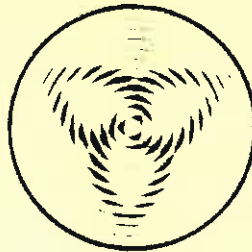
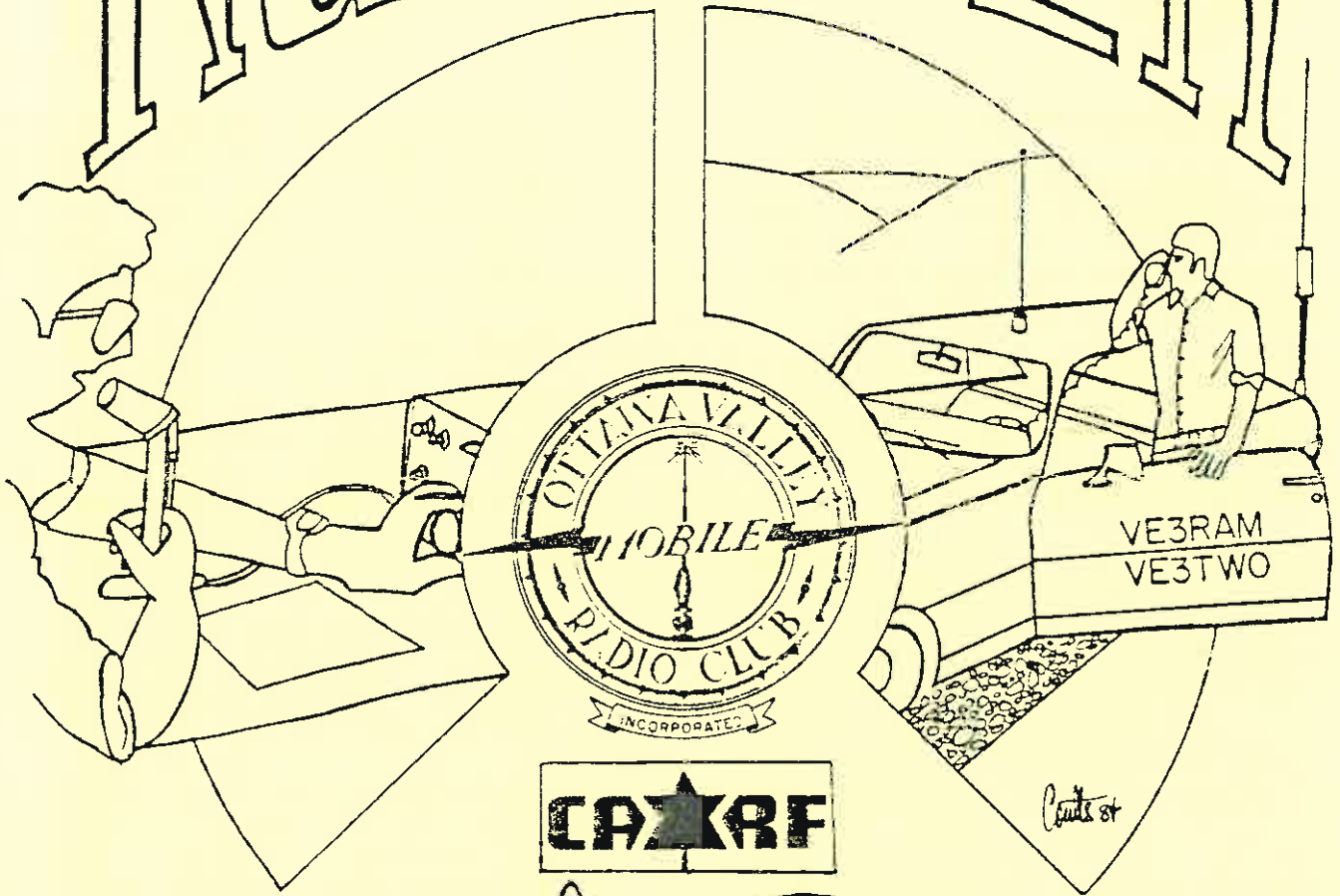


RAMBLER



NEXT MEETING:
OCT 16, 1986

*** RED DOT ON YOUR RAMBLER, YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE ***
*** IF SO, THIS IS YOUR LAST RAMBLER ***

THE OTTAWA VALLEY MOBILE RADIO CLUB INCORPORATED

1986-1987 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Vance Johnson	VE3OAO	824-9555
VICE PRESIDENT	Bill Seyler	VE3OAI	836-5818
SECRETARY	Kris Anderson	VE3OWE	225-4152
TECHNICAL ADVISOR	Alan Boyce	VE3LNH	737-4937
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Bob Brown	VE3JDB	729-6440
TREASURER	Bob Hicks	VE3OSN	745-9392
PAST PRESIDENT	Bob Campbell	VE3KLN	729-7536
EDITOR	Jerry Wells	VE3CDS	225-7374
MEMBERSHIP	Pat Brewer	VE3KJQ	820-9309

CLUB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

POT HOLE NET - OVMRC Net - Every Sunday, 1000 local time on 3760 kHz. SSB. All radio amateurs are welcome to participate.

