

THE RAMBLER

Volume 33, Number 4 -- April, 1990

GOLDEN KILOWATT GETS LIFE!

by Charles King, VE3PDK

Gerry King, VE3GK, alias the Golden Kilowatt, was recently brought to justice as Club members dug into his past and found numerous indictable "offenses." He was cited for bringing more than 600 new amateurs into the hobby and for upgrading 200 or more of them to the Advanced Amateur level, for attempting to corner the world's supply of RF through "humungus" antennas and for preaching the gospels of home-brewing and mobiling. It was even revealed that he was one of the founding members of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, and held all but one executive appointment, some of them for more than one term. He has repeatedly used amateur radio frequencies to communicate with a NON-AMATEUR AT THE NORTH POLE and more recently, it was uncovered that he has run an 'underground' HF operation. (Was he perchance looking for a more direct route to a BT or BY? See his full confession in the May issue of *The Rambler* under the title *75 Meters - 1000 Meters Underground*.)

What are the prognosis for Gerry's rehabilitation? Is he salvageable or is he such a hard case that one should give up all hope? A study of his past life has been made in the hopes of finding "where he went wrong." This may reveal the most suitable rehabilitation program for this poor soul.

Gerry was so determined to get an amateur license that he travelled 140 miles round trip every Friday from Danville to Sawerville, Quebec, for lessons and CW practice. He remembers his instructor, Mac MacBurny, VE2AIE, with great fondness. He remembers also his mentor, Les,

VE2L0 (now VE3LO), in Asbestos, Quebec, who encouraged him and helped him over the rough spots. Les was the mine superintendent, while Gerry was a 'lowly' apprentice electrician in the underground shafts. With this help, Gerry managed to get his first license as VE2WK (two weak kidneys) in 1951 at Danville, Quebec.

Experimenter, teacher, writer, public speaker -- a very professional Amateur.

... he refuses to take himself or anything else too seriously.

"That," he says, "would take all the fun out of life!"

While operating in Danville, he unwittingly disturbed the members of the local Canadian Legion on more than one occasion as his CW appeared in typical herringbone pattern on their television screen. As soon as he got his Advanced ticket and started using voice, he received a visit from a very irate President of the Legion.

This was lesson number one in TVI. He has since been accused of 'Washing Machine I' when a neighbour insisted that her machine oversdused every time he came on the air. He was also blamed for completely wiping out a neighbour's TV signal with a 98-foot tower fully disconnected. His motorized, telescopic tower, rising above and descending below the tree tops at his lakeside

residence in Wesport, Ontario, led many of his neighbours to suspect that he was operating a secret government radio station, monitoring radio traffic on the Rideau Lakes.

When Gerry moved to Ottawa in 1956, he acquired the call VE3BST. It was during this time that he became interested in mobile HF operations. These were still tube days, so visualize if you will a Mercury sedan with three generators under the hood, a trunk full of amplifiers and huge (by today's standards) transmitter and receiver under the dash. One can imagine the whole car glowing and the headlights dimming whenever he hit the mike. That Gerry should do this is understandable, but would you believe there were others who were similarly equipped? These were the founding members of the OVMRC. Next time you put the handie in the car to go 'mobiling,' remember that guys like Gerry worked countries from their car. Gerry himself has worked more than 200 countries on 20 meters mobile!

He and Bill, VE3BJO, were both active in home-brewing, each building SSB transceivers and necessary accessories. In the course of his career, Gerry has built six tube-type SSB transceivers, seventeen linear amplifiers, three motorized towers, one triangular rotating tower and countless power supplies, test equipment etc. He is now working on a full sized 2-element delta loop for 40 meters. (See also Gerry's article on the 6L6 on page 6.)

In 1962, the year the Club was incorporated, Gerry acquired his second two-letter call -- VE3LX. He was ob-

LifeContinued page 9



THE RAMBLER

OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1989-1990

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CLUB CALENDAR

HOME BREW/SHOW AND
TELL
19 April

Flea Market -
21 April

Honours and Awards Night
for family and friends
17 May

Election of Officers
21 June

Field Day -
23-24 June

NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

19 April, 1990

Museum of Science and
Technology Auditorium

1930 hours

WIN! WIN! WIN!

