

# THE RAMBLER

OCTOBER 1989

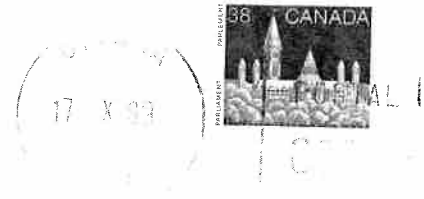
**The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio  
Club Incorporated**  
P.O. Box 5530, Station F  
Ottawa, Ont. K2C 3M1



**Next Meeting: THURSDAY, 19 October, 1989**  
**Place: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 5530, Station "F"**  
**Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3M1**

LARRY WILCOX  
565 EASTVALE DR.  
GLOUCESTER ONT.  
K1J 6Z4



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The Rambler is published monthly in Canada by The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Incorporated, P.O. BOX 5530, Station F, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3M1. Authors assume full responsibility for the contents of published articles and for opinions or points of view expressed therein. Permission is given.

**Publishing & Circulation Committee**

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**Membership**  
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**Editor**  
 Chas. King  
 VE3PDK - 733-2079

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**AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVITIES**

**POT HOLE NET** - (OVMRC) 3.760 MHz SSB/HF, Sundays 1000 hrs. All Radio Amateurs are welcome to participate. Features the SWAP NET.

**SWAPNET** - (Ed Morgan, VE3GX) a regular feature of the POT HOLE NET and the CAPITAL CITY FM NET for the purpose of acquiring or disposing of radio equipment. List items or refer queries to Ed at 733-1721

**POT LID NET** - (Ed, VE3GX) 3.620 MHz, Sundays 1100 hrs. (except Jul/ Aug) An informal, slow-speed, CW net to promote interest in CW and procedures

**CAPITAL CITY FM NET** - (OARC) 146.94/.34 MHz, Mondays 2000 hrs. The SWAP NET (see above) is a regular feature.

**PACKET RADIO VOICE NET** - (OARC) 146.95/.34, Mondays 2040 hrs. Follows the CAPITAL CITY FM NET. .

**THE WISE OWL NET** - (OVMRC) 147.30/.90 Fridays 2000 hrs- Check in and rag chew net. All Amateurs welcome.

**VE3JW -Demonstration Amateur Radio Station of the National Museum of Science and Technology**, managed by OVMRC and normally operated by volunteer Amateurs, is temporarily closed  
**OVMRC CODE PHONE** 825-0786 with code set at Amateur Radio Course speed. New text each week.

**NOTICES**

October Guest Speaker: George Roach, VE3BNO will explain the development and application of AM Stereo.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Does your Rambler have a red dot? Renew your membership today! The Club needs you!

The President

## STRAYS

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY

Well guys, these are exciting times we're living in. As you know, we have formed a stronger bond with the Museum and, as a result of this, the future looks promising for the club, but it will present new challenges.

On the promising side, we have the generous allocation of space in the Museum Auditorium for our monthly meetings and the classroom space and training aids to run the Amateur Radio Course. Ernie DeCoste, of the Museum staff, is now scripting the proposed communications exhibits for the next phase of Museum renovations. The Museum has assured us that Amateur Radio Station VE3JW will be part of those exhibits.

And now for the challenge. Are we prepared to show our appreciation for the Museum's generosity by supporting their planners? Are we willing to put on our thinking-caps and come up with ideas for the Station? Can we provide information and artifacts of a historical nature that might fit into the category of Amateur Radio contributions to communications?

We need a standing committee to act as liaison with Ernie Decoste of the Museum. This committee will be the focus for the

presentation of ideas on an Amateur Radio Station that will inter-act with the public and on the collection and presentation of historical data and artifacts that might go into the Amateur Radio exhibit.

Many of you know, from first-hand experience, of the contributions made by Canadian Amateurs to the advance of communications technology, as well as their contributions to the war efforts in two World Wars, Korea and in peace-keeping operations. Their contributions, both in technological advancement and in service, will help remind Canadians of the value of the Amateur Radio Service and why it is important to keep it around.

