



# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 40, Number 11, June, 1996

## Proposed Club Officers for 1996-1997

The Club's Nominations Committee, comprised of Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS and Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, has produced a slate of proposed Club officers for the ensuing year, 1996-1997.

The slate will be formally presented to the Club's membership for approval at the June Annual General Meeting. The proposed slate is as follows :

President-	NO NOMINATION
Vice President-	Dan Reardon, VE3GUU
Treasurer-	Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ
Secretary-	NO NOMINATION

### Committee Chairpersons

Amateur Radio Exhibit-	Jerry Wells, VE3CDS
Amateur Radio Training-	NO NOMINATION
Field Day -	Jake Guertin, VE3TQX
Flea Market-	Ken Barry, VE3KJB
Historical-	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH
Membership-	Gordon Beatty, VA3GRB
Newsletter--	Marc De Lanux, VE3ZRE
Programs -	NO NOMINATION
Publicity-	Steve Middleton, VE3RUU
Radio Operations-	Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC

and

Maurice-Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG
Technical- Bob Shaw, VE3SUY
Novice- Joe Donnelly, VA3JJD

The four positions without nomination will be the new executives' responsibility to fill. Our Club bylaws do not permit the nomination of candidates for the executive from the floor the night of our annual general meeting.

## VE3TWO Repeater To Be Upgraded

In a move to correct technical problems with the Club's repeater, VE3TWO, which have developed over the past several months, the Executive has voted to replace the repeaters 20 year old receiver with a new SCR200A Hi Performance Receiver. In addition, it was decided to replace the aging coax cable from the repeater to the antenna. Funding for the upgrade will be covered from current budget allocations.

It is expected that the upgrading work will be completed in six to eight weeks.

## It's Holiday Time

Our totally empty "in-basket" tells me that we've reached the end of yet another publishing year of the Rambler. It also signals that after three years of responsibility, it is time for the current editor to take his leave and make room for fresh, new ideas. It has been a pleasure, really, preparing the Club's monthly newsletter as it has given me the opportunity of meeting so many of you.

The month of June also brings to the fore the end of the school year for countless numbers of children. They will be running and playing on our streets. Their carefree manner means you and me must exercise extra caution when driving our cars to ensure their summer remains "carefree".

Have a wonderful, relaxing and safe summer and, please remember, drive carefully .

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

# RAMBLER

The Rambler is published monthly by:

The OVMRC  
Box 5530, Station F  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K2C 3M1

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## The 1995-1996 OVMRC Executive

President: Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ, 728-3666  
Vice-President: Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749  
Treasurer: Colin Finlayson, VE3UZU, 722-4452  
Secretary: Roger Rose, VE3XRR, 741-9847

## Standing Committee Chairs

Amateur Radio Exhibit: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 828-3839  
Amateur Radio Training: John Moffat, VE3NJ, 224-5204  
Field Day: Jake Guertin, VA3TQX, 744-2717  
Flea Market: Ed Strange, VA3CEJ, 828-4804  
Historical: Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, 739-8871 &  
Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565  
Membership: Gordon Beatty, VA3GRB, 722-4675  
Newsletter: Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214  
Publicity & Programs: Moe Cluff, VE3CTD &  
Leonard Chodat, VE3LPH, 733-5122  
Radio Operations: Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, 748-6597  
Technical: Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, 737-9443  
Novice: Joe Donneley, VA3JJD, 488-3299

## OVMRC Life Members

Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM  
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY  
Gerry King, VE3GK  
Fred Noble, VE3BAJ  
Jerry Wells, VE3CDS  
Bill Wilson, VE3NR

## Joining or Renewing RAC Membership

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

**OVMRC CODE PHONE - 737-0197**

**SEE THE OVMRC WEB PAGE:**

<http://www.worldlink.ca/ovmrc>

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

## Mark Your Calendar !

### Next general meeting:

Thursday, June 20th at 1930 hours in the main auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology. This will be the OVMRC's Annual General Meeting at which the Club's new executive for 1996-1997 will be chosen. Exercise your democratic right by attending and casting your vote !

### Deadline for next Rambler:

Friday, August 2, 1996.