ICOM IC2SAT MINI FM HANDI
AND MANY OTHER PRIZES

TICKETS ONLY \$2 OR
3 FOR \$5

FOR FLEA MARKET DRAW

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.

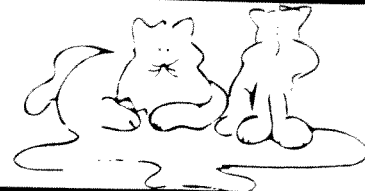
CUMBERLAND EMERGENCY NET - Wednesdays 1930 hrs, 147.03 MHz

THE WISE OWL NET - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

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

Strays

Doug Carswell,
VE3ATY



The March meeting of the Club saw another member of the ham community join the select group of Life Members. For me, the honouring of a fellow ham in such a manner is indeed one of the highs that comes with the mantle of being El Presidente. To add to the Club's expression of appreciation, the Executive has decided to hold an "Awards Night" at the May meeting of the Club. So make sure to bring your sweethearts and other close friends along with cameras to record the event. It is intended to make formal presentation of Life Member Certificates and also to present the Wise Owl Net certificates. This is to be followed by consuming copious quantities of Evelyn's special brew laced with strong doses of "eyeballing."

The April meeting is a show and tell night where you get to present your achievement of the year. Jerry - VE3CDS has asked that if you plan on bringing something for presentation give him a call so that he can determine the final format of the April

meeting. My achievement for the year will be finding a manager for the Pot Hole net. In this way I can avoid listening to W1AW. We are also looking for net controllers. Had a couple members from last year's course attend the net last Sunday - the count is now four from last year.

A couple of items of note: VE3JW is now operating as a repeater and the stats describing its use are impressive. This is one of the results of our Technical Advisor's efforts along with the help of Past President, VE3LNH. Ed is also the Volunteer Examiner for the Club and administers the "ham qualifying" tests.

Lee, VE3OWD, has put together an official Club history. He intends to publish it very shortly but points out with some dismay that he has nothing to go on beyond the minutes. He says that it needs to be fleshed out. So after it has been printed, I would like you "Oulde Tymers" to take a look and see if you fill in some of the missing parts. (If you have photographs of past

events that you would contribute please pass them along.) As Lee puts it, it needs a bit of colour - obviously a task for our more colourful members of the group.

Did you get your name tag. They are a bargain at half (twice???) the price. Come out to a meeting and register for one. If there are enough names on the list, you will get yours at the next meeting. Otherwise, Pat says you will have to wait a couple of months until he gets at least 10 names. Come on out before the rush dwindles to a trickle. Still looking for help on next year's Executive. Contact Fred, VE3BHA, the man who will gladly take your name. Incidentally, the pay is pretty good despite the long hours. I wonder if VE3ZBB might be interested.

Well that's enough straying for this month. See you at the next meeting.

Doug - VE3ATY

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 5530, Station "F"
Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3M1
14 March, 1990

Mr. Marcel Gervais, VE3CPA,
Cumberland Emergency Group,
1545 Meadowfield Place
Gloucester, Ontario
K1C 3W1

Dear Marcel,

Following your presentation to our General Meeting on 15 February, I placed your proposal and request for assistance before the OVMRC Executive Committee on 22 February for consideration.

After a review of your proposal and considerable discussion, it remained unclear to my Executive how the proposed organization and station would relate to the existing emergency infrastructure. It was noted, for example, that there already exist a number of organizations such as the Emergency Measures Amateur Radio Group

(EMARG) and COMSONT/EMO with emergency response groups in 143 municipalities.

Moreover, it was also noted that the CRRL has a signed agreement with the Canadian Red Cross to provide the latter with backup communications where necessary to allow it to discharge its duties as the primary response group for health and welfare matters.

In view of the above, the executive wondered how the proposed new station/organization would interface with these existing emergency support groups and expressed concern about the possible fragmentation of efforts by the local amateur community.

