a few able bodied members who will help those who are elderly or physically unable to do the repairs themselves. Dan suggested anyone needing help should contact himself. Dan reported that the vertical antenna at the museum (VE3JW) had been damaged during the storm and has to be replaced. In order to meet our commitment of 500 hours of operation and in view of the upcoming GOTA week-end, it was necessary to order the new antenna.

Doug Carswell, explained his research in determining a GAP Titan IV vertical antenna was best for the job to be done. It was moved by Jake Guertin, seconded by Colin Finlayson and unanimously approved that the Club acquire the new antenna at a cost of up to \$500.

A new Field Day Chairperson is required as Tom Johnson has been transferred to

Winnipeg. Dan pointed out that if a volunteer does not come forward to chair this event, the Club will cancel its participation in it for this year. He also pointed out that the Club required a Program and Publicity Chairman. He urged members to help the Club by volunteering for one of these positions.

The Club executive is looking into the possibility of renting a storage garage to store the Club's equipment. The equipment is presently stored in a barn on Jake Guertin's parents farm.

Dan reported that the Mayor of Cumberland Brian Coburn was very pleased with hams participation during the recent ice storm. His Worship has invited the OVMRC to the annual Cumberland Power Show, May 30 and 31. It is suggested that this would be an ideal opportunity for a special events station as the show attracts a large number of people. Members are urged to volunteer to participate in this event by contacting Jake Guertin.

Ken Barry reported in the OVMRC Flea Market. Vendor tables are being reserved by both commercial and domestic vendors. The Ottawa Vintage Radio Club will be staging an auction of items, starting at about one o'clock so that the Flea Market will carry on until about three or four o'clock.

Two Club members were

honored for their outstanding contribution to amateur radio over the years. Ed and Doreen Morgan were granted Life Membership in the OVMRC. President Dan presented each new Life Member with a gold colored name tag, a club crest and a Life Membership Certificate.

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, introduced the first part of the evening's program - an interesting video he made recorded of the Club's repeater, VE3TWO.

Vice President Steve Middleton, introduced Bob Shaw who made an excellent presentation on Radio Receiver theory, starting with the earliest 'spark gap' technology and finishing with TRF technology.

President Dan reported that VE3TT has donated an Atlas 215 (a good old rig) which is to be used a prize for one of the graduates of the current radio course.

Dan offered the Club's congratulations as he announced that Bill Wilson, VE3NR, has been named to the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. Bill was nominated by the OVMRC. Three door prizes were drawn with the winner, in order of being drawn, Tom, Patricia and Seth.

The meeting adjourned at 2130 hours for coffee, tea and cookies and ragchew.

Amateurs Play Key Role in Ottawa During Ice Storm

Written by Rob Ludlow, VE3YE

The worst ice storm in the past four or five decades to strike Eastern Ontario brought out the best of amateur radio in a civil emergency !

Here in Cumberland just east of Ottawa, through the Cumberland Emergency Radio Group, communications support was established quickly once the massive and extensive damage was known and was maintained around the clock for the duration of the emergency. This was the center in the Capital Region for all amateur radio, including official civil and military emergency communications.

The Red Cross, Cumberland's Mayor Brian Coburn and Fire Chief Gordon Mills, Regional Police, Hydro and high ranking military were absolutely raving about the role hams played during the emergency. There is absolutely no way any emergency communications system and support activities could have successfully taken place without the amateur radio infrastructure of repeaters, trained operators, many volunteers and their equipment, and associated HF links and nets. The use of repeaters was necessary because HF or direct VHF/UHF modes would not suffice.

The emergency amateur radio communications center, located in the Cumberland Fire Hall, was the hub of activity with fire, police, hydro, and military officials who constantly utilized the amateur communications center to relay a variety of messages to the growing official and volunteer infrastructure "on the ground". The communication center operators were even controlling and dispatching military patrols, as well as mobile pump, fuel and generator units.