### OVMRC's Repeater:

**VE3TWO , 147.300MHz (+)  
444.200MHz (+)**

## Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC exchanges newsletters with the following organizations:

Algoma ARC, Sault Ste Marie, ON  
Augusta Amateur Radio Assoc. Augusta, ME  
Border City Radio Club, Windsor, ON  
Chatham-Kent ARC Inc. Chatham, ON  
Calgary Amateur Radio Assoc. Calgary AB  
Comox Valley ARC, Comox, B.C.  
Halifax ARC, Halifax, N.S.  
Heritage ARC, Cobourg, ON  
Kingston ARC, Kingston, ON  
Lambton County ARC, Sarnia, ON  
London ARC, London, ON  
Metroplex ACA, New York  
Ottawa ARC, Ottawa, ON  
Pioneer ARC, Nepean, ON  
RAC, Kingston, ON  
Rideau Lakes ARC, Smiths Falls, ON  
Scarborough ARC Inc. Scarborough, ON  
Seaway Valley ARC, Cornwall, ON  
Sudbury ARC, Sudbury, ON  
Surey ARC, Surrey, B.C.  
Saskatoon ARC, Saskatoon, SK  
Thousand Island ARC, Brockville, ON  
West Island ARC, Dorval, PQ  
Winnipeg ARC, Winnipeg, MAN

## Sponsors

The OVMRC provides newsletters to the following organizations for their past support of our activities:

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON  
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc. Mississauga, ON  
Corel Corporation, Ottawa, ON  
WorldLink Internet Services Inc. Ottawa, ON

# Ramblings

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



In reviewing the happenings during the past two years, I am most impressed with the range of activities and changes that have occurred in the club.

There was the comprehensive questionnaire 2 years ago that guided the executive in setting the direction of club activities. The bylaws were reviewed and minor changes made to permit the section chairpersons to hold office for more than two successive years. We have since looked at the bylaws in greater depth and concluded that further changes are not needed. The letterhead logo was adopted as the official club logo, and the terms for its use on items for sale to club members were formulated. Provision was made for the easy formation of special interest groups within the club. A financial short fall last year forced us to sell surplus club equipment and to raise the membership fees for the first time in several years. These actions have reversed the financial picture so that we are expecting a small surplus this year, and are forecasting the same situation for next year. In response to our auditor's recommendation we have produced an up-to-date inventory of club owned equipment. Revenue raising projects by individuals for the benefit of the club were encouraged with a good degree of success. In addition, it was decided to charge a \$2 entry fee at our flea market, and a 50/50 draw was implemented at regular meetings.

Activities and operations within the club have similarly grown. The 70 cm repeater was commissioned and its transmitter replaced and the 2 m repeater receiver is in the process of being replaced as its performance is deteriorating. Tail gate swap meets were successfully inaugurated, and will, I hope, continue. The format of the monthly meetings has broadened with the introduction of a variety night to include

non-amateurs in our activities. The recent experimental variety night was judged to be successful and we are recommending that the next executive consider it as an annual event.

Other in-house club projects include: the assembly and placement of the VE3JW beam antenna; the relocating and upgrading of the VE3JW antennae; the first anniversary celebration of the refurbished station operation which was advertised internationally in 73, QST, and TCA; the building of thirty 40 m receivers for the radio course students; and the collecting and archiving of the club's history. On the philanthropic side the club has purchased 4 VHF SWR indicator kits with audio output, for presentation to the CNIB amateur radio project.

The club has been active in the sphere of public service, having put on a "Talk to Santa" each year at the Museum; participating in "Girl Guides on the Air" weekend for the past 2 years; providing demonstration stations at the 50th anniversary VE Day celebrations, the Central Canada Exhibition, and the boat show at Dow's Lake. Club members participated as communicators at Ski Marathons, National Capital Air shows, and at the Guinness book of records 50 horse hitch at Navan. Undoubtedly there are other instances of public service on the part of club members of which I am not aware.

Other forms of club publicity undertaken have been the purchase of the club banner that you see at every meeting, and an OVMRC home page on the internet which is still being crafted.