Perhaps, you could provide us with an outline of your working plan, describing how the proposed station will fit into the existing emergency structure (local, area, national international levels) in order that we would have a better idea of how our Club and membership could best assist you.

Yours truly,
(Signed)
Doug Carswell, VE3ATY
President, OVMRC

EDITOR'S CORNER

Charles King, VE3PDK



The 'elusive volunteer' of my March editorial may have been a figment of my overactive imagination. Several have since come forward. Ed, VE3VLF has taken on the job of inventory management and some have volunteered to help with the Flea Market. Still others are contemplating giving a year to the Executive and we are all hopeful that a Field Day Coordinator will step forward in the next few weeks. There have been two or

three offers of assistance in the production of *The Rambler*. The principal concern in this regard was to replace the current editor (unless that is the wish of the membership), but to have a back-up in the event some unforeseen calamity makes it impossible to get the newsletter out on time; something like an Assistant Editor.

I cannot resist the temptation to tell of the very proper English gentleman on safari in Africa who found, when

invited to dinner with a cannibal tribe, that he was the main course. With as much dignity as he could muster from his cramped position in the boiling pot over the fire, he said to the tribal leader, "You can't do this to me. Do you realize who I am? I am the Assistant Editor of the London Times!"

"Well, not to worry," said the native. "Tonight, you can be Editor in chief!"

KITS VERSUS RICEBURNERS

by Lee Demone, VE3OWD

In the 36 years since I learned to copy morse code and "pound brass" as a VERY ordinary seaman radioman in the RCN and subsequent initiation into ham radio, there have been profound changes in communications technology. This will not come as news to your readers. Today's compact, self-contained, all-singing, all-dancing, solid state, electronic marvels of ham transceivers are a far cry, and a generally welcome one, from the "valve" technology I cut my teeth on. However, with these advances have come, in my view, a disturbing lack of after-purchase support.

Modern CPU-controlled transceivers are a joy to use, after one learns and masters the numerous front panel controls. However, when they malfunction, heaven help you! In the case of my latest acquisition, a middle of the road transceiver from one of the "big three" manufacturers, I was still pondering some of its more obscure features when it went on strike. A read through the "manual" revealed no logical starting point for trouble shooting, so I made a call to the selling dealer, and was advised to ship it for repair. Simple, eh?

Well, not quite. As the weeks turn into months, and your long distance queries (complete with expensive "holds"), to your previously friendly dealer fail to elicit such fundamental info, in an age of computerized record keeping, as - did he receive the set you shipped for servicing and if so when; is it being repaired in-house, or has it been shipped to the factory and, if so, when?? After several months of this, one longs for the "bad old days" when one ordered a kit, which came with clear assembly manuals, excellent trouble-shooting guides, outstanding technical support, by phone or letter, and a reliable source of spare parts.

Please don't get me wrong. I'm no latter-day Luddite*, fighting progress in ham radio or elsewhere. But, in this age of indifferent after-purchase support, there is something very comforting still about owning an old reliable kit transceiver, which is amenable to the ministrations of these not-so-skilled hands, and knowing technical support is only a phone call away. Certainly, it lacks some of the "bells and whistles" of my newer one, BUT it keeps me on the air. In all the many years I have owned it, it has not been "down" as long as my factory built marvel has been away for repair. Compare a couple of weeks to obtain parts for self-servicing to the loss of a factory built "rice box" for 3,4, or more months, and still counting.

Yes, there is a point to my musing. Wouldn't it be nice if one of the major ham gear manufacturers diverted a miniscule portion of its advertising budget to establishing a North American service facility that could "turn around" a piece of its equipment within a reasonable period, say, 6-8 weeks? The news of this would spread through the amateur community far faster and have more impact than any full-page, colour ad. THAT manufacturer would most certainly get ALL my future business. I wonder what your readers think?

