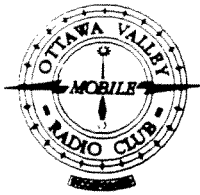


Rec'd March 6 1990



THE RAMBLER

Volume 33 Number 3 March 1990

MERV LEMKE, VE3CV APPOINTED LIFE MEMBER

Chas. King, VE3PDK

Merv Lemke, VE3CV, was appointed a Life-Member of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club by the membership at its February meeting. He joins Fred Noble, VE3BAJ and Jerry Wells, VE3CDS in a rather exclusive group of Life-Members of the Club.

Merv's citation stated that he was being honoured for his long-time membership (16 years), his having held offices in the executive (Vice-President, President and Past-President), his support in the Club's many Field Days, his numerous technical papers presented to the Club and his long-time management (13 years) of the Pot-Hole Net.

His services to amateur radio were not confined to the OVMRC. He is a member of other Amateur clubs in the area, having held office in some of them, has been net manager of the Quebec Net for a number of years, was a Director of the Radio Society of Ontario until its demise a short while ago, and is currently President of the Ottawa Chapter of the Quarter-Century Wireless Association.

What prepares a person to play so many roles so well? Merv's interest in radio was sparked by witnessing the marvels of the crystal receiver and the first, battery operated, AM radios. His later associations with amateurs and his access to "dud" radio tubes and junked parts from the garbage at his father's electrical store in the early '30s, got him involved in building and operating radios. He received his amateur radio certificate in August, 1935, although he had been granted operating privileges almost a year earlier. (He has held the same call-sign, VE3CV, for fifty-five years.)

This early interest in the electrical and electronics field led to a job with Ontario Hydro and a course in 1939 at the Marconi Radio School in Toronto, from which he graduated with a Second Class Commercial Operator's Certificate. Attempts to get employment as an Operator were not immediately successful, so while waiting for an opening as a ship's radio officer, he opened his own business in appliance and radio repair but this earned him only a meagre living. (How could he have known where all this preparation would lead and how badly his services would be needed in the years to follow.) One day in 1940, a job came to find him. A Royal Canadian Air Force

**Amateur radio
more than a hobby**

**- leads to successful
careers and
significant contributions
to Canadian defence!**

Recruiting Officer walked into his shop and made him an offer he couldn't refuse -- a commission in the R.C.A.F. Within a year, he was on his way to England to take part in the radar defence of that country. It was clear to those in authority that Merv's talents were too valuable to waste on operations and after a short tour of duty at a radar station he was recalled to the radar school as an Instructor. He was eventually recalled to Canada to train radar technicians for the R.C.A.F.

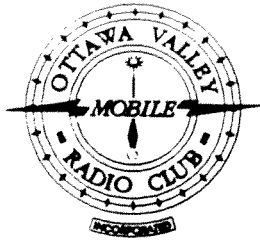
Merv was a natural to help design and implement operating procedures for Canada's own radar defence in the latter years of the war. It followed, logically, that he would be called upon to help maintain the Air Force's peacetime ground and airborne radar and radio equipment. He was ideally suited to help with Canada's radar defence needs during the period of the "Cold War."

Merv, by this time a Squadron Leader, applied his considerable knowledge and experience in radar to the task of designing systems and overseeing the installation of equipment in the Mid-Canada Line -- a string of radar sites that ran from Hopedale, Labrador right across the continent to Dawson Creek, Yukon Territory. Not content to design and implement the system, he served at a number of these sites in technical and command appointments.

This man of many talents next turned his attention to the design- engineering and installation of airfield radar and navigational aids, beacons etc. The modernization of the Air Force's airfields brought Merv to the attention of Raytheon of Canada, who enticed him out of uniform for a new career in the private sector.

Some ten years with Raytheon in marketing management was a natural preparation for his final and most satisfying career change. This time with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, heading up an international trade mission to sell complete airport designs and systems

VE3CV -- Continued page 6



THE RAMBLER

VOLUME 33 No3- March 1990

OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1989-1990

President

Doug Carswell VE3ATY
839-5854

Vice-President

Jerry Wells, VE3CDS
2257374

Past President

Alan Boyce VE3LNH
737-4937

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Al Beveridge VE3RCS
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Lee Demone VE3OWD
526-1760

Technical Advisor

Ed LeBlanc VE3VLF
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Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI
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Membership

Pat Brewer VE3KJQ
825-8721

Rambler Editor

Chas. King VE3PDK
733-2079

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NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

15 March, 1990

Museum of Science and
Technology Auditorium

1930 hours

COMING CLUB EVENTS

Flea Market - 21 April

Field Day - 23-24 June

GUEST SPEAKERS and PROGRAMMES

15 March Meeting

Canadian Forces
Auxiliary Radio System
CFARS
Al Beveridge, VE3SKA

April Meeting

Home Brew/Show and Tell

NEED A RIDE TO THE MEETING?

