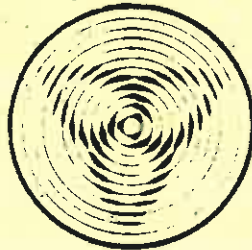
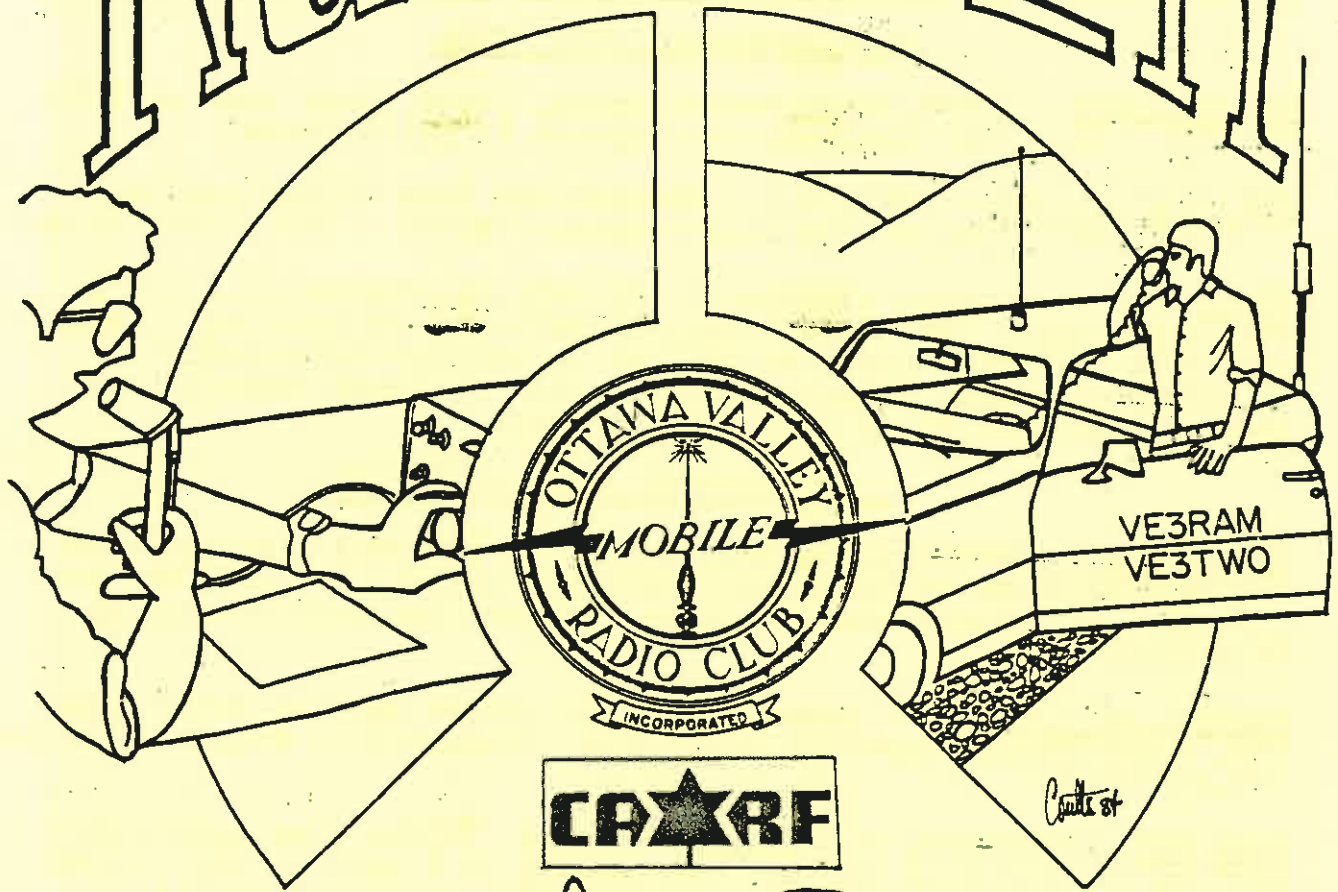