The work of the ad hoc committee, headed by VE3MPG - Bob, was not in vain. The recommendations of this committee are in the hands of the Museum planners and will serve as a start point for the work of the new Amateur Radio Exhibit (ARE) Committee. Give it serious thought. It will be on the Oct agenda.

As you may know, VE3RCI - Jeff is unable to complete his term of office as Vice-President. He has agreed to continue writing the DX column and is anxiously looking to you for your DX tips, contributions and anecdotes for this column.

VE3CDS - Jerry has been tasked with finding a suitable candidate for appointment to complete the term of Vice-

President. Give Jerry a call if you would like to participate in your Club or if you know of someone who might serve on the Club Executive. Whoever takes up the job of Vice will find it both challenging and interesting.

Dan, VE3EBI, has agreed to monitor DOC activities regarding deregulation and new licensing requirements on behalf of the Club.

Don't forget to introduce your guests at the meetings to VE3BAJ - Fred, who is the keeper of the Visitors Register and our official welcoming committee. I can tell you that Fred makes you feel most welcome.

Well, I think I have strayed far enough.

### KEEP IT SHORT

And then there was the Ham who said to the Amateur, "I just can't understand it! I've cut these antenna elements twice and they're still too short."

To which the Amateur replied, "Well, the longer you cut them, the shorter they get. Now why not try working on your ground leads?"

This Ham would have done wonders to his ground system according to K4ABT Buck Rogers. Writing in the CQ issue of June 1989, he says, "A good ground is *worth its salt*" ... but remember (it) *loses its effectiveness if its length exceeds an eighth of a wavelength of the frequency that you are using... after that the wavelength becomes a radiator.* So **keep it short!** Editor

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

Lee DeMone, VE3OWD

### SEPTEMBER MEETING - A GRANDSTART

The Club year got off to a grand start as Doug, VE3ATY presided over its first meeting on 21 September with eighty-five members and guests in attendance. Doug thanked the Museum for its overwhelming support of the Club in providing the Auditorium, as well as a classroom and training aids for the Amateur Radio Course. He affirmed the Club's intention to strengthen the links formed with the Museum as he called on Mr. Ernie DeCoste of the Museum Staff to address the meeting.

Mr. DeCoste explained his role in developing three exhibit areas: Space Activity, which will tell Canada's space story, Graphic Arts and Communications. He requested information on any communications artifacts now held by the Museum and welcomed any volunteers who could offer time and expertise to research the history of these artifacts.

The President announced with regret the resignation of Jeff, VE3RCI, and noted the need for someone to complete the term of office. Doug thanked Jeff for his excellent work as Vice-President and for continuing the DX Column for the Rambler.

The Amateur Radio

Course is holding classes every Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at the Museum with twenty students and this may increase to twenty-five. Doug, the Course instructor, expressed optimism about this year's success rate in view of last year's record.

The Membership Chairman, Pat, VE3KJQ, reported that only 50 membership renewals have been received to date.

Jeff, VE3RCI, requested interesting DX data from the logs of all members for his Rambler column - DX de YOU.

Dan Holmes, VE3EBI, reported that the Canadian International Development Agency has asked CARF to celebrate Development Day on 2 October. Special CK and CZ prefixes have been assigned to each province. The DOC station will be VY9CC.

The prefix CF1 has been assigned to PEI Amateurs for period 1 Sept - 31 October, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the 1864 Fathers of Confederation Charlottetown Conference.

General Motors has issued a guide entitled *Radio Telephone/Mobile Radio Installation Guidelines* which includes installation, cabling and troubleshooting tips. Copies are available from Electromagnetic Compatibility Dept, EMC Building 40, GM Proving Ground, MILFORD, MI, USA, 40824-2001.

New demands on the HF spectrum, especially 40

meters, are expected from commercial interests at the ITU World Administrative Radio Conference in 1992.

Surplus Bell Canada RIXON T212A Data Sets (Modems) with a 5-year warranty are available from CNIB for \$47.00 post-paid.

*CARF Certificate Study Guides* are now available. Courses using them have had a high student success rate.

