

THE RAMBLER

LARRY

Volume 33, Number 1 -- January, 1990

AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE RESTRUCTURE EFFECTIVE 1 SEPTEMBER 1990

CARF Bulletin 20-89 included a report of the DOC/CARF Symposium held 21 October, 1989. It gave details of the restructuring of the Amateur Radio Licensing regulations to come into effect 1 September, 1990. A digest of this report follows:

Certificate. The new certificate will have four levels of qualification --

1. Basic,
2. Basic plus 5 wpm CW,
3. Basic plus 12 WPM CW, and
4. Advanced.

There is no requirement to try the 5 wpm test first; the 12 wpm test may be written at the first sitting.

Privileges and Restrictions

1. *Basic Level* requires knowledge of Regulations, Basic Electronics Theory and Interference Avoidance. The knowledge and skill levels required should be obtained in a 40-hour classroom course and demonstrated by a written examination.

Basic Level allows operation above 30 MHz in all modes at a maximum input power of 250 Watts. All transmitting equipment must be commercially constructed, however other station equipment may be home-built. A **Basic Level Amateur** may not sponsor a repeater.

2. *Basic plus 5 wpm CW.* Basic Amateur may operate above 30 MHz and on 160 and 80 meters in all modes with the 250 W maximum input power and equipment restrictions.

3. *Basic plus 12 wpm CW.* With the addition of 12 wpm CW qualification, the **Basic Level Amateur** may operate on all bands in all modes with the 250 W input power and equipment restrictions.

4. *Advanced Level.* As a prerequisite, the Amateur must have a Basic with 12 wpm CW. A written examination, demonstrating a more in-depth knowledge of electronic theory, circuit analysis and construction techniques, gives the Advanced Amateur the technical and operating privileges of Basic Level and, in addition, transmitter construction, full kilowatt power operations and sponsorship of repeaters.

GRANDFATHERING AND CREDIT CARRY-OVER

See grandfathering scheme and credit carry-over graphic prepared by Brice Wightman, VE3EDR on page 10 (back page).

"Grandfathering" of existing Amateurs will be as follows:

- existing Advanced Amateurs will retain all privileges.
- existing Amateurs will be granted all Advanced Amateur privileges.
- existing Digital Amateurs will have privileges on 30 MHz and up, as at present, plus the privileges of transmitter construction, repeater sponsorship, etc.
- existing CW credits may be applied against the requirements for Basic + 5 wpm.
- theory or regulations credits cannot be carried forward credit since there is no directly comparable exam in the new system.
- a holder of both theory and regulations credits, who has not obtained a licence under the current rules because he lacks the CW credit, will immediately receive a Certificate with Basic Level qualification.

Effective date of the restructured Amateur service will be 1 September 1990. Anyone who writes an exam before that date will write the present one. After that date, it will be the new exams.

Call Signs. There will be no call sign identification of the various classes of licence.

Amateur Exams. DOC is satisfied that the current control of CW examinations is going well. The DOC feels that they should maintain, at least for now, the database of exam questions. There are ways to have new questions inserted into the database and it would be appropriate if active instructors were to suggest questions so that the bank can be renewed continually. The two national amateur radio organizations reviewed and selected questions for the theory exams for the restructured Amateur certificate. The DOC has retained responsibility for regulations examinations within the Department.

Conduct of Examinations. A revised RIC-1 will be issued soon to define amateur radio club participation in the conduct of examinations. DOC is very supportive of clubs and the president of a club will be responsible for supervision of examinations. He may delegate the task but will be responsible for the activity. In areas where there are no clubs, DOC will consider authorizing an Amateur with Advance qualifications to conduct exams.

It was suggested that clubs take advantage of the option of inviting DOC speakers to their meetings to keep abreast of changes.



