



# RAMBLER

VOLUME 42

NUMBER 8

APRIL, 1998

## The Clock Is Ticking

Voluntarism can be a utopian state in which everyone shares the work to be done and common objectives are achieved. No one is overworked because, as the adage professes, "many hands makes light work !" What a pity the majority of the OVMRC members do not recognize the foregoing.

Over the past number of weeks our President, Dan Reardon, has been trumpeting the need for volunteers to assume the Chairmanship of our Field Day Committee, the Program and Publicity Committee as well as volunteers for special events stations. Two members have come forward and offered to help. Two members out of a Club with approximately 200 members !

We are not attempting to alarm anyone or push the panic button but it would appear the OVMRC is in trouble - deep trouble. If the membership is unwilling to help and is just sitting back waiting for the executive officers to do everything - it is not going to happen. If there are no volunteers to chair various activities and events - the OVMRC will not have a Field Day ; if we do not have a Programs and Publicity Chairman our meeting programs are going to be wanting. And in just a couple of months we will be holding an election to elect our new executive officers for the ensuing year. If there is the same interest in serving on the executive as there has been in volunteering, our Club, unfortunately, will have a rather dubious future existence.

It is acknowledged that the OVMRC is comprised

of a group of like-minded hobbyists who are all volunteers. It is also acknowledged that part of the Club's membership pay their dues and come to the meeting for the fellowship and entertainment - but will not volunteer to organize or lead any activity or event. There are others who simple lack the self-confidence to step forward and offer their services. We also have a group who are physically handicapped and, while willing, are just unable to accomplish the chores necessary. And there are others who, in the past, have organized activities and events and have reached the point where they are tired and want to sit back and give someone else the opportunity to organize and lead.

No matter which category of member you may fall under, your talents, your leadership, your voluntarism are needed NOW !

Please remember chairing an activity or event does not mean that you have to do it all by yourself. You will receive help from others. A good chairperson organizes and recruits assistance above and beyond those who are willing to lend a hand.

Do not wait for your executive to do it all for you - they have more than enough to do. If you won't help it just won't get done and our activities and events will deteriorate to dull monthly meetings to which very few will want to attend.

It is up to you - how about it - step up and be counted - please volunteer for any of the positions which are available.

### *The OVMRC Flea Market*

*Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998*

*Stittsville Arena*

*100 Tables of Treasures - Auction starting 12 Noon*

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.

# RAMBLER

The Rambler is published monthly by:

The OVMRC  
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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
Field Day	Open
Historical	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565
Flea Market	Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823
	John Barnhardt, VE3ZOV, 521-8910
Membership	Tom St. Julien, VA3OFD, 747-9577
Newsletter	Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214
	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG, 833-2766
Publicity & Programs	Open
Technical	Phil St. Germain,
Radio Operations	Jake Guertin, VE2TQX, 721-9323
Novice	Joe Donnelly, VA3JJD, 488-3299

## 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](mailto:jrodger@takeone.com)

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

## Mark Your Calendar !

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

As of "press time", efforts are being made to have Harold MacFarlane of H.C. MacFarlane Electronics speak at our April meeting. Harold is an excellent speaker and very knowledgeable about antenna towers of which he will be speaking. Those who have heard Harold address an audience report that he has an excellent sense of humor and can be very entertaining. Plan now to attend what will be an interesting and fun evening!

Deadline for the next Rambler:  
Friday, April 24, 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  
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Information Gateway Services  
TakeOne Info System

# Rambollings

## Comments from our President, Dan Reardon, VE3GUU

Well, there's only three months of Club activities left for this season until we're all out camping, biking or getting more exercise of one kind or another. Many of us will be taking down what is left of our antennas from the ice storm and either replacing or repairing them. We sure have had a tough and what seemed like a very long winter this year. But we must look at the bright side - we really wanted to buy a new antenna anyway, so the effects of the storm have given us the perfect reason to act now and buy a new antenna. You can explain to her that you can only talk to Kingston, Ontario, but you really want to talk to Kingston, Jamaica.