Call one of the members of the executive to arrange a lift.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!

RAMBLER CIRCULATION COMMITTEE

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Fred Haire, VE3NJF

Eric Still, VE3OTT

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

POT 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 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.

MILITARY NET - Tuesdays 2000 hrs 147.30 MHz.

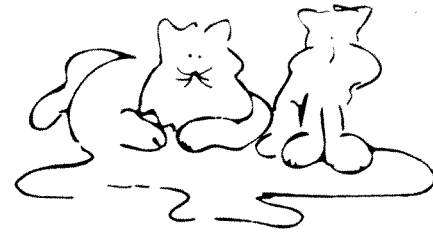
CUMBERLAND EMERGENCY NET - Wednesdays 1930 hrs, 147.03 MHz

THE WISE OWL NET - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

OVMRC CODE PHONE - 825-0786 24-hr code practice..

Champlain Mini-Net - Daily 1845 hrs 147.06 MHz

Strays



This month's "Strays" is being written a few weeks ahead of normal in response to the Editor's request for early articles as he is going to check out the Panama Canal in the next few weeks and won't have the normal time available for the March issue of Rambler. I am sure you have noted the Editor's hand in the production of the last few issues of Rambler. He has a hard time staying his sense of humour and it pops out here and there in each issue. (I am not sure of the source of these interjections - whether its a mind warp before or after putting the Rambler to bed.) Thanks Chuck, its difficult to soar with eagles at times, but somehow your flights of fancy will expose themselves. Did you also note the early arrival of February's issue of the Rambler.

We have a couple of matters to address at the next meeting of the club. There is a need for someone to look after our capital equipment (valued in excess of a couple of thousand dollars and not always easy to find). In addition we need someone take up the reigns as Net Manager for the Pot

Hole net. And as you know we are looking for Net Controllers. So, if you are working HF and wouldn't mind giving a hand once a month or so, please give me a call.

One of the comments that I have heard recently is the need for more technical articles and equipment reviews in The Rambler. I think George Dew's article in the February issue is spot on. If you have a similar story, why not pass on to the rest of us please write it up. The Editor has many years of experience writing and editing and he will be glad to add some polish to it, if you think it's required.

This months Strays seems to be leaning towards a help wanted column, but this is the time of year when Club activities get into high gear and help of all kinds will be needed. So why don't we round this out by asking for help on the executive for the coming year. Also the Editor has indicated that he would like to have an Editorial Board to provide guidance and help with new material for the various issues of the Rambler. If you

are interested in giving the club a hand let me know.

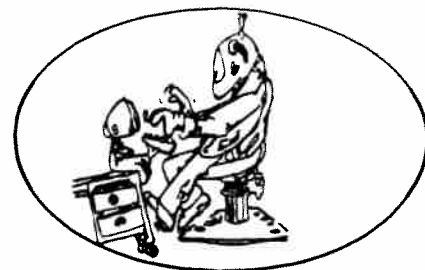
Boy! I have certainly strayed down a different path this evening and will try to stay away from this one for a while; its full of traps for the reader. Strangely, when I submitted my column to the Editor, he chuckled and asked whether I had been reading his mind. I acknowledged that I had always had trouble reading through a warped sense of humour. He ignored my rude remark and revealed that his editorial was, coincidentally, in the same vein as my pleas. Not to worry, he said, he was thinking of running employment ads and with today's high rate of unemployment, he felt sure there would be more applicants for these jobs than we could accommodate -- maybe a screening committee will be needed to select the best candidates! Ah, the eternal optimism of youth!

73s - Doug - VE3ATY

LIFE MEMBER - A MOTION

Moved by Bob Campbell, VE3KLL, seconded by Jerry Wells, VE3CDS and Chuck King, VE3PDK, that Gerry King, VE3GK be appointed a LIFE MEMBER of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club by reason of his being one of the founding members of this Club and in acknowledgement of his long and well-known involvement with the amateur radio community in the nation's Capital. Gerry, the "Golden Kilowatt", is recognized locally, nationally and internationally for his efforts in training amateur radio operators, his technical presentations at amateur radio conventions and his research into and testing of antenna systems. His publication, *The Gain Game*, has been widely distributed and is now being perpetuated by a regular column in *The TCA*. He is also noted as a strong proponent of home-brewing and mobile operations, the latter a factor included in the name of this Club.