THE WISE OWL NET - OVMRC Net - Ragchew net every Friday evening at 2000 local time on the club repeater VE3TWO - 147.30/90 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. For information or if you wish to operate the station, contact the Public Relations Coordinator.

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 1100 hrs on 3762 kHz, to provide and stimulate interest and proficiency in CW procedures.

CAPITOL CITY FM NET - Sponsored by the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club Inc. every Monday evening at 2000 hrs local time. Conducted on VE2CRA repeater 146.94/146.34.

SWAP NET - Sponsored and conducted by Ed, VE3GX, each Sunday as part of the Pot Hole Net and each Monday as part of the Capitol 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 2000 hrs on VE3TWO 147.30/147.90 MHz.

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 2000 hrs unless otherwise posted. Meetings normally take place in the auditorium of the Museum of Technology on St. Laurent Blvd (south of the Queensway)

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

Here is news from the Old Apple Orchard.....

Old Apple Orchard! What-
ever am I talking about?
Well, before you can have
Cider to drink, you have to
have applejuice. And what
better place to get apple
juice than from a fresh apple
from an old apple orchard?
Well, in my present position
of being your President, it is
my duty to preside over the
meetings. Therefore, I am the
presider (pre-cider).

Howdy, folks, and welcome
to the RAMBLER Volume 29,
Number 8, and the second
RAMBLER published on our new
Nashua photocopier. What did
you think of the cartoon and
schematic diagram in the first
issue, last month? Plus I
noticed the 3 inch columns on
some pages which made for
easier reading. Our publis-
her, Russ VE3FSN, advised us
at the last meeting that the
few instances of blurs in the
copy were a result of moving
the photocopier from the
dealer's showroom to Russ's
basement which has since
been taken care of by the
Nashua serviceperson.

In the RAMBLER Vol 29 No.
4 (April 1986) on page 1,
(bottom of page) and Vol 29
No. 6 (June 1986) on Page 5
(middle of the page) in connec-
tion with the motion to amend
Article 7 of the OVMRC Consti-
tution, there was a mistake
made on the Article number.
It should have been 6, not 7.

We had a nice turn-out
for the September meeting.
Thanks for your support. And
it was a fairly active meeting
with a lot of business trans-
acted. And there certainly was

a lot of input from the
membership on two of the items
on the agenda, the discussion
on the invitation to form a
net to collect rush-hour
street and highway traffic
information for the use of a
local commercial radio
station. The club gave a
resounding answer of , "No!",
and the discussion on what we
can do to make VE3JW more
interesting to the general
public who visit the museum -
both when we have amateur
operators present or not.

Our executive meeting was
on Tuesday, September 23 at
Bill VE3OAI's QTH and we had a
lively discussion on many
facets of our hobby. But our
Technical Advisor, Bob VE3MPG,
tendered me his resignation
because he has classes every
Thursday for the rest of the
year and doesn't feel he'll be
able to fill his commitment.
Therefore, I have appointed
Alan VE3LNH to be the new
Technical Advisor. Let us
give him our full support.

Vance VE3OAO
President

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next regular meeting
of the Ottawa Valley Mobile
Radio Club will be held on
Thurs. Oct. 16th at the Museum
of Science and Technology.

Start time: 8:00 PM
See you there....

MINUTES OVMRC MEETING
18 SEPT, 1986

The meeting was called to order at 2003 hours by the President, VE3OAO, Vance.

Minutes of last meeting:

This being the first meeting of the 1986/87 season there was no reading of June 86 minutes which have been published in the Rambler.

An Executive meeting held on August 21, discussed and then voted on the matter of a photocopier which would replace an ailing duplicating machine used for publishing the Rambler.

Subsequently agreed on the purchase of a photo copier and that the machine would be cleaned up by members of the club and then disposed of.

Members Present

There were approximately thirty-five (35) members present. The Treasurer Bob, VE3OSN reported through Vance, VE3OAO that after an audit and several hours of checking various sources a deficiency existed in the amount of twenty-two dollars and ninety cents (\$22.90).

Moved by Clair, VE3PPT and seconded by Bill, VE3BSJ that this shortage be written off. Carried.

The President speaking from notes made at the Executive Meeting brought up the matter of Members and others who have made substantial contribution to the betterment of the club. Moved by Leo VE3NBQ and seconded by Alan, VE3LNH. That a sum of

approximately fifty-dollars be set aside for an appropriate gifts in order to express our appreciation. Carried.