# RAMBLER



NEXT MEETING:  
JAN 16 1986

THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED

1985-1986 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Bob Campbell	VE3KLK	729-7536
VICE PRESIDENT	Mike Hughson	VE3DVH	835-3093
SECRETARY	Kathy Rodd	VE3OWY	722-0255
TREASURER	Chuck King	VE3PDK	733-2079
TECHNICAL ADVISOR	Keith Ballinger	VE3IMT	726-8878
PUBLIC RELATIONS	George Dew	VE3OWW	237-1290
PAST PRESIDENT	Pat Brewer	VE3KJQ	820-9309
PAST VICE PRES	Vance Johnson	VE3OAO	824-9555
EDITOR	Jerry Wells	VE3CDS	225-7374

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CLUB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

POT HOLE NET - OVMRC Net - Every 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 - 147.30/147.90 MHz.

VE3JW - Amateur Radio Station of the National Museum of Science and Technology. The OVMRC helps maintain the station and schedules 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 TV is also demonstrated.

LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITIES

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

CAPITAL CITY FM NET - Sponsored by the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. every Monday night at 20:00 Hrs. Conducted on Ve2CRA repeater 146.94/146.34.

SWAP NET - Sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX, each Sunday as a part of the Pot Hole Net and each Monday as a part of the Capital City FM Net (except July and August). Ed may be reached at 733-1721 for listings and queries.

THE MILITARY NET - Sponsored and conducted by Frank, VE3MSC, Tuesday at 20:00 Hrs on VE3TWO 147.30/147.90 MHz.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS BULLETIN GLADLY ACCEPTED

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

The OVMRC provides code practice 24 hours a day. Dial 825-0786

RUMBLINGS FROM OLYMPUS

The Christmas season is past and, with the New Year upon us, we now have a chance to sit back in front of a cosy fire, and enjoy all the goodies that appeared, with an appropriate dusting of soot from the chimney, under the tree. All those good things like new rigs, new computers, new programs, will help push the winter along at a greater rate, so that when the nice spring weather arrives, we can again ignore the needs of our antenna farms, until the return of next year's allotment of miserable weather.

During this winter we must face the need to consider very carefully the matter of the restructuring of the Amateur Service. To this we will devote a major part of the February meeting. Be sure to come and let your ideas and concerns be heard, for this may be YOUR last opportunity to influence the future of our hobby.

Meanwhile, we can whet our appetites in anticipation of the Annual Club Banquet which was advertised in the December RAMBLER. To remind; this stellar event will take place at the "Peppermill Restaurant", 1568 Merivale Road (across the road from "Pascals"). Access routes are uncomplicated, parking is no problem and a reasonable selection of food is offered at very reasonable prices.

The entertainment at the January meeting should be most interesting. We will have a speaker from the Air Traffic Service of Transport Canada. Mr. Art Cauty will speak on air traffic control and related subjects and also have a video presentation. This is an opportunity that should not be missed.

If you are concerned about the amount of snow we are receiving, you may be interested to know that, in the Parry Sound district, where I spent the week after Christmas, it has snowed hard every day since December 19 and the accumulation as of January 4 was just about seven feet even. Maybe we should not complain yet.

A Happy New Year to all.

Bob VE3KLK

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NOTICE OF MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club will be held on January 16th at the usual time and place, that is 8:00 P.M. at the Museum of Science and Technology. Our speaker for the evening will be Mr. Art Cauty of M.O.T. The topic will be "Air Traffic Control". Should be an interesting topic. 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 SIMILAR PUBLICATIONS WITH THE PROVISIO 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  
K2G 3M1

MINUTES OVMRC MEETING FOR DECEMBER

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m. by the President Bob, VE3KIK. Bob welcomed our "Northern Correspondent", Dave, VE3KIX.