EDITOR'S CORNER



THE ELUSIVE VOLUNTEER

December, January and February issues of The Rambler raised the question and reported the debate of club mergers. On the 'pro' side of the debate was the reduction of committee work and volunteer tasks needed to keep a dynamic club running. The proponents of the status quo argued that this Club offers something unique to its members -- better access, its training courses, and its informal, friendly atmosphere. This latter view won the argument and it was decided to put all further discussion of merger to rest. The OVMRC should continue as a separate entity to serve its members in its own special way. A good decision, but the discussion cannot stop there.

Having decided that the OVMRC is worth maintaining, surely we must now consider what that decision entails and ask ourselves what we can do, individually, about it. The cost of running a club is far more than the fifteen dollars we pay as annual dues.

The real income that keeps a club dynamic and operating at peak efficiency are the contributions of time and talent made by its members -- each offering his or her own particular skills to whatever degree professional and personal commitments permit.

How many times have you heard it said, "An organization is only as good as its members." or "You only get out of it what you put in." The veracity of these sayings may be questioned. It may be more accurate to say that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." Meaning that you will get more out of it than you put in, making the club better than the sum total of its members. This assumes, of course, that you have put your bit in the pot.

OVMRC is better off than many clubs, because members do volunteer to take on tasks on the executive, for Field Day, to run the Flea Market, etc. Many of these volunteers come from the amateur radio students, who may be showing their gratitude for the help they received in getting their licence. But surely we older members of the

Club have an obligation to keep up our end as well.

There may be some reluctance to come forward because we don't think we have anything to offer. Nothing could be further from the facts. Ask any member of the executive how he felt when he was approached to stand for office. They let their names stand anyway and you will agree that they are doing a fine job.

Letting the same people go on year after year doing all the work without assistance is dangerous to the health of the Club. When they burn out, these valuable people tend to leave and their expertise is lost to the Club. Let's pitch in and give them a hand so that we can keep them with us for a while longer.

The Club will soon need volunteers to help with the Flea Market on 21 April, with Field Day 23-24 June, and to serve on the Executive for the year 1990/91. We all agreed that the Club was worth keeping. What do you think? Is it worth working for?

FIELD DAY PROJECT COORDINATOR

A great opportunity for a progressive amateur. No previous experience needed.

Work with a dedicated team, assisted by a previous Field Day Coordinator to set up this project for the most dynamic Club in the area.

**Submit applications soon so that an appointment can be made in early May.
FIELD DAY 23-24 JUNE**

BE AN EXECUTIVE!

Select the executive appointment you would most like to hold and the job may be yours. You will work with and learn from a cohesive, dynamic and supportive team to bring exciting programs to the Club membership.

Appointments are available 21 June 1990 for one year only to the following offices:

**President
Vice-President
Secretary**

**Treasurer
Public Relations
Technical Advisor
Membership Committee
Rambler Editor**

Make your selection early so that you will not be disappointed

Apply in person or by phone to:

**Fred Noble, VE3BAJ
Chairman, Nominating
Committee
733-7529**

Secretary's Minutes



MINUTES OF OVMRC GENERAL MEETING - 15 FEB 90

1. President Doug, VE3ATY, opened the meeting in the Auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology, at 1940 hrs, welcoming approximately 35 members and visitors. He recognized the following visitors:
Marcel Gervais, VE3CPA
John McCarthy, and
Eric Dormer

OLD BUSINESS

2. President Doug enquired if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes of the last meeting as published in the *RAMBLER*. There being none it was moved by Leo, VE3NVL, and seconded by Pat, VE3KJQ, that the minutes be adopted as published.

3. President Doug enquired if any members were having technical problems for which they required assistance. He noted problems of his own with both of his 2 M rigs going north on the same day.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

4. CARF Representative, Chuck, VE3PAP, reported that:

a. contrary to what was reported in a recent Bulletin, the Amateur Licence Fees would be increased to \$29.00 for issuance and to \$22.00 for renewal in 1990;

b. the planned Canada-USSR "FIT-TREK" operation has bogged down in the USSR over questions of financing;

c. Frank Anzalone, WIWY, who was editor of CQ Magazine's "Contest Calendar" and supplied copy to TCA, died 30 Dec 90. John Dorr, K1AR, has taken over the column and continues to supply CARF with contest information;

d. The 160 metre allocations in the USSR have been changed to allow Soviet Hams access to the DX window of 1830-1850 kHz;

e. Glasgow, Scotland, Hams will have five Special Events stations on the air with a chance to win a prize of a 7-day trip to Scotland for working them. (No dates of operations were provided. Sec.);

f. Amateur Radio has not yet been mentioned in the Canadian WARC '92 preparatory discussions.