Life memberships and Amateur of the year award. This matter had been discussed at the Executive meeting and the President called for comment from the floor. Bob, VE3KLLK stated, which seemed to be the wishes of the members, that this matter be referred back to the Executive for further study and clarification.

Inventory of Club items.

Requested by the President that those members presently having club property in their possession report holding of same to the Executive.

Stated by Bob VE3KLLK that this information was on file and that would be the likely place to start.

Re the feasibility of joining forces with a local commercial station to provide a daily traffic net.

Background. Bob VE3KLLK, had been approached by a local station to determine if the club would like to get involved in this enterprize. After discussion from the floor, it was decided that a vote would determine if members, depending on legality, etc. wished to involve the club in such a venture.

Moved by Alan, VE3LNH and seconded by Bob, VE3JDB, that the club recognizes the service provided by the XM49rs and does not wish to get involved in this project. Carried.



Report from Committees.

The Executive with the willingness of Pat, VE3KJQ, appointed Pat as Membership chairman. As such Pat will assume control of Membership applications, the registry of same, the collection of funds on behalf of the Treasurer and the issuing and control of Membership Cards. Pat is to be commended for the ongoing contribution to the betterment of this club.

Public Relations.

Bob, VE3JDB, stated that a station panel design is required and that the Museum has indicated willingness to construct same within reason. There will be further study on this matter.

On new equipment for the Club Station. Dave VE3JTZ commented that we should show we use the equipment presently installed before asking for more. One member suggested head phones for visitors to the station. This was generally considered a sound proposal (no pun intended) and that the Museum should be approached for their comment.

Dave, VE3JTZ informed members that the OARC will be conducting an Advanced Radio Course commencing 3rd week in October, Monday 8 to 10:30 P.M.

Pat, VE3KJQ stated we are still open for students for our Amateur Radio Course commencing this coming Monday, Sept. 22 at Laurentian High.

Guest Speaker: Bob VE3JDB introduced Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM who gave an informative

talk on appliance immunity. Ralph also brought us up-to-date on the Jack Ravenscroft case. We hardly need to mention that if we can continue to get speakers of Ralph's calibre we will indeed be fortunate.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16th.

Adjournment.

There being no further business it was moved by Bucky, VE3JRR and seconded by Pat VE3KJQ that the 1st General meeting of the 1986/87 season be adjourned. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2210 hours.

W Seyler V/Pres.
A/Sec.

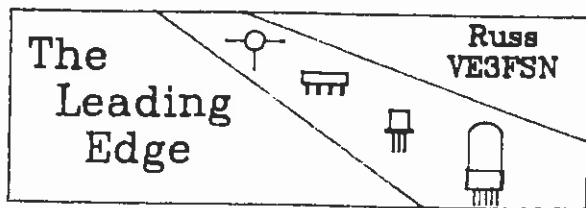
Addendum: Copies of the 1986 Edition of the Directory of Amateur Radio Club Members are available at a cost of two dollars each from Bill VE3OAI.

MORSE CODE EXAM

We will be holding a Morse Code exam on the night of the October meeting. The date is October 16th at 19:00 (or 7PM) and we will hold the test in the auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology where we normally hold the club meeting. The test is open to all members of the club and we will be testing both amateur and advanced classes of licence. If you would like to write please phone me at 820-9309 no later than October 14th.

Pat Brewer - VE3KJQ





National Semiconductor Corp. has developed an IC package known as the "Tape Pak". This packaging technique has resulted in a surface-mount package which is one-tenth the size of a comparable DIP package and one third the size of a standard surface-mount package. Packages can contain from 28 to 300 leads and still be less than 1 inch on a side.

An experimental antenna project organized by the National Association of Broadcasters could lead to the first major improvements in the technology in more than 50 years. Current AM antennas rely on vertical towers, which concentrate only 15% of applied energy into a ground-wave signal that the receiver can pick up. The remaining 85% is converted into skywave that travels upward. Two new antennas are being tested. One based on a round electric screen and a number of short vertical radiators deployed around the base of a conventional monopole. And the second, a combination of vertical, horizontal and diagonal antenna elements.

In recent years, IC's have appeared which contain hundreds of thousands of transistors, and we are beginning to see designs where the component count exceeds one million devices. With this increase in chip density, comes the increasing problem

of translating the functional specifications into a manufactured product. Conventional circuit design views the IC as a collection of rectangular regions, each defining a device. Traditional design boils down to handcrafting this large collection of individual rectangles, both a highly tedious and error prone approach.

