

RAMBLER

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MAY, 1998

Field Day Reprieve

The OVMRC's Field Day event received a last minute reprieve as Charles Morrison, VE3TCM, has volunteered to "chair" the event.

Charles has confirmed the OVMRC will again set-up at the Museum of Science and Technology. Club members wishing to operate, either CW or phone at the field day event, are asked to contact Charles to arrange schedules. Volunteers are needed to help in set-up on Saturday, June 27th and , then, take-down on Sunday, June 28th. Again , volunteers are asked to contact Charles.

Meet the New Grads

The graduating students of the current OVMRC radio course will be officially introduced at the Club's May regular meeting.

The course instructors will be choosing one of the student to receive Atlas radio equipment which was donated specifically for this purpose. Bill Wilson, VE3NR, will be guest speaker, addressing his comments to the new Hams.

Jerry Wells Award

Club members will be asked to cast their ballot at the May meeting for the 1998 Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award nominee of the choice. Four outstanding amateurs have been nominated for the prestigious award. They are,:

Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, for his work in producing the Rambler;

Jake Guertin, VE3TQX, for his outstanding work for the Club and his readiness to undertake various chores and functions. Cy Webster, VE3SIY, for his original work in instigating and promoting the OVMRC submission for a federal grant to equip VE3JW.

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH for his diligent work on a variety of Club events and activities and his work helping residents in Cumberland during the ice storm.

The winner will be announced at the Club's regular meeting in June. June Wells, Jerry's wife, has agreed to attend this meeting and make the first such presentation to the Amateur of the Year who will receive a plaque and a specially inscribed straight Morse key.

Flea Market R a f f l e Winner

Ken Barry, VE3KJB, Chairman of the OVMRC's Flea Market, announced that the winner of the flea market raffle of a short wave receiver is Serge Legros, VE2ROS, of Hull, Quebec.

Ken expressed his appreciation to all those who participated in the raffle and extends his congratulations to Serge on his win.

C l u b Antenna For Sale

The Club's R-7 vertical antenna which was on the roof of the museum had to be replaced because of damage during the ice storm. It was replaced with a GAP Titan IV vertical antenna. Since being replaced, the R-7 has been repaired and is fully operational but surplus to Club needs. The R-7 will be sold by sealed bids which are invited until May 30 and should be given to the Club Treasurer Ernie Jury.

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, 839-5854
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VESUY, 737-9443
	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, 225-6785
Field Day	Charles Morrison, VE3TCM, 228-3480
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	Vacant
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

The OVMRC gratefully acknowledge the support of the Corel Corporation in producing the Rambler which uses Corel Wordperfect 7.

Mark Your Calendar !

Next General Meeting:

Thursday, May 21st, 1998.

An important meeting in that the graduates of the OVMRC radio course will be introduced and presented with certificates. They have worked hard to attain "amateur status" and deserve your support. Additionally, members will be voting for the 1998 Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award winner. Bill Wilson will be our guest speaker. Please make every effort to attend this meeting.

Deadline for the next Rambler:

Friday, May 29, 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, March 20th, 1998

The meeting was called to order by Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, who was filling in for President Dan Reardon. Gord Ball, VE3CSA, was introduced as the only visitor. Noteworthy is the fact that there was a snowstorm that evening reducing attendance to approximately half the usual number.

John, VE3LAR, requested help in solving a problem he is experiencing with reception on 75 meters. He gets a loud buzzing noise near 3740 but only during business hours, 8:15am to 4pm. A variety of suggestions were made and hopefully John will solve his problem.

Dan made the following announcements:

The Jerry Wells Award will be awarded at the June meeting.

Field Day Chairperson Tom Johnson has been transferred to Winnipeg necessitating the need for a volunteer to organize this very important event. A volunteer is also required to assume the Chairmanship of Programs and Publicity as Dan Johnston has resigned because of work commitments.

The Nomination Committee requires three volunteers to develop a recommended slate of officers for the coming year.

OVMRC Secretary Earl Andrews introduced Bill Wilson, VE3NR, who was recently honored with his election to the Canadian Amateur Hall of Fame. Bill spoke, briefly, expressing his surprise at his being given the highest honor "amateur Radio" can bestow.

Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, spoke about the Tulip Festival being the ideal opportunity for a special events station. He asked for volunteers to work this event.