5. There was no CRRL representative in attendance.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

6. Treasurer Al, VE3SKA, reported on the financial health of the Club, which is good. The highlights of his report were:

| REVENUES | Budgeted | Actual |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| Membership | \$2,050.00 | 1,708.00 |
| Bank Interest | 100.00 | 97.00 |
| Course fees | | 2,031.00 |

EXPENDITURES

| | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| RAMBLER | 850.00 | 697.00 |
| Photocopying(1) | 700.00 | 206.00 |
| Office Supplies | 100.00 | 114.00 |
| Social Events(2) | 250.00 | 267.00 |
| Station Ops | 180.00 | 27.00 |
| Insurance | 600.00 | 580.00 |

The bottom line balances as of this date are: Club - \$2441.55 and Course - \$1084.62.

Note (1): The photocopying expense shown will be the final one. The Club was notified by the Company servicing our photocopier that it could no longer be supported due to its age and unavailability of spare parts. In view of this, and the fact that a Commercial Concern was printing our *RAMBLER* as a public service, the CLUB executive decided to sell the photocopier for \$150.00 "as is" to a member who had been housing it and doing our Club printing.

Note (2): The primary expenses associated with this item were for film and slide production for our "Introduction to Ham Radio" presentation given at the initial General Meeting of this season. These materials will be held as Club assets and will be used for the same or similar purposes in future years.

7. Membership Pat, VE3KJQ, reported current Club membership at 150. He mentioned the problems he had with a flood of late renewals this year, which resulted in members waiting prolonged periods for their cards. He also noted that current memberships expire on 1 Sep 90, and that he would

be hoping for early renewals throughout the summer, rather than an 11th hour flood.

8. *RAMBLER* Editor Chuck, VE3PDK, requested more input for the *RAMBLER*. He noted that editorial help was available to those members who have good material and info but are reluctant to put pen to paper.

9. Secretary Lee, VE3OWD, made a final plea for information on the early years of the Club for the history. He reported that he has the outline, based on Club minutes and files, on computer, but without some "flesh and muscle" from members who were around in the early days it will be skeletal effort. Also, he does not expect to be in the Ottawa area past early summer, so time is running out.

10. Tech Advisor Ed, VE3VLF, reported on the results of the Amateur Exams he recently administered. Details can be found elsewhere in the *RAMBLER*.

11. Public Relations Jeff, VE3RCI, reminded all of the upcoming Club Flea Mart (0900, 21 April 90), Admission FREE! He also drew members attention to the survey results published in the last *RAMBLER* and solicited any late inputs. He noted the upcoming Club Banquet to be held at Anchors Restaurant (Dow's Lake Pavillion) at 1900 hrs, 24 Feb 90; a menu and attendance list was circulated. He also solicited more input for his DX column for active DX-ers.

12. President Doug introduced Marcel, VE3CPA, of the Cumberland Emergency Group who addressed the meeting on his group's activities and their plans for a state-of-the-art, multi-mode, emergency communications station for the NCR. He reported that his group has done considerable spade work with Provincial authorities, the National Red Cross, potential commercial sponsors. Specifically, the group is hoping to enlist the entire NCR Ham community in the effort with the aim of raising approx \$90K and would like representatives from each Amateur Club or Activity. President Doug informed Marcel and the meeting that the matter would be placed before the Club Executive for consideration.

13. President Doug noted the Motion initiated by Alan, VE3LNH, and

Minutespage 6

to countries all over the world. Three hectic years of world-wide travel took Merv to most of the countries of three continents -- Europe, Asia and South America.

Merv 'retired' in 1977, that is he changed direction again without much change of pace. He now devotes his energies to seniors in the community, his church, including the choir, and amateur radio activities. His church commitments have made it extremely difficult for him to continue with the Pot-Hole Net on Sunday mornings.