Silicon compilation addresses this problem by synthesizing designs from a high-level description. Chip design is thus similar to writing software, where the circuit parts resemble sub-routines, take parameters and can call other parts. The designer specifies the behaviour and/or structure of the circuit and the computer program generates the circuitry diagrammatically. Using this approach, a buffer, for example, can size itself to meet the requirements imposed upon it by a following part of the circuit, without intervention by the designer.

Carried one step further, library cells have also been designed. These allow a wide variety of slightly differing cells to be created, each varying according to the parameters imposed upon it. So rather than a collection of 50 individual cells, each different, there is one cell which is modified according to the specific requirement of the circuit.

This method, applied to a 16K-bit RAM, allowed the design to be completed in ten minutes of CPU time compared to the five months using conventional handcrafting.

Silicon compilation thus improves the speed at which new chip designs can come to the market place and makes



chip design accessible to every circuit engineer.

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

At the last club meeting I was appointed chairman for life (if I live that long). This was done to consolidate all of the membership functions under one person, instead of three as in the past. As membership chairman I will take memberships either at the meeting or by mail, enter the information in the computer and the membership book, issue a membership card, and make sure that the Rambler address labels are printed.

Remember that memberships will expire on October 31st this year. This means that if there is a RED DOT on your address label, and you do not renew your membership now, this will be your last Rambler. So far 107 people have renewed or joined the club. Why not take a minute right now and send in the attached membership application.

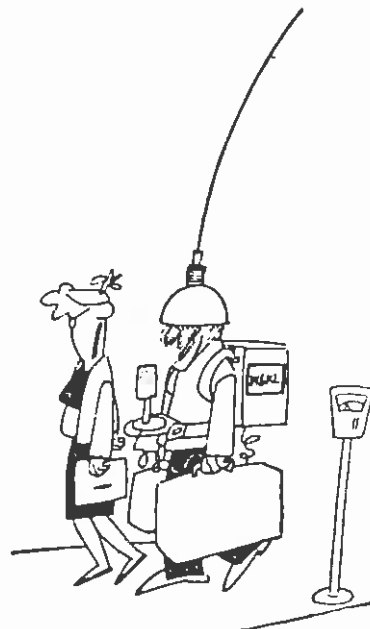
Pat Brewer
VE3KJQ

FROM CRRL NEWS

The appeal in the Jack Ravenscroft case is not expected to be heard until the spring of next year. By mid-August, 1300 separate donors, many from the United States, some from Australia, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom, had contributed \$55,000 to the Jack Ravenscroft Susceptibility Defence Fund. The Canadian

Association of Broadcasters and several amateur radio dealers were particularly generous. \$24,000 has been spent to date and your donation would still be appreciated. Please send it to the JRSD Fund, Box 8873, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3J2.

The Japanese amateur radio satellite, now known as OSCAR-12, was placed into orbit in a flawless launch on 1986 August 12. OSCAR-12 is now orbiting the earth once every 116 minutes at an altitude of 1500 Km. Uplink frequencies to the linear transponder are 145.9 - 146.0 MHz; downlink frequencies are 435.9-435.8 MHz; the transponder inverts signals:USB on the uplink becomes LSB on the downlink; to determine exact downlink frequency, simply subtract the uplink frequency from 581.8 MHz; listen for OSCAR-12's beacon on 435.797 MHz.



"So you're the lightest mobile kilowatt in the country; so what?"



LIFE,
THE UNIVERSE
AND EVERYTHING

Fall is now upon us and the 5th annual OVMRC amateur radio course is underway. Registration is down a bit, with a total of 22 students having signed up. However, this looks like it could be one of the best, if not the best groups so far. I must admit that last class was the first time I have been told how exciting the course was. EXCITING????? I wonder if maybe I should call Happy Harry's Home for Strange People and have them standing by.

Speaking of the course, we need mentors. Thanks to Claire, Ed and Cliff for volunteering. All it takes is a few moments of your time to help one of our student with problems that crop up. If you want to help, either come out to the course any night or speak up at the next club meeting.

The bulletin board mentioned in previous Ramblers and residing, up until recently, on the CodeFone number has been discontinued. I took a long, hard look at the usage and realised that only 3 out of 366 users were amateurs. As it was set up to cater to the amateur population, this did not warrant continued operation. In addition, maintenance of the system was averaging 1 hour/night, far in excess of what I thought it would take.

That's it for this month.

- Russ VE3FSN

YFB REPORT
-Foreign Correspondent-
North Bay Bureau

This new format is going to take some getting used to! It certainly does add a new dimension in creative possibilities for those of use writing articles.