Lee, VE3OWD

You will get no argument from this quarter on kit-built versus factory built equipment. Like you, I have had experience with both and it parallels your own. Any manufacturer who follows your advice would corner the market as far as I'm concerned. Thanks for adding a new word to my lexicon -(Luddite (from Ned Ludd 1779 half-witted Leicestershire workman): one of a group of early 19th century English workmen destroying labor-saving machinery as a protest.) I suspect Ned would not be uncomfortable in some areas of today's politics or society. Ed.*

Secretary's Minutes

Lee Demone, VE3OWD



MINUTES OF THE OVMRC GENERAL MEETING - 15 MAR 90

1. President Doug, VE3ATY, opened the meeting in the Auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology, at 1935 hrs, welcoming approximately 35 members and guests. He recognized the following visitor:

VK1LU Lyal Collins

2. He outlined the evening's activities and enquired if any members were having technical problems for which they required assistance. Earl, VE3YOU, stated he was having problems configuring a modem and C64 for Packet in that he lacked a specific chip which he was now seeking. Chuck, VE3PDK, suggested Earl give him the specifics which would be printed in *The Rambler* under wanted items.

3. Doug noted that the first batch of Club name tags was available for pick-up this evening. He further outlined the ground rules for obtaining one, the colour scheme utilized, and noted there would be future orders. He also stressed they were to be WORN otherwise their raison d'être was moot. Doug presented recent Club Life Members, Jerry, VE3CDS, Fred, VE3BAJ, and Merv, VE3CV, with special gold name tags denoting their honoured status.

4. Doug invited members' attention to the Motion initiated by Bob, VE3KLG and seconded by Jerry, VE3CDS and Chuck, VE3PDK, that Gerry King, VE3GK be appointed a LIFE MEMBER of the OVMRC published in *The Rambler*. He reviewed Gerry's long association with the Club and his many contributions. This was followed by a secret ballot which approved the Motion unanimously.

5. Public Relations Jeff, VE3RCI, gave a brief outline of activities to date concerning the Flea Mart scheduled

for 0900, 21 Apr 90. He displayed the raffle prize - a miniature ICOM 2M HT - and noted that tickets were now on sale for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. He identified the tables sold to date and commercial vendors intending to be present. He also called for volunteers to man the Club table and assist in setting up and taking down the tables. 6. President Doug noted that Tech Advisor Ed, VE3VLF, had volunteered to act as the Club's equipment custodian and asked all members with gear on loan to see Ed so the details could be recorded. Henry, VE3OMU, observed that he had prepared a listing of Club assets several years ago which might be useful.

7. Doug also reviewed the situation surrounding the Sunday Morning Pot Hole Net. He himself has been acting informally as the Net Manager but would like someone else to volunteer for the task. Moreover, volunteers were also required to act as Net Controllers. Here is the opportunity for some of the many members who expressed a willingness to support Club activities in the recent questionnaire to move from intent to action.

8. Doug also noted that *The Rambler* Editor Chuck, VE3PDK, has been acting as a one-man gang in getting the RAMBLER out in such fine fashion. However, this places a heavy burden on Chuck and leaves us in a precarious position should something happen to render Chuck unavailable (heaven forbid!). Chuck is willing to train some member/members in the setup of *The Rambler*, etc. if they have the time available. Here is an excellent opportunity to learn a bit about desktop publishing if you have a PC. Several members volunteered to assist.

9. Doug also reminded members that it was time to be considering the election of a new executive. Fred,

VE3BAJ, has graciously agreed to chair the Nominating Committee, so when Fred calls on you - be a willing member!

10. Doug outlined the programs for the next several meetings. The April meeting will feature a "Show and Tell" night, so if you have something new or not new but interesting, bring it out. Please call Doug, VE3ATY or Jerry, VE3CDS of your intent to do so, in order that the lineup can be coordinated. The May meeting will feature a special awards program and social evening, so bring your spouse, significant other, or anyone else you like, but come, and

don't forget your cameras so the evening can be recorded for posterity.

11. Public Relations Jeff, VE3RCI, enquired if anyone had yet spoken to Bob, VE3MPG, who is currently in Czechoslovakia and operating on 20 Meters, using callsign OK3KAG. Suggested time and freqs are 1100 hrs local and 14.140 and 14.175 MHz.

