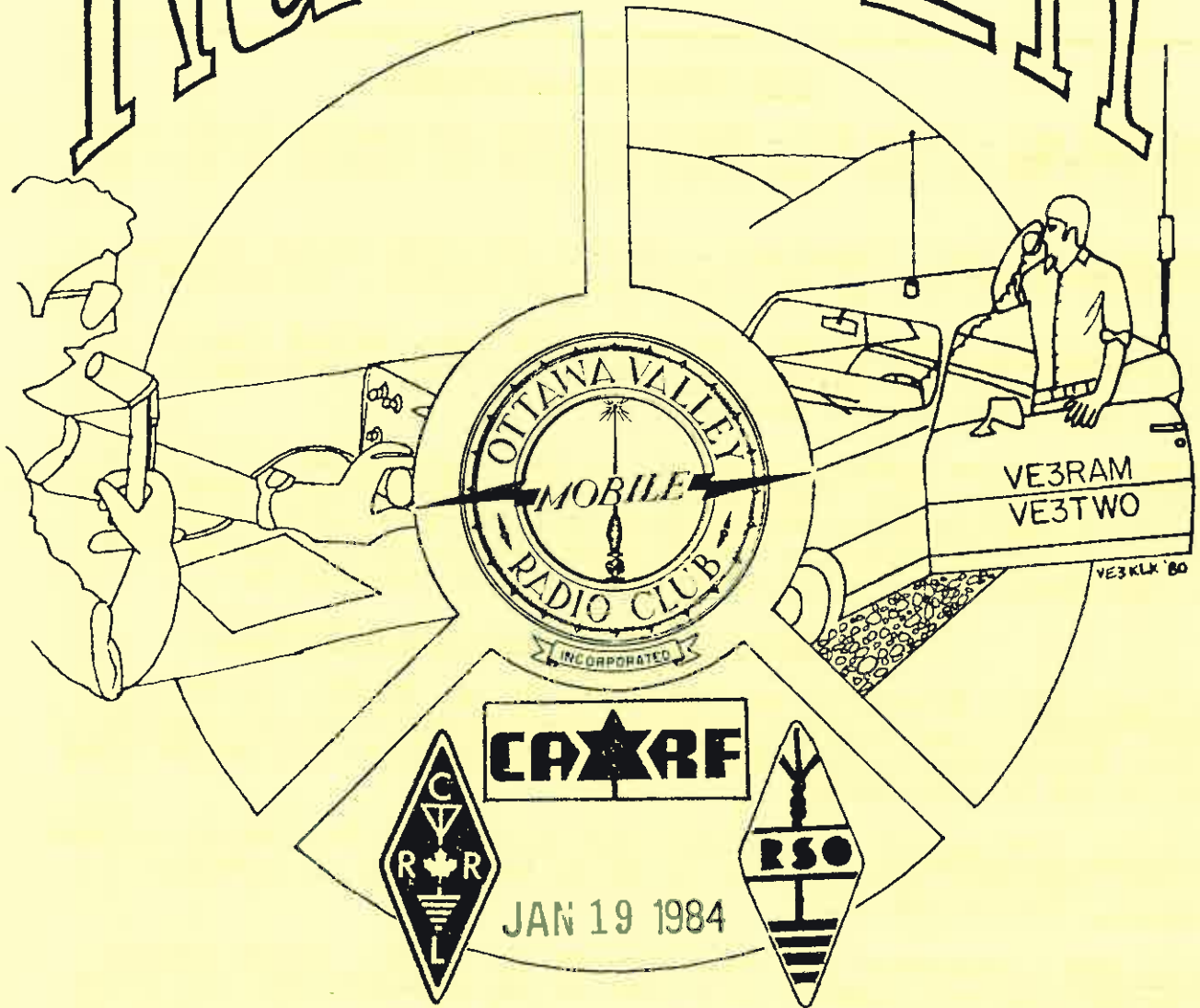


# Ramble



THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED

1982-1983 EXECUTIVE

|                |               |        |          |
|----------------|---------------|--------|----------|
| PRESIDENT      | Dave Coutts   | VE3KLX | 829-2537 |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Pat Brewer    | VE3KJQ | 725-1528 |
| SECRETARY      | Bill Seyler   | VE3OAI | 836-5818 |
| TREASURER      | Vance Johnson | VE3OAO | 824-9555 |
| TECH ADVISOR   | Bill Balke    | VE3NPG | 727-0743 |
| PUBLIC REL.    | Les Patterson | VE3KHP | 828-9860 |
| EDITOR         | Jerry Wells   | VE3CDS | 225-7374 |
| PAST PRESIDENT | Russ Pastuch  | VE3FSN | 828-9235 |

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CLUB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

POT-HOLE NET - OVMRC Net - Every Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 local time on 3.76 MHz SSB. All radio amateurs are welcome to participate.

THE WISE OWL NET - OVMRC Net - Ragchew net each Friday evening at 20:00 local time on the club repeater VE3TWO - 147.90/147.30 MHz.

CODE PRACTICE - Transmitted on VE3TWO by Dave, VE3KLX Wed. at 1900 local, 18, 15, 13, 10 and 7 wpm. Friday at 1900 local, 40, 30, 25, 20, 18, 15 and 13 wpm.

VE3JW - Amateur Radio Station of the National Museum of Science and Technology. The OVMRC helps maintain the station, schedules provides operators for the station as part of an Amateur Radio public relations display. VE3JW operates on all HF bands, both CW and phone. Slow scan Amateur TV is also demonstrated.

LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO NET ACTIVITIES

POT-LID NET - Sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX. An informal slow speed CW net meeting every Sunday (except July and August) at 11:00 local time on 3.62 MHz, to promote interest and proficiency in CW and CW procedures.

CAPITAL CITY FM NET - Sponsored and operated by the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. every Monday at 20:00 local time on repeater VE2CRA, 146.34/146.94.

SWAP NET - Sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX. Every Sunday (except July and August) as a part of the POT-HOLE NET and every Monday (except July and August) as a part of the Capital City FM Net. Ed may be contacted at 733-1721 for listings and queries.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS BULLETIN GLADLY ACCEPTED