One Saturday night after being part of a military briefing, army staff were assigned to our vehicles for door-to-door heat/water and safety checks while a number of we volunteers were on-patrol in Clarence Township (just east of Rockland) All radio traffic was going through amateur repeaters and back to the military command post.

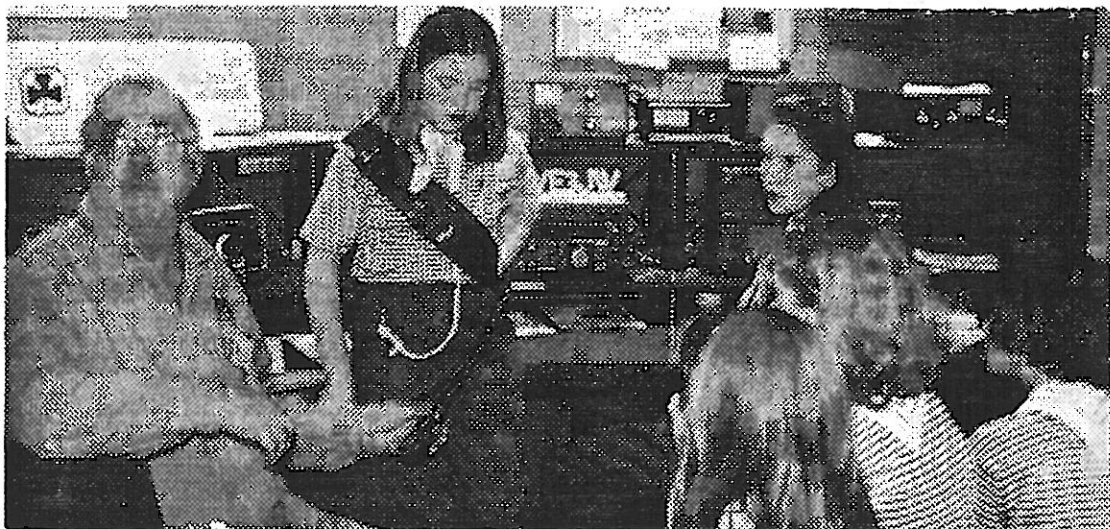