I guess the big happening this past summer was the plan which was in the works for me to transfer back to Ottawa. The original reason that all this was taking place was a requirement for filling vacancies left by retiring staff in Ottawa radar. Several things happened that slowed the process. One was the usual delay problems in paperwork and the other was a staffing freeze. Fortunately for me these delays worked in my favour because a new set of staffing numbers were released to show the requirements for each station once the new radar is installed. I would be in a precarious position if I went to Ottawa with the new numbers so I was given the option of gambling in Ottawa or staying reasonably secure in "The Bay". Naturally I decided to stay here. It just goes to show you that no transfer is ever really happening until you actually unload the moving van at the destination, preparing to duck the swinging managerial ax.

Now that I know that I will be a "Bay Boy" for a while to come I can continue making plans at this end. Of course I will still be making my usual promotional tours of the Nation's capital from time



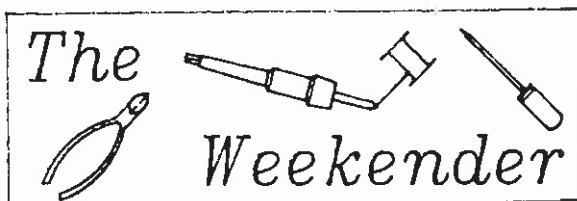
to time. I am also heard on the Pot Hole Net on 75 metres. HF mobile is definitely the way to travel or set up in a parked configuration for that matter. I have a great little spot up on airport hill that is relatively secluded and gives me a pretty good height advantage for getting back east. I hope 40 metres improves because I can tune a wider section of that band from the car than is possible with 75.

The boys at the base are busily erecting a pedestal right near the entrance to both the YB airport and CFB North Bay upon which will stand one of the remaining Voodoo's (CF 101) whose flying career was recently brought to an end. It will be quite a landmark. The only other Voodoo which still takes to the air was supposed to be retired in the spring of 87, but I understand it's life has been extended about a year. I guess there's still potential for some good antique airshows. The 414 squadron will not be left out of the new aircraft scene, though, with newcomers such as the CF-18 and the Canadair Challenger.

It's nice to hear from Lloyd down in Montgomery. You poor lad, being forced to stay for another year tour with all that sunshine and good weather. If those of us in the boonies maintained enough consistency, we could have the globe covered in all directions for correspondents: Mike Shacklock to the east, Lloyd to the south, me to the north west etc etc. I don't

think too many clubs could come close to that kind of news-gathering.

Bye from the Bay!
-Dave, VE3KLX



An inexpensive transistor tester is something that every experimenter shouldn't be without. The unit presented here has several advantages including: low cost, capability of testing most bipolar transistors and the ability to check transistors in as well as out of circuit.

Circuit

The circuit is little more than a simple oscillator, with the feedback being provided by the transformer. The transistor under test provides the active element.

Operation

In normal operation, the NPN/PNP switch is set to the type of transistor being tested and the potentiometer rotated from the OFF position toward the zero point, until the audio tone is heard. If no tone is heard, try changing the transistor-type switch. The low voltage and current used will not damage a transistor, should the switch be set to the wrong position. This allows the tester to be used to identify unknown devices.

While the transistor tester checks devices in



circuit, there are instances where it will not give a true indication. This is dependent upon other components in the circuit being tested eg. low value resistors or inductors from base to emitter, as in RF

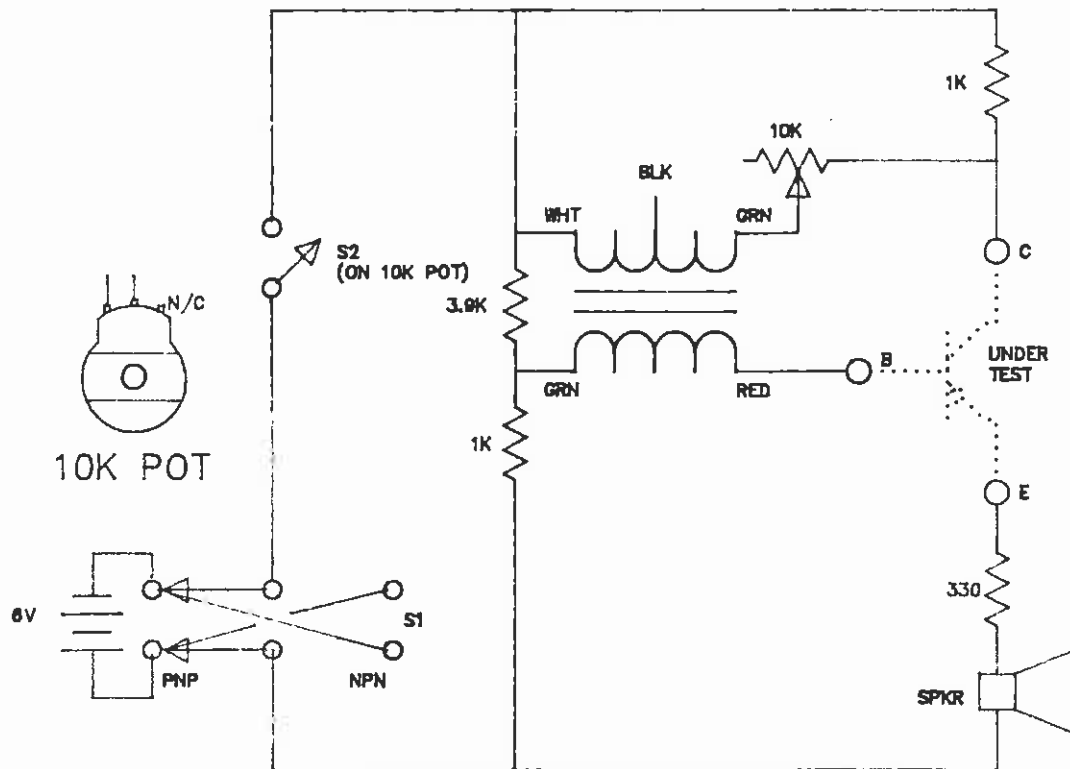
amplifiers. If the transistor checks bad in circuit, confirm by retesting after removal. Avoid removing good transistors by the use of voltage measurements in the circuit.