Membership in the OVMRC is open to all those interested in Amateur Radio. Regular Club Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 20:00 local time unless otherwise posted. Meetings normally take place in the auditorium of the National Museum of Science and Technology on St. Laurent Blvd. (south of the Queensway).

CHIEF BRIEF

There have been some developments in the club which you should know about. First of all I have learned through a reliable source that VE3JW is back up and running. The Slow Scan is still not operational but for SSB and CW it can be operated. The security aspect of the station has not been worked out so I don't know for sure what results you can expect if you try to operate in the immediate future. We hope to work this out fairly soon.

Secondly, due to shift work, our Secretary VE3OAI Bill Seyler has been forced to tender his resignation. You may have noticed his absence, in the past few months, from meetings. At that time Bill believed his night shift was temporary but has recently learned that it will go on into the New Year. So, needless to say, I am looking for a replacement to take club and executive meeting minutes. It is not a difficult job, just one that requires fairly regular attendance at the meetings.

As we forge ahead into 1984, it will soon be time again for the listeners of the Wise Owl Net to qualify as "Wise Owlers". As of January 23, 1984 the Wise Owl net will celebrate 4 glorious years of existence. Since January 23 doesn't happen on a Friday we will start the qualifying period on January 20. From January 20 to March 23, 1984 inclusive you will have 10 nets in which to qualify. If you check in to all 10 nets you will receive a rather attractive Class A certificate with the net mascot in the upper left corner. If you check in at least 5 times, not necessarily consecutively over the 10 net period, you will receive a Class B certificate.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

73 DE Dave, VE3KLX  
President

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club will be held on January 19 at 2000 hrs. The location will be the usual place- The Museum of Science and Technology on St Laurent Blvd.

Program to be announced, listen to the Wise Owl net on the club repeater or the Pot hole net on 3760 kcs Sat or Sun at 10 A.M. See you there.....