THE RAMBLER

Volume 33, No. 1

January, 1990

OVMRC EXECUTIVE

1989-1990

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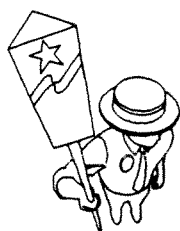
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NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC WILL BE HELD

15 FEBRUARY 1990

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY AUDITORIUM

1930 HOURS

SKI MARATHON 1990 10-11 February

Volunteer operators, drivers and
helpers of all kinds

Contact Harrie Jones
VE3HYS
738-2372 or 739-9365

COMING CLUB EVENTS

Flea Market - 21 April

Field Day - 23-34 June

*Guest Speakers and Meeting
Programmes:*

*Microwave Communications
18 January
by Keith Ballinger VE3IMT
and Ralph Cameron, VE3BBM*

*Speaker
Plus Show and tell
15 February
Bring your home-brew project,
show illustrations, and tell us how
you did it*

For Future Meetings:

*History of Telecommunications in
Canada
(a film presentation)*

*Communications in the Armed
Forces
by Al Beveridge
VE3SKA*

NEED A RIDE TO THE MEETINGS?

*Don't miss meetings for want of
transportation.
Call any one of the executive to
make arrangements for a lift.*

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!

Publishing & Circulation Committee

Pat Brewer VE3KJQ
Fred Haire VE3NJF
Eric Still VE3OTT

AMATEUR RADIO NETSPOT HOLE NET - Sundays 1000 hrs. 3.760 MHz (includes Swap Net
SWAP NET - (Ed Morgan, VE3GX) regular feature of Pot Hole Net and Capital City FM Net. Call
Ed 733-1721 for listings and queries.

POT LID NET - Sundays 1100 hrs(except Jul & Aug) 3.620 MHz slow-speed, informal CW.

CAPITAL CITY FM NET - Mondays 2000 hrs 146.94 MHz. Swap Net featured.

PACKET RADIO VOICE NET - Mondays 2040 hrs 146.94 MHz follows Capital City FM Net.

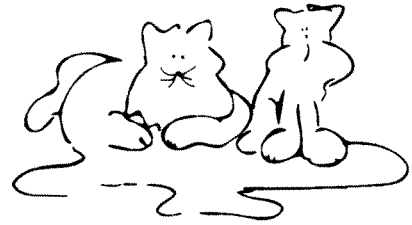
THE WISE OWL NET - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

OVMRC CODE PHONE - 825-0786 24-hr code practice set at Amateur Radio Course code speed.
New text each week.

Champlain Mini-Net - Daily 1845 hrs 147.06 MHz

STRAYS

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY



Well the 90's decade looks very interesting for the amateur radio community. For those of you who did not make it to the December Meeting, VE3PAP, Chuck, delivered an informative CARF bulletin for the month. It addressed the new regulation proposed for implementation this coming September. Chuck, VE3PDK, and Bryce, VE3EDR have prepared an analysis of it, which is included in this issue of the Rambler. Take a close look. It's going to be easier to become a radio amateur. In addition, the administration of examining (to standards set by Communications Canada) is being handed over to the president of the Club. He or his designate will receive the exams from Communications Canada for examining candidates at the various levels of qualification. There will be an awful temptation to water down even the new requirements and make it easier to join the fraternity. Very recently, VE3CDS relayed to me a story of a number of amateurs searching for one of the "rare ones" and I must confess I felt dismayed. I know that most of you would have reacted in the same manner. I know that I am

an amateur and would not want for one minute to be confused with the "CBers" which leapt to mind hearing Jerry's description of the manner in which these hunters for the "rare one" behaved. I think it is time for us to draw closer together to ensure that it doesn't happen in our organization. Perhaps it is time for us to say we only need one organization at the national level and cannot afford two different groups representing me. Perhaps our editor's article of last month is timely. Lets ask ourselves the question: do we need two organizations in the nations capital? I would like to hear from you on this matter and not respond with knee jerks to the changing times that are in front of us.

Of special note this month, Jeff VE3RCI, and Jerry, VE3CDS, have changed jobs. So now Jerry is vice and Jeff is PR. This is the result of some plans being changed on us. I know both will put forward the effort necessary to make our Club more successful. Jerry is now responsible for the program being presented at the monthly meetings. Jeff is looking after the formation of the ARE (Amateur Radio Exhibit) Commit-

tee, the standing committee for liaison with the Museum and will play an important role in helping to set up the Communications Exhibit that is planned for the future.

Last month's meeting was really worth while. Al, VE3LNH, and Ed, VE3VLF, presented a talk on packet radio aimed at the newcomer and I can tell you by the number of questions asked that it was well worth the effort.

One of our members at the meeting suggested to me during coffee break that we ought to wear name tags so that we can associate a face with a call sign. Good idea. Jerry is looking into this. She also mentioned that she got her name tag when she passed the exams after taking the course. I think we will do the same thing with this class, now that they are approaching exam time.