After two corrections in the November minutes: VE3JKQ corrected to VE3KJQ; Mary's call is VE2MEJ, while Merv is of course VE3CV, the minutes were approved and moved by George VE3NJJ, seconded by Don VE3ATJ.

OLD BUSINESS

The President advised members that the February meeting will center around the D.O.C. proposal. The President intends to invite other clubs to attend. George VE3OWW advised that the lecture hall may be in use that night, but will arrange for other space. The President also noted there will be a couple of discussion nets on VE2CRA and VE3TWO.

The Executive has received the resignation of the Technical Advisor, Keith VE3IMT. This enabled the President to appoint a replacement, Bob VE3MPG.

George VE3OWW reminded and requested assistance with the Santa event to be held at the Museum on December 22. The Santa's will be Jerry VE3CDS and Leo VE3NVL.

NEW BUSINESS

The President took a few minutes to remind the members of upcoming club events:

The Club Banquet will be held on Saturday 25 January at the Pepper Mill on Merivale Rd. Anyone wishing to attend please call the President so we can get a count.

The Flea Market will again be held in April. This is a major source of income for the club.

There will again be a summer B.B.Q., hopefully at the same QTH.

The President then reported that a list of authorized people will be sent to the security at the repeater location. Bob has received complaints from the fellows running VE2CS0, their input pick's up TWO's output. They feel TWO is interfering and suggested they do some testing. There was no report from Merv VE3CV (Repeater Council).

The President then explained a possible group project in conjunction with the other club, a D.F. Circuit, that would be of use with VE3BZW, Barry Brimmers idea of using two meter rigs to assist with locating the elderly or infirmed. Anyone interested can contact Lloyd VE3AYE 722-5431.

Dave VE3KMY then briefly described Packet Radio for the group. The OARC has set up a sub group for those interested in Packet.

The President then introduced Vance VE3OAO who provided us with a film on AirFone which described telephone communications between airliners and ground telephone systems in the USA.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS INCLUDED:

Pat VE3KJQ reminded us, the OARC is reprinting the Directory and any changes in addresses must be sent to him if you want correct info to appear. He has completed a number of code tapes for the library. They are available to all.

Mike VE3DVH advised us there are 146 members including students.

Chuck VE3PDK will have a financial statement for the next Rambler.

George VE30WW would like to get ideas for any equipment needed at the station VE3JW as the museum are processing their budget now.

Vance VE30AO noted he had been absent from most meetings lately due to illness and business.

The next general meeting will be January 16, 1986.

The meeting was adjourned by Bob VE3KJK.

Kathy VE3OWY  
Secretary

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OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INC.  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
JUNE TO DECEMBER 1985

BANK AND CASH BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD

- Savings Account	2167.87	
- Chequing	0.40	
- Petty Cash	<u>15.58</u>	2183.85

REVENUE

- Memberships	1189.00	
- Tuitions Radio Course	1850.00	
- Bank Interest	40.03	
- Sale of Bldg	25.00	
- Coffee Fund	28.40	
- Refund of Bank Charge	6.00	
- JRSD Fund	<u>20.00</u>	<u>3158.43</u>
		\$5342.28

EXPENDITURES

- Rambler (supplies, svcs)	614.73	
- Course materials/svcs	939.82	
- Repeater mtce	284.20	
- Code phone	175.20	
- Insurance	285.00	
- Field Day	44.29	
- BBQ	79.47	
- Post Box fee	25.44	
- Postage & stationery	8.94	
- Bank charges	4.20	
- JRSD Fund (on behalf of member)	<u>20.00</u>	2481.29
	Balance not adjusted	2860.99
	Add outstanding cheques	253.45

BANK/CASH BALANCES 31 DECEMBER 1985

- Savings	2711.30	
- Chequing	396.00	
- Petty Cash	6.64	
	<u>3113.94</u>	3114.44
Shortage	0.50	
	<u>\$3114.44</u>	<u>\$3114.44</u>

Chuck VE3PDK

"COMPUTER TALK: USER-FRIENDLY JARGON"

The title "Technical Advisor" for the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club makes me apprehensive because of my lack of technical knowledge but I do manage to get by putting things and doing a lot of my own repairs to my amateur radio station. I have been licensed since June 1980 and have enjoyed amateur radio's many aspects from 160 meter DX'ing to working the Russian series of ham radio satellites. For my first article I will enlighten those of you involved with computers as to how computer jargon started, courtesy of TECHNOLOGY REVIEW magazine.