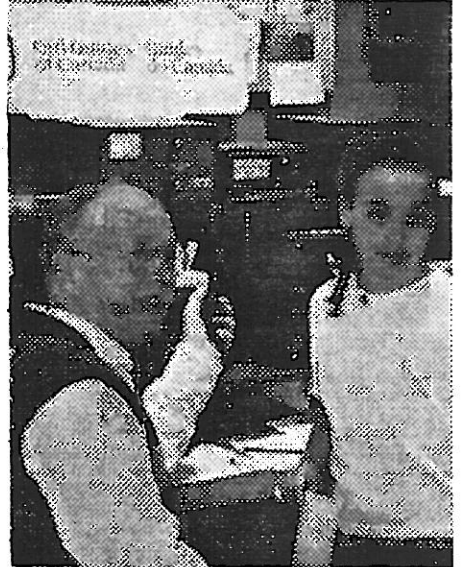
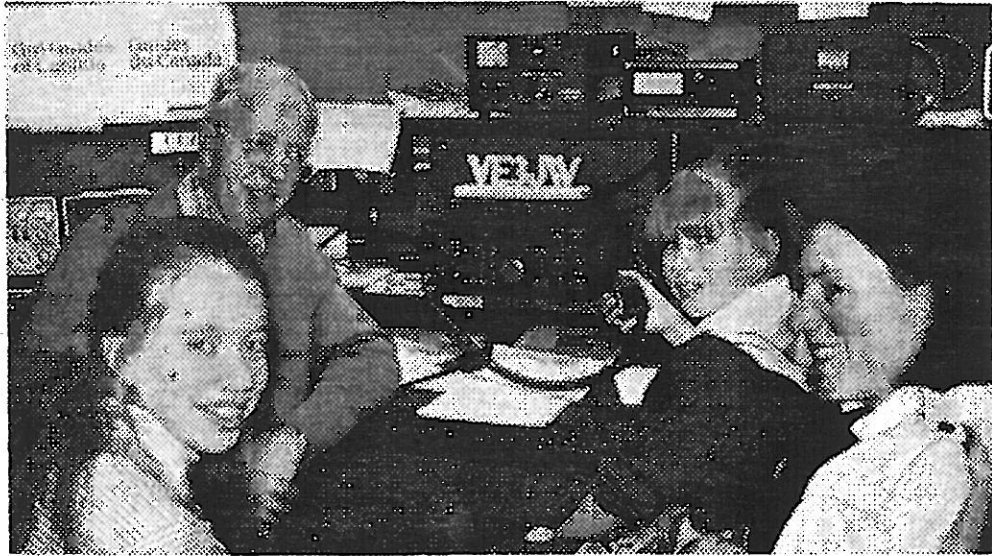
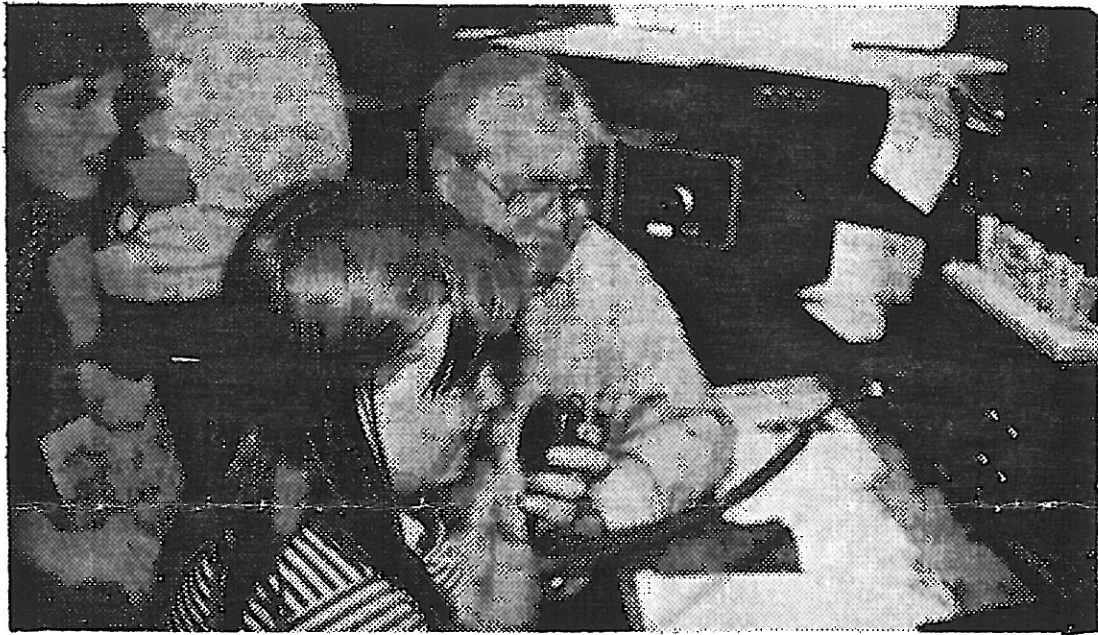
There had been excellent media exposure of the amateur radio involvement in the National Capital Region. On the weekend media representatives, print reporters, local English and French CBC TV, and CTV, were everywhere covering our activities and collecting post storm news stories.

