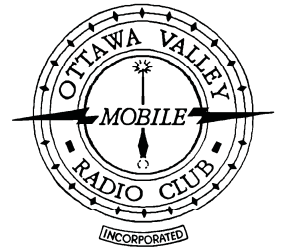


Rambler

Newsletter of the
Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club Inc. (OVMRC)
Volume 45, Issue No 9



Inside...

President's Ramblings	3
RAC Awards Chairman	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Bunny Hunting	5
Changes in VE3JW	6
Yesteryear	7
Letter to Editor	8/9

Reminders...

Club Meeting	Apr 19
PSK 31 Special Event	
Exec. Meeting	Apr 26
OVRC	
Meeting/Auction ...	May 2
Rambler	
Deadline	May 4
OVMRC	
Flea Market ..	May 5
Next Club Meeting	May 17



OVMRC honoured Glen McLeod, VE3GLN and Pierre Cyrenne, VE2GPF for their outstanding efforts organizing Field Day 2000 in the National Capital Area.

At the March Meeting of the OVMRC, President Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG asked Glenn McLeod, VE3GLN, and Pierre Cyrenne, VE2GPF, to come forward to each receive a plaque recognizing their outstanding organizational efforts in Field Day 2000. In accepting his award, Glenn McLeod acknowledged the work of a number of amateurs who played a major role in helping to set a North American field day record of having 35 stations on air. Glenn pointed out that because of our record and the ensuing efforts of U.S. groups to illegally equal or surpass it, the rules for future field day events have been changed making it much more difficult to eclipse our record. Pierre Cyrenne thanked the OVMRC for acknowledging their efforts. He said it was an honour to be so recognized. He advised that he has had made up a supply of CDs of the highlights of FD2000 and are for sale at \$12 each. Both Pierre and Glenn agreed that while they very much enjoyed their co-chairmanship of the event, neither was prepared to again undertake such a huge event.



Rambler

OVMRC Executive (1999-2000)

President	Susan Mogensen, VE3MOG 833-2766, ve3mog@rac.ca
Vice-President	Dan Reardon, VE3GUU 721-3339, ve3guu@igs.net
Treasurer	Linda Balke, VA3LJB 737-4003, va3ljb@rac.ca
Secretary	Dan Doctor, VE3XDD 745-9214, ddoctor@magma.ca

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Amateur Radio Exhibit	Maurice-André Vigneault, VE3VIG 749-9010, ve3vig@rac.ca
Amateur Radio Training	Bob Shaw, VE3SUY 737-9443, lycott@fox.nstn.ca Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666
Accredited Examiner	Bob Kavanagh, VE3OSZ 225-6785, ve3osz@rac.ca
Field Day	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, kenh@intranet.ca
Historical	Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH 747-5565, ve3weh@rac.ca
Flea Market	Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, va3tqx@magma.ca
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Radio Operations	Vacant
Emergency Readiness	Ken Halcrow, VE3SRS 837-3261, kenh@intranet.ca
Technical	Jake Guertin, VA3TQX 253-3732, va3tqx@magma.ca
Webmaster	John Roger, VE3JR 747-6577, ve3jr@rac.ca

OVMRC Life Members

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

Note: Affiliated Clubs

The OVMRC no longer exchanges newsletters with other Amateur Radio Clubs. The *Rambler* is available on-line at the club website:

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca/rambler.htm>

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OVMRC code phone

Practice your CW
737-0197



OVMRC Repeater

147.300 MHz(+)
444.200 MHz(+)
53.030/52.030 MHz



OVMRC web page

<http://www.ovmrc.on.ca>
Webmaster: John Roger,
VE3JR, jcr@magma.ca



Next Meeting

Apr 19
Rambler Deadline
May 4

The *Rambler* is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. and is published 11 times a year (monthly, except for July). Opinions expressed in the *Rambler* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the OVMRC Inc., its officers or its members. Permission is granted to republish the contents in whole or in part, providing the source is acknowledged. Commercial use of the contents is expressly prohibited. Submit articles to the editor or by e-mail to: va3wmh@rac.ca.



Who will be our next president? Could it be you?

As the club year winds down, it's time to strike a Nominating Committee to seek out a new Executive Committee to lead the OVMRC into 2002. If you would like to help shape next year's Executive Committee by participating on the Nominating Committee, please let me know as soon as possible and your name will be put forward.

As for the president's job, don't be afraid to seize the opportunity if you have any interest in helping to make the OVMRC one of the best Amateur Radio clubs in the region. The job description for club President is as follows: 1. Find out what club members want, and 2. Give it to them. Then just stick to a clear set of values and you'll be fine.

