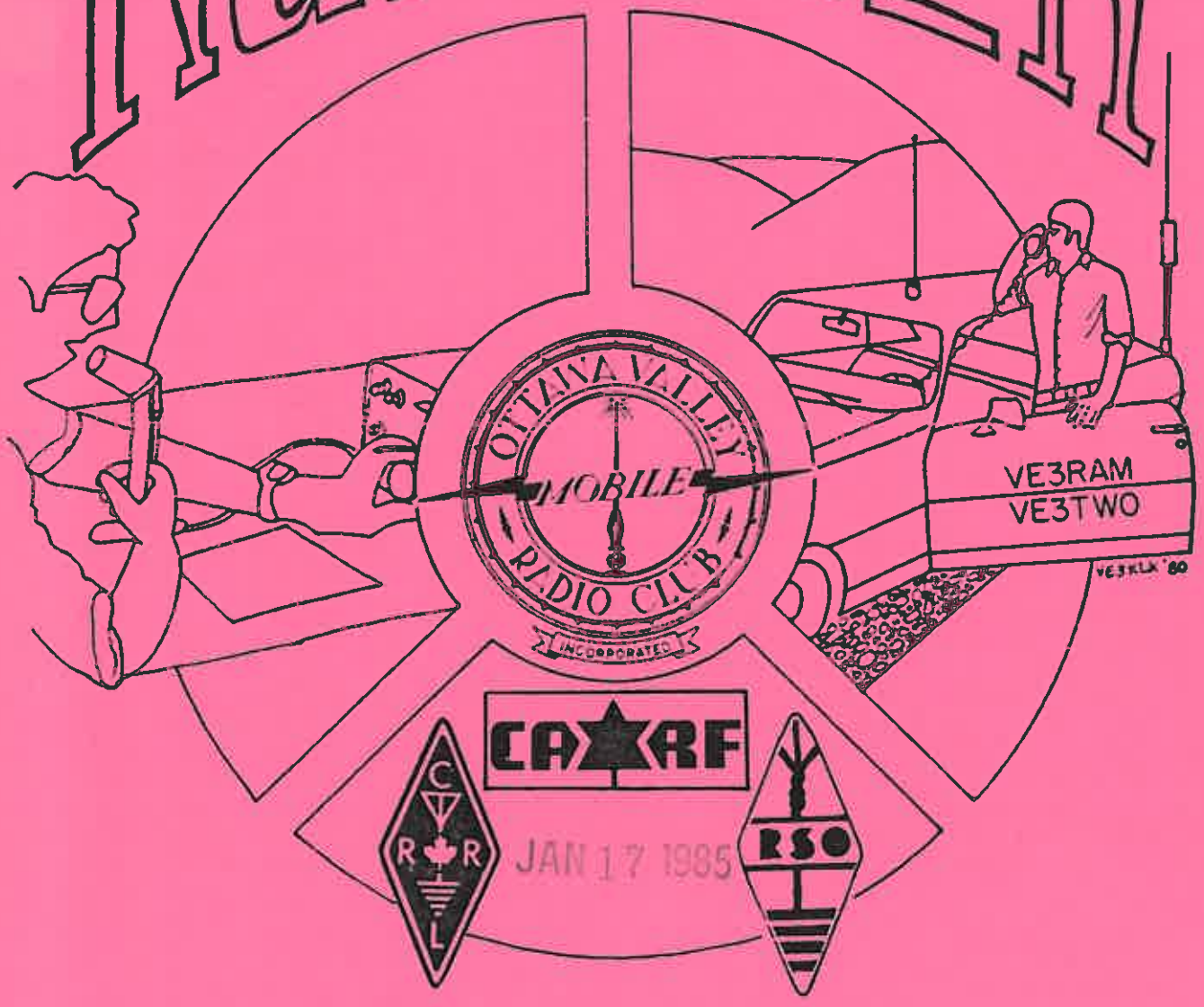


# RÄMBLER



the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion.

As a result of the demographic changes, the number of people in the world who are 65 years of age and older is expected to increase from 250 million in 1990 to 500 million in 2020.

The demographic changes are also expected to increase the number of people in the world who are 15 years of age and younger from 1.1 billion in 1990 to 1.5 billion in 2020.

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THE VIEWS FROM THE TOP

Welcome to 1985. In reading the December QST, which finally arrived (but where is the November issue and where is the November and December issue of TCA) I see that the OVMRC actually found itself listed in the field day results. Surprise surprise we are not even at the bottom of the list, or even the last place Canadian station for that matter. Perhaps we can do a little better this year.