The CARF-DOC Symposium is to be held 21 October, from 0830 to 1630 hrs., at The Wexford Collegiate, 1176 Pharmacy Road, Scarborough, Ont.

*Amateur Radio Displays.* The President pointed out the working displays of amateur radio in its various forms and invited everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions and to become acquainted with the hobby. He introduced Past-President Alan, VE3LNH, who gave a well-received slide presentation on Amateur Radio. This was followed by a coffee break and a question session.

Merv, VE3CV, announced that the Sunday Pothole Net is in danger of dying for lack of interest. This long-standing net meets on 3760 kHz at 1000 hrs each Sunday and includes the Swap Net, which offers info on equipment wanted or for sale. (Let's see some support)

Bill, VE3EKA, gave a brief report on ATV in the area. He noted that the Pioneers Club is sponsoring a

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# EDITOR'S VIEW

Chas. King, VE3PDK

## URGENT! -- ALL AMATEURS

A fire is raging at the fuel tank farm on the edge of town! This is causing traffic disruptions, sewer fires, smoke hazards, property damage and personal injury. A large part of the town is being evacuated, including a sanatorium. A stockyard in the area has a full capacity of cattle, adding to the problem. Conventional means of communication (telephones and radios) are swamped or operating sporadically. Emergency service coordinators are hampered by these communications deficiencies. Will you help? Perhaps, more important - will you know how to help?

Work a couple of days on the Directing Staff of an Emergency Preparedness Course to get the experience you need in handling radio traffic in simulated emergencies. The Canadian Preparedness College in Arnprior, Ontario conduct courses in which students are required to coordinate all the services needed to protect and care for the population involved, as well as minimize the property damage in a simulated emergency. Two of these courses, *Emergency Operations* and *Emergency Site Management*, include two-day exercises to practise coordination and communication skills. These exercises need four or more Amateur Radio Operators with 2-meter equipment, who function as Guest Directing Staff, to simulate the use of

emergency communications available in the community.

The two-day session allows students to interact with the Amateur and to see, at first hand, the degree of professionalism and reliability of this communications resource. These students are a cross-section of emergency operators and planners from every Province in Canada. They represent Provincial emergency measures planners, municipal mayors and planners, police and fire services, city managers and engineers, health and social services and transportation managers.

Amateurs who take part, not only gain emergency communications experience, they also illustrate to this cross-section of emergency planners the value of including the Amateur Radio Service in their community emergency plans. The spin-off value to amateurs nationwide cannot be estimated, but it will most certainly have a positive effect.

**Art Bennie, VE3MJZ (745-6597)** coordinates the volunteers and is always looking for more operators, especially French-speaking amateurs, to meet the continuing needs of French language courses.

New operators are briefed and work with an experienced amateur for a familiarization period at the beginning of the exercise. The College pays round-trip transportation and provides meals and overnight accommodation on site. Why not give Art a call at 745-6597 and schedule yourself as an amateur radio operator on one of these courses. You will be glad you did.

*Continued from page 4*

*Video Repeater (VE3TVA). There are about ten active ATVers in area. Eleven ATVers successfully assisted in crowd control activity at the last Rose Bowl Game in Pasadena, CA. Fast Scan TV (FSTV), a higher quality video than Slow Scan TV, is becom-*

*ing more popular, and is not that expensive.*

*The President noted that Serge, VE3JRG, is moving into a seniors' residence and will sell his TS 520 rig for \$375.00.*

*Al, VE3RCS, presided over the evening's draw for prizes.*

*The winners in the Non-amateur Category were: Peter Noel; Thomas Gendron; and Diane Sheahan. Those in the*

*Amateur Category were: Andre Pilon, VE????; Lee DeMone, VE3OWD; Al Beveridge, VE3RCS; Normand Dupuis, VE3NDU; and Daniel Devlin, VE3OCF.*

*The meeting adjourned at 2130 hrs for a lively discussion at each of the display tables.*

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Summer is a quiet time in the life of amateur radio clubs. Most clubs do not publish a bulletin in the summer and there is not much news in the September bulletins from across the country to pass on to you.