12. President Doug called on Vice President Jerry, VE3CDS, to introduce the guest speaker - Treasurer Al, VE3SKA, who appeared in his other incarnations as an Army officer in the Signal Corps.

13. Al noted that since he is representing DND in making his presentation this evening he is obliged to be in uniform. He also noted he was sporting a cast on his foot not as a result of a war wound, but from a domestic accident. Al opened his presentation with a brief description of the history of Canadian Forces Auxiliary Radio System (CFARS) and how it sprung from a clear need to assist service members who found themselves serving in remote, primitive and generally inhospitable locations lacking normal PTT facilities, for example, the far north, Middle East, Namibia, Pakistan, etc. It all started in the 50s when

MinutesContinued page 6

military hams began arranging phone patches with the generous support of club stations and individual hams in Canada. However, by the 70s the system was breaking down due to too few military Hams, congested ham bands, and problems regarding "third party traffic" regulations in many areas of service. This resulted in the creation of a formal system in 1976 having dedicated freqs outside the ham bands, allowing hams to operate outside the ham bands, and freedom from "third party traffic" regs. The main aspects of this system were: a. special freqs; b. DOC approval; c. selection of stations; d. command and control; and e. Admin and tech support. By March 1990 CFARS boasted a net-work of 93 affiliated ops (civvy hams), 11 permanent military stations, 21 Navy ships on the East Coast, 9 ships on the West Coast and 15 Coast Guard vessels. Stations ranged from Alert, NWT to Ziouani and El Gorah in the Middle East. Much of the equipment in use is commercial ham gear on shore stations and military HF gear in ships. Al noted the types of traffic handled phone patches, welfare and morale messages, flower orders, etc. In 1988 the system handled approx 9000 phone patches alone. Also, system improvements are coming with new equipment on order to the tune of \$110K per station.

Al's presentation was nicely illustrated with slides of typical installations, locales, problems, and historic points of interest. There were numerous questions from the audience reflecting the interest in the topic.

14. President Doug thanked Al for the fine presentation, also noting the high level of audience interest.

15. There being no further business, President Doug called for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Chuck, VE3PAP, and seconded by Sue, VE3SLC. Meeting adjourned at 2125 hrs.

THE UBIQUITOUS 6L6

by Gerry King, VE3GK

I was changing a 6L6 vacuum tube in the pass current-voltage regulator circuit in the screen supply of my HF amplifier recently (some of us still use them HI), and it brought back some interesting memories. The 6L6 has been a fun tube for me because it resulted in so many interesting home-brew projects. The tube is still available in a varied assortment of glass and metal envelopes and filament voltages. My first mobile transmitter, the ELMAC AF67, used two special rugged 6L6's as AM modulators. These were in smaller, more efficient bottles with a numbered name -- 5881.

In the early '50s I ran a single metal enclosed 6L6 upside down in a pot of water and was able to run about 200 watts of input power with this water-cooled arrangement. My first commercial transmitter was a HAL-LICRAFTER HT9; a brute of a transmitter weighing about 100 lbs. The HT9 used four 6L6s in a push-pull parallel to modulate a single 814 in the RF output amplifier in Class "A" modulation. This is about 100 watts of audio to modulate 100 watts of RF. A super rig in its time if you liked AM communication.

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

by Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ -- Membership Chairman

As we are nearing the end of the current Club year, I thought I would give you a report on membership over the past year. Club membership now stands at an all-time high of 157. This was a bit of surprise in view of slow membership renewals this year. Of the total, 45 are new members, including 28 people enrolled in the amateur radio course. There are 8 families in which more than one person is Club member. In 5 of these families, both husband and wife are licensed. There are 37 members of the Club who do not have a license. Of those, 26 are from the amateur radio course. This statistic will change over the next little while. Most members are VE3s, with only 4 VE2s. There is also VO1MK, VE1AR, VE7WDR, VY1ROD and HP2MD. Ten members have two-letter calls of whom 3 appear above. There are 13 women members of whom 8 are licensed amateurs.