Components

Item	Description	Source
Transformer	10Kohm:2Kohm CT	Kris
Potentiometer	10Kohm, lin (RS271-1715)	Radio Shack, Kris, Active
Switch	SPST (RS271-1740)	Radio Shack, Kris, Active
Switch	DPDT (RS275-8022)	Radio Shack, Kris, Active
Speaker	8 ohm (RS40-245)	Radio Shack, Kris, Active
Resistor	1 x 3.9Kohm	
	1 x 330 ohm	
	2 x 1.0Kohm	Radio Shack, Kris, Active
Cells	4 x AA	Radio Shack, Kris
Battery Holder	4 AA (RS270-391)	Radio Shack, Active

None of the components are particularly critical. The colour code on the transformer must be followed or the unit will not oscillate. Other transformers have been tried and found to work, however, the specified one is

cheap and oscillates with lower gain transistors. The resistors may be any rating over 1/8 watt. The unit may be packaged in any plastic or metal enclosure you may have around the shop.



Conclusion

While not the equal of equipment costing hundreds of dollars, this little transistor tester does do an admirable job for a very small outlay.

- Russ VE3FSN

COMPUTER TIPS FOR YOUR '64'

In each issue of the RAMBLER we will present a few hints and tips that may be helpful and increase your enjoyment of this good old stalwart of the computer world. Many of the items were discovered in RUN. Last month, Tips 1 & 2 dealt with 'burning in' new equipment and the effect of heat on some power supplies. This month, we will look at Disk handling and storage.

TIP #3

Everyone has, or should have, been warned that it is a BAD idea to touch the surface of a floppy disk, or to allow it to become contaminated in any way. But not everyone realizes that the bottom of the disk is the side that is actually written on. So, if for example, you spill coffee or cookie crumbs, on a disk, you might still escape any serious problem. But, if you lay it on a wet or dirty surface, you may be asking for trouble.

TIP #4

Most of us are aware of the dangers caused by magnetic fields to material stored on disks (or on tapes). Possible magnetism could well wipe out your whole library. Your

monitor or TV can be the danger point. If you worry about this place a small magnetic compass between the monitor or TV and the proposed location of the disk storage box. If the magnetic field is dangerous to the disks, the compass needle will swing whenever the field is in effect.

TIP #5

High humidity can cause loading problems when the felt inside your disk becomes slightly damp. You can reduce the problem by storing your disks with a desiccant capsule, such as those packed with vitamin pills. If you don't use vitamins, ask your druggist to give you a desiccant capsule.

Finally, if you would like to have a supply of personalized message forms, printed from your computer by your own printer, I will have a sample at the next meeting. Bring a formatted disk to the meeting, and I will put a copy of the program on it for you. I will also need your call, name, address and phone number, and will return the disk at the next meeting, or you can pick it up at my QTH (after phoning to confirm it is ready). The program is quite neat and even provides for automatic sequential numbering of your messages.

MORE NEXT MONTH.

BOB VE3KLLK

*** RED DOT ON YOUR RAMBLER,
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE ***



DOODLE PAD
HANG A RIGHT AT GREENLAND!!

Remember those dear old days when the teacher asked everyone to write about "How I spent my summer holidays"? This summer my XYL and I spent three interesting weeks visiting my relatives in Iceland. Where?? ICELAND!! Hang a right at GREENLAND!! It is a small (POP. about 220,000) but very interesting country. Its been called the land of ice and fire since it has Europes largest glacier as well as still active volcanoes. It was settled over 1100 years ago by Vikings from Norway and the language has remained virtually unchanged from that time. The scenery is simply spectacular with endless mountain ranges, valleys and intriguing lava formations. The interior is largely uninhabited now although in past centuries, outlaws lived a precarious existence there. There are roads (4-wheel drive roads) through the interior and bus tours and hiking are becoming popular with tourists.