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MATERIAL PUBLISHED IN THE RAMBLER DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT CLUB POLICY OR VIEWPOINT. ANY ITEMS MAY BE REPRINTED BY AMATEUR RADIO OR SIMILIAR PUBLICATIONS WITH THE PROVISO THAT CREDIT BE GIVEN TO AUTHOR AND SOURCE.

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THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC.  
P.O. BOX 5530 STN F  
OTTAWA ONTARIO  
K2C 3M1

MINUTES OVMRC MEETING DEC 15, 1983

The meeting was called to order by the President at 2000 hrs.

The President then introduced Ed MacLaughlin, VE1BJK who will be visiting us in the Ottawa area for about a month. Other guests present were Earl Andrews, VE3NVO and the President of the OARC Bob Baillargeon, VE3MPG.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in the Rambler. Moved by VE3KLLK seconded by VE3OFM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President: The President brought to the attention of those present that Jack, VE2CV conducted the first Teleconference Radio Net (TRN) on VE2KPG repeater a few weeks ago. This involved tapping into the long distance lines to receive the speaker for the evening from the U.S. The President requested that the membership be ready for a motion to provide some financial support in the New Year after the Executive has studied it. The President then reported, on behalf of the Treasurer that the Book Balance as of November 25, 1983 is \$3078.37.

All other executive members were absent.

ORRL VE3FN absent.

CARF VE3NR reported that the Canadian Regional Technical Planning Board (CRTPB) is now to be known as The Radio Advisory Board of Canada. Bill also stated that we should not be surprised if a licence fee increase will become apparent by the time of renewal. Bill did not know exactly how much the increase would be if it was decided to be activated. We will have to wait and see what, if anything, develops.

RSO VE3CV read the latest RSO bulletin which featured information about the OVMRC code practice. Merv also mentioned that Bruce, VE3BC is compiling an HF net directory and he would appreciate details mailed to him of any HF net in existence from Net Managers. VE3JW The station is now operational on SSB and CW. Some antenna work will be necessary as the linear amplifier is not responding properly due to an apparent mismatch in the antenna system. For the time being operations will be limited, therefore, to SSB and CW without the linear.

RSO Convention Report VE3LAR reported that he has been representing the OVMRC at the Convention planning meetings. The OVMRC will be providing Talk-In, Talk-Out and Morse Code Proficiency Runs. Mike said he would attend the next meeting on the 16th of January.

Bus Trip to Dayton Mike, VE3LAR reminded all present to reserve their place on the bus for April '84. Application in the Rambler.

AMATEUR COURSE VE3LAR reported that the course is now in the home stretch with the February examination around the corner. Mike also drew our attention to 3 students who were present at the meeting.

RAMBLER PRINTING The publisher, Mike, VE3LAR stated that the Rambler will go to press on the weekend of Jan. 7th and 8th, 1984.

ENTERTAINMENT The President introduced Bob, VE3KLLK to speak on some of his experiences while in the Diplomatic Corps.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by VE3GVI, seconded by VE3NR at 2157 hours.

prepared by The President, Dave VE3KLLX

V.P. VIEWS

I find myself with very little to say this month. With the holiday season at hand we are putting the Rambler together early (i.e. before Christmas) so I am sitting down to write an article almost as soon as I finished the last one. I can say that we now have 90 paid-up members in the club. Perhaps with some luck we can still pass last year's record membership of 104. I would like to see some more of our "Wise Owlars" in the club.

In other news, the course will almost be finished by the time you see this. I am looking forward to those phone calls from the students to tell us that they passed the exam. I'm also looking forward to getting my weekends and Tuesday evenings back. Russ and Mike will second me on that.

You will probably have heard that VE3JW, the amateur station at the National Museum of Science and Technology, is back on the air. We will need people to operate this station on the weekend. If you want to help, PLEASE let the executive know. The Museum has spent a great deal of time and effort to re-locate and re-design the station. It is up to us to prove that the effort was worth it by making good use of the facility. Remember that you do not have to be an advanced operator to use the station and that you will be scheduled in with another ham.