The London Amateur Radio Club is up and running for the fall. They use committees to handle the various club duties. That way, one person doesn't have to do all the work. Something to think about in any club.

The Scarborough ARC in Toronto reports that Field Day participation was up this

year, a sentiment in other club bulletins. They will be hosting the CARF-DOC Symposium on October 21. Points to be discussed: frequency coordination on shared bands; restructuring; amateur exams; a national UHF/VHF coordinating committee; and where do we go when the VE3 call-signs run out.

The Sudbury Amateur Radio Club solved last year's Field Day logging problem. This year, they used three IBM-type lap-top computers. Their bulletin features an interview with Reino VE3AC who has been an amateur for 50 years. The back page of their bulletin features the Packet Racket North, the first edition of the packet radio newsletter for Northern Ontario.

In the local Pioneer Amateur Radio Club, Bill VE3EKA is making a big push for a fast-scan ATV repeater. He points out the advantages that fast-scan TV provides for live coverage of public service events such as the Triathlon. Bill spoke at our September meeting.

If you find communications for local public service events a challenge, consider the obstacles faced by the Calgary Amateur Radio Association in providing communications through the Rockies for the Jasper-Banff Relay. They make use of those high "hills" and a few portable repeaters to help them get through. Packet radio also played a role in relaying information.

That's it for this month. See you again next month.

## MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Pat Brewer, VE2KJQ

Now is the time to check the address label on your Rambler. If there is a RED DOT on it, your membership will expire at the end of this month and your Rambler subscription will have run out. You can either mail in your membership renewal or hand it in at the October Club meeting. There are about 55 of you who have not yet renewed so let's hear from you!

With another Club year over, I thought I would give you our membership statistics. Last year, we had 152 members -- another Club record. Of these, 117 were licenced amateurs and 35 were not. In nine cases, more than one person in a family were members of the Club. The following are the licenced students from last year's Amateur Radio Course: Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI; Don Morris, VE3RCD; Joe Labenek, VE3RCV; Bob Marr, VE3RCE; and Dan Stanton, VE3RDT; Chuck Lockwood, VE3CAF. If there are others, who have since acquired their licence, I would like to know. Either drop me a line or phone me to let me know your call-sign.

On a sad note, four Club members became silent keys during the last year: Jack Ravenscroft, VE3SRM; Doc Haycock, VE3LC; Art Stark, VE3ZS; and Don Reavely, VE3ATJ. Finally, I would like to urge you to let me know if you move. I don't like getting Ramblers returned to our Post Office Box with wasted postage and I'm sure you don't like not receiving the Rambler.

# DXde YOU!

Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI

CQ DX, CQ DX, CQ DX, DE VE3RCI! Calling all OVMRC members. Bring me your best DX catches of the month, any mode, any band (yes, VHF and above, too!). This new DX column is based on the reports that you provide to me at each monthly meeting, or by any other means (I am now on packet, so send your ASCII files or brief message to VE3RCI @ VE3JF). This column will only work if you support it. Since I got nothing at the September meeting, we're not off to a very auspicious start! Consequently, you will have to endure my own recent logging and info of interest to my fellow beginners.

On The HF Bands. JY9SR Jordan, Jul 21, 0219Z 21.032 MHz CW (QSL via W3FYT); CE0FFD Easter Is., Aug 2, 0000Z 28.009 MHz CW; FG/FD1OMP Guadeloupe, Aug 2, 0000Z 28.007 MHz CW (QSL via F6FNU); XT2CW Burkino Faso, Aug 12, 0615Z 7.002/7.009 MHz(listening) CW; FO0FB Tahiti, Aug 29, 0100Z 28.523 MHz SSB (QSL via WB6GFJ); 5B4TI Cyprus, Sept 23, 1600Z 28.485 MHz SSB; 5B4SA Cyprus, Sept 23, 1630Z 28.495 MHz SSB; D44BC Cape Verde Is., Oct 3, 1220Z 28.485 MHz SSB.

So you can see that I've been having fun on 10 meters. Hope you are too! ARRL says

the DX conditions will peak in November sogetready. When I get more logging, I will organize them by band and/or mode.