January's meeting looks promising. Ralph, VE3BBM, and Keith, VE3IMT, will be presenting a talk on an exotic form of telephony using the microwave bands. I think it will be another informative evening.

Well I have strayed far enough for this month. See you at the next meeting. 73s Doug

ANNUAL OVMRC BANQUET

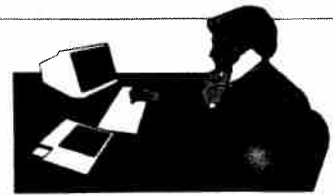
**Talk it up at the meeting to select a date and place
for the 1990 event.**

ITEMS WANTED, FOR TRADE OR SALE

As a service to Club members, your items for sale, trade or wanted will be listed in future issues of The Rambler on a space available basis and free of charge. Listings will have to be presented to the Editor at each monthly meeting for inclusion in the next edition.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Chas. King, VE3PDK



A NEW YEAR AT THE PRESSES

Every Club meeting in recent memory has opened with an apology for late delivery of *The Rambler* or for some other hitch in the production and distribution of our monthly newsletter. The excuses for failing to meet the deadline or for printing mix-ups that occurred were all legitimate, but nonetheless annoying.

First there was the change of Editors - from Bob, VE3MPG to yours truly. Bob had gone through his learning curve and was producing a first class newsletter when circumstances forced him to hand the job over. Many of the problems encountered in producing the past several issues were due to the fact that your new Editor has been struggling uphill to reach the top of his learning curve. He may not be there yet, but the top is in site.

The next series of problems were probably due to technological advances that managed to stay just ahead of your Editor's abilities to cope. The first of these was a change-over from a PC-XT to a PC-AT. Anyone who has ever reconfigured a com-

puter with all of the systems, utilities and programs needed will sympathize. "With a little help from my friends" mainly Alan, VE3LNH, the system is now on line and everything is performing as it should.

Then, Santa Claus squeezed down the chimney with a Laserjet printer. This required reconfiguring programs like Word Perfect and other publishing programs to function with this new printer. With a little help from Santa's helper (eldest son, John), it too is on line and performing as advertised.

But all is not lost. As a result of the Laserjet acquisition, camera-ready pagers will now be possible directly from "the shack", eliminating one of the steps in the previous arrangements. Alan, VE3LNH, who use to performed this step of converting *The Rambler* from floppy to laser pages has been given his 'pink slip' -



another casualty to advances in technology.

You should know that throughout these turbulent months, your Editor maintained a calm and cool attitude and was not the least phased when informed that "The floppies wont run!" or "Where are pages 3 and 5?" and "The printing machines have just been closed down for servicing." So we printed on one side on an alternative machine and added more postage. The need to replace the computer keyboard is in no way related to these frustrations and I know the dents in the side of my CPU were there when I bought it.

A final change in format was approved by the Executive to allow for an additional page of newsletter and the use of envelopes for mailing. This is due to postage regulations, postage costs and the need for more space. We hope it will make life easier for Fred, VE3NJJ, who has to lick all those stamps and seal the newsletter for mailing.

As I said earlier, the top of the learning curve is in sight and it should soon be all downhill -- not the quality of the newsletter, but the ease with which it can be produced.

This space was reserved for all the letters of support and cries for the Editor's resignation over last month's editorial! Oh well, they must be in the mail.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING -, 21 DECEMBER 1989



Lee Demone, VE3OWD, Secretary

1. President Doug, VE3ATY, opened the meeting in the Auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology, at 1940hrs, welcoming approximately 40 members and visitors.

2. He recognized the following visitors:

VE3PDS Joe Walcott

4N7ZR (ex-YU7NZR)

Nenan Stevanovic'

XYL Mrs. Caskey

3. He noted the difficulties experienced in producing the last issue of the RAMBLER and efforts made to overcome them.

4. President Doug enquired whether anyone had any technical problems requiring Club assistance. Past President Alan, VE3LNH, who is refurbishing an APPLE computer, is looking for a controller and two disc drives for same.

5. President Doug enquired if there were any errors or omissions in the last meeting's minutes as published in the RAMBLER. Fred, VE3BAJ, pointed out an error in the spelling of a name which the secretary noted for correction. With this, the minutes were adopted as corrected.

