



THE  
OVMRC

# RAMBLER

Volume 33, Number 8 September, 1990

## OVMRC GRADS MARITIME MOBILE

by Brice Wightman, VE3EDR/C6A-MM

For many years, my dream was to own a seaworthy sailboat and go blue-water cruising. The dream came true when I retired four years ago: My first mate, Teresa, and I took *Peregrina*, an Alberg 37 yawl, from Lake Ontario 1500 miles down the Intra-Coastal Waterway to Florida. Each year since, I round up a crew of local sailors and we cruise from *Peregrina's* home slip in Melbourne (near Cape Canaveral) to the Bahamas, about 55 miles off the coast.

This year, there was a difference --- **ham radio was aboard!** Seven hams, on ship and ashore, maintained a daily sked with Ottawa:

Paul Cooper, VE3JLP; Tom Ling, VE3KKO; Bill McLeod, VE3LOZ; Ken Barry, VE3KJB; Dan Eakins, VE3WCS; Gaston (Gas) Bruneau, VE3SDR; and the skipper, Brice Wightman, VE3EDR. *Ken, Dan and Gas are graduates of the OVMRC Amateur Radio Course of 1989/90.*

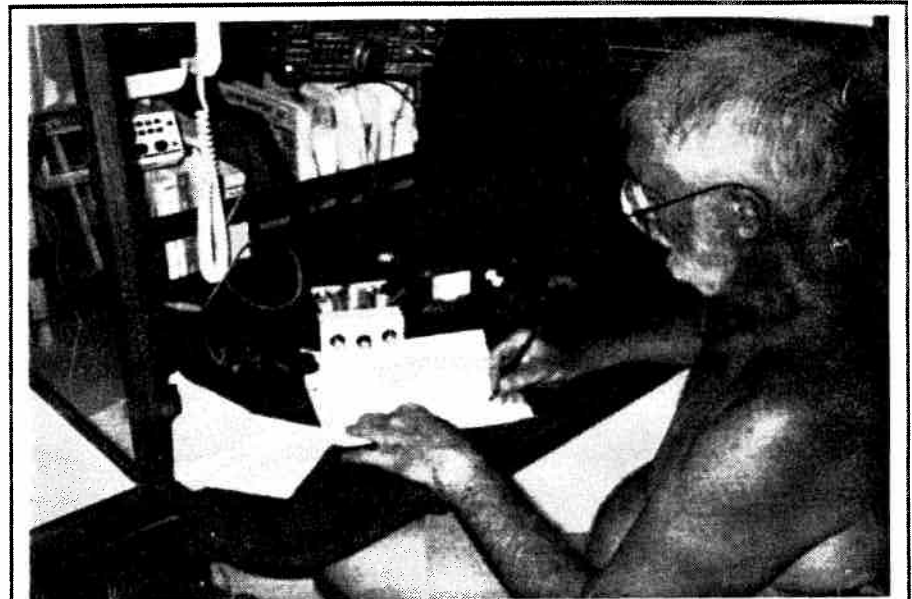
### ANCHORS AWAY

In mid-June, Paul, VE3JLP, and I took *Peregrina* south down the coast to Palm Beach as a staging point for the crossing to the Bahamas. As we entered the harbour after midnight, we were met by a Coast Guard launch. *Peregrina* was illuminated by a powerful light from the launch while we were questioned. Every inlet in southern Florida is under constant surveillance by radar for boats running drugs from the Bahamas. You can be boarded and your boat treated rather roughly if it looks suspicious. However, Paul and I must have honest faces; we were allowed to pass with no hassle.

We set sail from Palm Beach the next day at sunset, heading east across the Gulf Stream and alternating four-

hour watches through the night. We had to keep a sharp eye for shipping: Northbound freighters riding the Gulf Stream; southbound freighters inshore to avoid the Stream; and cruise ships going east and west carrying wine,

ing this passage, requires estimating the average current and then calculating the angle by which to crab into the current. Dead reckoning (plotting your position from the course and distance run) tells you where you are in



VE3EDR operating /C6A/MM. Note TS-440-SAT, key, VSWR meter and antenna tuner with screwdriver sticking out of upper right hand corner

women, Calypso bands and gaming tables. These "love boats" were a menace; they were lit up like Christmas trees so you couldn't pick out the running lights. Result: You couldn't tell whether they were coming or going or on which side they would pass.