When asked for his views on amateur radio, Merv expressed a rather philosophical view. He acknowledged that he does not get as much satisfaction out of "operating" as he did out of

homebrewing, but he recognized that there are not as many opportunities for homebrewing now as there use to be. Parts are not readily available and tend to be very expensive, relative to the cost of commercially built equipment. He recognized also that amateurs of today get great satisfaction from exploring the many new avenues of amateur radio -- packet, AMTOR, ATV to name a few. He maintained, however, that there are still opportunities for amateurs to experiment if they look for them. His views on restructuring and the no-code entry to the hobby were likewise philosophical. Change, he said, is inevitable and can be diverted or delayed only so long. If change will bring more people into the hobby, there is a good chance some of these

people will make significant contributions to amateur radio; contributions which might otherwise be lost. So why not welcome these newcomers as we have always welcomed new members of the fraternity of radio amateurs. Who could have guessed that a young man's curiosity, fostered by other amateurs and enhanced by access to "junk" would lead to a lifetime occupation, three distinguished careers and a significant contribution to the defence of Canada. Surely amateur radio is more than a hobby and something worth nurturing and preserving for other youngsters (and oldsters) to enjoy. Who knows to what purpose the knowledge and experience acquired as a hobby may one day be applied.

Minutes from page 5

Chuck, VE3PDK, which was published in the *RAMBLER* as required by Club By-Laws, that Merv Lemke, VE3CV, be appointed a Life Member of the OVMRC. He reviewed Merv's many contributions to the Club and then called for a vote by secret ballot by members in attendance. The Motion was carried unanimously.

14. He then called attention to a Motion put forward by Pat, VE3KJQ, and seconded by Lee, VE3OWD, that the

Club purchase name tags for those members who register for one and pick it up at a monthly meeting. He noted that the impetus for this motion has come from a number of Club members, who felt name tags would be useful for identifying Club executive and other members. He reviewed the proposed type, colour and cost of the name tags and, after some discussion on the motion, called for vote by show of hands. The Motion was carried overwhelmingly.

15. President Doug noted that he was unable to conduct the Pot-Hole Net on Sunday due to work requirements;

Jim, VE3GJY, volunteered to pinch hit.

16. Vice-President Jerry, VE3CDS, introduced Eric Dormer, who briefly introduced the evening's feature event, an excellent film on the first 100 years of communications in Canada. The film was well received by the audience and for those of us who have lived and worked in the Arctic over the years it was a real nostalgia trip.
17. There being no further business, President Doug called for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Pat, VE3KJQ, and seconded by Jeff, VE3RCI. Meeting adjourned at 2210 hrs. Lee, VE3OWD

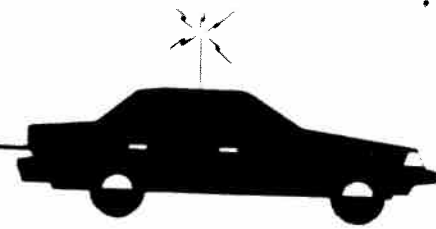
RAMBLINGS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Bob Baillargeon, VE3MPG and OK???, the former Editor of *The Rambler* will be in Prague, Czechoslovakia from 28 February to 1 September, 1990. He will be granted a reciprocal amateur radio license for the period of his stay and he plans to take all of his radio gear and possibly a lap-top computer.

Bob's official capacity in Czechoslovakia will be as a member of the Canadian Czechoslovakian Association's programme, Education for Democracy. He will be teaching English to local Czechoslovakians in the mornings and learning Slovak in the afternoons. In the forthcoming elections, he will act as an observer on the democratic election process.

Bob plans to spend his evenings (at least some of them) making contacts with Czech amateurs and writing of his experiences. He believes the Czechoslovakian amateurs have a good packet system and he plans to learn as much about their set-up as he can. This is what prompted him to volunteer to act as foreign correspondent for *The Rambler* so that readers might benefit from his experiences. He hopes to learn at first hand something of the problems of amateur operations in a totalitarian state. Watch for Bob's reports (and photographs?) in future issues of *The Rambler*.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HERE AND THERE



Here is the latest collection of news and views from here and there across this country.

The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club *Groundwave* has picked up our Editor's article on merger of our Club and the OARC. It is reproduced without comment. There is an article reporting on Doug Yuill's 56,000 bits/second packet station (VE3OCU) at Carleton University. This is a Canadian first. You can assemble a TNC-2 station for about \$600. For more information, contact Doug at 230-1741 or on VE3JF.