In the summer of 1945, U.S. Navy Lt. Grace Hopper and her colleagues at the Aiken Computation Laboratory at Harvard were rushing to finish the Mark II, one of the first large digital computers. Housed in a temporary building without air conditioning, the researchers kept the windows open. On a hot day, the Mark II stopped working. The scientists dove into the machine's innards and found the culprit: a moth beaten to death in a relay. Determined to document the cause of the computer failure they pulled the insect out with a pair of tweezers and taped it into the log book.

Hopper recalls that "We would tell (the project head) we were "debugging the computer."

Debug is but one of many computer terms that have gained popular currency over the past several decades. And in the last few years, the mass marketing of personal computers has unleashed a new wave of computer jargon. Bits, bytes, and microchips are as likely as real-estate prices to be discussed over cocktails.

Despite common complaints about new computer jargon, computerese is actually user-friendly. Unlike Latin-based biological words and Greek-derived theological terms, computer phrases are composed of common-place English words: witness "input," "Software," and "time-sharing."

Some computer terms have been borrowed from other industries. "On-line," for instance, originally referred to a plant with direct access to a railroad line. Similarly, "down" refers to both a computer system that is not working and a production line that has been stopped.

"Hacker" is an old word that has gained a new meaning from its use by the computing community. In tennis, the word refers to an awkward amateur who "hacks" at the ball gracelessly. A mediocre writer is a "hack". But in computing, "hacker" has overcome its negative connotations, to indicate an expert programmer.

How did this transformation come about? In his book "Hackers" Steven Levy suggests that the term arose when early computer users were trying to circumvent operating rules and locked doors in their quest for computer time. They saw their efforts as being "pranks" or "hacks". Though hackers used the term self-deprecatingly, Levy says, it also connoted artistry.

New computer jargon will no doubt continue to enter the everyday language. The Japanese may soon have their own version of Hopper's entomologically etymological story. In Japan the humming of computers seems to attract rats into the machines, where they chew on cables and urinate on connectors. A leading Japanese pest-removal firm has developed a high-tech rat trap that lures the hapless creatures with simulated squeaks in the 24-kilohertz range, gases them with carbon dioxide, and sucks them into a disposal container. Who knows what metaphor that contraption may inspire?

Well I hope you liked that article, and in the coming months you'll be reading many varied subjects here; from operating procedures of the 1920's to what amateur radio operation was like in America during the Second World War to the effects of aurora borealis on radio communications and how the amateur can harness this phenomena to work DX on the higher bands. Until next month 73!

Bob VE3MPG

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### HAM NOSTALGIA

A longing for happenings from long ago.

In 1927, Certificates of Proficiency in Radio Telegraphy (an amateur radio operator's license) were issued by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, under the provisions of the Radio Telegraph Act, year 1913, number C43.

In the years 1927 and 1928, Canadian amateurs had a distinctive Canadian only CW band known then as the 52 meter band. The frequencies were 5700 to 5710 kc, or as they were then called 52.6 to 52.91 meters. Modifications were made at the Washington Convention of 1927 at which time this Canadian exclusive privilege was taken away.

In 1930, The Canadian Amateur Radio License fee was \$2.50. The license to use Radio Schedule item No. 11 stated maximum to be taken by transmitter "not to exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilowatt. Item No. 12 - hours during which the station must not transmit" unrestricted, until otherwise provided by the Minister".

The 1933 Fall Edition of the amateur radio callbooks price in Canada was \$1.10. That was for one book containing both U.S. and foreign amateurs. The 250 pages covered all the listed and known amateurs of the world, plus about 18 pages of advertisers. U.S. amateurs could purchase the same book for \$1.00.