Pat VE3KJQ

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QUA VE3OAO (Ovmrc Accounting Officer)

Looking through some old issues of the RAMBLER (from previous years) I noticed that some writers have written autobiographies, so decided to do one to let you know about my background in telecommunications.....

Great Uncle Edgar Johnson founded the Wyoming Telephone Company, which later was purchased by AT&T and became a part of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company or Mountain Bell. My father built a telephone system between the house and his workshop in a shed of his folk's homestead near Crawford, Nebraska, along about 1910. And, I just learned this past summer about a relative on my mother's side of the family that was the First Mate on the Great Eastern which laid the first successful trans-Atlantic telegraph cable between Newfoundland and Ireland. During World War II, my mother was a Messenger for The Western Union Telegraph Company, in the Securities Exchange Building in Denver, Colorado. (In those days, some messengers wore roller skates to transfer messages from receiving positions to other transmitting positions.) So, you might say that telecommunications is in my blood.

My dad got me a toy telegraph set for a gift one time. I remember that there were two sets connected to each other by a cable. Each set had two "D" cells in them and each was equipped with a key, a sounder, a flashlight bulb and a three-pole single-throw switch. The purpose of this switch was that you had the option of receiving the signals as "click-clack" sounder type of signals like were used with the American Morse Code, or as a buzz like we use on CW, or with the lamp-bulb - as is used at sea between ships. Also, each set had the International Morse

Code charted to the left of the telegraph key. That was my first exposure to the code and I must have been about 10 years old by then. Later on, Dad put in a simple telephone system with S&R capabilities as well as ringing on S&R.

My first exposure to radio was - of course - the regular broadcast band. The one we had (and we still have in storage in Colorado) was an RCA Victor 3-band table radio. It stands a couple of feet tall by maybe 18" wide (I haven't seen it for 14½ years, so my dimensions may be exaggerated). I didn't learn about the other bands until after my dad hooked up a long wire antenna and demonstrated things to me when I was a little older. One thing I remember about it was that the tuning knob had kind of a gear-shift on it. When you pulled out on it, it shifted down so that you could fine-tune a little better when you were trying to separate stations on a crowded band. The main thing I remember listening to was WWV for the exact time and international broadcast band stations.

My brother-in-law gave me a crystal radio set for Christmas one year. My dad helped me to build it. You could only tune in one or two stations on it. Within a week later, my Dad bought a Meisner 3 tube receiver with different coils that plugged in in order to tune in different frequencies. It was all in pieces and he didn't know anything about the color code but he bought an ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook and had it all together and operating before the week was over.

Dad kept making modifications and noise filters etcetera until one day he saw an advertisement for a war surplus radio, a BC-348-0 (or something like that). He sent away for it. It appeared to be brand new. I remember that it had 6 bands and that the tuning knob on it had a little crank handle that stuck out when you wanted to turn the dial faster. I remember too, that it required a 45 volt DC power supply before it would work. Dad built one. It seemed to be a super receiver. However, anything you could tune in on it, you could also tune in on the RCA Victor table radio.

I remember tuning in CW stations and wondering what they were talking about. I used to wonder what people were talking about on SSB too. But it never occurred to me that I could possibly understand radio or ever learn the code or get a licence. I remember trying to study the ARRL Handbook, but I was a poor reader, so there really was no hope for me then. The fact that my dad could learn these things didn't encourage me much, because everyone that had ever known my dad thought he was nothing short of a genius no matter what he did. I knew I wasn't very bright.

I used to buy the odd QST magazine and one time I sent away to rent an "Instructograph" for learning Morse Code. I rented this for several months at about \$10.00 a month(?). That was in about 1955-56. I learned the code on it. It seems I could receive about 10 and send about 15. My purpose for learning it was simply to be able to understand what people were talking about on the air. But by that time, I didn't have a receiver to listen to code on and I lost all I had learned.