The geothermal heating is a unique feature which Iceland has pioneered since the 1930's. Superheated water is piped from deep boreholes to provide heating for the two largest centres at least (Reykjavik the capital in the south and Akureyri the largest town in the north). The water is carried in large insulated pipes for miles and still is at or above boiling when it reaches the city.

Yes there are hams in Iceland. I looked under a 2 element quad and met TF5TP in Akureyri. He is now in his

80's and has enjoyed amateur radio for over 50 years. He still holds a certificate as a high speed cw operator. He said that he has trouble contacting stations in his part of the world but finds it easier to work the far east such as Japan.

In Reykjavik on our last day, I spoke with TF3AX at the airport where he works. We exchanged QSL cards and set dates for trial radio contacts on 14.250 Mhz. unfortunately the band was dead on those dates. Hopefully when propagation improves, it will be possible to make contact. They speak fairly good English so if you head a TF station give them a call. They are most interested in establishing contact with stations here. They said that when they did contact stations here that they were on the other end of a pileup as rare DX!!

So teech, thats how I spent my summer holiday. Hope you had a good summer too.

73 de KRIS VE3OWE

TECHNICAL TOPICS:

(Which rig to buy?)

By R. F. Burns

This is the question asked often by both new hams and old timers. Let's look at both situations and try to shed some light. Remember, though, the ultimate decision must be your own.



The newcomer to ham radio may balk at having to pay close to a thousand dollars (or more!) for the latest high-tech creation. After all, this is supposed to be a hobby. What he really needs is a simple, reliable rig to get his feet wet. Eventually, if his perceived needs (and bank balance) justify it, he may choose something more elaborate. His best bet may be to purchase an older pre-owned (to borrow a phrase from the up-market used car dealers) piece of equipment. Rather than getting a separate receiver and transmitter, it is more desirable to go the transceiver route.

The modern CW/SSB transceiver dates from the early 1970's when many American manufacturers were in their heyday. Names to look for are Heath, Drake, Hallicrafters, Swan and National. Almost invariably they were vacuum tube rigs. These tubes are now getting somewhat expensive, although availability isn't much of a problem and quite often a spare set of tubes is thrown in with the deal. Most of this equipment is very easy to service and usually came with service manuals.

When checking out such a rig, try to solicit the advice of a Ham familiar with gear of this era and insist upon a demonstration. The deal should include all power supplies, cables and filters as were normally supplied by the manufacturer. A crystal CW (narrowband) filter is highly desirable. Prices should be between \$300 to \$500 (subject to the usual horse trading).

During the last half of the 1970's, Japanese transistorized equipment grabbed most of the market. For the most part, this gear has turned out to be reliable although servicing was hampered by: A lack of service manuals, the need for special extender circuit boards, and the use of non-standard transistors and final amplifier tubes. Generally, if it's working O.K. when you buy it, it should give long faithful service. The best examples to look for are YAESU FT101E, Kenwood TS-520 or TS-820.

From 1980 to the present, the Japanese manufacturers have gone "Hi-Tech" with a vengeance. Modern rigs have features and capabilities undreamt of a decade ago. Whether you need or want all of these features, you have to pay for them anyway. And as for self-servicing, forget it! The schematic of one of these machines makes a bowl of spaghetti look orderly! This is where the old timer, who is attempting to modernize his station, starts having problems trying to decide what is the best buy for him.

One prominent manufacturer (The Big "I") even sells a rig (microprocessor controlled) whose functions are stored in VOLATILE memory, held live by a lithium battery. When that battery dies, as it will, the rig dies too. Back to the service shop!

A good practice to follow would be to pull out past issues of QST and read the product reviews. These are usually very enlightening and pull no punches. If you don't understand something, find



somebody who does.

It would be, in the opinion of this writer, nice to see a rig produced which incorporates the following features:

- (a) Minimal "Bells and Whistles"
- (b) Modern, completely solid state design
- (c) Easy serviceability
- (d) Controls scaled to human dimensions
- (e) Good reliability
- (f) Priced below \$1000 Canadian.

If such a rig exists, please write and tell R.F.B. about it. See you next month.

from Scarborough Amateur Radio Club bulletin, May 1986.