If there is any "bottom line" or "message" in all of this, it is that if Industry Canada feels less committed to the Amateur Service and our spectrum, here is a golden, made for the purpose example of how hams spring into action, make use of the spectrum by providing immediate emergency communications for police, fire, hydro and military. . We don't just talk about what amateur can do in emergencies - we react, quickly, providing reliable communications, which has emergency victims and workers looking to us to help in conveying their "needs" to the controlling agencies because we have working communications and are able to fan out, deploy and set-up on short notice in hard-pressed areas. I know, personally, that hundreds of people in this immediate area who had lost their hydro would have been freezing in the dark with flooded basements and perhaps dead from carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty fire places, wood stoves or the exhaust from portable generators if it had not been for the very real, direct, immediate, effective and practical contribution of Amateur Radio.

It should be obvious to those who govern the spectrum that amateur radio has, in large measure, public support which would rally should they dare mess with Amateur Radio or the spectrum. We have emerged from the ice storm with the aura of the shining, golden, and untouchable. Any minion or public servant who wants to tinker with or neglect the Amateur Service should have a lot of explaining to do and fear for his job.



Guides On The Air (GOTA)



Happenings at VE3JW

Written by Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

During the past several days, events that took place at JW included GOTA and the replacement of the vertical antenna which we lost during the ice storm. The new vertical has restored our ability to operate on all HF bands except the Canadian portion of 80 meters and the 20 meter band. The 80 meter problem arises, apparently, from the use of an incorrect capacitor which resides inside the top end of the antenna. The manufacturer has indicated that they will forward a replacement to us. The 20 meter problem appears to be the result from coupling with nearby vertical objects.

Rick Furniss, Ernie Jury and myself spent a few hours on Tuesday, February 24th exploring some avenues to see if the 20 meter problem could be resolved. We made some antenna adjustments, which did not resolve the problem. While using Mike Kelley's MFJ analyser it was determined that the 20 meter elements are causing the antenna to resonate at 12.8 MHz. In a subsequent discussion with the manufacturer, it was determined that nearby vertical objects can cause this condition. Among the possible candidates for close coupling, the beam-tower has been ruled out along with a number of other possible vertical parasitic elements because of their distance from the antenna. However, there are two parabolic dishes within a quarter wave of the vertical that may be the culprits. Hence the next task is to

move the dishes from their current location. This appears to be a task for a party of four. The problem is that there are no guarantees using this method of fault finding. It is like being a child on Easter Sunday looking for the eggs left by the Easter Bunny. We will continue "Easter Egging" hoping to find the culprit. So please bear with us as we try to resolve our 20 meter problem.

As a secondary activity we restored the dipole while on the roof but Rick tested it and found an SWR of infinity to 1. Not very good! Ernie pointed out that the balun is probably full of water. That is another task to be resolved over the next several days. Dan Reardon indicated that he would pick up a replacement microphone cord for the Kenwood desk mount. Once we have the antennas sorted out, Ralph Cameron will check out the system for EMI problems that we have experienced in the past at the Museum.

Guides On The Air (GOTA) has to be considered one of the operating highlights at VE3JW. See the photographs of some of the Girl Guides and Brownies who participated in this event on the opposite page. There was a total of 78 Guides who operated JW. The participating Guides, while principally from the greater Ottawa area, included some from as far away as Barrie, Ontario. It was evident from the expressions on their faces that they enjoyed the event very much as did the Amateur Operators that spent time at

JW during the GOTA weekend. Contacts were made with stations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and some stations in northern U.S.A. Amateur operators who helped out were Larry Wilcox. WEH; Dan Reardon GUU, Don Usher GFG, Ernie Jury EJJ, John Larsen LAR, Liz Johnson, Tom Johnson WTJ, Keith Rupert KER, and myself (Doug) ATY. Jake Guertin TQX, came out on both Saturday and Sunday and provided back-up. RAC provided us with copies of the Canadian Amateur magazine for distribution to the Guides and members of the public. I want to express my thanks to all who provided support during this event. It was a good event involving the public who were visiting the Museum and took the time to watch what we were doing. It is possible we picked up a few new Amateurs as a result. Once the dust settles following resolution of JW problems, I think it would be a good idea to conduct events similar to GOTA in the future. Perhaps a couple of signs could be put up that say something like: "This station is currently operating on XX MHz" or "We are currently talking to Rob in Seattle, WA." Finally, a reminder to those wishing to operate JW. You must first receive approval from the Museum. This is for your protection and provides several benefits. If you would like become an operator at JW please contact me. I can be reached by telephone at 829-7167.