And don't worry about making the odd mistake. I've made my share for sure. Just recently, in fact, I heard second-hand that some club members felt the *Hogan's Heroes* video clip shown at the last club meeting was offensive, a bad choice given some all-too-real experiences club members have had during WWII or in wartime generally. If that clip offended you, please accept my apologies. The intention was to make mock of Hollywood's inaccurate portrayal of Amateur Radio, and it was a clip I happened to have handy. (I had another one to show you from the movie *Phenomenon*, but accidentally erased half of it before the club meeting).

The program to round out this year includes PSK31 at the April meeting, Graduation and Volunteer Appreciation Night in May, and our AGM in June. I think by the end of the year we will have had a nice mix of the technical and the not-so-technical, the new and the old, the light and the heavy, and the social and the educational. While our general meeting attendance and membership numbers remain steady at about 70 and 150 respectively, that's not to say there isn't room for improvement if next year's Executive Committee wants to try out some new ideas. There is, after all, a great deal of potential within this club. Our finances are sound, we have a great membership base, lots of volunteers, and access to excellent resources.

If I were retired (a few years off, perhaps?), I would love to pursue a number of project ideas that have been bandied about but never really pursued. I especially like the idea of getting more involved in educating young people and the public generally about Amateur Radio, for instance, and I wouldn't mind getting more active on the emergency preparedness side. Hopefully I will have a chance to continue to help out the club in some small way after this year.

Anyhow, the year isn't over yet! We still have a few more exciting events ahead of us, including the fleamarket on May 5, and a back-to-basics Field Day at the end of June. First up, though, is our April 19 meeting — "PSK Night" — when we will learn all about PSK31, and see how the kit-building exercise turned out. We will also be joined by Ian, VE3PSK, who will accept a cheque for \$300 from the OVMRC to the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Don't miss it! ❖

RAC Bulletin

RAC appoints New Awards Manager April 2, 2001

RAC President Kenneth Oelke today announced the appointment of Dave E Reid VE6BIR, as RAC Awards Manager replacing Russ Wilson VE6VK, who recently retired from the position.

Dave was first licensed in May of 1961 as VE2BIR, and has been an active Amateur since. Dave has held calls VE3EZZ, VE4RF, VE3OOL, and currently, VE6BIR. His main operating interests are casual DX chasing and contesting, much of it done QRP style using an Argonaut 509.

Dave is a Professional Engineer, and graduated from Queen's University in 1965. He joined TransCanada PipeLines in 1967, and retired from that organization, as Vice President of Engineering and Construction, in July of 1998.

For further information regarding RAC Awards, see <http://www.rac.ca/awards.htm>

Guy Charron VA3FZA
Bulletin Editor
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HUGE SUNSPOT: The largest sunspot in ten years is crossing the solar disk. The fast-growing spot, called AR9393, covers an area of the Sun equivalent to the total surface area of 13 Earths! Visit spaceweather.com to learn how this sunspot compares to others in history and how to safely observe it.

AURORA ALERT: An eruption near sunspot AR9393 hurled a coronal mass ejection toward Earth on Wednesday. Forecasters estimate a 15 to 25% chance of severe geomagnetic storms when the expanding cloud buffets our planet's magnetic field, most likely on Friday, March 30th.

For more information and updates, please visit <http://www.spaceweather.com>.

Thursday, February 15th

President Susan opened the meeting at 1935 hours by welcoming members and guests.

Susan called upon Ken Halcrow to introduce our guest speaker for the evening, Dave Lawrence, VE3ORP, of Kingston. In introducing Dave Ken provided his background, experience and affiliation with the Military Communications and Electronics Museum in Kingston.

Dave titled his presentation "Discovery and Development of Communications Technology".

Commencing in medieval times with an "idea", Dave traced the development of communications through to today's Internet. He concluded his presentation by saying he could not project with any accuracy what development or what technology the future will bring. He had brought a number of exhibits from the Kingston Museum to supplement his talk.

An accomplished speaker, Dave's excellent presentation was well received by the Club's members who joined him in a questions and answer session following his speech. Club members expressed an interest in visiting the Military Communications Museum in Kingston at some future time.

President Susan thanked Dave for accepting our invitation to come to Ottawa and making such an extremely interesting presentation.

It was suggested by Larry Wilcox that the OVMRC consider making a cash donation to the Military Museum to help support its maintenance.

Maurice Andre Vigneault advised that students at the Merivale Public School were the first Canadian school to communicate directly with the International Space Station as it passed overhead. Well known local ham, Clare Fowler, played a leading role in setting up the necessary equipment and directing the contact.