In addition to the exchange of newsletters with other clubs there has been contact on specific projects. We contacted the Calgary  
Continued on page 6

# Minutes

**OVMRC Regular Meeting, May 9, 1996.**

The meeting was called to order at 19:40 by President Ernie. The membership welcomed guests Rod, W9BRD, from Chicago, Jim, VE3IQ and Mike, VE3BUP.

André, VE3CLW, has a FT101 and asked what he could use to lubricate the Bandswitch dial. SW-40 was suggested. Baba, VE3KX, said that Radio Shack has a very good electronic lubricant.

Leonard introduced the program. First, we viewed a video prepared by Gerry, VE3GK, on his use of the TS-50 mobile. This was followed by a show and tell in the parking lot. Maurice-André, VE3VIG, showed his mobile packet station and Mike, VE3BUP, had a mobile bicycle with interesting features. Back in the auditorium, we viewed another video prepared by Mike, VE3FFK, which showed the set up of a 'portable' tower installation last fall.

John, VE3NJ, introduced the class graduates and presented each of them with a 1st CW contact certificate (ARRL), a Graduating Certificate (ARRL) and an Achievement Certificate (OVMRC). Of the 16 people who registered, 3 dropped out. Three already had their basic licence and overall, the course produced some very impressive results. B is for Basic, A is for Advance and numbers are the code speed obtained:

Best, Derek VA3AEF	B	5
Brien, Bernard, -VA3JBB	B	A 12
Brien, Charlie VA3SWR	B	A 12
Haskill, Jim VE3SPK	B	A 5
Oades, Lee Ann-VE3QLO	B	A 5
Oades, Michael-VE3QMO	B	A 5
O'Brien, Mike-VA3MGT	B	12
Parris, Mike VA3TJP	B	A 12
Pinfold, Michael-VA3TUF	B	12
Regan, Steve VA3MGY	B	A 12
Senez, John VA3JBS	B	A 12
Staples, Rick VE3TYC	B	A 5
Windsor, George-VA3GFW	B	A 12

Jim Dean, VE3IQ, also presented the graduates with a RAC pin. The students are all members of RAC and they were encouraged to continue their support and membership.

John presented a Special 1st contact award to Ed, VE3GX, for his patience and assistance with the students' first CW QSO.

Ernie congratulated the Training Committee and especially John for the superb work done on this course.

Dan, VE3XDD, the Nominating Committee Chairperson said that candidates are slowly falling in place. All four directors must step down this year. He also reminded everyone that there will be no nominations taken from the floor (Club By-law

8.4). The slate of nominees will be published in the June Rambler.

The Club's Web Page is now reality courtesy of Richard, VE3UNW, and Rick, VE3IHI. Suggestions or views on its content should be directed to Bob, VE3SUY.

Jim, VE3IQ, spoke about the upcoming QCWA convention which will be held in Ottawa this year. It will be held on Oct 4, 5 and 6 and more information is available on the weekly Thursday net at 8pm on VE3TEL.

A new repeater map/directory of Eastern Ontario and Northern New York, prepared by VE3AWT is now available for the low cost of 25cents.

The Flea Market will be held June the 8th at 200 Lees Avenue. Ed, VA3CEJ, is still looking for volunteers.

On June 9th, the club will provide communication for the Sundae Cycle event. Volunteers can call Dan, VE3XDD, or Jacques, VE3TSC, for further details.

Len, VE3LGZ, invited the membership to come and find out what gliding is all about. This event will be organize if there is enough interest. You can contact Len (749-5101) if interested.

Jake, VA3TQX, and Larry, VE3WEH, have done well with planning Field Day. A training session will also be held for those interested in learning how the event works and scores are tabulated. This session will be on Saturday, June 15th between 10 am and noon at the museum. Glen, VE3AKZ, donated 6 sections of tower, Jake found a good tri-bander beam and Paul, VE3JLP, offered the storage space. Volunteers are still needed and you can contact either Jake or Larry.

Bill, VE3NPG, spoke to us about the Air Show. There is no official club association to this event. The new graduates are encouraged to participate. Volunteers can contact Bill at 523-2298 for more information.