Don't forget the code phone at 325-0786. Code practice is available 24 hours a day. This week the tape is at 10.5 wpm and will be going up by half word per minute per week.

As many of you have noticed the repeater has been sick again. Russ is working on it and hopes to have the problem corrected in the near future. It appears to be a new version of the problem we had in the summer. In the meantime the Wise Owl net is on simplex.

As I mentioned at the last meeting there seems to be some definite feelings in several directions over the idea of the communicator licence. Last month you saw Mike's ideas. This month or next month we will publish Russ's ideas. This is an important subject to think about. We will try and have a discussion at a future meeting and then perhaps we can send the QOC a letter expressing the club's feelings on the subject.

See you at the January 17th meeting.

Pat VE3KJQ  
President

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MINUTES OVMRC MEETING DECEMBER

The PRESIDENT called the meeting to order at 2011 hours and introduced the visitors to the meeting. Visitors were VE30JF Ron Riley (formerly VE3BLG) who had just joined the club; VE30LJ, John Hardy, a former member of Ferry Command and licensed since 1938; VE3INT Keith Ballinger who also had joined the club and expressed an interest in the VHF/UHF bands.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved on a motion by VE3CV, seconded by VE3OMA.

The PRESIDENT made special mention of VE3GDS, the RAMBLER Editor who had had a heart attack while on a trip to the USA. Fortunately, they were able to move Jerry back into Canada where he was hospitalized in Brockville for a few days before being moved back to Ottawa. Jerry is now home and when it is decided that he can have visitors an announcement will be made on the Wise Owl Net.

The PRESIDENT also reported having received the new antenna and power supply for the club two-meter rig. There was a slight increase in cost over the original estimate but the amount was insignificant. He also reported the club is streamlining the mailing list and asked members to check the mailing sticker on their RAMBLER for mistakes. Concurrently with this exercise the club is reviewing the list of clubs that receive the RAMBLER each month in return for being placed on the mailing list for that club's publication. Letters have been sent to clubs that have not been sending to us and if there is no response they will be dropped from our list.

The VICE-PRESIDENT reported the current club membership at an all time high of 113.

The TECH ADVISOR described a new club project that he will be writing up in the January RAMBLER. He had a demonstration sample of a neat little digital clock encompassing several features. He already has all the parts for each kit. An excellent opportunity to equip the shack with an accurate time piece.

The CARR representative, VE3S, Art commented concerning their watch on the DOC activities planned for the coming year. He also mentioned CARR's discussion with the CARRL on the next bank of questions for the Amateur examinations.

The RSO Representative, VE3CV, Merv, referred to the recent case of an illegal operator who was caught in Ottawa and who was subsequently fined \$500. He also repeated his advice of last month for those amateurs who wish to obtain "Call-Sign" license plates. Wait a bit. The Ontario Cabinet has given first approval to reducing the cost of these plates to \$25 from the current \$100 figure. A little patience will result in a saving of \$75!!!! so - hang tight!!!!. Merv also reminded the members of the "Snowbird Net" which operates daily on or about 14.151 Mhz from 0930 EST to about 1015.

The P.M. COORDINATOR, VE3LNH, Alan, reminded the members present of the need for operators for VE3J4, the Museum Station, over the period of the Christmas holidays.

The entertainment for the evening was a very interesting videotape presentation on the subject of "static electricity".

The meeting adjourned at 2230 hours on a motion by VE3NVL.

Bob VE3ALK  
Secretary

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### TECH - TALK

Have you ever wanted a special clock for the 'shack, one that could do a couple of extra things along with telling the time in 24 hour format? Well, if you don't mind a little building you can now put together a neat little beastie for about \$35.00. I have secured for your pleasure a number clock modules along with the required transformers and cases. The price for one module, a transformer and a case will be \$30.00. This thing can be made to work as a clock radio timer, an alarm clock, a desk clock, a TV or stereo timer or an instrument panel clock. It has the following features:-

- \* four digit display (0.7 inches high (1.8 cm)
- \* "one finger" 59 minute sleep counter setting
- \* multiple 9 minute snooze counter
- \* 24 hour alarm with on-off control
- \* rd, colon and alarm on indicators
- \* entire display flashes to indicate power loss
- \* fast and slow setting controls
- \* separate inputs for all setting and display modes
- \* time-set enable feature
- \* 5 display modes (time, seconds, alarm, sleep and test)
- \* selectable 12/24 hour, 50/60 Hz and fixed/flashing colon
- \* leading zero blanking