Susan advised that our next meeting will be Thursday, March 15th. It will combine Morse Code Mania and Home Brew. In all, it should be a real fun night.

Bob Shaw told the meeting that the radio course has just started studying morse code. He invited anyone interested in acquiring or improving their code to contact him. The cost of joining the course for the code portion is \$25.

Linda Balke reported on the Club's finances. There is \$6424.66 in our chequing account and we have a \$10,000 term deposit. Linda asked members, particularly the executive and committee chairpersons, to provide her with details of their cash requirements for next year as she has started compiling next years budget.

Winners of door prizes - Liz Johnson won a clock donated by Bill Wilson; Maurice Andre Vigneault won a box of chocolates; and Karen won Quik Tax software.

Patricia Rowan won the 50/50 draw.

The meeting adjourned at 2110 hours.

Thursday, March 15th

President Susan opened the meeting at 1940 hours by welcoming members and guests. She presented and reviewed the agenda for the evening.

Susan asked Glenn McLeod, VE3GLN, and Pierre Cyrenne, VE2GPF, to come forward to each receive a plaque recognizing their outstanding organizational efforts in Field Day 2000. In accepting his award, Glenn McLeod acknowledged the work of a number of amateurs who played a major role in helping to set a North American field day record of having 35 stations on air. Glenn pointed out that because of our record and the ensuing efforts of U.S. groups to illegally equal or surpass it, the rules for future field day events have been changed making it much more difficult to eclipse our record. Pierre Cyrenne thanked the OVMRC for acknowledging their efforts. He said it was an honour to be so recognized. He advised that he has had made up a supply of CDs of the highlights of FD2000 and are for sale at \$12 each. Both Pierre and Glenn agreed that while they very much enjoyed their co-chairmanship of the event, neither was prepared to again undertake such a huge event.

Next on the agenda was the Home Brew portion of the program. Five interesting projects were demonstrated by Larry Kaiser, Bill Wilson, Jake Guertin, Bob and Carl. The membership was asked to choose the winners of the home brew with their applause. First place went to Carl and second place went to Bill Wilson.

Bob Shaw introduce the topic of having a "construction party" to build PSK-31 audio kits. Each kit cost \$15 and is relatively easy to build. Bob would like to have between 15 and 20 amateurs involved in building the kits which he suggested could be donated to the radio course where the chips would be reprogrammed for morse code. Anyone interested is asked to contact Bob Shaw.

The main feature of the evening, Morse Mania, was next on the program. The first event was sending morse code with the left foot. Three volunteers took part - Dave VE2ZP, Mike, VE3FFK, and Pierre, VE2GPF. Following a fun-filled event, Mike, VE3FFK was declared the winner.

Next a panel of ten amateurs, Rod, VE3ZBB, Jim, VE3IQ, Alan, VE3HX, George, VE3BNO, Dave, VE2ZP, Chris, VE3FU, Rich, VE3IAY, Pierre, VE2GPF, Ralph, VE3BBM, and Roger, VE3BZR, were tested by increased code speed. Round one was at 15 WPM which everyone successfully copied. Round two was at 20 WPM which knocked out six of the panel members. Round three was at 25 WPM which knocked out another two panel members leaving Dave VE2ZP and Chris, VE3FU. Round four was at 30 WPM. While both panel members recorded errors, Dave was declared winner having recorded fewer mistakes.

It was moved by Dan Johnson, seconded by Bill Wilson, that Liz Johnson be appointed to audit the Clubs books for the fiscal year 1999- 2000. Carried.

Continued on page: 8

Bunny Hunting

Maurice-Andre
ve3vig@rac.ca
(alias ve3fox)



March Bunny Hunt winners Maurice-André, VE3VIG and Dave, VE3ZZU

When “Mike on the bike”, VE3ZY, picked a spot for the March Bunny Hunt he was surely not on his bike. Carlsbad Spring is not an easy spot to get to on a bike at the end of February! We should have had a clue when he named the hunt that was to take place on the 4th of March: “March Forth”. Yes indeed, we did, marched forth outa town!

Those who did were the following teams. Don and Jake, VE3DRO/VA3TQX, Larry and Patrick, VE3WEH/VA3CMD, Dan and Susan, VA3JAR/VE3MOG, me and U, that is Dave, VE3ZZU, all chasing for the country-side hopping bunnies, Mike, Al and Pete (MAP) another clue that you needed a good “map”.

This was the first time we had gone so far out of town to retrieve the bunny. In order to deceive us, it was pumping 20,000 watts (really Peter??...) into a 20 element cross beam antenna aimed directly up the 417 highway. The signal was so strong downtown that you could swear the bunny was close by.