6. It was reported that the "Talk to Santa Claus" via Ham Radio held at the Museum on 16 Dec 89 was a success despite the low visitor attendance due to inclement weather. Approximately 40 children availed themselves of the service.

7. President Doug noted that the OVMRC Flea Market date was now firmed up as 21 Apr 1990.

8. He also noted that the Club has set up VE3RAM as a digital repeater at the Museum.

9. CARF rep Chuck, VE3PAP, reported a number of items of interest including details on the "Restructuring of Amateur Radio" which will be published in the RAMBLER. He also noted:

a. The DOC/CARF Symposium held 21 Sep 89 was a success.

b. The need for cooperation for coexistence on shared bands (ie 220 MHz).

c. The issue of Third Party Traffic is under scrutiny in the US following suspected abuses, which have resulted in complaints. This may lead to changes internationally.

d. Municipalities are becoming increasingly concerned about towers. To head off difficulties amateurs are encouraged to coordinate their plans with neighbours and municipal authorities prior to construction.

e. The Land, Fixed and Mobile sub-committee of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada (RABC) met in Montreal on 27 Nov 89. Paul Cooper, VE3JLP, represented CARF. Among points discussed were:

i. Possible utilization by Toronto area mobile users of TV channel 14 assigned to Barrie but currently unused;

ii. DOC planning for 12.5 kHz channel spacing in the 400 and 900 land mobile bands; and

iii. Upcoming digital technology for cellular phone systems-- 4 different systems now in use in Europe. Which, if any of these, will be used in North America?

f. New address of the CRRRL VE1QSL Bureau is: P.O. Box 141, PETTICODIAC, N.B. E0A 2H0.

g. Approximately 50 PEI amateurs have chosen to change to the new "VY2" call signs as of Bulletin date.

11. President introduced the evening's guest speakers - Alan, VE3LNH and Ed, VE3VLF - who delivered an excellent presentation on Packet Radio. It was organized in 5 parts:

1. theory,
- 2 - equipment,
- 3 - operation,
- 4 - demonstration (two operating stations),
- 5 - Q&A workshop.

When it was over, all present had a good appreciation of the equipment required for packet operation, cost, opportunities for linking for comms outside immediate area, and general operating procedures. The talks and demonstrations elicited numerous questions indicating a high level of interest in packet radio.

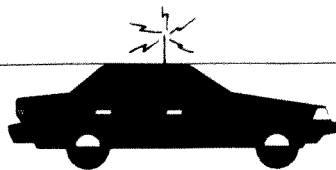
12. There being no further business President Doug wishes all present a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year. Meeting adjourned at 2200 hrs.

TROUBLED BY RFI IN YOUR MOBILE STATION?

Dave Ingram, K4TWJ, writing in the January 1990 issue of CQ explains and illustrates how to avoid RFI and how to properly ground a mobile rig. If you are having problems and would like to have a copy of this article, give a shout at the meeting and one will be made available.

Ed.

NEWS AND VIEWS



Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

FROM HERE AND THERE

Time for the monthly trip across Canada through the bulletins of Amateur Radio Clubs. This month, we'll journey roughly east to west.

The **Halifax Amateur Radio Club** has been approached by REACT to help in emergency situations on a local and provincial basis. They are quick to point out that this is not the GRS REACT; it is a term chosen by Federal and Military planners to indicate REACTIon. Their first test will be a tanker explosion simulation in Halifax Harbour in May.

In the local *PARC Bulletin*, there is a description of I-PARN. This is a Canadian proposal for a transcontinental voice and digital radio link system. I-PARN will link repeaters, using ground stations and commercial geostationary communication satellites. Editor Bill, VE3EKA, asks whether Baird, when conducting early TV experiments in Britain in 1926, had "any inkling of the impact TV would come to exert on our lives." There is also a discussion paper from VE3JF on the current state of Packet in Ottawa and plans for the future. He describes the present LAN as "Collisions - Retries - Low throughput - Frustration!"

The **Scarborough Amateur Radio Club** of Toronto was busy with public service events this fall. In September, they helped with the United Way Walkathon. There were 10,000 walkers and \$300,000 was raised. In October, they helped with the Scarborough General Hospital 10 Km Run. There were 950 runners. The Toronto Interference Committee is being formed to help track down

and prevent deliberate, malicious interference on the amateur bands. I wonder why the Club name is spelled Scarboro on their crest and Scarborough everywhere else?