- \*direct drive LED display for no VFI
- \*adjustable display brightness
- \*uses power line frequency as timekeeping standard
- \*on board oscillator for timekeeping when power fails  
(needs 9 volt battery and 5k ohm pot)
- \*low power consumption

The last time I played around with digital clocks and got a few extra for other people to build, I didn't get enough. So this time I got a few more, 20 all together so I hope the interest is still there. I know that the plain 24 hour clock is quite easy to find already to go for about the same price or maybe a bit less but this module has a number of features not normally found on your average clock and you also have the satisfaction of putting it together yourself. With the addition of a few switches and a power cord the kit is ready to go. A 12 page data sheet is provided and it shows where all the connections go. With a little pre-planning the clock can be built up in one or two evenings. I built one up and had it at the December club meeting for all to see. If you would like to know more about this club project, please feel free to give me a call at 523-1571. The little explanation on how to integrate your Yeasu YH-1 headset into your rig will follow next month courtesy of Keith Stieb, VE5AL, as it was published in the Saskatchewan Amateur Radio League's "QSO", 1 November, 1984. So until then.

TFN  
Mike VE3LAK

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#### "EDITORIAL RAMBLERINGS"

Should any of our readers detect a familiar undertone to this month's RAMBLER it is due to the resurrection of an "old" former Editor who has been extracted from the woodwork as a "stand-in" for Jerry, VE3CDS. As you all know by now, Jerry is recovering from a nasty swine of a heart-attack that sneaked up on him while he was on a trip to the USA during early December. I am happy to be able to report that Jerry is coming along quite nicely and you will not be inflicted with me for any longer than it takes him to resume this activity. In any event, to my way of thinking, being the occupant of two seats on the executive makes for too much leaping back and forth for an "old guy" and certainly causes some confusion as to which hat is being worn at any given time.

A new year is upon us and I hope that over the recent festive season all those good things, like TS-930-S's, Phone Patch Controllers, Oscilloscopes and other types of "goodies" were discovered under the Christmas tree and are now proudly displayed in the "shack" in preparation for the recovery of the bands.

Truly, this has been a miserable year so far as propagation was concerned. Long and short skip seldom got together and provincial net activities only managed to survive by the grace of multi-hop relays. On some days even cross-town communication was barely possible and to add to our miseries, some of our colleagues south of the border have again taken to the practice of dumping fat carriers on net or general QSO activities. Occasional cases of this can be attributed to not being aware the other stations are on the air, but, when it only happens during

net activities and the offending station follows if the net shifts its frequency, then, I think the conclusion to be drawn is quite clear.

As a suggestion for our Technical Advisor, I wonder if, as a club project, we could design and construct a Null-reading directional loop with a fairly narrow beam width to be mounted QTH of one of our members so we could take and record accurate bearings on the offending station. We could then encourage one or two other clubs in Ontario to do the same and thus produce cross bearings that could usefully be reported to the LOC. My experience has shown that, given some reasonably accurate cross bearings to start from, LOC are more than willing (if necessary, with the aid of the FCC) to lower the boom on offenders. One fine example is a former Philadelphia WFTY operator who is no longer on the air following the seizure of some \$3000 worth of equipment.

Anyway, it seems to me that, not too long ago, I saw some of the basic components for such a project, at the QTH of VE3JS, which might spark the necessary design idea.

Bob VE3KIK

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#### THOUGHTS ON LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

Once again, someone has decided that the Canadian amateur population needs a new class of licence, akin to the American Novice class. This is intended to attract vast numbers of new people to the hobby. It appears that there are a large group of prospective radio operators out there, that are unable to learn either the code or theory, as presently required for the Amateur class of licence.

First, I find it hard to believe that this large, eager reservoir of kindred spirits really exists. Amateur radio has always been and will always likely remain a rather specialized hobby. If you look at the types of activities you get involved in, you can see what I am getting at. It's a hobby that tends to appeal to introverts, apologies to the extroverts in the club, but my opinion. You tend to spend your time in dark basements, trying to dig signals out of the mud or else, assembling some circuit or other. I can't see how such a hobby could ever have wide appeal.

Second, the code and theory and code are too difficult for people to learn. Here I can agree to a point, but refuse to agree that the standards should be drastically reduced. In the olden days, the code took upwards of six months to learn, plugging away at it for six to eight hours a day. With the 15 WPM character speed, increased space method that we use in the course, people can attain a 10 WPM ability in 15 weeks. This is 15 weeks of spare time study at maybe 20 to 30 minutes a day. I know, as I can see how the students in the course have progressed from no code knowledge to 10 WPM. So, so much for the code.