However, armed with a Cushcraft, three element hand-held Yagi, we first took a reading from the starting point at the corner of St-Laurent Blvd and Donald St. where all the teams had assembled. Not a very good spot as several high buildings covered all horizons. Our indication was a signal to the East and a somewhat stronger one to the South.

We decided to go South and we reached the top level of the St-Laurent Mall parking. Now, having a clear view, we picked up a steady signal to the south-east. On to our next reading. We had a

360 degrees S9, except when I shielded the Yagi with my body and got a small variation of signal level when pointing to the Northwest.

The last time I hunted Mike, he was using less than half a watt. Not this time! Unfortunately, we did not have an attenuator. But the signal was so strong that we could hear it 15 KHZ off the bunny frequency. We used the off frequency tuning and steered right in.

In Carlsbad Spring we came to a corner with five roads. As always, It was the last one we tried that got us closer. We stopped at a garage. I had read that they carry maps of their own area. Not so for this one. It was not an “Esso”. Nevertheless, we found “Carlsbad Lane”, followed our indications of direction from our Yagi readings, and when we saw a “Dead End” sign on the Southwest branch, we felt sure we had the bunny.

Dave was doing the direction finding and I was driving. After 49 kilometres of road we bagged the bunny. It was sitting on top of Al’s car which was parked in front of Pete’s blue van to hide it, and both vehicles were in the shadow of an eighteen wheeler cargo box, about two hundred yards beyond the very far end of the Dead End.

Other hunters joined us after a little prompting. Dan drove 158.8 kilometres counting road distance and penalties. Don drove 181.9 Ks, Larry drove 192.2 clicks. A very enjoyable, sunny day in the crisp, Canadian winter air and mounds of white snow. A setting to cool off any frustrated hunters who could not find the bunny in the Mer Bleue area, who could not get used to a new piece of hunting gear, or found difficulty handling a broken double-ducky DF antenna.

As Dave did most of the df’ing he earned the right to brag and took the bunny home to feed it until the next bunny hunt. As Dave’s partner and driver, I exercise my right here by brag... relating the story to you. We all joined up again at the starting point over a hot soup and an abundant assortment of Tim’s fine pastries, (ehrr!...box of donuts)

The next hunt will be held only after Easter, due to Dave’s other commitments. It will be a hunt run under the International Transmitter Hunting Rules. For instance, the power level will not vary; the antennas will be fixed; and there may be a choice of as many as five bunnies. Results will consider the amount of bunnies found, and the total time spent to the last bunny found.

Till then, build your df’ing equipment, calibrate your antennas, sharpen up your skills, and come to get qualified as genuine fox.

Changes in VE3JW

Maurice-André
Amateur Radio Exhibit
ve3vig@rac.ca

It has come to my ear that some radio amateurs in this region apprehend the many changes taking place at the VE3JW Exhibit Station. I suppose that it is normal to react adversely to any changes brought on to our set ways. But in order to advance we need challenges.

“Change is the spice of life” we often hear, and I agree; if you don’t move you’re dead... The millions of changes and moves in our biological make up, and metabolism, are what keeps us alive.

At JW, we have many choices of activities to make you move and to help you progress in the field of communications. Interesting challenges that will make your Amateur Radio hobby more pleasurable and render your communications skills more effective.

Radio development has entered a stage in which the amateur experimenter of necessity must become an amateur in other vitally related earth and space science. He must learn to understand and use new tools and apparatus in order to make the most effective use of the spectrum...Radio is not strictly a terrestrial art...

These words, in the para above, are very much applicable today, but they were written many decades ago. They appeared in the November 1943 QST magazine and were from Hollis French, W1JLK. In his article, he talked about opening up new frontiers for radio communications. Indeed, new frontiers have been opened with the establishment of space based satellites and radio controlled space crafts reaching ever farther into our galaxy. Sampling for SETI is another way to reach beyond.

Yes indeed, we’re a long way from the smoke signals and the spark-gap transmitter. Although we are at a “Museum”, the object of the VE3JW radio station is to display and operate today’s new tools and apparatus.

For us, these are new modes, new radios and new antennas. Digital modes on the HF bands, FM and data communications through amateur satellites, and voice contacts with the astronauts and cosmonauts on the Space Station through ARISS.

You are invited to come and see for yourself these new tools. We will introduce you to them, explain their operation, provide necessary training for you to operate them. And, with this newly acquired knowledge, you will be in a better position to decide whether you wish to accept these changes and pursue them on your own, or come at JW to enjoy them.