Having given you all those numbers, I would like to point out one statistic that should be changed. According to the Club Constitution, memberships expire on September 1 each year. As a courtesy, we continue to send out the Rambler until October. This year, only 45 members renewed by that date. I would like to encourage you to think about renewing a bit earlier this time around. It certainly makes my job easier instead of getting 81 memberships to process in September and October. Think of the poor Membership Chairman this year and renew when you get the application form in next month's Rambler.

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

ON THE HF BANDS

From Me, VE3RCI

Well, with the ARRL International SSB DX Contest on March 3-4 and the Commonwealth (BERU) CW Contest on March 10-11 there was lots of activity and 8 new countries were worked this month: All SSB -

T77C (San Marino) 1940Z 28.557;
VP2E (Anguilla) 1955Z 28.495;
WR6R/KX6 (Marshall Is.) 2000Z 28.488;
J34A (Grenada) 2028Z 28.468;
FG5R (Guadeloupe) 2039Z 28.443;
AH3C (Johnson Is.) 2109Z 28.406.

On CW -

ZC4ESB (British Cyprus) 0459Z 14.002;
V73AX (New Prefix - Marshall Is.) 1325Z 14.025 (QSL KX6BU);
FO0XXL (Mururoa, French Polynesia) 0418Z 14.001 (QSL via YASME Foundation as this was another famous Lloyd and Iris Colvin DXpedition) Mega-pileup! Interestingly, I thought this prefix (FO0X) was designated for Clipperton Is!

There seems to be a lot of JAs on DXpeditions as well: JR4ISF/CE0 (Easter Is.) 0250Z 14.007 (QSL JA3EGE); JJ3IMX/J6L (St. Lucia) 0405Z 14.003 (QSL JL3UIX). Another St. Lucia DXpedition worked was S77A/J6 1328Z 21.025 (QSL buro or JJ1TZ), but I would have preferred to work him at home in the Seychelles!

From Henry, VE3OMU

Lots of DX goodies from Henry's log this month (sent to me via packet) -

XT2BW (Burkina Faso) 1539Z 28.390 SSB (QSL WB2YQH);
TU2QQ (Ivory Coast) 1707Z 28.500 SSB;
HH2MC (Haiti) 1445Z 21.300 SSB;
ZL4FA (New Zealand) 0828Z 14.020 CW (a very early morning chat with Bruce);

JG3KUT/CE0 (Easter Is.) 1536Z 21.060 CW (QSL JA3EGE);

GB4SPD (N. Ireland - St. Patrick's Day special PX) 1059Z 14.020; and

FO0IGS (French Polynesia) 0954Z 14.230 SSB (QSL F6EEM).

Henry reports working several strange prefixes during the ARRL SSB DX contest, all on 10 meters:

P40V (Aruba) - note local Aruba stations use the P43 prefix,
HI500UD (Dominican Republic - Anniversary PX),
KH2D (Guam) 2308Z,
4B2A (Mexico),
J34A (Grenada),
4M5Y (Venezuela),
ZY3TD (Brazil),
T7KT and T7ZA (San Marino).

From Betty, VE3ZBB

March came in like a lion as far as DX was concerned for Betty. Her 15m CQ on March 1st was answered by YC6KHZ (Indonesia) at 2328Z 21.015 CW.

She also worked

PY1XA/QRP (3 watts) from Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 2305Z 21.022 CW;

EA1EVF (Spain) 1919Z 28.021 CW;

and just to show us that she's not totally on CW -

P43WLP (Aruba - a local station, as we now know) 2122Z 28.525 SSB.

Well done Betty! I'm still trying to work Indonesia... so thanks for the tip.

Judging from some of the loggings reported this month, I think I'll pass along a tip for one of my most used operating aids in this day and age of apparent chaos in the allocation of international amateur prefixes.