The questions regarding the theory could certainly be revamped. There is far too much emphasis on the technical aspect of the hobby. I know, I can hear the oldtimers screaming. Twenty years ago, there was a definite need to know the inner

workings of a transmitter or receiver in great detail. You probably built the equipment and if it failed, you fixed it yourself rather than sending it to a repair depot. Have you looked inside a new piece of Japanese equipment lately. Even if you could find the problem, you couldn't get your mitts in close enough to fix it, even if the parts were available closer than Tokyo. "When I got my licence, I built my own station from scratch"; and what kind of Japanese rice burner are you running? If you check on the availability of parts to build equipment, you can't in many cases find the required components, not to mention you can't afford them if you do find them. And after all, why are you running that Kenwood or Icom radio and not the old 307 TX with regen receiver. Technology demands improved equipment and if you have to buy it and have it repaired by an expert, why do I have to know exactly how it operates. In addition, something that I was taught in University comes back to me. You are here to learn how to look for the answer, not memorize information that becomes obsolete in a year or so. Let's teach people the rudimentary information necessary to keep from killing themselves or causing interference, but stress should be on operating, safety, etc. After all, I shouldn't be asked to design a Cyclotron on the exam and in case you hadn't noticed, we haven't been called the Amateur Radio Experimental Service for quite a while.

Yes, I suppose there may be a requirement for a Novice-type class of licence, but not a free-bee. Reduce the code to 8 MHz, ease up on the theory for all classes of licence and NO VOICE PRIVILEGES! The idea is to attract people to the amateur ranks, not set up a new AS service. It's a sad fact that many amateurs never get their advanced after finding out about two metres and after listening to two metres, we don't need more yoyos on the band.

So there are my thoughts. I do not agree with the "I went through Hell to get my licence and you should too" philosophy but also do not agree with a total relaxing of the rules.

Russ  
VLD3MSN

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#### AREA CODE 1/1/1A

As all know that area codes have a 0 or 1 in the middle digit - this tells the telephone company equipment to expect to receive eight more digits. Local exchanges with 0 or 1 in the second digit would conflict with area codes.

Why do some areas require a leading 1 for long distance and others don't? In areas where most of the available exchanges have been used up, a leading 1 may be required for all long distance calls. Requiring the leading 1 resolves the conflict, freeing up for use the 200 exchanges with a zero or one in the second digit, which would otherwise be interpreted as area codes (200, 201, 202 ...).

Big cities usually have low number area codes, as a courtesy to city folks, dating back to pre touch-tone days, when low number digits dialed faster on rotary phones. For example, 212 New York, 213 Los Angeles, and 312 Chicago, as opposed to 919 Raleigh, 806 Amarillo, or 606 Ashland. Thanks to the San Jose Mercury News for the info.

FROM CRRL NEWS

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the European settlement of Victoria, the Wireless Institute of Australia is operating special-event station VILWI. A special QSL is available for contacting this station, and a special award is available for contacting any Victoria station, from now to 1985 April 30.

Yuri Blanarovice, VE3BMV, is editor of a fine new Amateur radio publication called radiosporting. This journal is devoted exclusively to contesting and DX. The first issue had 40 pages and featured articles on DXers and DX, a product review, propagation forecasts, rules for upcoming contests and more supplied by some 14 contributors from Canada, the U.S. and overseas. If you're into contesting or DX, Radiosporting is a must. For more information write to Radiosporting, Box 65, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2K6.

Here is an updated list of countries that forbid radio communication with amateurs in their jurisdiction: Burma, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somali, Turkey, Yemen and Zaire. Here is an updated list of countries that have third-party traffic agreements with Canada: Antigua and Barbudu, Australia, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Isreal, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

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FROM CARP NEWS SERVICE

In a recent speech the Minister of Finance mentioned a number of ways in which the new government is going to gain new revenue. Among these is an increase in radio license fees. CARP is writing the Minister of Communications to point out to his colleague that the Amateur Service is not a commercial service and that governments should encourage it, not discourage it by raising its license rates.

CARP has not conducted a poll of its members or commented on rumored changes to the Amateur Service because JOC has not yet made public exactly what changes it has in mind. These will not likely appear until some time in the new year when they will be published for public comment. According to a JOC official, the Department's subsequent action depends on the comments received at that time.