The **London Amateur Radio Club** finished eighth in their class in North America and (unofficially) second in Canada at last year's Field Day. However, their results never reached ARRL and are, therefore, not official -- a tough break. The **London Senior Amateur Radio Club** was ten years old last year. The Club was formed to provide meetings and a station for senior hams over 55. The Club station is in Parkwood Hospital and is operated for the patients by a team of 14 volunteers.

The editor of the *Windsor Club Groundwaves* suggests that we should all give some thought to operating procedures. This in light of the DOC'S stress on them under the proposed regulations. In case you missed it, there was an item in their bulletin from the W5YI Report. You will have to recalibrate your volt-ohm meters as the volt has been changed by 9.2 parts per million (ppm) and the ohm by 1.7 ppm. The change will take place worldwide this month.

From the **Sudbury SARCommunicator** comes the news that the Science North amateur radio station now has a brand new ICOM 725. They find it easy to use, which is a good consideration for a station that will be used by a number of people. I'm glad to see that at least one Museum station is still operating. Fourteen Club members

attended the Red Cross Registration and Inquiry Exercise on November 4, 1989. Packet radio was used to pass traffic and the snags that developed were handled in true Field Day fashion. The Club has also set up an education committee to do ground work for a course.

The **Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club** had 14 operators out to provide communications for Touch Bowl '89, the Canadian touch-football championships. They manned stations to provide; communications for 12 football fields and a base. Traffic included four emergencies requiring an ambulance.

The **Calgary Amateur Radio Association** took second place in Canada at this year's Field Day. Not to be outdone by London, the Calgary Club has established an ATV repeater.

Unfortunately, we have to end this month with some bad news from Edmonton. Brian Wiest, VE6BJW, is involved in a legal battle with the City of Edmonton over his antenna tower. A City by-law limits the height of support antenna structures, even though two decisions in Ontario suggest that only the Federal Government can regulate them. VE6BJW erected a 60-foot tower when the City limit is ten meters (33 ft.). He applied for a permit and was refused. His appeal was denied. Wiest is now appealing to the Court of Appeal of Alberta. There is now a **Brian Wiest VE6BJW Tower Appeal Fund** and donations can be sent c/o **Northern Alberta Radio Club**, Box 163, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2J1.

INSIDE THE OTTSATT-CGYSAT LINK

VE3JF 9 FEBRUARY 1989

Many folks have been asking how the Ottawa-Calgary "wormhole" link works, so here's the scoop.

It's really quite simple. The link is a dual channel NET/ROM node. The node at the western end is CGYSAT (VE6PAK-1) in Calgary, with its radio port on 145.01. At the eastern end, it's OTTSAT (VE3RWJ-1) in Ottawa, with its radio port on 145.07. The magic ingredient that ties the two nodes together is a 9600 bp/s asynchronous link between the RS232 PORTS OF THE NODE TNCs. This link is being provided by Telesat Canada on one of its commercial geosynchronous satellites, Anik C2. The packet link makes use of a bit of unused capacity in a corporate network that Telesat uses for its internal communications. The two NET/ROM nodes reside in Telesat offices in Ottawa and Calgary, and the TNCs are connected to multiplexing hardware, which interleaves the packet traffic into a 400 kb/s data stream. Except for a 300 msec. delay (one way), it's just like the two TNCs were physically wired back-to-back.

The OTTSAT-CGYSAT link was made possible largely through

the efforts and enthusiasm of Richard Jestin (VE3EYJ/RWJ), who is a manager at Telesat Canada in Ottawa, and Larry Gadallah (VE6VQ), who handled most of the installation work in Calgary. So, if you meet these gents on the air, give 'em a big thank you! A number of other folks in Ottawa and Calgary packet communities helped out as well, as did Telesat technicians. The link should be available until at least July 1990, and there is a good chance of an extension beyond that date.

The satellite link has not been without its problems. Although the link itself is extremely reliable and has a very low bit error rate, it can experience brief outages due to heavy rainfall in the vicinity of one of the earth stations. In the first few months of operation of the link, these brief interruptions caused the link to die completely, and it stayed dead until someone came along to reset the hardware. After several lengthy outages, the culprit was finally found. After each interruption the multiplexors perform a "retraining" sequence, which involves some "handshaking" with the equipment connected to their ports. The TNCs had been connected with a bare minimum of

RS232 lines, and were not providing the signals that the "mux" gear wanted to see, so the link was not automatically re-established. Simply looping back a few of the handshaking signals solved the problem.