The Chatham-Kent ARC President has some interesting thoughts on Dayton. Many who go to these gatherings "would not accompany their XYL on a shopping trip of any kind, be it large or small, even if their lives depended on it. Yet, here they are, as if drawn by a huge magnet, to enjoy a time of fellowship, adventure and excitement." He reminds us of that big Fleamarket mistake. You see what you want at the price you are willing to pay and then go away to think about it, only to find it sold when you return. They reproduced the two articles on restructuring from the January *Rambler*. The bulletin also had the latest stats on the Canadian Amateur population. As of January 15th, there were 25,024 amateurs in Canada. There were 9,234 in Ontario, 4,617 in Quebec and only three VY9 calls (DOC).

The Sudbury ARC SARCommunitor is broadening its scope to cover activities over a large area of Northern Ontario. There are regular contribu-

tions from Timmins and soon there will be a column from Manitoulin Island. The digipeater in Ramore is used regularly to link amateurs in Kirkland Lake, Englehart, Norand, and Tameness. It has a high site with very flat surroundings for good coverage. From the *Packet Racket North* column comes an announcement of the second edition of ARRL's *Your Gateway to Packet Radio*.

The London ARC is one of the oldest in Canada. It was founded in 1920 and is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. On October 25, 1989, Club members were involved in the Middlesex County Disaster Exercise. The scenario was based on a severe weather watch, tornado watch, and a multi-touchdown event. "County officials were extremely pleased and surprised at the amateur commitment and facilities."

The Calgary Amateur Radio Association *Key Klax* contains a glowing account of the Calgary Amateur Radio Emergency Service written by the coordinator of Disaster Services for the Calgary Fire Department. He writes, "They are ... willing to help their community by giving of their time, expertise and energy towards the common good. We welcome their participation in disaster management and can only say 'why the hell didn't we utilize these people sooner.'"

The Saskatoon ARC received a cheque for \$200 from the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association for their help with the Air Show. As well, they got a cheque for \$150 for their

help with Touch Bowl 89. It seems that helping people can be profitable. *The Greensheet* also has part two of the article on preventing radio interference with your neighbours. No credit is given to author or source, so I am left wondering if it is a DOC publication or if it is from the report by Bill Wilson, VE3NR that CARF publishes. If I find out, I will let you know as the article has a lot of useful information. If all else fails, maybe we can reproduce it in the *Rambler*.

In the Pioneer ARC *Teleparc*, President Bill, VE3EKA is now promoting the video repeater as a way to attract young people to amateur radio. Membership Chairman Bob, VE3PUE notes that PARC now has 105 members. Maybe we should call them "the other club". Their bulletin contains a very interesting story of a radio receiver built in a prisoner-of-war camp in Borneo during World War II. The radio was built from scrounged and recycled materials. Parts came from foil linings of tea chests, corrugated roofing, automobile coils and hearing aids. The radio was hidden in a secret compartment beneath a fireplace. John Fleming, who looked after security for the radio, said, "the newscasts (we picked up) let everyone in the camp know the progress of the war and contributed immeasurably to the mental well-being and morale of all prisoners." The article was from the *Lanark County Record News*.

Until next month!
Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

HOME BREW AND SHOW AND TELL -- APRIL MEETING EVENT

Get your home brew project organized and your new piece of equipment polished up for a show and tell at the April meeting. It does not have to be a new project. Anything you have will be of interest to the membership in general and to the new members in particular.

DX de YOU



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 D-Xcolumn 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 or VE3NAV. This column will only work if you support it. Let's hear who you've been working.

ON THE VHF BANDS

From Dave, VE3KMV

Well finally some VHF DX reported! Look for these guys on 6 meters. Dave made the following SSB on Dec 17 between 1600-1700Z on 50.10-50.20 MHz:

GM0EWX, EI5FK, and GI8YDZ.

Dave worked these stations QRP with 2 watts into a vertical sleeve dipole, no multielement beam here! Well done Dave. Let's hear from you other VHF DXers?

ON THE HF BANDS

From Henry, VE3OMU

Lots of interesting islands on the air (IOTA) this month: NH6RT/KH8 (American Samoa) 2359Z 28.495 SSB (QSL via JH4IFF);

VR200PI/JR (Pitcairn Is.) 1544Z 21.290 SSB (QSL - see Jan QST p 84);

3B9FR (Rodriguez Is.) 2119Z 21.335 SSB;

3B8FQ (Mauritius) 2007Z 21.008 CW (QSL direct);

YL2AG (Latvia) 2328Z 14.100 CW (QSL via UQ2GAG);

TR8RLA (Gabon) 2244Z 21.298 SSB (QSL via NV7J);

EA9IE (Cueta and Melilla) 0710Z 3.795 SSB - Nice catch on 80M Henry...I never heard of it!