The ARRL annual Field Day competition had its beginning in the early 1930's, with 1932 being possibly the first-known year of the event.

QST magazine lists the Frankford ARC as the eighth winner of the Field Day contest. The club call was W3KKS/3 and they are listed as using 22 operators and making a total of 610 contacts.

The communications department of a popular amateur periodical in the year 1939, month of October held a contest for provocative articles on the future of amateur radio. The contest award was presented to W2DBQ. His entry in the contest was "What Do You Do in the Public Interest to justify your FCC license".

In August 1940, F.B. Handy, W1BDI, announced a new ARRL service. Code Proficiency Certificates. W1AW started the award runs on August 5th with a speed of 15 wpm and worked up in steps of 5 wpm to a speed of 35 wpm.

One phase of amateur radio activity creating a lost of interest is contesting. Ranked high among the contests are the DX and VHF contests. 1950 was the year the ARRL introduced the CQNR contest. The intent of this contest was to encourage beginning amateurs to participate in contests and to gain operating skills early - in their introduction to Ham radio. QSL cards were mailed in the U.S. and Canada to the mid-thirties for a one cent stamp.

de, Bill VE3HR

TNX Scarborough A.R.C.

PACKET-SCHMACKET!

I read with interest the notes on the \$185 do-everything Terminal Node Controller in the Nov. 21st issue of the Rambler. Let me quickly note that I realize a significant percentage of hams are experimenters, always have been, always will be. I am delighted to see some of us at the leading edge of this communications technology. (It would sure be nice to bypass Datapac and Tymnet with a 'free' VHF link to Compuserve down in Ohio....).

At the same time I have a concern with all such technology. When Arthur C. Clark's prediction of geosynchronous satellites became a reality, I recall the first 'Live via satellite' program I saw was a beauty from Taiwan. All that technology for communicating, but obviously, we had nothing important to say.

And when I read that 'Packet is fast....up to 1440 wpm' I have to ask myself how many QSO's I've heard that involved anywhere near that many words. In my 30-some year absence from ham radio, the format of the QSO hasn't expanded beyond 'name, rig, antenna, QTH'. That must be 90% of contacts. What do we need 1440 words for? Do we have that much to say?

If you believe the editorials from the CRRL/ARRL, our hobby is facing extinction, dying out, failing to attract young people. The airwaves are filled with news of gall bladder attacks and rheumatism. (And my gall bladder hasn't felt too good lately, come to think of it....). I can't deny that most of the 'mail' I read on the bands is generated by people in their fifties and up. In response to this problem, and the fact that most hams use commercial gear today, the DOC and FCC are talking of changes in licensing requirements, radical changes, affecting us all. There is a question as to whether dits and dahs still have a place in this high speed digital world. Why don't I hear this discussed on the air? Does anybody care?

In my current field of telecommunications, a manufacturer recently promised to deliver '4 gigabits!' of information to the desktop. I don't think even a speed-reading course would equip me to deal with 4 gigabits of anything, including lunch.

A co-worker recently got a dish and now can receive over 130 tv channels. I wonder about him. Does he hire platoons of neighbors to help him watch it all? And doesn't 'mediocre X's 130' still equal 'mediocre'? In most folks' opinion, there isn't enough worthwhile viewing to fill one channel, much less 130 of them.

It's almost as if we built the Interstate & Trans Canada highway system in the horse and buggy era. In fact it didn't get built until we had the cars and trucks and buses to fill it up, to use it. So in communications, it looks like the technology is 'way ahead of the need. There is more than a slim chance that ISDN, the Integrated Services Digital Network is a solution in search of a problem. Yet, you have only to follow news to realize how inept we are at the basic business of communicating, in spite of all our technological gee whizery.

I close with a story from Jim Mackie, VP of Office Technology at Mitel Corporation. A little boy races up, breathless, to his Grandfather. 'Grandpa, today I met a man who speaks 40 languages!' 'Really,' replies Grandfather, 'and what did he have to say....?'