The OTTSAT NET/ROM node has experienced one TNC failure, and it also has an ongoing problem with poor receiver sensitivity. The problem here is that an outdoor antenna could not be provided at its present location. Its antenna is inside an office building, in what is undoubtedly a high RF noise environment, so it has trouble hearing much of anything. This should change soon, when OTTSAT moves to a new location with an outdoor antenna. The move is currently scheduled for March 1989. Another innovation which should be welcomed by the folks at the western end of the satellite link is the establishment of the OTTAWA - CAPITL dual-ported NET/ROM nodes, which provide a gateway between OTTSAT on 147.07 and many other nodes in the east on 145.0'1. This link is presently operational, but it may not be fully effective until the OTTSAT node moves to its new location.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOUR WANT ADD

Bring it in to the Editor at the next meeting for the February issue.

DX DE YOU

Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI



CQ CQ 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 DX column is based on the reports that you provide to me at each monthly meeting. You can also call me at 837-9598 or send me your loggings via Packet Radio to VE3RCI @ VE3JF. This column will only work if you support it. Let's hear who you've been working.

ON THE HF BANDS

From Jerry, VE3CDS

Jerry enjoyed great conditions on 15 meters over the holidays to send his Season's Greetings to:

Europe (All SSB, no times given)

YU4DNQ, HA8RC, UB5CDD, ON4AUC, F/ON4AN, IK1MTZ, OE5BGN, CT4OW;

Africa (SSB) ZS1DP (South Africa) and 3DA0BL (Swaziland); and probably commiserated about the weather with Victor, UA9OS in Siberia!

From Bob, VE3RCE

Bob got his license with me last February and has been getting out to Europe and South America pretty well with his apartment balcony antenna: (All 15M CW over the holidays)

PY2AQU (1824Z, 21.137);
HB9BQB (1654Z, 21.120);
IK4JQX (1707Z, 21.135);
G4PKT (1730Z, 21.009);
F6GVC (1759Z, 21.009);
F6GFL (1730Z, 21.044); and
DF1G?B (1706Z, 21.116).

From Me, VE3RCI

Four new countries for me this month:
J6LRU (St. Lucia) 23 Nov 0419Z, 7.009 CW;

FK8FS (New Caledonia) 12 Dec 0222Z, 21.015 CW;
JT1CD (Mongolia) 13 Dec 0350Z, 21.016 CW (his was the only signal I heard on 15 M at that time, calling CQ and got him first call!);

3D2XR (Fiji) 31 Dec 0434Z, 14.002 CW (QSL to SM7PKK). This is Mats, SM7PKK who is 22, works 6 months in Sweden, then spend 6 months in South Pacific on DXpeditions! Has he got his priorities straight! Read about him in November CQ, page 107).

Also worked ZL2QW (New Zealand YL, Pauline) Dec 1 0246Z, 21.010 CW;

UV0BB (Zone 18 YL, Anna) Dec 4 0219Z, 21.022 CW;
ZF2OF/ZF8 (Little Cayman Is.) 5 Jan 2237Z, 28.486 SSB (QSL to W0GLG); and

V31DX (Belize) 5 Jan 2337Z, 28.535 SSB (QSL to KA6V).

Bob wanted to know when and where he could catch some DX out of Asia. Apart from on-the-air experience, a good source of propagation information is the monthly MUF charts in QST or CQ Magazine and the tables in 73 Magazine. These should help you decide what band and times are best for getting from Eastern North America to the rest of the world. Check them out. Here in Ottawa, Japan and Australia are heard on 10 and 15M CW and SSB from 2100 to 0000Z. China and Mongolia have been heard (rarely) on 15M CW from 0300 to 0400Z and India on 10M CW at 1300Z when the band is really open. Other readers may have some good tips for Bob, so let me know and I'll pass them on. Bob's balcony direction (i.e. S.W.) may limit his ability to get into Japan, but the South Pacific should be there. S.E. Asia is tough, even with a beam, so good luck Bob.

It was great getting Bobs logs in the mail...now lets hear from the rest of you DXers, the 'ol pros and the beginners!