The Gulf Stream, which flows in a northerly direction, is the largest river in the world, carrying more water than the rest of the world's rivers combined. The current in the middle can be as great as five knots (six mph). Negotiat-

the water, but you don't know how much the water has moved in the meantime. There was Loran aboard, but it has its risks: the receiver can fail; the chain can go down; thunderstorms can degrade your signal/noise ratio; and accuracy was poor in our cruising area because it lies on the extension of the master/slave baseline. Anyway, being an electrical engineer, I didn't trust electronics. So we stuck to our calculated course and made a good

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# RAMBLER

Volume 33 Number 8, September, 1990

## OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1990-1991

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839-5854

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Chas. King VE3PDK  
733-2079

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## NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

20 Sept, 1990

1930 hours

Room #1

Multi-service

Centre

1480 Heron Road,  
(East of Alta Vista Dr. near  
Baycrest Drive on south  
side of Heron)

See map on facing page.

## CHECK-IN FREQUENCY

147090/30 - VE3TWO.

## CLUB CALENDAR

First Club Meeting  
of the new season

1930 hrs  
20 September

First Class Night  
Amateur Radio Course  
Tuesday, 18 Sept  
(Registration 11 Sept)

Executive Meeting  
Wednesday, 26 Sept

## RAMBLER

Article submission  
deadline  
26 Sept  
at the Executive  
meeting

## RAMBLER COMMITTEE

### Editorial Board

Chas. King, VE3PDK  
Jerry Wells, VE3CDS  
Ken Barry, VE3KJB

### Circulation

Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP  
Fred Haire, VE3NJB  
Eric Still, VE3OTT  
Kevin Still

### 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.

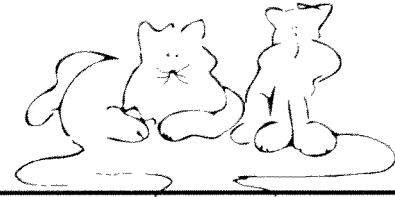
MILITARY NET - Tuesdays 2000 hrs 147.30 MHz.

CUMBERLAND EMERGENCY NET - Wednesdays 1930 hrs, 147.03 MHz

THE WISE OWL NET - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

# Strays

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY,



Today is Labour Day and its time to prepare for the coming Fall activities. By the time you read this we will have had a couple of sessions with the new course. Judging by the phone calls received to date, we will have about thirty new candidates. This year, we will be preparing new lesson plans and trying to second guess what DOC will have on the exams. It is my understanding that a new question bank has been prepared but the wheels of government rotate very slowly.\* However I am sure that we will have an even greater success as the theory won't be as complex.

I attended the summer Club barbecue with Ed, VE3SLC and enjoyed an afternoon with Fred, VE3PAA, and his wife Judy, VE3PAB along with others from the club. Not a large crowd but had a good visit with Buckey and Fred Noble. Some got into the water and others just visited. Fred and Judy have an indoor pool which is heated along with the hot water supply for the house using solar panels that

were installed along with the appropriate controls and plumbing required to circulate the water. I noted that the water feeding the house supply was at 135 degrees. Boy look at the savings.