And what do we, tangled as we are in the technology of communications, have to say?

With the Greatest Respect for Hams and Hamming,

Bill Drake  
 formerly WN9VSJ, W9VSJ, KODKZ,  
 CFRA, CFMO and hoping to be  
 VE3-something in February of '86.

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### THE LEADING EDGE

A new process has been developed for the production of silicon ingots, the basic material from which transistors and IC's are manufactured. Using the continuous Czochralski growing process, material of exceptional purity will be available. It is possible that ingots of up to 6-in. in diameter and nearly 10 ft. long, weighing 550-lb. will be possible.

There has been a nostalgic return to log cabins, wooden toys and furniture of bygone eras. Is it possible that this may also encompass the field of electronics as well? If researchers at the Naval Research Laboratory have their way, the vacuum tube may experience a resurgence of popularity. Using techniques developed for the production of IC's, studies are being conducted into the fabrication of "Vacuum IC's". These devices, years away from commercial applications, are being looked at for use in space and other exotic applications. Time to look in the basement for all those boxes of old tubes, they may not be as obsolete as we were led to believe.

de Russ VE3FSN

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### AN EFFECTIVE GROUND SYSTEM

Installing an effective ground system takes a few hours work but can improve your signal and reduce R.F.I. Many hams strive for maximum efficiency from their antenna systems, but fail to give the same consideration to their ground system.

All too often, the ground consists of metal rod or pipe driven into the soil at some convenient point, and any piece of wire is run between this and the rig. Many times the transceiver or transmitter is the only piece of equipment connected to the ground using ordinary domestic wire. While this type of wire is sufficient at A.C., it is totally ineffective at R.F. Poor grounding can worsen TVI and RFI, reduce the effectiveness of the shielding of your rig and allow RF feedback into various pieces of equipment. Good grounding can noticeably enhance the performance of 160, 80, and 40 metres antennas.

There are two phases in the establishment of an effective ground. The first involves the properly bonding together of all equipment in the shack. The second entails the construction of a low resistance ground.

The question is what should be bonded? All pieces of equipment including transmitters, receivers, ATUs, Tuners, P.S.U.s, keyers, etc. should be included.

Unlike A C. or D.C., the current flow at RF is always near the surface of the conductor so the ideal bonding material should have large surface area to present low resistance to the flow of RF current. The best and most expensive conductors are the braided

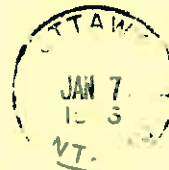
copper strapping and copper flashing strip which both present large surface areas. Number 6 gauge copper wire normally used for grounding has less area than the shielding of RG58 coax. In addition to expensive, large sized copper wire is very stiff, making it difficult to use and make a good job. Less expensive substitute for braided copper or flashing is the shield of the RG-8 coax.

It isn't necessary to use new cable if you replace your cable every three to five years as many homes do; the cable you replace will be adequate for grounding purposes. It is not necessary to pull the shield off the cable. The centre conductor is not used to prevent the cable being self resonant. The centre and insulation are cut to allow 5 cm. of free shield at either end. It is then stapled across the back of the bench as near the equipment as possible.

The cold water pipe syndrome amateurs are often advised to follow, sees them ground their equipment to the nearest cold water pipe, but this is impossible when the pipe is plastic or corroded metal, even if the pipe is copper it may be difficult to reach unless you operate from the kitchen, bathroom, or laundry. The use of a water pipe instead of a ground system is justified only if you live on the first floor of an apartment building. Achieving good ground construction of a good earth ground - while not difficult - requires more than just driving a metal rod into the ground. The soil into which the ground rod is driven should present minimum resistance to the flow of electric current when dry. Most soils are not conductive. Pure water is a poor conductor.

(To be continued next month) (Article taken from "Long Skip"..from A24DM, Dennis Mosley and the Botswana Amateur Radio Society.

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