Before joining the U.S. Army in 1956, I selected my first and second choices for my speciality training. They were Office Machine Repair School and Teletypewriter Equipment Repair School. I go the second choice and was sent to the South-Eastern Signal School at Fort Gordon, Georgia, for 20 weeks. Upon graduation, I was assigned to a major tape relay center in North Carolina. Due to my mother being gravely ill, I go a compassionate transfer to Colorado where I was assigned to an infantry division where I worked in a Signal Maintenance Shop as a Wire Comm Equipment repairman, specializing in field telephone switchboards etc, although I did work on a few teletype sets. Later I was reassigned to another major tape relay center in France. I was separated from the Army after three years and went to live with my dad in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After searching for work for about six weeks I accepted an offer to go to work for Western Union Telegraph Company as a Relief Section Maintainer. That meant I worked on everything from pole-line maintenance, clocks, & self-winding tickers to weathermap facsimile recorders, New York Stock Exchange ticker projectors and sophisticated Duplex Multi-point Way-Station Selectors - in other words, anything that had a WU name tag on it. 2½ years later, I transferred back to Denver. Four years later I was married. Three years later I took a temporary assignment to CFS La Macaza, Quebec. In 1972 we were transferred to Ottawa. In Canada, I've been maintaining a US computer terminal leased to the USAF. For the past seven years I've also become involved in servicing computer terminals in other US and Canadian locations for the USAF.

The OVMRC Book balance as of 6 December 1983 is \$3078.37.

VANCE JOHNSON VE30AO  
TREASURER

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#### BINARY AUDIO AND THE ABACUS

So you thought that binary math was really new, a space-age technique that you had to understand so as to get your computerized cw on the air? Think again.

This Christmas two visiting grandsons (12 & 9) took me to the Museum of Science and Technology. We went in past the silent VE3JW and under the Canadarm to the furthest section where they have a really splendid computer exhibit.

The two boys quickly got to working video terminals but I was fascinated by the very first demo, that on the theory of numbers. It appears that many many years ago the Polynesians, who sailed all over the South Pacific in their home-brew canoes, could not write but they had devised a unique way of transmitting and storing navigational and historical information, by chanting. The Museum emphasizes that they used only two symbols or sounds to represent anything that could be counted. It was originally thought that they were unable to count beyond two, but it is clear now that they in fact anticipated by thousands of years the numbers system used in all modern computers - the binary system.

Just round the corner in this same section of the Museum is displayed the earliest all-purpose computer of them all - the abacus. With instructions, no less. Invented by the Chinese 3,000 years

ago, the village models still cost less than a dollar and they are used by millions of people to this day.

Waiting my turn at the counter of a Shanghai bank I have watched a "foreign" clerk working out a complex sum on his Burroughs electric calculator while his Chinese assistant stood beside him with his own abacus, checking the arithmetic.

How complex a sum? Say, find the landed cost of an item bought in Swiss francs, duty in Chinese yuan, discount  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ , commission  $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ , payable by client in U.S. \$, all at current rates of exchange. No software available. All that is required is some practice.

SERGE - VE3JRG

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#### EDITORIAL:

Here we are, January 1984. Another year has slipped by and we are into a new one. The year just past has seen our first ham in space in the person of Owen Garriot, W5LFL in the space shuttle. What a boon for bringing ham radio to the attention of the public. I am sure the first of many such flights.

We also saw the controversy of a no code licence in the U.S. finally put to rest with the unanimous rejection of a no-code amateur class. To drop the requirement of the code would no doubt result in a significant boost for the manufacturers of ham radio equipment but will result in chaos in the amateur service. The code requirement for an amateur licence has always separated the real enthusiast from the would be operator of commercially available gear. Amateur radio must always retain the code to help our ranks with those who have put forth a real effort to become an amateur. The Canadian digital class of licence is the only way to go in the no code controversy.

Here in the Ottawa area we are hearing a lot of new amateurs on the air - mostly with "0" calls. Don't be fooled into thinking that just because you hear a station with a VE30-- call that he is just a beginner. I heard one the other night on 40 m. He was pounding it out at about 30 wpm and quite clearly a very experienced operator.