RAC BOARD "APPALLED" AT INDUSTRY CANADA'S BEHAVIOR

RAC President Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD, calls Industry Canada's cancellation of the Amateur Delegation Project as "unprofessional and shortsighted". The lack of progress made is laid squarely at feet of Industry Canada's officials

Here is the text of a recent letter from Farrell Hopwood to Industry Canada Minister John Manley:

Dear Mr. Manley:

More than forty thousand Radio Amateurs across Canada were shocked, dismayed and outraged with the November announcement that your officials had abruptly canceled a four-year delegation initiative that was nearing the implementation stage. Radio Amateurs of Canada had assigned top level experienced people and expended a large amount of time and money over the past four years to ensure the success of this undertaking. All projections, including the encouragement of Assistant Deputy Minister Binder, gave us every confidence that delegation would become a reality.

In 1989, we began bolstering our resources to better respond to regulatory matters. A critical and major step, at the urging of your officials, was the merging of two associations into one national organization, Radio Amateurs of Canada. An immediate benefit was the establishment of a joint Industry Canada - RAC Canadian Amateur Radio Advisory Board.

At the first meeting of the Advisory Board, in September 1993, IC officials proposed formation of a joint IC-RAC working group to develop a business case for delegation of certain administrative functions to RAC. We immediately responded by assigning RAC members with previous high level government and business background to work with your officials. RAC gave this

project top priority. In every instance we met target dates, developed working data in a timely manner and cooperated completely with Industry Canada officials. RAC also incorporated a separate subsidiary organization to administer delegated functions in an autonomous and objective manner. The delegation concept was enthusiastically embraced by thousands of Radio Amateurs across Canada.

You can readily understand that RAC found it appalling and alarming that IC officials suddenly, without warning or explanation, announced termination of the delegation initiative. We were further discouraged to learn that a survey, directly polling individual Radio Amateurs had been commissioned, bypassing the very organization that your officials had encouraged us to form. It was indicated that the results of the survey and other considerations would ultimately shape Industry Canada's future administration of the Amateur Radio service. This abrupt, but obviously premeditated withdrawal has seriously shaken RAC's confidence in your officials, particularly in light of the ambiguous reasons since advanced for canceling the delegation plan.

Precipitous termination of the delegation initiative has far reaching implications not only for Radio Amateurs of Canada as an organization, but also for the Amateur Radio service generally. It is a matter of such deep concern and apprehension that I am compelled on behalf of the Amateur Radio community to seek a meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours very truly,

J. Farrell Hopwood
President and Board Chair
Radio Amateurs of Canada, Inc.

R A C Annual General Meeting

For those interested in the political workings of the world of amateur radio, please take note. Radio Amateurs of Canada have scheduled their annual General Meeting for May 24th, at the Emergency Preparedness College at Arnprior. A formal and official announcement from RAC announcing the meeting will probably be made in the near future.

C o u r s e M a n u a l N e e d s U p d a t i n g

The Amateur Radio Course manual which has been the standard text across Canada for aspiring amateurs is suffering from the technology revolution. Discussions are underway to determine if there is sufficient support among the Club's "knowledgeable" members to rewrite the manual. Needless to point out rewriting the manual is a tedious and taxing task which will require considerable research, coordination and writing, editing and secretarial skills. Volunteers for any of the foregoing tasks are asked to contact Bob Shaw.

New OVMRC Life Members



A smiling Ed and Doreen Morgan with OVMRC President Dan Reardon pose for the Rambler camera holding their OVMRC Life Membership Certificates. Dan Reardon, in making the presentation, described Ed and Doreen as long-time workers and promoters of amateur radio. Interestingly, both Ed and Doreen are past Presidents of the OVMRC.