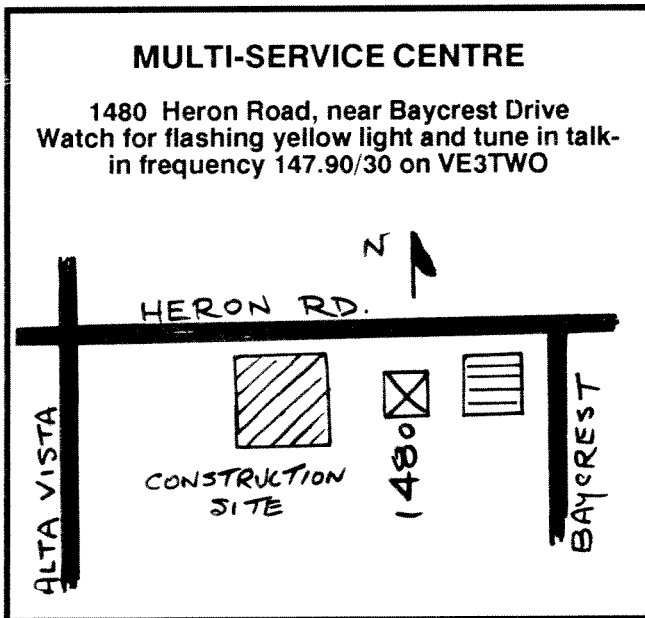
Your executive has met for a second time and is now in the process of implementing some of the decisions made at the July executive meeting. This year, we will be following a different format and won't have the ham radio introduction to the general public until later in the season. It is hoped that at the first meeting we will have some reps from DOC to tell us about the new regs. I hope that a large number of the students will attend this session as they will be getting a lot of info directly from the source. Additionally, when you come in make sure to register at the desk as we will be giving out a door prize and you will need to pick up a ticket. The door prize will be a balun kit from Amidon. Not sure what the non-ham prize will be. Perhaps the manuals for qualifying as an amateur.

The Membership Chairman has asked that we get copies of the Club Bylaws for distribution to our membership. The Editor, in reviewing the Bylaws, noted that there were some minor problems with its structure and he is proposing to reformat the Bylaws to make them a little more consistent. Additionally, we want to change the structure a bit to provide a greater opportunity to participate. So over the next while we expect to see a presentation of the proposed new Bylaws for your review and comment before they are finally presented for approval. Any thoughts about them please contact one of the executive and pass the info on.

Well that's it for this time. See you at the September meeting.

73s, Doug, VE3ATY

\*(Ed. Note: CARF Bulletin 13-90 advises they have been told "to keep providing copies of the Question Bank in its present form, but to make our customers aware that some of the exam questions may not appear in the bank")



**RADIO EXHIBIT NEEDS HELP**

VE3JW will be back on the air in December 1992 if the Communications Exhibit can be completed by that date. Help is needed to document communications artifacts for the exhibit. Some research is needed to to put them in proper historical perspective. The artifacts cover the whole spectrum of communications, so any aspect of your experience could be valuable to Ernie Decoste, VE3RIM, who heads up the project for the Museum. The volunteer hours can be negotiated to suit your your available time.

We are all anxious to see the Amateur Radio Station re-opened in the Museum and this all depends on the opening of the Communications Exhibit. let's get behind this project and give Ernie any help we can. Call Suzanne at 993-5757 today!

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# AGE NOT A BARRIER

by Charles King, VE3PDK

"Older" members have been featured in The Rambler over the past few months as the accomplishments and contributions of Life Members were profiled, highlighting their years of service to Amateur Radio and to this Club. It is only fitting, therefore, that the other end of the spectrum should be given a little attention and the focus shifts to the Club's newest and youngest member - 12-year old Vikram "Vic" S. Bajaj, VE3BSV (for Bajaj S. "Vic").

Vic's interest in amateur radio goes back a few years. It started when he was in Grade 3 and 4. He discovered the Morse Code and tried to memorize the alphabet. His first attempts were frustrating and he put the idea aside for a time. His Grade 5 music teacher was an Amateur and he encouraged him to try again. He did with renewed interest, but lacking continued support and encouragement, his enthusiasm waned again.

During Grade 6, at about the age of ten, Vic was given a set of Amateur Radio Study Guides by our own Doug Carswell, VE3ATY. This was the spark that was needed to get him on his way to obtaining a licence. He studied the books, but he felt the need of formal training to answer his many questions. Vic was "on-the-air" on 27 Mhz during this period, talking to anyone who could tell him anything about Amateur Radio.