I want to remind each and every Club member that it is up to you to choose a member in good standing who has contributed the most for the benefit of amateur radio for the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award. This Award is in memory of the late Jerry Wells who contributed so much to amateur radio. Jerry's wife, June, has agreed to make the presentation of the award to this year's winner. A nomination form was distributed at the March meeting and is also contained in this issue of the Rambler. Please think carefully and make your nomination for this prestigious award. I will accept nominations forms until the close of our April meeting, following which the top three

nominees' names will be entered on a voting ballot which will be distributed at the May meeting for members to select this year's winner. The winner will be announced at our June meeting.

It's flea market time again. What have you got that you really don't need in radios and accessories? This is the time to sell off your "surplus" junk. Remember, one man's junk is another man's treasure!"

This year the Ottawa Vintage Radio Club is joining with us at our annual flea market. They will be displaying an array of antique radios and will be conducting an auction of old radios and radio equipment starting at approximately 12 noon. And at approximately 2:30 they will be auctioning off job lots of vendor items that were not sold from the tables. It will be fun filled day at the Stittsville Arena on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are only 100 table available and it is first come first served so-o-o-o book your tables early and avoid disappointment

I want to again remind members that we are in need of volunteers to undertake a variety of chores in the Club. Volunteers are needed for the Chairmanship of the Field Day, and Programs and Publicity Committees. As well we need volunteers to participate in a number of Special Events stations - Tulip Festival, Steam Train to Wakefield, Cumberland Heritage Power Show, the

canal boat flotilla. And it is the time of year when we require volunteers to take on the job of the Nominating Committee which must bring forth a slate of officers for next year. All of the executive officers have served two years in their present positions and, according to our Bylaws, must relinquish their office. So four new officers must be found to run the affairs of the Club.

I sincerely hope that if you are approached by the Nominating Committee you will seriously consider standing for office and thus do your share of the Club's work. If you refuse to help and everyone else refuses to accept nomination for office, possibly we should consider closing the Club or changing the Bylaws so that the executive may serve for life. I have said it time and again, this is your Club, and you will only get out of it what you are prepared to put into it! I have been advised that the March Home Brew Night was one of the best we have had in some time. My congratulations to the five participants who brought in their home brew projects and to the winners - Bill Wilson, Ernie Jury and Babba Piprani.

My apologies at not being able to attend the March meeting as personal matters took priority. My thanks to Dan Doctor for filling in for me and, I understand, doing a fine job. I look forward to seeing you all at our next regular meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the museum.

# A Pot Lid Net Milestone

Written by Roger Rose, VE3XRR

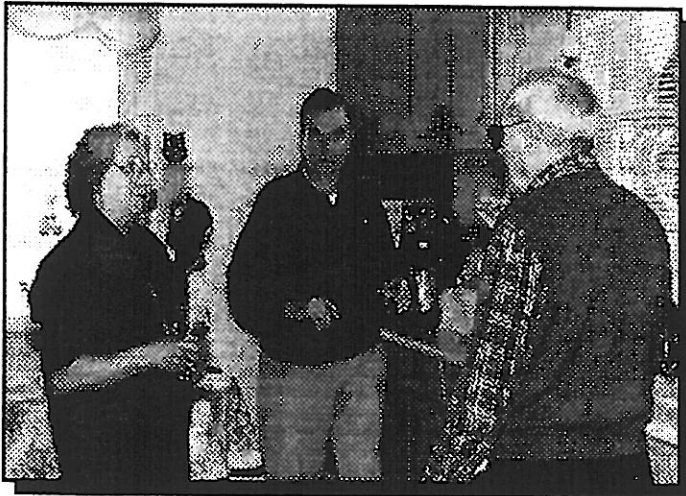
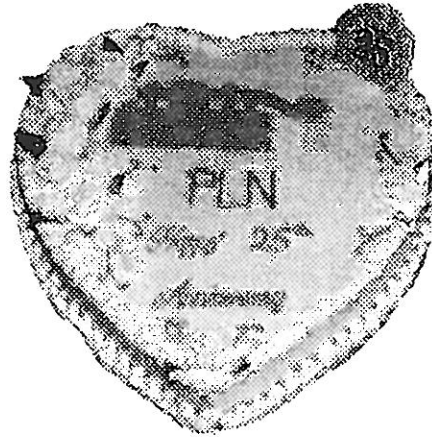
The Pot Lid Net marked a milestone on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 1998. It was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the net being on the air. There have been more than 1,100 nets since it was instituted in 1973. To celebrate the anniversary, Ed and Doreen Morgan hosted a social get together at their home on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Pot Lid Net came on the air for the first time on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 1973. Ed Morgan, VE3GX, was Net Controller and the first group of amateur operators to check in were Mike, VE3FFK; Bud, VE3GLU; Art, VE3CGD; Doreen, VE3CGO; Ted, VE3GCC; Earl, VE3BNH; Earl, VE3ECJ; and Tom, VE3EWK. I recall that at the time he was keeping track of the hams CW speed (words per minute) and most of them were sending at 12 or 13 wpm.