Leo, VE3NVL, announced that the Wise Owl net certificates are now available and can be picked up after the meeting.

Richard, VE3UNW, on behalf of the OARC, said that a basic licence course will be held over the summer. Registration is May 28th, 7pm in room 508 McKenzie Bldg (Carleton U). If interested, you can call Richard at 225-3275.

Two door prizes drawn. A museum family pass was won by Ted, VE3TGS, and Clem, VA3CWR, got a gift certificate from Pizza Hut.

Jacques, VE3TSC, was the lucky winner of the 50/50 draw. He took home \$28.50

The meeting was adjourned at 22:15. Coffee and goodies were served at the social gathering.

## Wise Owl Certificates Awarded

The Wise Owl, Leo Desjardins, VE3NVL, has announced the recipients of the Class "A" and "B" Wise Owl Certificates. A total of 28 amateurs have qualified for the decorative certificates by checking-in the Wise Owl Net, between January 19th and March 29th.

The recipients of a Class "A" certificate for checking-in a minimum of ten times during the qualifying period are: Chuck, VA3CAB; John, VA3LAR; Phil, VA3PR; Vincent, VA3VGH; Joe, VE2JHT; Evelyne, VE3ECW; Don, VE3GFG; Dan, VE3GUU; Herb, VE3HRB; John, VE3IAO; Rick, VE3IHI; Pat, VE3KJQ; Mailes, VE3MD; Denny, VE3OFV; Gerben, VE3SUV; Dan, VE3XDD; and George, VE3XS.

The recipients of a Class "B" certificate for checking-in a minimum of seven times during the qualifying period are: Gordon, VA3GRB; Paul, VA3HOE; Kim, VA3VKK; Steve, VE2CYV; Fred, VE3BAJ; Ernie, VE3EJJ; Mike, VE3FFK; Paul, VE3NPD; Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG; Ed, VE3VLF; and Al, VE3ZTU.

Certificates are available from Leo, VE3NVL, at any OVMRC regular meeting.

The great Wise Owl wishes to acknowledge and thank the following amateurs for acting as Net Controllers during the 1995-1996 qualifying period: Larry, VE3WEH; Rick, VE3IHI; Leonard, VE3LPH; Ian, VE3IJJ; Ernie, VE3EJJ; Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG; Jacques, VE3TSC; Ed, VE3VLF; and Jake, VA3TQX.

## Field Day - June 22 / 23

Field Day arrangements are quickly taking shape! Volunteer operators are still required for both CW and phone. And, of particular significance, orientation training is scheduled for Saturday morning, June 15th at the Museum for those who want training in logging, scoring, procedures, etc. Contact Jake, VA3TQX or Larry, VE3WEH.

## VE3CNE On The Air This Summer

Once again this summer VE3CNE, Canada's largest annual demonstration of amateur radio will be operating from the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.

Equipped with the very latest rigs on the market, courtesy of the various manufacturers, volunteer operators have an opportunity of "tire kicking" without having a sales person leaning over your shoulder extolling the virtues of their equipment. Amateurs can operate in many different modes, all under one roof, - HF, VHF/UHF, packet and other digital modes, and APRS. And those amateurs who volunteer to operate the VE3CNE station receive free admission to the CNE.

The station operates twelve hours a day, 1000 to 2200 EDT for eighteen consecutive days during the run of the CNE in late August and early September.

If you plan on being in Toronto during the CNE and would like to participate in this "once in year experience" write to:

Geoffrey Smith, VA3GS  
Chair - VE3CNE Committee,  
P.O. Box 28588,  
Aurora, Ontario,  
L4G 6S6

## Q C W A Convention

The Ottawa Chapter of the International Quarter Century Wireless Association will be the host of the association's first ever international convention to be held in Canada in Ottawa, October 4 and 5, 1996.

The convention's agenda boasts a wide range of amateur radio subjects. Jack Belrose will speak about The Fessenden/Marconi Story; Gerry King on Super Antennas; George Roach on The CFRA Move; Larry Kaiser, EME-Algonquin Style; Barry McLarnon, Packet Radio - The Ottawa Experience; The UFO Story; and much more.