Through understanding of these new tools, and a feel of them, your fears will hopefully evaporate, as they did after your first contact on 2 metres. Come see us, we’d be glad to have you, for a visit, an occasional shift, or a regular one. I’m sure we can accommodate you.

SETI - Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence
ARISS - Amateur Radio on International Space Station

JOIN THE NEW GROUP

You are a Radio Amateur, you live in an apartment or a house where you cannot set-up a proper antenna, or, you had to take it down for fear of causing RFI into your neighbourhood.

You want to keep your skills up, now that you have a Radio Amateur license.

You’d like to have the opportunity to go beyond 2 metre operation.

You like to be active on the radio bands, yet, mobile operation does not fill all your need because of its limitations.

You’d like to see the world open up with a voice, digital or video mode.

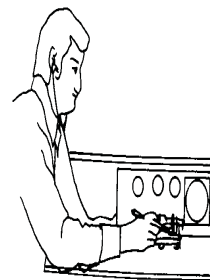
You have all the necessary equipment at home but you would like to operate in a comfortable, state-of the-art, open to public, well equipped station where you can demonstrate all the fun things about Amateur Radio.

You’re in luck! Opening very soon is a new radio group that possesses all the radio equipment to allow you to experience and explore every facet of the Amateur Radio Hobby.

It is a unique Club in that there are no registering fees, no regular fees, and no fees of any kind. IT’S ALL FREE! As a bonus for attending, you get invited to an annual dinner and fun evening.

Join now by calling to reserve your own day and time. Hurry! as limited openings are filling fast. Very simple, just call (613) 749-9010 and leave your callsign and telephone number. We’ll tell you all about it.

NEW AMATEUR RADIO EXHIBIT GROUP
for the whole National Capital Region



Welcome to spring! If you have any doubt, just look and you'll notice that the snow is disappearing, snowbirds and songbirds have arrived from the sunny south, and the flies have arrived, not to mention the April showers! Once again, it is time to think about the wonder of Amateur radio, clean out the shack, sell those treasures at our May 5th Flea market, check your antennas, and encourage your friends, relatives or acquaintances to become involved in some small way with Amateur radio. Since you don't have to pay for an annual licence anymore, thanks to Industry Canada, you should consider joining Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) or if you are already a member, make a donation to the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF). To learn more about their role and to find out how to get your name on the DARF web page as a donor, you can check out their web site located at: <http://www.igs.net/~darf/>

APRIL 1991 RAMBLER - The front page featured Pat Brewer VE3KJQ writing about, "The Delegated Examiner Program - How It Went First Time Around." At the time, Pat was a Delegated Examiner (DE) along with Jerry Wells VE3CDS, and Ed LeBlanc VE3VLF and all of them were involved in teaching Amateur Radio to 39 students on the OVMRC course. Pat explained how the DE program worked and noted 28 of the 39 students wrote the Basic Qualification exam and 24 passed. Eleven of the 28 students also wrote the Advanced Qualification and all of them passed. Twelve students had passed both sending and receiving CW at 5 WPM and another five had passed their 12 WPM tests. The average mark attained on the Basic exam was 71% and on the Advanced exam the average was 78%. Pat also mentioned that five people, who did not regularly attend the course, wrote the exam that evening and only two of them passed. It appears your chances of passing are much higher if you attend the course! Pat provided a list of fifteen of the newly licenced Amateurs as of April 1991 and they included: Al Ablest VE3SUP, Roy Ailed VE3HTT, Doug Barnard VE3SPF, Roger Broughton VE3SUB, Cecil Dick VE3DYK, Stan Elliott VE3FSE, Randy Fisher VE3WRF, Herb Gillingham VE3HRB, Winston Hetherington VE3WTH, Gerber Kamstra VE3SUV, John Leaker VE3JOL, Ken Mackinnon VE3ZZK, Stephen Nickerson VE3OPS, Wayne Parker VE3WCB, Don Foster VE3SXU and Bob Shaw VE3SUY. How many of them do you know and where are they now?

In his Strays column, President, Doug Carswell VE3ATY noted George Dew VE3OWW described his "Doppler-shift direction finding system" and Gerry King VE3GK, described his "dipole direction finding unit" and the advantages and disadvantages of both would be discovered during the June 1, 1991 Bunny Hunt. The club's Flea Market took place on April 20th. The Bylaws had been amended by the Special Bylaws Committee consisting of Al Boyce VE3LNH, Pat Brewer VE3KJQ and Chuck King VE3PDK. Doug thanked them for their more than 100 hours spent in preparing the revised Bylaws. He noted the Bylaws had been "simplified" - membership descriptions were cut from five to three types, the former two "Past" officers were cut to one with only the President

qualifying for this title, and an executive officer either the President, Vice-President, or Secretary, could only hold office for two years. Speaking of Elections, they are coming up in June! The club needs lots of volunteers to serve on the Executive and could use some new blood from our recent graduates - so if you want to help make our club be successful next year, please contact President Susan Mogensen VE3MOG and volunteer to stand for one of the positions.