A new form of RF interference has surfaced in Ottawa. It could be called "RFI" or "Furnace Control Interference". The neighbour of an Ottawa operator was somewhat puzzled to find that his newly-installed super-duper electronically controlled heating system kept going on and off for no apparent reason. To add to the weird doings, the same thing happened to his fancy micro-controlled micro-wave oven, plus weird noises in his electric organ. The Ottawa ARC EMI committee is writing up the case for "TCA".

VE3KX, Jim Swail, was recently invested with the Order of Canada in recognition of his work in designing scores of aids for the blind. Jim, who is blind himself, works in the National Research Council in Ottawa. Many of his inventions are used by blind Amateurs to operate their stations.

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The OVARC RAMBLER production, distribution and editorial staff take this opportunity to wish all members of The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, a healthy, happy and prosperous 1985.



NOTICE OF MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club will be held on Jan. 17 at 8:00 PM.

Location: Museum of Science and Technology.

Our speaker will be Mr. Joe Lackner of O.R.E.O. Joe will be telling us all about batteries, Ni Cads, Lead-acid, etc. See you there.

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WORK OSCAR 10 WITH YOUR H.T. (From S.A.R.C. News)

Ever dream about world-wide DX with your handheld? Soon it may be possible to work intercontinental DX by using your handheld 2 meter rig.

It would be done by using a local gateway station, which would provide any of the functions that an ordinary OSCAR earth station would perform. Here's how it would work:

\* AMSAT OSCAR 10 (AO-10), the newest and most sophisticated Amateur radio communications satellite ever, was launched in June 1983. In the time since its launch, nearly 100 countries have become active on it, and now intercontinental QSO's on modest equipment are commonplace.

\* AO-10 uses two linear transponders that receive inputs on one frequency and translate them downward to another band. One transponder uses uplink frequencies in the 435 Mhz range repeated on a correspondingly wide block of frequencies in the 145.8 Mhz range (Mode B transponder). A second, even broader transponder uses 1269 Mhz uplink and a 436 Mhz downlink. AO-10 makes slightly more than two elliptical orbits a day.

\*As a broadband repeater, AO-10 takes a spectrum 150 Khz wide on the uplink, translates the frequency down, and repeats the signals with the same relative amplitude in the downlink spectrum. Two different types of gateway stations have been successfully tried.

\* SSB and CW are the preferred modes of operation on AO-10. FM and full-carrier AM are discouraged because these continuous power modes use precious solar-derived electrical power even in the absence of modulation; SSB does not.

\* Any station that can "see" the satellite can work any other that is simultaneously in view for up to ten hours without interruption.

\* AMSAT, the organization that built and operates AO-10 invites the membership of interested individuals and organizations.

\* Further information and guidance on the use of gateways and membership in AMSAT is available from AMSAT, P.O. Box 27, Washington, D.C., 20044.

(Adapted from Ham Radio, Sept. 1984.

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SCHEDULE FOR VE3JW

\*hours are flexible; the museum is open from  
10AM to 6 PM

	Morning 10 AM-2PM	Afternoon 2 PM-6 PM
Jan 12 Sat	Open	Fred VE3BAJ & Jim VE3GJY
13 Sun	Open	Susan VE3OSP & Joan VE3OSE
19 Sat	Pat VE3KJQ & Mike VE3LAR	Bob VE3MPA & Phil VE3MJY
20 Sun	John VE3PKF & Dan VE3EBI	Rick VE3HVA & Bob VE3JLB
26 Sat	Vance VE3OAO & Alan VE3LNH	Lloyd VE3AYE & Fred VE3NJP
27 Sun	Dick VE3EYJ & Marjorie VE3CAM	Open
Feb 2 Sat	Merv VE3CV & Bill VE3YK	George VE3NJJN & Andy VE3KI7
3 Sun	Rick VE3NJJM & Gord VE3OSM	Leo VE3NVL & Camille VE3ONO
9 Sat	Carl VE3BYX & Pete VE3LBN	Bruce MJV & Bob VE3MSK
10 Sun	Tom VE3OFM & Dave VE3OSY	Susan VE3OSP & Joan VE3OSE
16 Sat	Open	Russ VE3LOW & Don VE3ATJ
17 Sun	Dave VE3JIT & Mark VE3OWL	Open

Anyone else interested in operating VE3JW at the National  
Museum of Science & Technology at any time, is welcome to call  
Alan VE3LNH at 737-4937.

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