Registration forms can be found on the Internet's Q C W A page - <http://www.efn.org/~qcwa>

# Satellite Frequencies

Reprinted from the Comox ARC Newsletter

With so many satellites up there - it becomes confusing recalling the up and down frequencies for each of them. The Comox, British Columbia ARC's newsletter carried the following listing for all of the satellites.

<u>SATELLITE</u>	<u>MODE</u>	<u>UPLINK</u>	<u>DOWNLINK</u>
OSCAR 10		435.025 - .175	145.83 - .98
OSCAR 13	MODE B	435.425 - .575	145.825 - .975
	MODE S	435.603 - .639	2400.711 - .747
OSCAR 16		145.90 - .96	437.051
OSCAR 19		145.84 - .90	437.126
OSCAR 20		145.9 - .146	435.8 - .9
OSCAR 22		145.9 - .975	435.12
OSCAR 23		145.85 - .90	435.175
OSCAR 25		145.87 - .98	436.5
OSCAR 26		145.875 - .90 - .925 - .95	435.822
OSCAR 27		145.85	436.797
RS 10	MODE A	156.86 - .90	29.36 - .40
	MODE K	21.16 - .20	29.36 - 40
	MODE T	21.16 - .20	145.86 - .90
RS 11	MODE A	145.91 - .95	29.41 - .45
	MODE K	21.21 - .25	29.41 - .45
	MODE T	21.21 - .25	145.91 - .95
RS 13	MODE A	145.96 - .146	29.46 - .50
	MODE K	21.26 - .30	29.46 - .50
	MODE T	21.26 - .30	145.96 - .146
RS 15	MODE A	145.85 - 89	29.36 - 40

## Ramblings

Continued from page 3

Amateur Radio Association concerning their mode of operation and received a very informative reply. Similarly, we provided information to the Stellarton NS Science and Technical Museum on the setting up of a demonstration amateur radio station. Perhaps the most rushed contact with another club was the finding of billets for 4 Russian hams passing through Ottawa to spend a couple of weeks with members of the Thunder Bay ARC. Our contacts with other groups also included the Department of Industry when a petition opposing EMCAB 2 was sent to Hon. John Manley carrying about 100 signatures of club members.

The foregoing activities are most impressive, and would not have been possible without the dedicated and cooperative executive that I have been privileged to lead these past 2 years. I give them my heart felt thanks, and so should you all.

To look forward, the scene with the Museum is changing. You have seen evidence of it in changed meeting dates and locations. Hopefully, this particular 'turbulence' will be cured by some changes implemented by the Museum management. However, indications are that the club will be asked to undertake somewhat more formalized obligations so as to have access to facilities we now use. At this point it appears that there may be a need to contribute an agreed amount of volunteer time in return for the use of the facilities. The details of this approach are still being formulated by Museum staff, however, I expect that the volunteer time required of us will not be onerous if we are able to spread it among a large number of our members. May I leave you with these thoughts: Have a wonderful Field Day, and a happy and safe summer.

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1996 - 1997**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Revised</u> <u>95/96</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>95/96</u> (to 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr 96)	<u>Proposed</u> <u>96/97</u>
<b><u>Club Operations</u></b>			
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Membership Dues	4850	4937	5000
Flea Market - Sales	1800	1800*	1800
- Raffle	700	700*	800
Donations	650	611	650
Sale - Surplus Equipment	100	100*	0
Bank Interests/Term Deposit	40	40*	200
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	8140	8188*	8450
<b><u>Expenditures</u></b>			
Insurance	956	956	1000
Station Licence & Repeater Council Membership	100	100*	118
Rambler	2100	2100*	3000
Repeater	650	650*	650
Field Day	750	750*	500
Office Supplies	100	100*	100
Name Tags	0	0	100(?)
Flea Market	1000	1000*	600
Promotion & Publicity	350	350*	350
Misc. - QSL cards, Etc.	100	50*	150
Bank Charges	50	50*	50
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	6156	6106	6618
<b><u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</u></b>	1984	2082	1832
 <b><u>Course Operations</u></b>			
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Course Registration (12 students)			
Material Sales and Royalties**	4840	4362*	3341
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Course Material, Supplies, Name Tags, Code Phone and Equipment Depreciation	4837	3939*	3341
<b><u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</u></b>	3	423*	0

(\*) Figures to be updated at the end of our operation year in June.