Until next month, 73 es gud DX!

WEATHER FAX FREQUENCIES?

Give a shout at the meeting and I'll see that you get a list.

EARLY BIRD DXing -- Rob Morrison, VE3ZZR

After several months of inactivity on HF, I finally managed to put up a long wire at my new QTH in Sandy Hill, Ottawa. Anxious to get on the air, I blew the dust off my rig and fired it up. Tuning around the band, it took only a few moments to realize that a contest was in progress. Oh well, my first ten contacts were easily made that day on 80 meter phone.

My next session on HF took place at 0600 EST on 16 Nov 89; quite a rare occurrence for me to be up at this hour in front of my rig. The 20 meter band was just coming alive, and within an hour I had worked a YV5 in Caracas, Venezuela, and a UAO in the Sakhalin Isles, USSR. My

final and most rewarding contact that morning came at 0726 EST when I stumbled across PJ5EUX on 14.183 MHz. This DX station must have been on frequency for only a short while, as there were only a few stations calling him. After repeated attempts, I was successful in making contact with Dave on St. Eustatius Island in the Nether Antilles. The QSO was brief, but I did learn that St. Eustatius Island is small; only 8.4 square miles with a population of 1,890. After exchanging 5 by 5 signal reports, we signed off and with renewed enthusiasm, I prepared myself for the working day ahead. I suppose I will scoff no longer at the phrase: "the early bird catches the worm!"

NEW CONVERSIONS

Are you confused when converting mils, megs, micros, nanos and decas? The confusion is over -- there is now utter chaos. Earl Rogers, President of Precision Monolithics has uncovered the following useful conversion factors. Use them at your own risk.

10¹² microphones = 1 megaphone
10¹² pins = 1 terrapin
10⁻¹² picolos = 1 pico-boulevard
10⁻²¹ picolos = 1 gigolo
10 rations = 1 decoration
10 millipedes = 1 centipede
1 centipede/second = 1 velocipede

3 1/3 tridents = 1 decadent
5 holocausts = 1 pentecost
10⁶ bicycles = 1 megacycle
10⁹ micrometers = 1 kilometer = 200 pentameters
10 monologues = 5 dialogues = 1 decalogue
2 x 10³ millinaries = 4 seminaries* = 2 binary
10⁻⁵ dollars = 1 Millicent
1 milli-Helen = amount of beauty needed to launch 1 ship
nano-nano = a prefix designating 10¹⁸

* The enlightenment generated by a seminary is measured in luminaries.

With the coming changes in Amateur licensing regulations and the advent of a "no-code" entry to the hobby, it seems an appropriate time to publish Troy Weidenheimer's poem on CW. Let's hope it has the effect of encouraging those who are prepared to abandon code completely to look at it in a more kindly light.

CODE ODE by Troy Weidenheimer, W0ROF

It's more than dots and dashes,
Its a place
A sanctuary for those who've learned
To love the mysterious magic of
Thoughts arriving in mile-long strings
On roads of ether or wire

Even more, it's peace,
A shield from the disordered sounds
Of traffic, angry people
And industrial clutter clatter,
Within its warm mantle
We find soothing respite

And the patter of bright ideas it is,
The sharp focusing of others' thoughts
From miles beyond our vision's range.
As in a dream, we sit so still.
It floats in our ears and stirs our minds
With concern, remembrance speculation
And mirth.