I must say that our gracious hosts were the instigators behind the success of this weekly net. For those who may not know, the Pot Lid Net is a slow speed CW ragchew net. The net is open to all amateur operators who want to practice their code and, possibly, have a laugh or two while doing it. The speed is kept relatively slow (8-12 WPM). It is a friendly and fun way to get that first QSO which is so dreadfully feared by new operators. The net is on 3.620 MHz every Sunday morning at 11:00am (except in July and August).

A good number of regular operators who checked in over the years turned out to share in the anniversary. There was good food, good wine, and, of course, plenty of ragchew on the history of the net. In attendance were George, VE3GM and his wife Vivian; Bob, VE3DUB, and his wife Mavis; Joe, VE2JHT; Mike, VE3TJP and his wife Shirley Anne; Belty, VE3ZBB; Bernie, VA3JBB, and his wife Evelyne, VE3ECW; Roger, VE3XRR, and his wife Judith; John, VE3NJ; Ric, VE3XL, and his wife Val; and Gus, VE3VK and his wife Anne. The group received a very special message from Mike, VE3FFK, by way of a cassette and some beautifully sent Morse code (slow speed, of course).

Linda, Ed and Doreen's daughter, prepared a beautifully decorated and delicious cake for the occasion. Ed had some concern that we didn't eat enough and that he would have to eat the leftovers for the next three weeks.



Doreen (VE3CGO) and Ed (VE3GX) share a glass of wine with Joe (VE2JHT)

After spending most of the afternoon and half of the evening at the Morgan's residence, the guests started to leave. It was a good time to leave as some were starting to ask about beds and when breakfast was going to be served.

It was a very enjoyable celebration and on behalf of the entire group, I wish the net continued success and to Ed and Doreen, a big thank you for your most cordial hospitality. Our sincere appreciation to the Morgans for their dedication and support of a great net.

*If you would like to join the Pot Lid Net, either to check in or become a Net Controller, just spin the dial on 80m to 3620MHz every Sunday morning at 11:00am or call Ed, VE3GX, at 733-1721. Everyone is welcome and it will be a pleasure to arrange with you an opportunity to practice your code in a relaxed and friendly environment.*

# Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year

Nominations for the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award are now being accepted. Each nomination must include the nominee's name and call sign, a short summary which provides the reasons why he/she deserves to receive this prestigious award and be signed by the nominator. Nominees must be members in good standing of the OVMRC.

Nomination forms may be signed by any number of members who may wish to endorse the nomination. Nominations must be submitted to Dan Reardon no later than the OVMRC's regular meeting on Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>. A special ballot listing the nominees will be prepared and distributed at the May meeting for the Club's membership to select this year's Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year.

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## Nomination Form Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award

I/we wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ call sign \_\_\_\_\_

for consideration for the **Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award.**  
(Nominees must be members in good standing of the OVMRC)

Reasons for Nomination:

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Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign \_\_\_\_\_

# VE3MPC IS ON THE MAP

Written by Norm VE3LC and Marc VE3DRV (from OARC Groundwave)

Amateur Packet Reporting System (APRS) is software written by Bob Bruniga WB4APR that was initially used to track the US Navy MARS stations without unnecessarily transmitting a ship's position. The idea was that a ship's operator could tell at a glance what stations were available by looking at a computer generated map.

VE3MPC is on the APRS map! Installed at the site is an APRS digipeater to relay APRS traffic to local users. The digipeater TX/RX is 144.39, the Canadian frequency for such activity. The US frequency is 145.79 but this is being slowly phased out due to conflict with other users in that bandspread. For now, most of the US is still using the 145.79 frequency. Like all APRS stations, VE3MPC (shown with a star on the map), places its positioning information on the APRS map.