OVMRC Flea Market

The OVMRC Flea Market is fast approaching; scheduled for the Stittsville Arena on Saturday, May 2nd. This year's market promises to be one of the largest, if not the largest, ever held in this area. Along with a goodly number of commercial and private vendors with a multitude of electronic treasures, the Ottawa Vintage Radio Club has joined with the OVMRC for this year's flea market. The Vintage Club will take over centre stage at one o'clock by staging an old fashioned auction of an assortment of electronic items. Arrangements can be made with the Vintage group to auction off items which did not sell earlier in the day off the vendors tables. All in all this should be an interesting addition to the usual activities associated with the OVMRC Flea Market. For those planning to attend this year's flea market you had better plan on spending the better part of the day at the arena shopping for bargains and then placing your bids in the Vintage Clubs auction. By the way, they are "pro's" at auctioneering which spells fun, fun, fun.

Vendor table are still available from either Ken Barry or John Barnhardt. You may call Ken at 746-4823, or John at 521-8910

A LOOK AT YESTERYEAR

Written by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

The new Executive members listed in the September, 1987 Rambler were: President: Bill Seyler VE3OAI; Vice-President: Ian McIntyre VE3CZ; Secretary: Kris Anderson VE3OWE; Technical Advisor: Alan Boyce VE3LNH; Public Relations: Leo Desjardins VE3NVL; Treasurer: Henry Greenway VE3OMU; Past President: Vance Johnson VE3OAO; Rambler Editor: Jerry Wells VE3CDS; and Membership Chairman: Pat Brewer VE3KJQ.

The Canadian Radio Relay League, Inc. agreed to act as the expedition coordinator for all amateur radio communications in support of the February, 1988, Trans-polar Skitrek by Russian and Canadian skiers. This ski trip covered a distance of 2,000 kilometres from Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago across the North Pole into Canada to Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island. I wonder if any of you participated in any radio contacts with the members of the Ski-Trek?

The June, 1987, Field Day total point score was 1452 and they did it without a Field Day Coordinator (sounds familiar, will we have someone come forward to take on the task of Field Day Chair for this year's event?). DOC announced the 17 metre (18.068-18.168 MHZ) and 12 metre (24.89-24.99 MHZ) band was available immediately to Canadian amateurs for CW, voice and FSK modes. Two

new publications (which are still in use today!) could be purchased from the CRRL, the Canadian Amateur Question Band and the Canadian Advanced Amateur Questions Bank.

The October, 1987, Rambler notes that Jack Belrose, VE2CV, would be guest speaker on the subject of antenna systems. Russ VE3FSN and Kathy VE3OWY were getting married the following Saturday and given congratulations.

The President noted the Volkswagen March was asking for the assistance of radio operators at Orleans and the purpose of the club banquet was to "repay the members wives for their tolerance of ham activities such as messy "shacks", unsightly antennas, taking phone messages, etc.. (possibly it's time to have another of these tribute banquet to thank our spouses for putting up with our radio activities)

Ken Mangaroo VE3NCM, Burlington, Ontario, won his court battle and the right to erect an antenna tower on his property. Eighteen neighbours had asked for a stop-work injunction, claiming that the tower would lower property values and cause TVI. Ken had obtained permission from DOC, a building permit from the municipality, and even an engineer's report testifying to the structural integrity of the installation and the ability of the ground to support the tower. His lawyers, convinced

the judge that Ken was in total compliance with the law and that his neighbours had no basis for a case. The judge refused to grant the injunction. Russ Pastuch VE3FSN announced the 6th Annual Amateur Radio Course would start at Laurentian High School in September and they had 19 candidates signed up for the class. Morse code was being taught by Jim VE3AHN. Pat VE3KJQ, Membership Chairman, noted 100 members had renewed their membership. The membership fee for regular members and associate members was \$15.