In the Minutes of the March 27, 1991 Regular Meeting, Larry Woram VE3WLN, Chairman of the Flea Market Committee, gave a status report and asked for a volunteer to announce the Flea Market on the Chicken Junction Net and Chuck VE3PAP offered to make the announcements. Norm Hull VE3JDJ informed members that he and Bill Westbrook VE3EKA, President of the Pioneer Amateur Radio Club, were trying to put together a video repeater with a funding grant from the New Horizons Program. President Doug called for volunteers to help with the June Bunny Hunt and mentioned there would be two bunnies, one fixed (stationary) and one slowly moving.

A contest, complete with rules, for the design of two new QSL cards for VE3JW and VE3RAM was announced by Ed Sieb VE3RDZ. The winner would receive 500 free QSL cards. Ed was also the guest speaker and gave a talk and slide show presentation on "Treasures of the North" about the towers, antenna systems and sites he visited up north in the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line Defence system which had been decommissioned.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HERE AND THERE, Pat Brewer VE3KJQ wrote about the Kingston Amateur Radio Club bulletin which had a lead article about the most popular version of the origin of the word "Ham." The name is reputed to derive from a contraction of the names of the founders of the Harvard Radio Club station. Their names were Hyman, Almy, and Murray (HAM) and the station was founded in 1908. In 1911, their "HAM" radio station became famous during the debate in the US Congress over the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill which would have killed Amateur radio. Albert Hyman wrote his thesis on the bill and sent it to a Senator where it was presented to Congress.

In his NOVICE NEWS column, Ken Barry VE3KJB, encouraged the newly licenced Amateurs to participate in some poste-graduate work on radio language and etiquette by getting involved with the various nets around Ottawa. He gave details of some of the nets including the Wise Owl Net, the Capital City Net and the Swap Net.

May 1991 RAMBLER - Editor Charles King VE3PDK, wrote the front page article "Life Memberships Conferred" on Bill Wilson VE3NR and Ralph Cameron VE3BBM. Charles provided a brief look at their accomplishments. In addition to Bill's accomplishments in the field of Radio Communications with the Departments of Transport and Communications, Charles covered Bill's concern with protecting the Amateur bands in Bill's article

Yesteryear *Cont'd*

“The New Challenges Facing Clubs Today.” He noted how honoured the OVMRC is to have such a distinguished member accept a Life Membership and wished him a long and healthy life in the knowledge that our interests will be well protected for as long as Bill is able to fight for them. In a recent telephone call, Bill reminded me he is nearing the age of 80 and he is still concerned about defending and protecting our frequencies through the Defence of Amateur Radio Fund (DARF) and encourages you to make a donation. With regard to Ralph, Charles noted he has been involved in more than one hundred cases of Electronic Magnetic Interference (EMI) in this area and had given advice to hundreds of Amateurs. Charles mentioned Ralph’s dedication to the protection of the Amateur and his efforts to educate the general public on the real causes of interference and wished him many productive years in Amateur Radio. Ralph is still working actively in the EMI area as a consultant and would be happy to assist with your problem.

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club enthusiastically joined in the Bunny Hunt scheduled for June and allocated prize money to match that of the OVMRC. A motion was made by Chuck VE3PDK, seconded by Judy VE3PAP that \$200.00 be allocated for the purchase of prizes for the Bunny Hunt. Dennis VE3JGR, John, VE3ACI, Eric VE3OTT and Jerry VE3CDS volunteered to serve on a Special Committee for the Bunny Hunt.

The May 1991 RAMBLER “WELCOME NEW MEMBERS” showed Paul Gordon VE3KKB, Ed Puccini VE3EFP, Mike McDermott VE2HLB, Bob Mitchel VE3SXZ and Ted Thaddeus VE3TGS who became the 199th member!