What will 1984 bring? More and better exotic gadgets to interface the growing number of digital computers into ham radio. Have you heard the code practice on VE3TWO? New copy every week at speeds up to 40 w.p.m. - all done by computer. We must have a computer night to see some of this new technology.

1984 will also see more new hams as a result of the OVMRC course. The students must be getting anxious to see the end of the classroom and get a try at their licence. Good luck!

As a final comment to all readers of the Rambler - support your club. Don't just pay your dues and expect to be entertained. Participate!

JERRY VE3CDS

Good Luck to all our students who will be writing for their Amateur tickets in February.....Don't forget your Regs.....



Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated  
Consolidated Statement of Income Expenses  
(unaudited)

|                  | 2nd Quarter, 26/9/83<br>to 29/12/83 | 1st Half, 27/5/83<br>to 29/12/83 |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Balance Forward: |                                     |                                  |
| Bank Balance     | 3147.34                             | 2323.25                          |
| Petty Cash       | 25.00                               | 13.32                            |
| TOTAL            | 3172.34                             | 2336.57                          |

REVENUE:

|                       |        |         |  |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|--|
| Club Memberships      | 292.00 | 721.00  |  |
| Amateur Radio Course  | 205.00 | 1205.00 |  |
| Rambler Advertisement | 15.00  | 15.00   |  |
| Barbeque Admissions   |        | 43.00   |  |
| Bank Interest         | 44.80  | 89.86   |  |
| TOTAL                 | 556.80 | 2074.36 |  |

EXPENSES:

|                        |        |         |  |
|------------------------|--------|---------|--|
| Rambler Printing Costs |        | 311.13  |  |
| Rambler Postage        | 105.60 | 137.60  |  |
| Amateur Radio Course   | 419.27 | 650.78  |  |
| Banquet Door Prizes    | 28.82  | 28.82   |  |
| Barbeque Supplies      |        | 52.37   |  |
| Post Office Box Rental | 16.96  | 16.96   |  |
| Flowers                |        | 33.17   |  |
| OVMRC Rubber Stamp     | 16.05  | 16.05   |  |
| Presentation Frame     |        | 8.01    |  |
| Stapler Set            | 2.66   | 2.66    |  |
| Cash Book              |        | 4.26    |  |
| Petty Cash Voucher Pad | .41    | .41     |  |
| Shipping               |        | 8.24    |  |
| Bank Service Charges   | 1.98   | 3.08    |  |
| TOTAL                  | 591.75 | 1273.54 |  |

Book Balance 29 Dec 83                      3137.39                      3137.39

|                        |         |  |
|------------------------|---------|--|
| Bank Balance 29 Dec 83 | 3115.46 |  |
| Petty Cash             | 21.93   |  |
| TOTAL                  | 3137.39 |  |

VANCE JOHNSON VE3OAO  
TREASURER

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ARRL BULLETIN NR 134 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
NEWINGTON CT DECEMBER 14, 1983 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

The FCC on December 14, 1983, voted in the strongest possible manner to retain the Morse Code requirement for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses. Private Radio Bureau Chief Robert Foosaner said that the Amateur Radio Service is well, thriving, and providing an excellent service to the American public. He strongly recommended that FCC maintain the code requirement, endorse the service as it is, and bury the concept of no code. Chairman Mark Fowler stated that the code is very important and in some cases essential for getting the message through. He said further that radio amateurs have contributed vitally to the country and recently were stalwart in performing communications with Grenada. The vote was unanimous to reject the concept of no code.

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#### SHUTTLE COLUMBIA

If you had a chance to work or hear the history making transmissions from W5LFL here is some info for you. ARRL Hq. serves as the QSL manager for the W5LFL operation; please include an s.a.s.e. with your QSL card, and be sure to indicate on the outer envelope whether your card is for a one-way reception report or for a two way QSO. All QSL's will be answered in either case.

OVMRC  
P.O. box 5530 Stn F  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2C 3M1

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

JIM HAMILTON VE3GJY  
2038 ARCH ST.  
OTTAWA ONT.  
K1G 2H1