In The Mailbox. (Abbreviations: IRC - International Reply Coupon (\$1.05 Can at Post Office); SASE - Self Addressed Stamped Envelope - I use a \$0.30 US stamp for US QSL managers). ZD8BOB direct, 1 IRC, 33 days; VP2V/DF2PI via DF2PI, 1 IRC, 78 days; JY9SR via W3FYT, SASE, 34 days; TA2AP via KB6LEA, SASE, 61days; KB6VIR/5N3 via KB6VIR, SASE, 75 days; FW0BX via ZL1AMO, 1 IRC, 63 days; J73EH via WA4WIP, SASE, 13 days!

For those beginners still waiting for their first package of QSL cards via the bureau (VE3QSL), it took 28 weeks from the day I sent my first cards out to the CARF outgoing bureau. If you want more information on the art of QSL collecting such as how to QSL direct, to use QSL managers, to use the incoming (VE3QSL) and outgoing (CARF or CRRL) bureau, let me know and you can read about it in this column.

That's all I have, so let's hear from you - the ol' pros and the novices. What you consider DX, I consider DX. This column needs DX de YOU! Until next month 73 es gud dx.

AMATEUR RADIO COURSE

## NOVICES' NET

Jerry Wells, VE3CDS

So the first few sessions on the Amateur Radio Course has bewildered and frustrated you. Well don't lose heart. You have just joined a worldwide fraternity of amateur radio operators who have gone through the same frustrations and probably under much more bewildering and adverse conditions. (Formal training courses are only a recent innovation in obtaining Amateur Radio Licencing.) Then why, you ask, did they persevere to get their license. Whatever reasons they may give you - whether to speak to family or friends at home or in foreign lands, there is another reason. Every Amateur longs for the thrill of making that first radio contact, either on CW or on phone.

Is there is anything sweeter than the sound of your name? Yes, there is. It's the sound of your call-sign on radio in reply to your first CQ. The Amateur, who receives your first call, will be equally thrilled to have been your first caller. Ask him for a QSL card to record that first contact.

The sound of your call-sign on

.....Continued on page 8

*Novices' Net from page 7*

the airwaves gets even sweeter when you get repeat calls from radio contacts you have developed over the years. Then you'll experience the warm feeling of hearing, "Nice to hear you again." or "Wondered if we might hear you again." and "Thanks for being there." It's a feeling that is difficult to put into words.

If you ever get the opportunity to use your radio to help someone in troubled, you will know the heights of rapture of being an amateur radio operator.

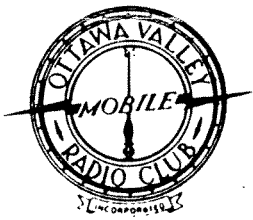
So, you're having trouble with the code. This is only the initiation trial. Persevere a little longer and one day you will go through the "Aha!" stage when everything become clear and you will

wonder what you were so confused about. In a few weeks, you will have mastered the code and reached a basic understanding of what makes radio work. In later articles, I will delve a little more into some of the other facets of this marvelous hobby you have undertaken -- amateur radio.

Renue your membership by mail or in person at the meeting 19 October.  
Pass the form on to a friend if you don't need it yourself.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc.,  
P.O. Box 5530, Station "F",  
OTTAWA, Ontario K2C 3M1



Radio Call Sign

Family Name	Given Name & Initials	Preferred Radio Name	
Address - Apartment, House Number, Street			Home Phone
City/Town	Province	Postal Code	Business Phone

Date

New Member     Membership Renewal  
**Association Memberships**  
 CARF     CRRL  
 OARC     Other

Applies for membership/renewal for the Membership Year.....in the following category:

- REGULAR MEMBER\* - as a licensed amateur.....\$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER\* - as a radio enthusiast.....\$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_
- FAMILY MEMBER(S) - of a Regular or Associate Member.....\$1.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Given Names

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed  Cheque  Cash

**For Office Use**

Membership Number

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Membership Registered

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Receipt Issued

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Card(s) Issued

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Subscription Registered

\* Includes subscription to *The Rambler*