Bob also mentioned that several prospective amateurs on this year's radio course are interested in buying and building QRP Transceiver kits from the US at a cost of approximately \$125. Bob asked if any of the Club's members are interested in joining the building group.

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, reported on the success of G.O.T.A. He reported that some 80 girl guides spoke on VE3JW to other guides across Canada

and the US.

Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, introduced the Home Brew Program for the evening.

Bubba, VE3KX, demonstrated a novel "hat mount" 2 meter ground plane antenna. He also demonstrated a 2 meter J Pole and 2 meter Quad antenna.

Bill Wilson, VE3NR, demonstrated a "T" type antenna tuner and a home brew power supply. What was unique about the power supply was that Bill had hand wound the power transformer.

Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, built a useful tool for soldering. It was a resistance soldering tool which featured a pair of forceps with carbon arc resistance pads which he had silver soldered in place.

Earl Andrews, VE3AB, brought an old signal generator, a small power supply and the remains of an old crystal 2 meter rig. Earl explained how he had "rebuilt" these items with new circuitry.

Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ, brought in his "replica" of his first rig which he had built in the 1950s and used to make his first QSO which he recalled as if it occurred yesterday.

The Home Brew Judges awarded prizes as follows:

First prize of a MFJ 24 hour clock went to Bill Wilson for his antenna tuner and power supply.

Second prize of a W1FB Antenna Book was presented to Bubba for his antennas.

Third prize went to Ernie for his original development of his Resistant Soldering Station.

Steve thanked the Judges and the Home Brew participants for their presentations. All of the home brew items were left on the stage for inspection after the meeting.

Dan Doctor advised that Premier Bill Harris will be in Manotick to present awards to those who helped during the recent ice storm. This includes a number of amateur radio operators both in the Manotick and greater Ottawa area.

In closing the meeting, Dan thanked those members who braved the snow to attend the meeting. The meeting was adjourned for refreshments and ragchew.

RAMBLINGS

Comments from our President, Dan Reardon, VE3GUU

Well, it seems my constant preaching about the required help the Club needed is finally getting results. I am really pleased how the Nominations Committee is progressing developing a slate of executives for the next year. We are still short of nominees in a couple of positions but I am confident these will be soon filled. You may wish to take the example set by John Bamhardt - he volunteered to work with Ken Barry to learn what is involved in chairing the flea market. And I must say, John has done an excellent job and, no doubt, is looking forward to running the show next year.

A job well done John.

Just a reminder to all members, Susan, VE3MOG, and Steve, VE3RUU, are looking after the Tulip Festival Special Events Station. Please don't be shy to help out, pick up your telephone and offer your services, volunteers are needed.

I am pleased to be able to report that we have a volunteer to chair our Field Day event, Charles Morrison, VE3TCM.

Charles will be assisted by last year's co-chairmen, Jake, VE2TQX and Larry, VE3WEH. If we want our field day to be a success, we must recruit some volunteers to operate the CW and HF tents. I suggest you contact Charles early and book the medium and time you want to operate. Charles can be reached by telephone at 228-3480

For those who missed our last meeting, you really missed out on some great information on towers and how to instal them. Harold MacFarland gave us an inside view on many things we, normally, don't anticipate when we instal a tower. He also covered antennas and what to expect with wind load. I want to thank Harold for coming all the way from Battersea to speak at our meeting.

Remember, our May meeting is Youth Night and also to meet our graduating class of 1997/1998. It certainly would be nice to have everyone at the meeting to congratulate them on their accomplishments. And after the meeting while

enjoying your coffee, please involve these new hams in your conversations and congratulate each one on a personal basis. This is an area where I feel we, as amateurs, fail to recall how little time the experienced hams gave us upon graduation and how difficult it was to know with whom you should be talking. So take the first step, introduce yourself to the new hams and make them feel welcome.

Bill Wilson, our recent electee to the Canadian Amateur Hall of Fame will be giving the graduates his views on Amateur Radio. And please, it is vitally important that all members in good standing attend the May meeting so that you can cast your ballot for the Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year candidate of your choice. This is an important award which the ultimate winner would like to know had the support of the majority of the Club's members.