APRS uses AX25 packet radio to transmit location position in the form of latitude and longitude. The information entered manually or with a Global Positioning System (GPS), accurately places your QTH on the map. Various levels of maps for much of the world are prepared by hams. One for Eastern Ontario has fair detail of Toronto and Ottawa streets.

APRS can be used to go mobile. Connecting a GPS along with a TNC and 2M radio allow others to track you on their map display while you are mobile. This system has been used by hams to track their vehicles when in use or to locate them when stolen. Other uses were for marathons, sailing races, etc. Specialized versions of APRS are for direction finding, dead reckoning, weather monitoring, ACARS (aircraft digital traffic) and others.

The VE3MPC digipeater is part of a network of other digipeaters on the same frequency. At the present time, the only other ones within radio range are VE3PGC and VE3EI near Cornwall.

VE3PGS is on 2M and VE2EI is an APRS HF gateway on the 30M APRS frequency of 10.151. The two 2M digipeaters provide seamless coverage from the south at the St. Lawrence right to the east to the Quebec border at the 401. The HF gateway lets us see HF traffic coming through onto the VHF channel. With this one you can see other stations across the continent.

The APRS map has different graphics to show the symbols chosen by the stations. To name a few are planes, cars, bicycles, homes, antennas, police car, fire hall, ships, etc.. The map display can be tilted to indicate an altitude scale for tracking planes and balloons. Weather nodes are popular. Hams who attach meteorological instruments to their station are shown with a WX symbol. Clicking on the symbol gives you temperature, barometric pressure and wind direction with speed.

All that is required for APRS is the software available for DOS or Windows. A Linux version is near completion. DOS can be run on a 286 with a VGA display. The "Win APRS" is 32 bit and needs either Win 95 or NT. The DOS version can be found at [www.peel.com](http://www.peel.com) and Win APRS at [aprs.rutgers.edu](http://aprs.rutgers.edu). At these sites are the latest versions as they are being written along with the expanding library of maps. APRS is shareware which means you can use it for evaluation, then pay the author later. Registering is worthwhile as among other things, you can't normally use the GPS/WX/DF modules.

The software interfaces to your TNC through a COM port. Be sure to read all the information files to learn how to use the software. Once you become familiar with the various commands, the rest becomes fairly intuitive. So get started on APRS and put yourself on the map!

## Executive Nominations

It is that time of year again when the Nominating Committee will be contacting members to ascertain whether they will serve as the Club's executive officers for the ensuing year.

The present executive (the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) have each served in their positions for the past two years, the maximum permitted under our Bylaws. This means, of course, that the Nominating Committee will be seeking four new executive

officers, plus a number of Standing Committee Chairpersons.

If you would like to be considered for any of the executive or committee positions, you are invited to contact any member of the Nominating Committee who would be pleased to hear from you.

This is your Club and you will only get out what you are prepared to put into it! Volunteer your services now!

## BUILDING ANTENNAS

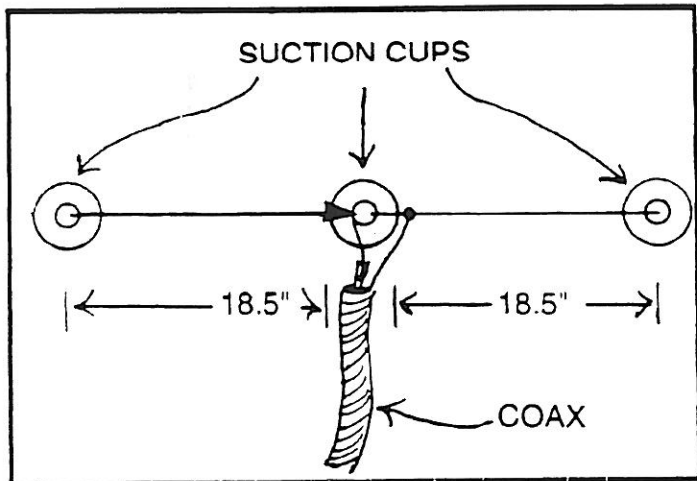
# SuctionCup Dipole

Reprint from London ARC Keyed-Up

### Stick it in your window !

Need a simple antenna that will enable good 2 meter FM communications into and out of today's brick, concrete and steel buildings ? Like most projects, this one is cheap and easy to make. It is a dipole antenna cut for 2 meters, approximately 37 inches long. Remember, the same formula that works for the HF bands also works for higher frequencies, but it requires two attachments, strings, etc. to hold it. This project dispenses with the strings and such by using soft rubber or plastic suction cups, the type used to hold animals to the inside of car windows.