The Flea Market Report Card was an A+ as reported by Chairman Larry VE3WLN and Judy VE3PAB who helped Susan VE3LC look after the “Fleabite” food concession which was bursting with all kinds of good things to eat, thanks to all the generous donations from members. The official “counters of attendance” at the Canterbury High School Cafeteria location eventually lost track at some point over 450 as they were handing out door prize tickets. The raffle for a Uniden 10-meter transceiver was a huge success. Mike VE3BGP, who had volunteered as the announcer, asked a passing lad to pull a number from the box of tickets. When Mike saw the winning name, he nearly fell off his perch on a table. He quickly passed the ticket to President Doug to make the official announcement and Doug was just as surprised to learn that the winner was in fact Mike VE3BGP! Larry thanked all the Flea Market Committee members - Chuck VE3PDK, Ken VE3KJB, Jay VE3SGU, and volunteers Pat VE3KJQ, Sue VE3SLC, Judy VE3PAP, Fred VE3PAA, Evelyn VE3OAM, Roxanne VE3VON, and Jeff VE3RCI.

Speaking of the Flea Market, you should start sorting out your “keeps” from “will never use it” to sell them at the upcoming May 5, 2001 OVMRC Flea Market. Order your tables from Jake Guertin VA3TQX. There should be an announcement in this issue so check it out. 73 until next month.

Continued from page: 4

It was moved by Guy, seconded by Hans, that the OVMRC donate one hundred dollars to the Military Communications Museum in Kingston. Carried.

Jake Guertin announced that he was now accepting reservations for tables at the Clubs Flea Market in May at the Stittsville Arena.

Dan Johnson advised that he has a supply of two metre 5/8 mag mount antennas for sale at \$20 each.

Patricia, VE3PUR won the door prize of a FD2000 CD.

Bill Hall won \$53 in the 50/50 draw.

The meeting adjourned at 2125 hours.

Letter to the Editor

Len’s letter raises a concern. Not only a personal or a group concern, but a concern for our whole society.

I remember reading in a local newspaper about a teacher, right here in Ottawa, who got lambasted and fried on hot coals for having said to an 11 year old student that Santa does not exist. The newspaper relentlessly came back, day after day for at least two weeks, with the same attack. “Poor little kid” “Children should have beliefs” “It’s part of being a kid” etc.. Their main argument was that kids need to believe in something.

No wonder the newspaper was up-in-arms when someone dared to say to a kid that Santa does exist. The ‘daily’ is part of that corporate world which benefits a lot by selling ads to be published as early as October. Saying such a truth is an offence against retailers, against manufacturers, against corporations and banks, against our society, and against the whole free- enterprise world, they would say.

However, dare say a word against a Deity of any denomination, not one newspaper would use a drop of ink on the subject. Yet, it would be offending many more individuals around the world. More than just the profit grabbers who are pushing the commercial Santa.

Kids need to believe in something, like the Tooth Fairy, the Ghosts of Halloween, Santa Klaus, Mickey Mouse, etc... Sure, a new path to channel their early, infantile quest for their not-yet-revealed inner spirituality. Santa is used as an integral facilitator of the New spirituality, as we are becoming more and more the robotized humans that corporate benefits want to make of us: consuming machines. Haven’t you heard that before?

Christmas (what does it mean today?) retailers are proving that it is better to give than to receive; only so that they can sell as much as

Continued on page: 9

Continued from page: 8

totally possible. The kids at the receiving end are short-changed... how can they possibly learn this value/virtue, rather than feel the emptiness of a material thing.

The original Santa was Nicolas, the Bishop of Myra in ancient Lycia, who treated the poor kids of his city, and beyond, to candies and goodies, to love and hope. Now, also known as Father Christmas or Père Noël, Saint Nick or Santa is hailed for accomplishing many feats around the world.

Yes, Santa exists! It is you and me, when we emulate the Ancient Bishop. And so are those more fortunate kids who learn to do the same. Why would they want, or would we want, a disguise to accomplish such good deed? Is this taking the fun out of Christmas? On the contrary, by evacuating despair, I think it's putting fun back in, along with a lot of hope.

Yet, at the age when they are more visual than spiritual, children need to see an "image". Therefore, the need for a figure representing this good, generous, all loving icon of ancient St Nick. This icon is increasingly being accepted universally in one form or

another. It does not represent a religion. It displays a deeply human virtue, that of an open heart, that of caring for one another.

Len's question could be put this way: Is it politically correct to promote Saint Nicolas in our multi-faceted, diversity of beliefs, Canadian society?