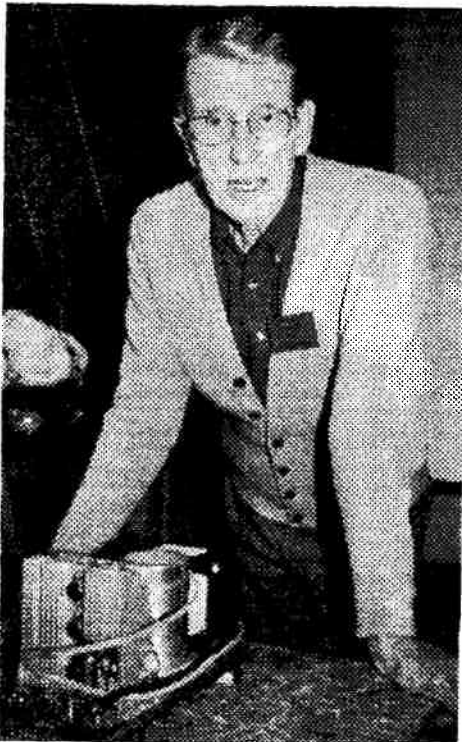
Jerry's wife June, has agreed to attend our June meeting and present the first Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year Award to the 1998 winner.

Home Brew Night

The evening of March 20th may have been stormy and cold outside, but it was warm, fun and informative inside the Museum of Science and Technology as the annual OVMRC Home Brew Night took place. Below, are photos of the participants and their projects.



Home Brew Night participants, left to right, Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ; Earl Andrews, VE3AB; Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ; Bill Wilson, VE3NR; the two Home Brew Judges, Ian and Bob, and participant Bubba Piprani, VE3KX.



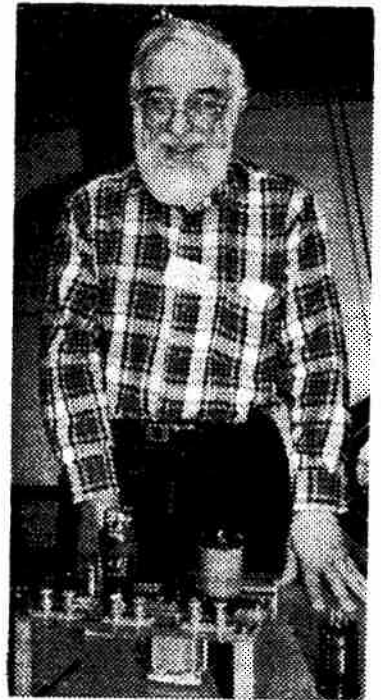
Bill Wilson explains the make-up of his home brew power supply.



Antenna experimenter "extraordinaire" Bubba Piprani explains the construction of a few of his antennas.



Engineering experimenter and builder Ernie Jury explains his home brew soldering station



Bob Kavanagh and his replica rig built in 1950

Happenings at VE3JW

Written Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Good news on the EMI front. It looks like we are back in business on all bands. On Monday, May 4th Ralph Cameron completed his work with respect to our EMI problems. We can now operate the station without frequency and power restrictions imposed by previous EMI problems. Ralph has desensitized the Museum's PA microphone preamplifier in the front lobby as well as decoupled the finals in the PA system. Additionally, Ralph desensitized the Asdic Simulator located adjacent to the two periscopes. On behalf of the membership, I would like to go on record and thank Ralph for his most generous contribution.

As part of the testing for EMI following Ralph's work, Ernie Jury operated the station on all bands and we are happy to report no significant amount of EMI was detected. This doesn't mean that there is not some latent defect waiting to remind us of some fallacy in our testing. So please pay attention to your operating practices until we have accumulated many hours of JW operation under our belts to confirm all is well. If you do note something of interest, please let me know.

With respect to the new GAP vertical antenna, we removed the two parabolic dishes that were below the vertical antenna as well we replaced the capacitor installed inside the vertical at its top. Now we can use the vertical on 80 and 20 meters as well as the other bands.

The antenna manufacturer recommends that we do not

use the vertical with SWR greater than 2:1. We have posted a sign at JW indicating the frequencies of operation that result in SWR of 2:1 or less. Please operate JW within the limits posted!

We still have not been able to get the 80 meter dipole operating with a SWR of less than 3:1, consequently it is not available for use at this time. Ernie Jury and I conducted some tests that indicated that we would have to raise the dipole above the roof to a distance greater than our towers permit. Hence, we are once again looking for an alternate site for the dipole. The previously described Tech Park solution is rather expensive and, therefore, one to be avoided if possible. As soon as it is determined how we can mount the 80 meter dipole we will let you know.