Today, most modern buildings have an ample number of windows, many of which cannot be opened. By simply attaching a small suction cup to the end of each leg of the dipole, as well as to the centre coax feedline connection, you can stick the antenna to the inside of any window in any position or polarization. And if the window happens to be on the top floor, so much the better! Just think of the wide coverage you can get from such a location on a very low amount of power. By using a short run of coax, you can set up an effective communications centre at a comfortable distance from the window.



We concede that the dipole doesn't give any gain, but you should also remember that the rubber ducky itself is only 7% efficient.

Vertical antennas all need an effective ground plane in order to perform well, but the dipole inherently has its own, by design. This whole antenna and feedline can easily be coiled and stored inside a small plastic bag, making it easy to carry around with you in case you need it.

# Ten Reasons For Using High Power

Reprint from 73 Amateur Radio Today

Listed herewith are the top ten reasons for using high power for your transmissions.

10. I can tell my neighbours about my ham activities by direct input to their TVs, radios and telephones.
9. My tuner can handle a KW and it would be a waste of capacity to not use it.
8. Everyone in the world needs to know that I have more dollars than sense
7. Why kill 2 birds with one stone when I can kill all the birds with one KW ?
6. A KW or two gives me the real edge in those QRP contests.
5. Keeps those pesky QRP guys from getting too close to my frequency.
4. A signal report is meaningless unless it includes "db over 9" .
3. The linear keeps my coffee warm.
2. The lights flicker so I know I'm really getting out.

And the number one reason for high power.....  
Two words - sexual insecurity !

## My Radio Ham

Reprint from Pelican Bay ARC, by Doris Brown

I'm married to a man who's a radio ham  
He messed up my TV and doesn't give a damn  
I get on the phone and nothing is clear  
He yells, "Betty, it ain't comin' from here  
Somethin' is happenin' in the atmosphere  
Hang up the phone for awhile, my Dear"  
He says "I'm tryin' to work this station and there's  
a mighty jam

But you know how it is with a radio ham  
He used to have a job with Uncle Sam  
He gave it all up to be a radio ham  
He's got a big mouth, boy can he shout  
I'm always glad to hear when it's "over and out"  
I get real mad and he knows I am  
Doesn't bother him, he's a radio ham  
He sits there listening with things on his head  
If I didn't know him I'd think he was dead  
His code rings out loud and clear  
A sound that is music to another ham's ear  
I'm stuck with him and he's stuck with me  
Guess I'll never stop hearing "N5CB" .

# DURACELL BATTERIES LEAKING

Reprint from Passport to  
World Band Radio 1998

In the hundred of batteries we have used, Duracell alkaline batteries have worked fine. However, in the past couple of years in the Duracell's we have used we've encountered swelling and leaking, especially in the 'D' cells. Need we remind you that such leakage can corrode costly electronic equipment. This has not just happened randomly, it has happened on several occasions with batteries from different batches purchased at various outlets. All had been used years before their expiry dates. The problem seemed to be more extensive in 'C' and 'D' cells with "AA" Duracell's holding up relatively well. However, we have been testing a variety of Eveready "Energizer" alkaline cells and thus far haven't encountered any swelling or leakage.

Until this problem is resolved, a word to the wise, carefully inspect new batteries, especially "D" cells, for signs of swelling. If batteries are left inside a radio, carefully inspect them every couple of weeks.

## Planning A Holiday In The U.S.A.?

If you are planning on a holiday in the United States and will be traveling by car,

here is some solid advice ! RAC has been advised that Canadian amateurs visiting in the U.S.A. have been heard operating on SSB in the 14.120 to 14.150 MHZ portion of the 20 metre band. All amateurs are reminded that while in the States, foreign amateurs (including Canadians) must observe U.S. regulations, including sub-bands. U.S. amateurs are not authorized to operate phone below 14.150 MHZ.