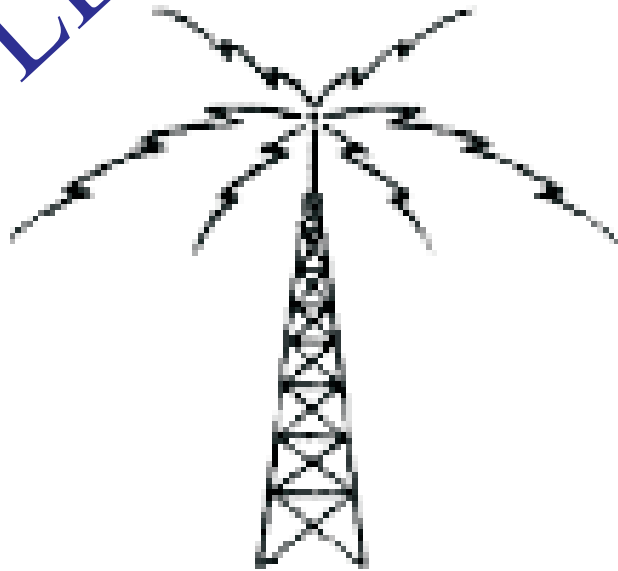
In my view, this is not a question for the Club to answer. One that we may think about is: Would we be cheating the kids more by depriving them of Santa rather than having them talk to him. Are kids adversely affected in their lives after they discover the hoax and are mature enough to understand the need for a Santa. Nicolas I mean, not the commercial one.

Since Len's input touched on religion, I allowed myself to refer to it. Which reminds me of a short story told by Jay Leno on his nightly program. Someone was asking a young boy, when did he realize that Santa did not exist. "Since I found out I was Jewish" was the reply. I never fully understood that joke until I read Len's letter in the Rambler.

m.a

DAY	TIME	BAND	FREQ MHZ	MODE	NAME - COMMENTS
Sunday	11:00 AM	80 Metres	3.620	CW	Pot Lid Net - Low Speed CW
Sunday	9:00 PM	80 Metres	3.755	LSB	Ontario ARES Net
Week Days	7:00 AM	80 Metres	3.755	LSB	ONTARS
Sunday	10:00 AM	80 Metres	3.760	LSB	Pot Hole Net OVMRC Sponsored
Daily	7:30 PM	80 Metres	3.775	LSB	Quebec Net
Sunday	3:00 PM	40 Metres	7.150		Ontario ARES Net
Tuesday	9:00 PM	2 Metres	144.250	USB	Two Metre SSB Net West Carleton ARC except 1 st Tuesday
Monday	8:00 PM	2 Metres	146.940	FM	Capital City Net - Swap Net - Repeater - VE2CRA
Wednesday	7:00 PM	2 Metres	147.300	FM	Welcome Mat Net Repeater - VE3TWO
Thursday	8:00 PM	2 Metres	147.030	FM	VE3QCWA Chapter 70 Net Repeater - VE3TEL
Thursday	8:30 PM	2 Metres	147.150	FM	CPC Net Repeater - VE3MPC
Tuesday	8:00 PM	2 Metres	147.300	FM	Military Net Repeater - VE3TWO
Friday	8:00 PM	2 Metres	147.300	FM	Wise Owl Net Repeater - VE3TWO
Daily	7:00 PM	80 Metres	3.742	LSB	Ontario Phone Net, National Traffic System (NTS)
Daily	7:00 PM	80 Metres	3.667	CW	Ontario Section Net, NTS
Daily	10:00 PM	80 Metres	3.667	CW	Ontario Section Net, NTS
Monday Wednesday Friday	9:00 PM	2 Metres	147.360	FM	Kingsmere Traffic Net, NTS

OVVRC FLEA MARKET



Saturday, 5th May

**Stittsville Arena
Stittsville Ontario**

Doors Open: Vendors: 6:30 AM
Public: 9:00 AM

Admission: \$3.00

Tables: Commercial: \$20.00
Private: \$10.00
Reserved by e-mail only

Talk-in: VE3TWO 147.300+
444.200+

Information: **Jake Guertin** (613) 253-3732
va3tqx@magma.ca
va3tqx@rac.ca

Directions: From Ottawa take the
Queensway (highway 417)
west to the Carp Road. Turn
off south on Carp Road and
go past Hobin St. And Beverly
St. Turn right beside Poole
Creek.

AUCTION OTTAWA VINTAGE RADIO CLUB

There will be a "General Auction" of radios, electronic parts, and related equipment at the Ottawa Valley Radio Club (OVRC) next meeting.

**Conference Room
The Ottawa Citizen
1101 Baxter Road, Ottawa
Wednesday, 7:00pm, May 2, 2001**

"The OVRC is an association of hobbyists, collectors and historians interested in radio and electronics and hold meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month, except for July and August. The OVRC places emphasis on preserving the history of radio in Canada. Member interests range from very early antique radios, to turn-of-the-century wireless equipment, transistor sets of the 1950's, vintage audio, test equipment and electronics. A large variety of tubes owned by the OVRC Tube Club are also available for purchase at very attractive prices. You may want to visit their web page at: <http://www.ovrc.org>"