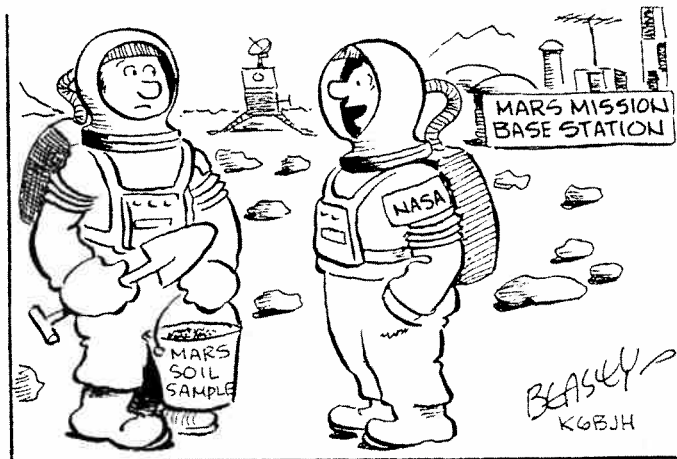
If you were wondering where the Kenwood manual is I understand that Richard Hagemeyer is scanning it to make it available to us in the computer. When I last spoke to Rick Furniss about the

manual, he indicated that Richard should be done with that work in the very near future.

The cord for the Kenwood desk mike has been replaced making the mike available for use once again.

A couple of comments on the use of JW. Some operating switches have been left at inappropriate settings before the equipment was powered up. Please observe the switch settings before you power up the station and when you are finished using the equipment. Confirm that the switch settings will not result in the transmitter being activated when the equipment is powered up in preparation for its use. This avoids damaging the equipment as well as embarrassing the operator.

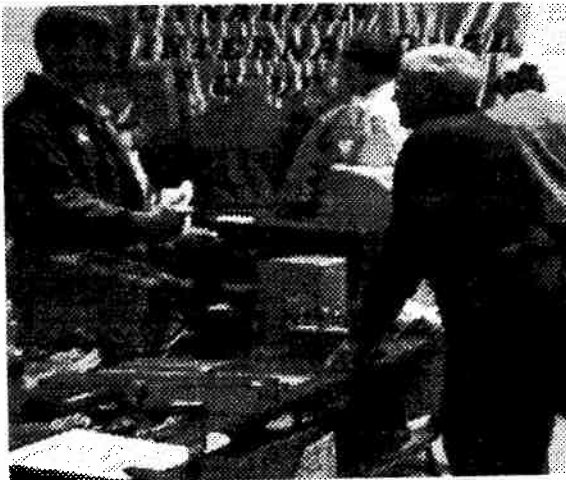
I am please to report that four more operators have come forward indicating their willingness to operate JW on our behalf. If you are also interested but have not qualified at the Museum as a Volunteer, please contact me.



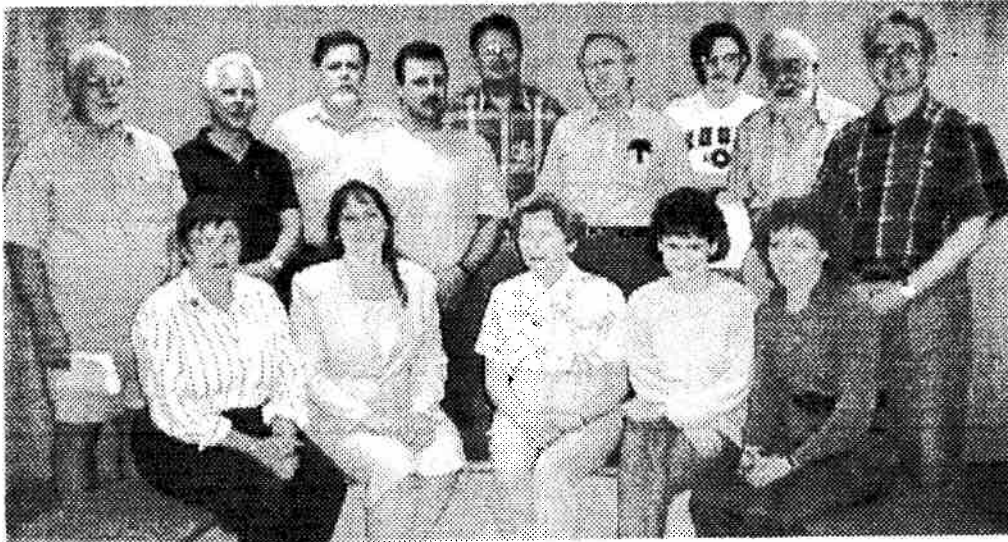
I THINK I'LL GO GET ON THE BAND, CALL "CQ EARTH," AND SEE IF I CAN CREATE THE BIGGEST PILE-UP IN THE HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO

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1998 OVMRC FLEA MARKET



The Graduating Class of '98



The OVMRC Amateur Radio Course produced excellent results as all thirteen students qualified for amateur licences. Pictured above, seated, left to right, are Danielle Courteau, Leslie Santor, Margaret Copeland, Cindy Teevers and Catherine Khan. Standing, left to right, are Brice Wightman (Instructor), Bert DeVry, Anthony Fitzgerald, Robert Laporte, Bob Shaw (Instructor), Miles Copeland, Evan DeCorte, Bob Kavanagh (Instructor), and Andre Bigras. Absent for photo are Ken Halcrow and Richard Rhine.

Written by Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ

Once again the OVMRC's Amateur Radio Course has produced an excellent group of new hams - 13 in all.

We were particularly pleased to have 5 YLs in the class this year. The members of the class were a very interesting group with a wide variety of backgrounds including a 14-year old high school student, executives and engineers from the high-tech industry, a public relations manager, housewives, an editor and a retired electronics professor. The course instructors do their best to make the course interesting to people with such a wide range of backgrounds.

The exam results were very good this year. Of the 13 students who completed the course, 8 received the Advanced Level qualification while the remainder received the Basic qualification. Five students passed the 12 WPM code test and 3 passed at the 5 WPM level. The others are likely to pass their 5 WPM tests during the next few weeks.

The students (and the instructors) were kept on their toes by Evan DeCorte, our 14-year old who is currently in Grade 9. Evan not only passed the 12 WPM code test but he also received the Advanced Level qualification and asked the most difficult questions! We were pleased to have Evan (and his father, Andre Bigras) in the course together.

Several of our YL students distinguished themselves, but Catherine Khan is particularly noteworthy. She received the top grade on the theory tests during the course, and passed at the Advanced Level and with 12 WPM. Catherine must have been inspired by her family. Her grandfather is VE3NI, her mother is VE3KKY, her father is VE3KKX, and her 3 brothers are VE3ASG, VE6EDS and VE3BYB ! Listen for Catherine who is now VE3KKZ.

The OVMRC course is not a cram course designed to enable students to pass the Basic
Continued on the next page

Computer Owners - Beware !

There is an item in the QUA column in the May issue of TCA about YYYYMMDD date format changes in preparation for year 2000.

The author of QUA (VE7BS) has received a note from VE6NM advising that when he tried this change in his Windows 95 it corrupted his C: drive !

Be warned that prior to attempting this change it would be wise to do a backup and prevent losing files stored in your C drive.

Amateur's Licence Suspended

Industry Canada has suspended the licence of a Central Ontario amateur for six months for willful interference. The suspension followed an investigation by the Department into complaints by amateurs about malicious interference on 2 metre repeaters spanning a period of more than two years. The repeater users played a major role in the investigation by collecting evidence and assisting in identifying the offender.

Industry Canada has advised that the amateur cannot be named because the information concerning the suspension relates to a matter between a private individual and the Government of Canada and is protected

under the Privacy Act. The amateur could have been identified only if court documents had been filed and the case thus had become part of the public record.

New RAC Appointment

Farrell Hopwood, RAC President, has announced the appointment of John Simpson, VE3NJU, of Nepean, as the RAC member of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee.

John Simpson is a highly qualified EMC specialist and also has been a radio amateur for more than 15 years. Professionally, John has worked in the EMC field since 1977. He is the Director, Technology, for Emcon Emanation Control Ltd., of Nepean.

Nomination Committee

Nomination Committee Chair, Jacques Choquette, has advised that his committee's work is progressing well. To date, he said, their slate has Doug Carswell as President, Jacques Choquette as Vice President, Patricia, VE3PUR, as Secretary, Treasurer is still vacant and a volunteer is needed. The various Standing Committees' Chairpersons are coming along with a number of repeat volunteers. However, there still remains room for further volunteers who are asked to contact Jacques if they would like to take an active role in the Clubs committee planning and work.