(\*\*) Royalties (\$761) may be higher by as much as \$600. Extra money would be used for honorarium.

It's

# The OVMRC

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of year again ! Yes, it's time to renew your Club membership for the 1996 - 1997 season. Be a member of the OVMRC and enjoy what is sure to be an interesting, informative and entertaining program of guest speakers and events in the coming year. Don't miss out on all the fun - complete the renewal form at the bottom of this page and, along with your cheque, mail them to the Club's postal box. This procedure will ensure the uninterrupted delivery of your monthly issue of the Rambler, the inclusion of the your name in the Club's Directory of Members (to be issued early in the new program year), and help eliminate having a long line of members waiting to register and renew their membership at the registration desk before meetings. Please note the revised membership dues which came into effect as of July 1, 1995:

- (1) Full membership with the Rambler mailed to your residence each month.....\$25/year.
- (2) Full membership and receiving the Rambler by one of the alternate methods provided by the Club other than delivery by Canada Post.....\$20/year

**THE OVMRC MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS JULY 1ST TO JUNE 30TH**

# OVMRC

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.  
Box 5530, Station F, Ottawa, ON K2C 3M1

## Membership Application

- The membership year starts in July and runs to June 30 of the following year.
- Regular membership is only open to licensed amateurs.
- Associate membership is open to all radio enthusiasts.
- The family rate is for second and subsequent members of the same family living at the same address.

Call Sign	Surname	Preferred First Name	Date
Mailing Address		Apartment Number	BBN
City	Province	Postal Code	
Home Phone	Work Phone		Amount Enclosed

- One year membership. Regular or Associate, includes mailed Rambler - \$25/year
- One year membership. Regular or Associate, without mailed Rambler - \$20/year
- Family rate. For family of current members. No mailed Rambler - \$ 5/year

\$ <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> Cash
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# Field Day Mystique

What is it about that weekend in June that drives sane people to join other amateurs in a lemming-like migration to one of the local Field Day sites? Some instinctive drive makes them perform feats of strength and daring, erecting outlandish antennas and attaching them to every tree or other structure in sight.

Attired in headgear emblazoned with call signs, these otherwise staid pillars of the community swarm up shaky towers and undersized trees trailing masses of wire and coax, while chanting, "Only forty-five minutes left" and "Did anyone check the generator?" Or they implore each other to find "just one more barrel connector."

At ground level an equally fanatic group searches for the missing mike being carried around by another group looking for "the rig." But "the rig" is still in the trunk of a car now hurrying off site to pick up the extension cord promised by the guy who just called on the repeater to say, "Sorry, but I can't make it before about four o'clock."

At this time the need for the coffee maker becomes critical. The instructions to the appointed person: "Try to make the coffee better than last year's mud." Soon after he carefully measures out the coffee, he screams, "Nobody thought to fill the water bottles!" He disappears racing over to the museum hoping to find a facet high enough to put the water bottle under it.

As two o'clock nears, it becomes clear that all is lost. The classic goes up, "Let's get one dipole up, so we can start with at least one station on the air." Someone attaches coax to two pieces of wire that might be an antenna. Someone else fires up the generator, and runs an extension cord to a rig in one of the tents where a forlorn group huddles over a mike and a CW key in abject sorrow.

Then there's a cry from the trees, "The antennas are up." Log sheets appear next to the now operating rigs, cups of thick black coffee appear from nowhere, and the bands erupt with, "CQ, CQ, CQ, CQ Field Day!"

Soon the annual madness peaks; longtime friends stop screaming at one another and

settle down to logging QSOs, as they have for many years. The ritual again enacted, the gods of radio are appeased.