If you haven't already done so, get a copy of the "Table of Allocation of International Call Sign Series" as issued by the ITU and others. This lists alphabetically all of the letter or number/letter combination that have been assigned as recognized prefixes for all the countries of the world. For example, did you know that apart from the usual VE, VO and VY, Canada has been assigned CFA-CKZ, CYA-CZZ, VAA-VYZ, VOA-VOZ, VXA-VYZ, and XJA-XOZ (hence the XM prefix for the GRS... when they're used). So when you hear the various CF and other special Canadian prefixes that we can now use, you should not be puzzled as

DX de YOU Continued ... page 8

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ



It's time for our monthly roundup of items gleaned from club bulletins from across the country. This month, we'll go from west to east.

In the executive minutes of the **Calgary Amateur Radio Association**, there is a suggestion for a "Non-Ham of the Year" award presented to the non-Ham who serves the club in an exemplary manner. An interesting idea.

There is another article on voltage drops in HF rig power cables. Due to the resistance in the power cable, the rig will not get the full power supply voltage. A reduction in voltage at the rig can result in a loss in transmitter output power. The effect can be minimized by using a suitable size conductor for the distance that the power must be carried. In the example given, for a TS-120S, a 12 gauge wire of 9.7 feet would supply 98% of the 13.8 volts to the rig. If you want further details, see me.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of CFVP *The Voice of the Prairies*. It is a shortwave station operating on 6030 KHz and was first licensed as VE9CA in 1929.

In the **London Amateur Radio Club** bulletin, there is an update on the CANWARN system. Plans are underway to have a dedicated repeater funded by Environment Canada for reporting severe weather. Amateur

radio operators were involved in the recent Labatt Brier in Sault Ste. Marie. Operators manned two commercial VHF radios from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day.

This from the **Sudbury ARC Communicator**. In their *Packet Racket North* column, there is a scene where Scotty is trying to beam Chukov and Uhura aboard, but can't hear them due to interference. It turns out that the offending sound was actually a 20 meter HF packet conversation between two U.S. amateurs. They must have been in a time warp.

A new packet repeater has been installed in Falconbridge in hopes of accessing Barrie and then the rest of southern and eastern Ontario.

The merger of the OVMRC and the OARC was discussed at the February OARC meeting. A show of hands indicated that most present were in favour of a merger. We will be working together again on a joint Field Day this year. There was also a report on the 24th Ski Marathon. A total of 30 amateurs were involved. Next year is their silver jubilee.

From the **Ottawa Pioneer ARC Teleparc** comes word that VE3TEL now has an operating autopatch. Access it by pressing the star (*) for at least one second; listen for the dial tone; announce your call sign and dial the seven digits. When you are

finished, press the cross-hatch (#) and again, announce your call sign.

The **Halifax ARC Reflector** contains frequent reports on the work of the Waverley Ground Search and Rescue Team. This group uses amateur radio operators to provide communications during searches for missing persons. Originally, the group used CB, but found it ineffective. They could not cover a large area, good equipment was scarce and "people who know how to use the equipment were scarcer still." Now they are able to get the "big picture" quickly and can connect search managers to the people directly involved and can solve potential problems quickly.

The *Reflector* also contains an article on Ham radio in China by Meng Chao, BZ1FB (source unknown). There are now several hundred amateurs in China, operating 40 club stations. Since there is no permission to operate personal transmitters, only club stations, many people enjoy themselves making home-brew electronic projects such as TVs, radios or record players. Some modify broadcast receivers and indulge in DX SWLing. There is only one Ham radio newsletter in China and as a result North American magazines are treasured items.

Til next time ... 73.

DX de YOU Continued from page 7

to what country that station is in. It's a little trickier with places like islands that are protectorates of other countries. Just look at the all the prefixes allocated to Great Britain & Northern Ireland and you see what I mean. I keep this list (I took mine from page 4A in the front of the 1989 North American Callbook) in a plastic page protector nearby your

operating table (don't post it because you won't be able to read it on the wall... fine print). So next time you hear 4M7AAA talking to 4N7AAA, you'll be able to take a quick look at the list and see that they're in Venezuela and Yugoslavia respectively. You won't find that information on the current list of Amateur Radio prefixes! That's all for now, so let's all get active while the bands are wide open. 73, Jeff.

viously looking for a special two-letter call evidenced by a further change in 1964 to VE3GK; the call he holds today.