ANTENNAS FOR 160 METERS
- Hugh, VE3WM -

The Loopstick antenna for 160 meters can be built using two seven inch ferrite rods glued end to end with epoxy cement. The rods are then wrapped with glass or mylar tape and Litz or Formvar magnet wire is then wound around the resultant. Two capacitors are required for tuning and an electrostatic shield must be provided to reduce "antenna effect". (Details in 1985 ARRL Handbook pages 39-12 and 39-13.) This antenna, with a pre-amplifier, can really bring the signals out of the noise. It also is bi-directional giving an excellent null response off the end of the ferrite rod.

The second is a MUCH larger antenna and you'll need a minimum of 1500 feet of wire to get any performance at all on 160 meters. It is called a Beverage antenna, and was used on the European side of the Atlantic for the first tests to see if amateurs could communicate across "the pond". Dependant upon its length, it has excellent gain, and noise is reduced. More information can be found in various antenna handbooks.

If you are planning to operate on 160, you now have some ideas of where to start with antennas. Good luck, and see you on the Top Band.

de LARC Bulletin 6/86

YAESU MODIFICATIONS
by Keith VE5XZ

Yaesu FT 209/709 Handhelds

Many hams are complaining that their new handhelds have poor sensitivity and TX range. Well, don't despair. What is happening is they are not on frequency. So if you find this is the case, take your rig to someone with a good analyzer, and have him run it thru the paces. As well, problems are cropping up with the touch tone pad being off frequency. It seems Yaesu had a bad batch of DTMF pad Xtals. However, none of these may have shown up in Canada.

de SARL Bulletin 6/86



PAPER CHASING
by Bill WD8PFD

WHAT IS PAPER CHASING?

Paper chasing is a collection of certificates unlike DX chasing with one QSL per contact whereas many contacts are required to get a certificate. The certificates are well worth displaying in your shack.

WHO ARE PAPER CHASERS?

Paper chasers are amateur radio operators working the 10 meter band collecting numbers from various chapter certificate holders; also, collecting 10x10 numbers.

WHAT IS 10X10?

"Ten-Ten International" is an organization based in California with over 40,000 members and branches (or chapters) in almost every country in the world. The purpose of 10x10 is to create interest in 10 meter operation so as to keep the band busy and alive and to create another challenge for the amateur.

HOW DO I GET A 10X10 NUMBER?

To get a 10x10 number you have to contact 10 stations with a 10x10 number and send them to your district manager with a yearly fee, which is \$4 US. In Canada only 5 contacts are required, the district manager being VE3RG. The cost is not known at this time. Also all foreign countries require only 5 contacts with 10x10 numbers to get theirs.

Once you have received a 10x10 number it does not change, it is yours for life. You will also receive a certificate and a net sked giving names, locations, time and frequency of all chapter nets, plus a quarterly newsletter magazine. All chapters require membership in 10x10 to obtain their certificate.

Once you have a 10x10 number there is a certificate bar for every 100 10x10 numbers collected. Chapter numbers are collected so that you can get certificates from that chapter. Chapter requirements are different for each chapter. When contacting a 10x10 station, the operator will help as much as possible for the information needed to get your number or certificates. All 10x10 operators are very courteous and more than willing to help with whatever you need to know.

LOGGING FORMS

You will need several forms:

1) the type of station log used while on the air

2) the form used when sending for certificates, there are several log programs for computers so that this can be done very easily by the computer

3) because of the number of certificates the station that you work might have, the operator will send you a list of his or her certificates and numbers, which also can be put into a computer for compiling points for either basic certificates or upgrades. Paper chasing is fun and can be whatever challenge you desire.

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FROM THE DESK OF 3CDS

Here we are into October and the antenna work still needs to be done. I must get to that before the cold weather comes. Anyway, on to the more immediate things. How do you like the new Rambler format? It sure is a different exercise in putting it together, no more stencils etc. Have to change our thinking a bit, instead of emphasizing the layout of the stencils as we had to do. We now only need to be concerned with the content. Articles, that is, the more the better. Typing the stuff into the computer is much easier and faster than using a typewriter. The computer does the necessary formatting etc. This issue of the Rambler has been all processed by computer. We should have out new computer at the editor's desk by next issue. Nothing but good comments from the XYL typist -

she has really taken to the computer keyboard!

On to other things now that the summer is gone. The course for new amateurs is underway and I am sure there is still a requirement for mentors. Drop into Laurentian any Monday evening and sit in on a class. Russ, VE3FSN will be glad to see you.

I see there is a new electronics store opening up early in October. It's called Electronic Warehouse on Bentley Ave. in Nepean. They're open all day Saturday and feature new and used equipment. Congrats to Mark VE3OWL and the OARC on making the top ten in Canada on field day.

I sure would like to find some old general interest articles. Any ideas? See you in the next issue.

Jerry - VE3CDS

*** RED DOT ON YOUR RAMBLER, YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS DUE ***
*** IF SO, THIS IS YOUR LAST RAMBLER ***

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

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