Graduates

Continued from previous page

exam in the shortest possible time. Our textbook, written several years ago by Doug, VE3ATY, covers well beyond the minimum information needed to pass at the Basic level. The instructors do their best to help the students understand the material and not to just memorize it. The exam results this year were encouraging in this respect. We also provide lots of practical information to ease the students' transition into active amateur radio operators.

We were greatly saddened this year by the loss of Gerry Wells, VE3CDS, who had been a fine teacher and a mainstay of the course for a long time.

The students will "graduate" at the club meeting on May 21 and will receive certificates and other awards. The course instructors hope that as many club members as possible will be present to welcome our new radio amateurs.

Document Shredding Service

If you have papers or documents which you would like shredded, contact David, VE3UES, at 746-8713. The work is guaranteed confidential. David's only stipulation is that your material must be free of staples and paper clips as these items will both break the shredding knives and jam the shredder.

Part 8

A LOOK AT YESTERYEAR

Written by Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Last month, this column carried some information from the November 1987 issue of the Rambler, specifically, "The club was formed Feb. 16, 1958 and met on mobile 75m and 19m, the first President was Ian McIntyre VE3DMT." I have been bitten by the "assumption snake" and must correct this error. Historical events deserve more careful attention. Ed Morgan informed me the OVMRC was formed in November 1957 by a group of mobile radio amateurs after a series of informal meetings. Gerry Erland, VE3BBY was elected Chairman to serve until the first general election was held.

In January 1958 the first general election was held. Gerry Erland, VE3BBY was elected President. Mike Larson, K5IJV/VE3, a USAF officer attached to the RCAF, was elected President in 1959. Ian MacIntyre, VE3DMT was elected President in 1960 so he was in fact the third President of the Club.

Let's get back to the December 1987 Rambler. Bob VE3KJK presented a unit of equipment on "permanent loan" to the club for display at VE3JW. This was an assembly consisting of an 813 tube and some smaller devices suitably mounted on a finished wooden base with an accompanying inscription. I wondered about this "mysterious" piece of equipment which was presented to the museum for

display by PR coordinator Leo VE3NVL?

An interesting program at a meeting involved two Radio Inspectors working for the DOC District Office. They provided an detailed overview of their duties. Some of the topics covered: amateur service restructuring which would take a few years to become a fact; a new amateur exam format which was initiated in June 1987 and the pass rate significantly increased since the essay type questions were replaced by multiple choice questions; all exams were still administered by the DOC on the second Wednesday of the month; and there was a waiting list of 122 for the two letter call signs.

The December 1987 Rambler also carried a very interesting article by the Past President Vance Johnson VE3OAO which should be published again. Vance put to rest the mystery surrounding "What hath God wrought?" He noted the Western Union Technical Review, Spring 1969 issue, contained an article written by William H. Watts, entitled "Morse . . . Pioneer of the Electronic Age. The Sending of the First Public Telegram Launched the Telegraph Industry." On May 24, 1844, Samuel Fairbanks Breese Morse, seated himself before his electromagnetic telegraph in the small chamber of the US Supreme Court. Congressmen and friends, including Miss Annie Ellsworth, daughter of the US Patent Commissioner, to whom Morse had given the

honor of selecting the text of the first telegram were gathered around Morse. The contents of the telegram were not disclosed until transmitted to avoid any suspicion of a prearranged message. At the receiving end, about 40 miles away, was Morse's partner and financial backer, Alfred Vail. He was also surrounded by a crowd, in the Pratt Street depot of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Baltimore. At Washington, the crowd quieted as Miss Ellsworth approached Morse and handed him her "secret" telegram. It read: "What hath God wrought!", a quotation from the Bible, Morse smiled and nodded his approval. He was a deeply religious man and this biblical quotation was perfect for the occasion. Morse slowly tapped out the message, letter by letter, on the sending key. At Baltimore, a steel stylus on Vail's recorder indented the dots and dashes on a moving paper tape. The message was transmitted in one minute, at 8:45 A.M. Immediately, Vail sent back the same message to Morse and they exchanged the latest news in each city including a report on the time. The original message tape can be seen in the Library of Congress. Despite the progress of his many rivals, Samuel F.B. Morse was the only one to spark the final, practical idea. While every element in his new electromagnetic telegraph was old, the "combination" was new enough to patent.