It is not surprising that Gerry gravitated to the teaching profession. As a natural teacher, it is perhaps surprising that he didn't do it sooner. He spent over twenty years teaching in Ottawa High Schools and Algonquin College. His hobby was never far from his mind, even when teaching. On the contrary, he used amateur radio to enrich the school program, involving his students in amateur radio projects. While teaching slow learners at Highland Park High, he set up a school Amateur Radio Station, VE3HPH, to spark interest in geography as well as communications. "Scheds" were set up with amateurs in various parts of the world to coincide with the class on that country. Students would hear from an amateur in that country of its industry, climate and topographical features. On one occasion, he contacted King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan, VY1. The King was delighted to speak to the students and was greatly amused when Gerry informed him that he also was a King! VE3HPH, manned by the students and with the help of other DXers, was Canada's third leading station in a 1969 world-wide DX contest, garnering over one million points. These "slow learners" were only beat out by the University of Saskatchewan and McGill University Radio Clubs! Gerry carries his teaching beyond the classroom and has presented many papers on his favourite subjects -- antennas and home-brewing. He has

been guest speaker at amateur radio conventions at Dayton, Ohio; Rochester, N.Y.; Sydney, N.S.; Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Toronto, London, Burlington and Ottawa, Ont.; and Montreal, P.Q. In addition, he writes a regular column in *The Canadian Amateur* entitled *The Gain Game* and has published a book on stacked arrays versus long boom Yagis by the same title. Over six hundred copies of this handbook have been given away. Another book, *Gain Game 3*, is in the final stages of preparation.

When it comes to building impossible antennas, such as a 160 meter quad, Gerry is like the bumble-bee, which engineers have proved, based on its aerodynamics, is completely incapable of flight. But the bumble-bee doesn't know this, so it flies anyway.

Those of us who have experienced the great satisfaction of helping an amateur get his license will appreciate how Gerry feels about getting over six hundred amateurs licensed through his courses at Algonquin College and of helping more than two hundred get their Advanced license. The one thing he has refused to do is to take himself or anything else too seriously. One of his students, who didn't share his sense of humour, asked when he was going to get serious in his teaching. He replied that if he got serious it would take all the fun out of it and he wouldn't do that. She demanded a refund of her tuition and left the course. Probably not a great loss to the amateur world. From a personal ob-

servaion at the Club meeting in February, he is still at the business of bringing new amateurs to the hobby. At that meeting he was seen advising a prospective licensee and offering his help in passing the examinations. Gerry has a soft spot for kids, especially those in hospitals. He uses his hobby to bring them joy at Christmas when he organizes the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Santa Claus Radio Net. With his group of eager volunteers, he sets up shop at the Hospital and controls the net with the 'North Pole' as the volunteers go from bed to bed, putting the kids in touch with Santa Claus. Plan to join him in December.

When asked his views on changes in the amateur radio hobby, particularly restructuring, Gerry strongly favours these changes in the hopes that it may make the hobby more attractive to young people with new ideas. Although he has already expressed opposition to merging local clubs, he strongly favours joint ventures such as Field Day and social gatherings. He believes that the two clubs have different things to offer and should be maintained as such.

With such a background, is it surprising that the Club voted unanimously to make him a Life Member? As to his rehabilitation, there is little likelihood of changing his ways now, but then, why try?

The Club extends heartiest congratulations to Gerry on his appointment as a Life Member in the Club he helped to found and sincerely hope that he will continue to offer his wise counsel and assistance in its operations for many years to come.

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Modem IC for Packet Interface AM7910. Spare tubes for HW22, e.g. CGE5s and HP23 Power Supply. Earl Andrews, VE3YOU, 828-5955

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Ten meter 3-element beam - \$75
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APPLE][floppy disk drive and controller to resurrect an Apple system as a gift. Alan, VE3LNH 737-4937 OR @ VE3JF.

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