In the October, 1987, Rambler was a note from Vance, Past President. He attended the International Bicycle Festival held in Hull in August, where Tom Miller from Kokomo, Indiana rode a homemade 22 foot high unicycle! Sem Abrahams from Holland rode a unicycle 72 feet high! Vance rode his 24 inch direct-drive unicycle and checked into the Wise Owl net on September 18th as VE3OAO Unicycle Mobile! His wife was also trying to ride a unicycle again, 20 years after her first attempt. I wonder if this International Bicycle Festival is still being held anywhere?

We hope you are enjoying this column and would appreciate comments directed to Larry by E - m a i l : larry.wilcox@takeone.com

POTPOURRI

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

Amateur Radio Newline - NY City amateurs want to close down illegal taxi cab dispatch services which operate on ten meters, but are divided on how to do it. The amateurs question whether it is legal to operate on top of an unlicensed station that's bootlegging on a ham band and, breaking FCC rules to reek havoc on a bootlegger that's doing so for an obvious commercial purpose?

'73 Nov/97 - Q) A repeater expert told me that my signal would be better if it was horizontally polarized. Now when walking I tilt my head sideways to talk into my HT and this makes me dizzy. Do you have any suggestions?

A) Actually, you can never really determine at what angle your modulations will hit the repeater. Circular polarization is most reliable. To achieve this, the Doctor suggests that when you go for walks you hold your head straight up, but you should walk in little circles.

TelePARC, Ottawa - The W5YI report notes that the December, 97 IARU News mentions that amateur radio is "more or less stagnated" in the developed countries (such as the USA, UK, Japan). "Explosive growth" seems to be taking place in the less developed countries, the ones that have little access to the Internet.

ARRL - A ham radio package (SAREX) will be aboard the October shuttle flight that carries US Senator John

Glenn into space.. STS-95 will be carrying the 77-year-old space pioneer into orbit for the first time since his first space flight in the early 1960's.

Amateur Radio Newline - Since February 3, hams have been very active in the San Francisco area, assisting emergency officials in coping with the disastrous effects of heavy rains. Floods and mudslides have closed many roads and isolated smaller communities, especially along the coast. Hams also pitched in to help in the recent aftermath of intense storms and tornadoes in Central Florida that killed more than three dozen and injured hundreds of others.

N9UUR -On Mar 1, APRS digipeaters in 4 states will switch to 144.39 Mhz to get the mode off of the 145.790 Mhz two meter experimental frequency. This is the first part of a national agreement to consolidate all APRS activities onto a single 2 meter frequency.

Amateur Radio Newline - In Australia, the Radio Site Owners and Users Association (land mobile radio users) are lobbying for reallocation of the 380 to 400 Mhz and 420 to 450 Mhz bands. Problem is that much of this is in one of the most popular ham bands. The Association warns that it may go to war to get the 70 centimeter band away from Australian hams.

South Africa - Local hams will soon be able to operate in CEPT signatory countries

without the need of acquiring a guest license. South Africa has been accepted as a signatory to and participant in the CEPT common amateur radio license.

TCA - There is a bit of confusion as to when the next World Radio Conference will be held. Most sources are saying 2002 but The Canadian Amateur magazine says it will be in 2001. Rumors are that after this conference, Amateur Radio will not be discussed by WRC until 2030 or 2035.

CQ VHF - This magazine is urging amateur radio clubs and operators across America to go "foxhunting" on the last weekend in April. It is sponsoring the first United States National Foxhunting Weekend on April 25/26.

ARRL - Now available (\$15 US) is "RF Exposure and You" a book which contains all the information, suggestions and worksheets you require to comply with the new FCC RF exposure rules and to operate your station legally and safely. To order, call ARRL at 860-594-0303 or go to their web page <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/6621>.

RAC - The Central Ontario Fleamarket is moving to a larger and better facility in Fergus and is being structured into a Hamfest event with topical forums throughout the day that will be of interest to a broad spectrum of amateurs.