Potpourri

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

Monitoring Times, Mar 98 - The FCC has issued the experimental call sign KF2IHI to Flash Comm in Florida to use 2.8 MHz of the HF spectrum for its 2-way tracking/messaging network. Targeted for transportation and public service industries, the network allows real time tracking and message handling to buses, trucks, trailers and railcars. Flash Comm will send a 2 second packet burst using only specified frequencies. The service can only operate as a secondary and not cause interference to authorized users.

ANARC - The Association of North American Radio Clubs reports a 12% decrease in membership. Lost members were from clubs using a variety of frequencies. Cause can be as varied as from monetary problems to Internet use.

KC5FCU - Karen, KC5FCU of Louisiana mentions that the ARES National web site (www.ares.org) has a classified page. This free service is to help hams buy, sell or trade equipment.

Halifax - Their humourous and "real" look at the 80M bandplan: 3725 South American fisherman saying "Oooolla", 3740 Canadian Old Farts Nets, 3790 obnoxious DX pileups, 3800 QRM from DX pileups, 3910 conspiracy theories nets, 3830 right wing militia groups, 3850

discussions on gross medical conditions, 3900 American Old Farts Nets, 3950 obscenity laced discussions among "hams" who have received too much RF to the brain, 3980 QRM from European broadcasters.

Amateur Radio Newline - The Radio Society of Great Britain reports that ham radio style pirate operations are on the rise. Their regulatory agency will take enforcement action on the pirates centered around 6.600 MHz. This frequency area is assigned for exclusive use by aeronautical services.

Monitoring Times, Jan 98 - The Coast Guard's number one nuisance is false maritime distress calls for help and the main area for such hoaxes is Long Island, N.Y. Any search and rescue operation is very expensive and can be dangerous for all. The Coast Guard has invested \$100k in 3 direction finding sites for that area. Using signals from the 3 receivers a computer can triangulate and locate the source of a call in 7-10 seconds.

Pioneers, Ottawa - Great Britain reports increased activity from Europe in the 136 kHz using 1W ERP. G4GVC has heard OH1TN (Finland) at a distance of 1762 km! This band will soon be open to UK amateur transmissions.

W5YI - Ham radio could loose part of an important UHF band if in August the second civilian

frequency for the global positioning system frequency is assigned an allocation at 1.2 Ghz. The ham 23 cm band runs from 1240-1300 MHz. In Feb 1997, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense assured civilian GPS users of a second frequency considered essential for their use.

Amateur Radio Newline - SGC is bringing out the HF SGC-2020 for \$600 US. It has 40 memories, a CW keyer, digital readout and 20W output.

Sarnia - 70 year old Warren (AF9Q) of New Mexico has had an asteroid named after him in honor of his scientific contributions. Warren, after an engineering career, set up with his wife a research observatory in the Sacramento Mountains. Over the past year, Warren has helped in 3 major discoveries.

Various news reports - The net profits of major Japanese companies plunged almost 25 percent in the last year. This some say is forcing many firms to dump bad assets including investments in the United States, might impact on imported ham radio gear. Good news is prices will continue to drop. Bad news is at the point of nil profit, some companies might decide to withdraw from the North American market, eventually drying up the supply of new gear available to hams.

VOTING BALLOT

FOR THE 1998

JERRY WELLS AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The membership of the OVMRC has nominated the following four candidates for consideration as the 1998 Jerry Wells Amateur of the Year.

Club members in good standing are asked to vote for the candidate they feel best deserves to be designated the winner of this prestigious award.

PLEASE VOTE FOR ONLY ONE CANDIDATE !

Dan Doctor, VE3XDD

Dan has been nominated for his "outstanding" writing, editing and general work in producing the OVMRC's monthly newsletter, the Rambler.

Jake Guertin, VE2TQX

Jake is an "exceptional" worker who has consistently volunteered for various chores and functions. Jake is always available to lend his technical expertise to those in need of assistance.

Cy Webster, VE3SIY

Cy was one of the main instigators and promoters in helping the OVMRC obtain a sizeable federal grant to purchase new equipment for the demonstration station VE3JW.

Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH

Larry is a long-time, very active Club member. He has worked diligently in helping to organize Field Day, assisting with our flea market, filling in as chairperson at Club meetings, at VE3JW and other Club events. He was active during the ice storm helping distressed people in Cumberland and other areas.