From Dan, VE3EBI

Dan's been finding good DX on 20 meters CW:

JA2AQ (early morning Japan) 1345Z 14.035;

UA0ZC (Kamchatka, Zone 19) 2032Z 14.030;

UA1ZGY (Murmansk, Zone 16) 2005Z 14.023; and

4S7WP (Sri Lanka!) Jan 25 1955Z 14.022.

From Betty, VE3ZBB

Betty tells me she really prefers ragchewing to DXing, but just to let us know that she is getting out with her dipole: ON4SF (Belgium) 1528Z 21.028 CW; YU3DJ (Yugoslavia) 1557Z 28.120 CW; and KB5IES/QRP (3 watts from Texas) 1500Z 28.057 CW (QSL via GW0DYT!...must be in Wales there more than Texas, we guess).

Despite getting her hard earned Advanced ticket, Betty still prefers CW over phone. You're not alone in that regard, Betty!

From Me, VE3RCI

One new country, but not much good towards DXCC because it was on 30 meters:

3B8CF (Mauritius) 0304Z 10.106 CW (QSL direct). This was nice contact because he was calling CQ and had time to chat. Few pileups on 30 meters.

Late night 15M contacts were

UA9UOE (Kemerovo, Zone 18) 0455Z 21.135 CW;

UA0YO (Kyzyl, Tuva, Zone 18) 0235Z 21.005 CW;

VK3VF (Melbourne) 0353Z 21.024 CW - nice 13wpm ragchew with Bruce, 73 years young and Ham since 1934.

From Peter, VE3PWJ (courtesy of the last OARC meeting)

A good catch off the beaten path...

YI1BGC (Ali in Iraq) Feb 2, 1537Z 28.846SSB (QSL to P.O. Box 7075, Baghdad) Thank's Peter.

A few notes regarding return postage for QSLs to the USA and Europe: I got a nice note from Tom, W0GLG who recently operated as ZF2OF/ZF8, congratulating me as being the first Canadian to send enough return postage with my SASE (please read \$0.30 US...best to get US stamps from a W/K friend or during a trip down there). Tom's card took only 11 days for reply. A less flattering note to yours truly on a QSL from Claus, 9H3EH (via DL2GBT) reminded me that airmail return envelopes should be accompanied by 2 IRCs, not just 1. Sorry Claus, now we know. Incidentally, the QSL was mailed from the USA, probably sent there in a batch with all the other QSLs destined for the rest of North America's cheapskate DXers, and took 3 months for reply. Lots of input from members and one guest (PWJ) this month. Keep up the good work gang! Now's the

When contemplating buying that new 940 with plastic money, remember that a charge card has three dimensions -- length, width and debt.

Bob, VE3KLL

OVMRC AMATEUR RADIO COURSE --ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

The OVMRC, again this year, ran a most successful amateur radio course, bringing sixteen students to DOC examinations on the 6th of February. The course, which started in September, ran for nineteen weeks, with one three-hour classroom session each week. Morse code training was integrated with electronics theory and radio regulations, allowing many students to meet the DOC 10 w.p.m. requirement during the classroom sessions.

There was the usual number of students who, for various reasons, were unable to complete the course, but many of these expressed the desire to try again in the course to be run later this year. There were two students who were carry-overs from a previous course and one of these, Susan Lanouette Carswell passed the last remaining code requirements and has the call sign VE3SLC. Ken Barry, VE3KJB, and Ernie Decoste, VE3RIM have also received their call-signs and are on the air. All the others who persevered to the end and wrote the DOC examinations are expected to be licensed by spring.

Congratulations go to Betty Broome, VE3ZZB, who sat the Advanced Amateur examination and achieved a spectacular 92%. Betty was not a graduate of the OVMRC program, but is a staunch member of the Club.

Private tutoring, remedial lessons and coaching will allow those students, who were not successful on the first try

to re-write the examinations at DOC or under club supervision in the weeks to come.

About 220 volunteer hours of instruction, classroom assistance and examination time and an untold number of preparation hours were provided by:

VE3ATY Doug Carswell
VE3CDS Jerry Wells
VE3KJQ Pat Brewer
VE3EDR Bryce Wightman
VE3SKA Al Beveridge
VE3PDK Chuck King, and
VE3VLF Ed LeBlanc

Doug was the Chief Instructor again this year, carrying the major load of teaching electronic theory, liaison with the Museum for training aids, space and arranging for guest lecturers as required.