And soon someone sows the seeds of future madness with a simple remark like, "You know, next year we should get our beam on a higher tower to get better coverage."

The cycle, begun anew, will culminate a year hence in another irresistible urge to migrate to "the site."

## Hear That Remote?

For all those amateurs with an advanced licence as well as those who enjoy electronic tinkering, here is a small project for you that might prove to be interesting.

I needed to troubleshoot my infrared remote control (used on TVs, VCRs, etc.). Poor battery contacts, dead batteries, debris on the switch pads (under the button membrane), or cracked PC boards (from throwing the thing at talk-show hosts) cause most problems with remotes.

I hooked a photodiode across the mike input of an audio amplifier, so I could "hear" my remote's infrared pulses. Now I can test my remote in a jiffy. It amazes my friends, too.

## Church Bulletin Gaffes

- \* Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- \* Thursday at 5pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be Little Mothers will meet the Paster in his study.
- \* For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- \* Don't let worry kill you - let the church help
- \* Thursday night - potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- \* Wanted : Chambermaid in rectory. Lovein, \$200/month, references required.

# Potpouri

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



Radio World - The latest sales total from certain frequencies being put to bid for Personal Communications Services in the US is \$3.3 billion!! (Sad to say the same is being done here in Canada - VE3TSC)  
Monitoring Times May/96 - A CB'er titled as "Brander" did not make many friends upon his moving to Vancouver. After his arrival he was the cause of several complaints of interference to neighbors phones, stereos, and TV's. When he was notified of this he responded with profanities. The authorities were called in when one evening he got as far as 340 in the party song "999 Bottles of Beer on the Wall". He was sentenced to a \$200 fine, 2 days of jail and 8 days on a work crew. (Now what does he sing? VE3TSC)  
Internat - There will be a Sable Island, Nova Scotia DXpedition which will be active in late June/96 in various modes on the frequencies 2-160M. There call sign will be CY0AA. Check either a RAC Bulletin or TCA for more details.

QST May/96 - Seems an Irish ham was refused by local city planners to erect an antenna. The ham found a loophole which would allow him to build an antenna as long as it didn't touch the ground. He erected a 60' aerial on his Land Rover parked out front instead of the originally planned hidden location in the back garden!!

Monitoring Times Apr/96 - Seems the commander of a Texas narcotics force was conned into purchasing a \$3250 Quadro Tracker. This hand held device was supposed to be able to detect drugs, guns and explosives. Only problem is that this pocket sized box did not work! When the Institute for Justice looked into the box all they found was "plastic and air". When one of the so called "chips" was opened it was found to contain a

plastic covered piece of paper. According to investigators at least a thousand such boxes were sold.

Kansas City Star - Two amateurs used their radios to capture a trio of thieves. One amateur saw them going down a street with full shopping carts towards a pick-up truck with no license plates. Upon tailing them, he saw them stop and put licence plates on the vehicle. This was relayed by radio to another amateur who informed the police.

Lambton (Sarnia) - Here are some various nets which you may be interested in checking out:

ARES Canada	Sunday2000Z14.115
Canadian 10M	Sunday1600Z28.400
Clara	Tuesday1900Z14.133
Snowbird	M-W-F1900Z14.160
Canada DX	Sunday1600Z14.173
International	M-F0045Z14.303

Assistance/Traffic

RAC - Remy, VE2BRH, is the new RAC Space Agency representative. He has helped Canadian astronauts in getting their ham radio license. At the Space Agency HQ in St. Hubert, P.Q. a VHF/UHF station has been set up and its expected an HF station will be coming soon. Agency call signs are VE2CSA (English) and VE2ASC (French).

Thanks to clubs for letting me demonstrate Wil's, VE3XMT, Winkman VHF SWR/RF detector kit. Thirty-nine kits were assembled at the building sessions. These kits can be purchased for \$50, plus tax and shipping/handling. Also available - schematics, circuit boards and the assembly manual for the Winkman or the schematics for an intermod filter or a mike VOX. For more details contact Jacques, VE3TSC at (613) 748-6597 or see the Web site "www.tenebris.com/-warren."