Canadian amateurs who can operate 20 metres in Canada may operate phone between 14.150 and 14.350 MHZ while in the U.S.A.

Additionally, Canadian amateurs have been heard in the U.S.A. operating portable and mobile on 75 metres SSB between 3725 and 3750 kHz which is prohibited. U.S. amateurs are not permitted to operate phone below 3750 kHz.

## M o r s e Code To The Rescue

Reprint from December issue  
of Worldradio.

The scene was the intensive care unit of a hospital in Lansing , Michigan. Ralph Burch, W8LCU, was recovering from quadruple bypass heart surgery, unable to speak because of the respirator tube down his throat.

At his side was his wife, Donna, W8QOY. Legally blind, Donna was very distressed, unable to be reassured by reading his eyes

or seeing the monitors. She reached for his hand and suddenly realized he was tapping out Morse code on her wrist.

Donna was so surprised and thrilled to be back in touch with Ralph she could hardly copy is code. But, then she understood he was sending, "Pain is Hell, but be all right!" "At that moment, I knew that he was going to be all right, because he was thinking well enough, even in his condition, to remember his code," Donna said.

## Flea Market Calendar

The Flea Market season is fast approaching. Herewith is a list of flea markets you may be interested in attending.

Pickering Hamfest/Flea Market, Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the East Toronto Trade Centre, Pickering, Ont.

Rideau Lakes Flea Market, Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Smiths Falls, Ont. Admission \$3.

OVMRC Flea Market & Ottawa Vintage Radio Club Auction, Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Stittsville Arena. Admission \$2.

Dayton Hamvention, May 15 to 17, Dayton, Ohio.

Montreal Hamfest. Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, Samuel Moscovitch Arena, Cote St.Luc, Que.

Central Ontario Amateur Radio Flea Market, sponsored by the Guelph and Kitchener-Waterloo ARCs, Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> Fergus and District Community Centre, Fergus , Ont.

Parry Sound Hamfest, Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Parry Sound, Ont.



## Part 7

# A LOOK AT YESTERYEAR

Written by Larry Wilcox VE3WEH

In the November, 1987 RAMBLER, President Bill Seyler VE3OAI, proposed to make a motion at the next meeting to celebrate, next year, the 30th Anniversary of the OVMRC with an annual Club banquet, complete with door prizes, a DJ (Disk Jockey, remember them?) at a cost of \$15 per ticket. RAMBLER Editor Jerry Wells VE3CDS, noted that about 6 hours time or two evenings per issue was required to print the Rambler and asked to have the workload shared by a Publication Committee. The Club paid \$470.04 for the printer service contract and also had to pay \$.019 for printing each page over the contract limit. The club had a policy requiring each member of the Executive to provide an article for publication in the Rambler. Secretary Kris Anderson VE3OWE, submitted a very informative first column on ANTENNA TOPICS and invited members to contribute notes or articles on their own antennas. (Editor: this may be a good column to undertake again by some astute member of the club.) Public Relations, Leo Desjardins VE3NVL, also contributed an article "How I Became Interested In Amateur Radio". Leo's interest grew prior to high school from listening to "strange noises" coming out of a battery operated table radio which was used by his parents for listening to developments during World War II. He used to sneak away with it so they couldn't hear the radio but he

was eventually caught in the end (literally, I think, by the strap!). He started learning code with another man during a stint in hospital in 1980. They were sending to each other by tapping their canes on the metal bars on the sides of their beds! Fortunately, the other two patients in the room were hard of hearing. Leo notes the staff must have wondered if they were in the right institution. His only regret was in not getting his ticket earlier than November 1982. His favorite mode was CW and I believe it still is. Pat Brewer VE3KJQ, reported 19 students on the radio course and reminded members of the need for course mentors as well as volunteers who are willing to have students visit their shacks. In a report from Past President Vance VE3OAO, Pat was congratulated for generating all the code tests over the six-year life of the radio course. Vance also gave credit to Mike VE3LAR who helped teach code, to Dave VE3KLX for drawing schematics, and to Jim VE3AHN, Kathy VE3OWY, and Russ VE3FSN for assisting with the course. He also congratulated Russ and Kathy on their recent marriage. Progress on the merger between CRRL and CARF was provided by CRRL rep Ray VE3FN. At the October General Meeting, Guest speaker Gord Grant VE3DY, gave a very interesting outline of the early history of the OVMRC and