Jerry and Pat and Bryce performed their usually yeoman service in teaching Morse code and radio regulations, conducting training, remedial and test sessions every class evening. Bryce ran a computer analysis of the students' code copy to determine their weaknesses and identify their remedial needs. He presented again this year a three-hour session on station operation and RFI -- what he called "A Post-graduate Course."

Al taught transmission lines and antenna theory, giving the students some practical tips and demonstrating the importance of antennas in amateur radio transmissions.

Chuck acted as a general gopher, making sure that everything was avail-

able and set up for each evening sessions and filling in wherever he was needed.

For the first time, the Club was permitted to administer the DOC examinations. This was done under the watchful eye of Ed, assisted on this first occasion by Bob Cox, a representative of DOC.

The National Museum of Science and Technology provided classroom space and training aids, including photocopy services. This was considered to have been a major factor in the success of the program and it is hoped that this support will be available again for the program to be run in September 1990. It uncertain what affect curriculum changes, brought about by restructuring, will have on the course planned for September. A minimum of 40 classroom hours has been stipulated by DOC for a Basic no-code entry, but it is anticipated that many students will want to attempt entry at the Basic plus 5 W.P.M. or higher CW level. Course time may have to be extended to accommodate them. It is planned to continue teaching Morse code to whatever speed the students wish (a target of 12 w.p.m. is planned) within the limits of the available time.

A great deal of work will be needed before a course can be run this fall. The new regulations have not yet been published, so the course standards are not known. Whatever happens, a course will be run with hopes for an ever greater success rate.

COURSE STATISTICS

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Amateur exams written | 15 |
| Complete passes | 8 |
| Partial passes | 2 |
| Failures | 5 |
| Highest theory mark | 100% |
| Lowest theory mark | 42% |
| Average theory mark | 81% |

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Highest Regulations mark | 100% |
| Lowest Regulations mark | 48% |
| Average Regulations mark | 74% |
| Theory passes | 10 |
| Theory failures | 5 |
| Regulations passes | 8 |
| Regulations failures | 7 |
| Advanced exams written | 2 |
| Advanced Amateur passes | 1 |

THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE WOUFF HONG

Many of the newer members of the Club may never have heard of the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong. In fact, I'm sure that most members have not heard of it. It's a secret society of radio amateurs, which can only be joined at an ARRL or CRRL convention. There is a secret handshake and password. The society may be secret and the Wouff Hong itself is a bit of a mystery, but there is no real secret to the aims of the society. It promotes all that is best in amateur radio operation. More on that later.

The Wouff Hong got its start in the early days of amateur radio when an amateur, known only as The Old Man, wrote a series of articles in *QST*, criticizing anything and everything

that he thought was wrong with the hobby. In one article entitled *Rotten QRM*, he complained about the gibberish, including the words 'wouff hong,' which he was hearing in amateur transmissions. The words caught on with radio operators and eventually T.O.M. was asked for an explanation of what the Wouff Hong was. In 1919, T.O.M. sent a Wouff Hong to ARRL Headquarters. No one, including T.O.M., has ever explained how the Wouff Hong is used or why is shaped the way it is. The picture of it on the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong certificate does little to clarify things. All that I can say is that it has a pointy bit, which is portrayed as emanating radio waves. The pointy

bit could have been used for other things as well. The Wouff Hong itself hangs in the ARRL Secretary's office. The Old Man was eventually revealed to be Hiram Percy Maxim, the first President of the ARRL.

Almost every Amateur Radio Operator owns a copy of the list of ideals to which every member of the Order subscribes. It's on the first page of every copy of *The ARRL Handbook for the Radio Amateur* and is reproduced here.

With thanks to the ARRL, QST and the Scarborough ARC.

Pat Brewer. VE3KJQ

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

ONE

The Amateur is Considerate ... He never knowingly uses the air in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

TWO

The Amateur is Loyal ... He offers his loyalty, encouragement and support to his fellow radio amateurs, his local club and to the national amateur radio organizations, through which Amateur Radio is represented.

THREE

The Amateur is Progressive ... He keeps his station abreast of science. It is well-built and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.

FOUR

The Amateur is Friendly ... Slow and patient sending when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others; these are the marks of the amateur spirit.

FIVE

The Amateur is Balanced ... Radio is his hobby. He never allows it to interfere with any of the duties he owes to his home, his job, his school, or his community.

SIX

The Amateur is Patriotic ... His knowledge and his station are always ready for the service of his country and his community.

-- PAUL M. SEGAL
ex-WE3EEA, W9EEA