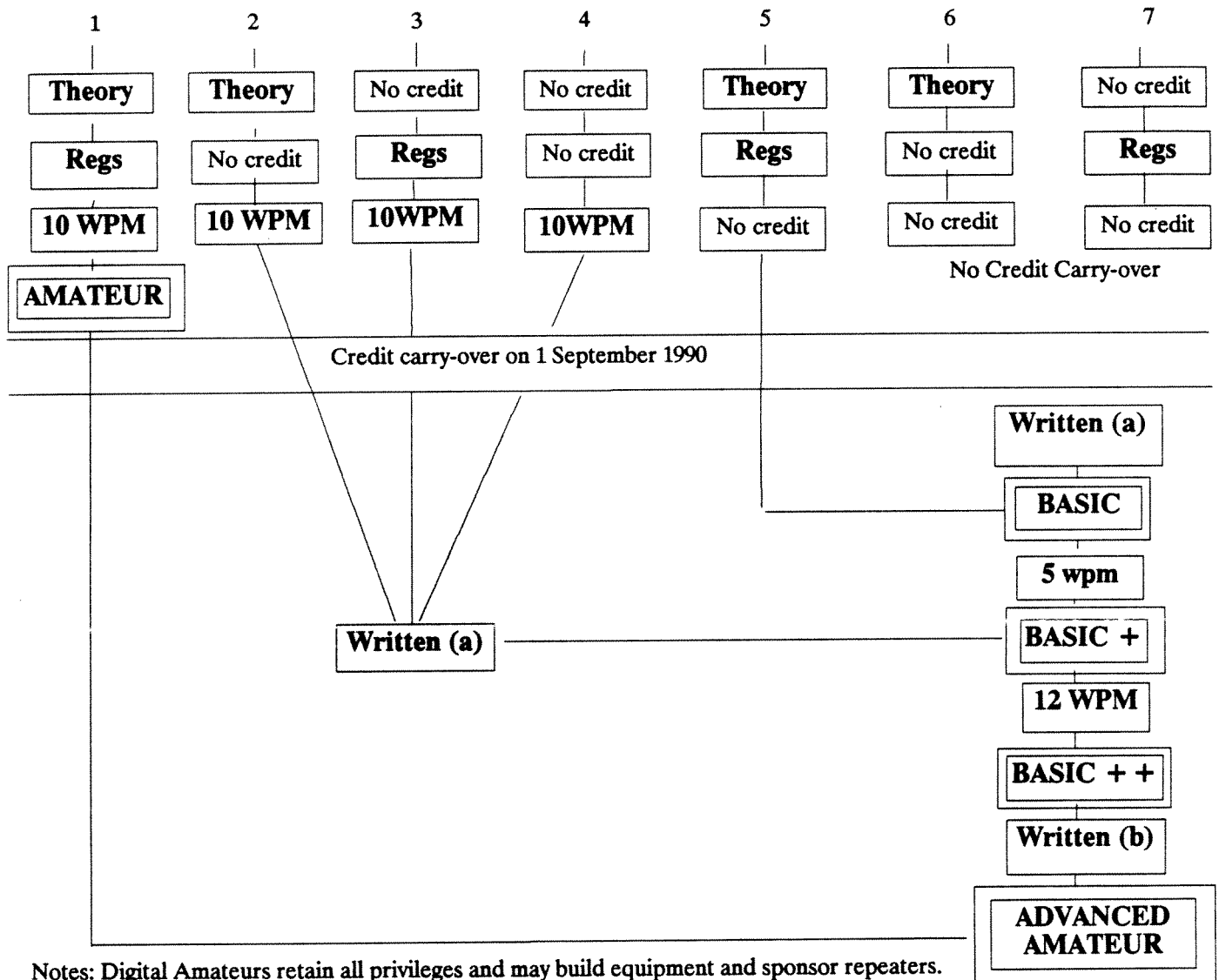
And code is music,
From sounders and speakers it dances
In the shack to each sender's inner clock,
And comes butter smooth, deliciously swinging
Or choppy staccato from a "fist" praising definition,
Or perfectly metered, flowing exquisitely
From the gentle hand of an artist.

A place,
And peace
Intelligence and
Music.
Code is more than dots and dashes.

AMATEUR SERVICE RESTRUCTURING

OLD	NEW 1 Sept 1990	REQUIREMENTS	PRIVILEGES & RESTRICTIONS
	Basic	Theory, Regs, EMI (a)	All modes over 30 MHz 250W max., comm'l TX
	Basic +	CW 5 WPM	As above plus all modes 80 m and 160 m
Amateur		Theory, Regs. CW 10 WPM	CW below 30 MHz all modes above 30 MHz
	Basic ++	CW 12 WPM	All bands, all modes 250W max, comm'l TX
Advanced Amateur	Advanced Amateur	Advanced theory, construction (b)	As above, 1kW, equipment construction, repeater sponsorship.

GRANDFATHERING AND CREDIT CARRY-OVER



Examinations: Ed LeBlanc, VE3VLS - 829-6314 (OVMRC Supervisor)
 Mike Kelly, VE3FFK - 722-5918 (OARC Supervisor)
 DOC District Office - 998-3693 (Second Wed. 8:30 a.m.)

Prepared by:
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 30-12-89