promised to write it up over the winter. Some highlights Gord mentioned: The Club was formed February 16, 1958 and met on

mobile 75m and 19m, the first President was Ian McIntyre VE3DMT, the Rambler was first issued in May, 1958, there were many spontaneous activities organized by mobile radio, and the Pot Hole Net was established in 1959 and was so named because of the abundance of "pot holes" on the roads. The next speaker was Jack Belrose and he gave a very informative presentation on Delta loop and half loop antennas and their characteristics which make them especially useful for Dxing. Chuck VE3PDK reminded members the Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air would be held at VE3JW, October 17, 1987 and they would have many Scouts wanting to make contacts via radio.

An interesting proposal to revise the By Law definition of "full member" was published and the reason given for the rationale for revision: the requirement re full member, originally meant, a member had full mobile equipment in their car and this was no longer a requirement. The November 1987 issue is so full of interesting information, I don't have room to cover two issues this month.

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

Monitoring Times Feb/97 - Even in Russia the problem of pirate broadcasters exists. In Moscow, a 21 year old male was arrested for broadcasting on channels used by fire, police, ambulance services. This person imitated President Yelstin, congratulating Russian policeman and informing them that their salaries had doubled. He was sent for some psychiatric analysis.

ARRL - Tiny New Zealand caused ripples in the international amateur radio community when they suggested at a recent World Radio Conference that countries should be able to determine whether Morse Code should be a requirement for HF operation. The proposal had high level support and it was agreed that an upcoming World Radio Conference (WRC-99) would address the issue.

RAC - RAC will have its Annual General Meeting on May 24, 1998, 1000 hours at the Emergency Preparedness College, Arnprior, ONT. (west of Ottawa). Directions are: take the Arnprior Baskin Drive exit south off Highway 17.

FCC - William Irwin K3OQR of DeBary, Florida has been ordered to pay a \$500 fine for having failed to identify his station and causing willful and repeated interference while operating under the name of "Raincoat Charlie." The interfering transmissions, during 1992 and 1993, were on the 20-meter frequency of

14.313 MHz.

W5YI - The \$500 US Internet-only Network Computer for surfing the Web which does not need a sophisticated microprocessor, software or an operating system will be available in the fall. Oracle think it is the gadget of the future and has developed a prototype which could be made by several manufacturers. Some interested companies are Acer, NEC, Toshiba, Samsung, Compaq, Intel and Olivetti.

Monitoring Times Mar/98 - Even though on January 1/98 many worldwide coastal stations abandoned monitoring for the distress signal, SOS, no one expected to hear it on December 31st.. Stonehaven Radio, Aberdeen, Scotland received an SOS signal from the m/v OAK, a 13,000 ton vessel enroute to Canada from Liverpool. The Oak was 790 miles west of Ireland with its cargo of wood which had shifted in gale force winds and was losing all engine power. The local Coast Guard initially thought it was a joke as no one had sent an SOS in years. Then on second thought, they realized it was real as they figured nobody sends an SOS signal as an exercise. Communication was conducted with the ship via satellite. At printing, the outcome of this dramatic story was unknown. As night fell and an RAF Nimrod circled the ship overhead, the

nearest other ship was still 500 miles away and the Oak was too far from land based rescue helicopters. As the master and crew of 26 prepared to abandon ship, he sent out his last message "Happy New Year, Best regards, Master."

Belgium - Between January 1 to December 31, the Union Of Belgium Radio Amateurs will be using the callsign ON5O to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

South Africa Radio League - Every Sunday at 10:00 SAST on 7205, one can listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International.

Australia - Some non-amateur signals which may be heard on the bottom end of 40m, below 7050 kHz, are legitimate transmissions. Apparently, 7000-7050 kHz is allocated to commercial users on a primary basis, and not to the Amateur Service, in Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Togo. The ITU regulations permit transmissions by commercials in these countries and are thus not intruders but, when heard, must be treated with respect and interference avoided.

NASA - Two hams, US Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, and European Space Agency Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, of Spain will be on the October STS-95 flight with US Senator John Glenn. Another member will be Japanese Astronaut and cardiologist Chiaki Mukai.