Through this CB contact, he learned of the Amateur Radio Course being conducted at Algonquin College by Yves Grenier, VE2GBK. His application for the course was not given serious con-

sideration because of his age and his other schoolwork commitments, so he was turned down. Determined to get enrolled, Vic sought his father's

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**Vic would like to contact  
other young amateurs --  
locally and worldwide ...  
he sees no limits to the  
possibilities in  
Amateur Radio**

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help in convincing the College of his maturity and motivation. His father was persuasive and Vic's application was reviewed and accepted.

Vic tried the Department of Communications examinations on 25 June of this year and aced them all, including Morse Code at 10 words per minute, on the first attempt. He acquired his station call VE3BSV, the reverse of his initials, on the 27th of June and his membership to the Club in early July. During this time, of course, he was also busy writing his Grade 7 examinations at school, which he successfully completed, and was graduated into Grade 8.

His spare time is devoted to astronomy and astrophysics as a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Vic is anxious to get on the air on the Amateur frequencies, but lacks equipment and antennas. His father is not too sure about this hobby. Vic says, "He thinks I'll clutter up the backyard with antennas -- which is probably what I'll end up doing."

Vic's ambition is to pursue CW QRP. He has already made contacts to acquire a transceiver and is looking for a trapped vertical antenna that can be ground-mounted unobtrusively. He wants to make up a mobile antenna that he can use in field settings for CW QRP. He hopes to find a used 2-meter rig that he can use to check into local repeater nets so that he can keep up with what's happening in the local Amateur community.

Vic would like to make contact with other young Amateurs both locally and world-wide. He sees a bright future for young Amateurs in the hobby, but he is not keen on the proposed restructuring. When informed that he would qualify as an Advanced Amateur in the fall, he said, "I don't think they should give an Advanced ticket automatically. The person should earn it." He also expressed the opinion that Morse Code was not that hard to learn. He now receives at 12 to 15 w.p.m.

Eventually, he hopes to be able to get involved in packet and satellite operations. Vic sees no limits to the possibilities in pursuing the hobby of Amateur Radio.

Vic is certain to get a warm welcome at his first meeting on Thursday, 20 September as the Club wishes him many happy years of hamming.

P.S. Since this writing, Vik has obtained an HF rig (HW101) from Doug, VE3ATY and expressed his appreciation for this help. He is busy setting up a shack and is on the air with DX contacts -- so look for him on 20 meter CW.

landfall at West End on Grand Bahama Island at dawn.

### **THE RIG, ANTENNAS AND GROUND SYSTEM**

The mainmast rises about 50 feet above the water and is guyed four ways. A portion of the main backstay (the rearward guy) was insulated as a sloping 40-metre quarter-wave antenna. Forty meters was chosen because the Waterway Net operates on 7268 kHz and because this was the longest resonant wire that would fit in the backstay. It was expected that this antenna would also tune up on 15 metres (3/4 wavelength) and possibly even as a 20-metre end-fed dipole. The main backstay is split; the lower end divides into two stays in order to straddle the mizzen mast, the shorter rear mast. So three Norseman insulators were installed: One at the bottom of the port-side stay, one 33 feet up from this in the main stay and one at the top of the starboard-side stay. The lower insulator was installed as close to deck level as possible, just above the turnbuckle. There is a misconception that the insulated portion of the stay should be as high as possible. Not so; the feed point should be as close to ground (water level) as possible to minimize the impedance of the ground lead.

An underwater ground plate, called a Dynaplate, had been mounted on the hull when the boat was built. This porous bronze device is supposed to give you oodles of square feet of contact surface. I don't buy this claim; the contact area can't exceed the external surface of the plate. However, it does give good water contact, doesn't corrode in seawater and seems to discourage marine growth. Internal ground connections were installed by the builder, using three-inch width roofer's copper flashing for low-inductance. The design of the antenna and the ground system was based on ideas gleaned from the *Worldradio Mobile* column by Gordon West, WB6NOA, and *An Installation Guide for The Maritime Mobile Ham*, by Jim Haynes, KG6JLC. I have also corresponded

with Gordon on such things as the compatibility of the HF and Loran antenna locations.

The antenna worked surprisingly well considering that it was surrounded by two aluminum masts and their associated stainless-steel rigging. The mainmast is connected near its base to another Dynaplate on the outside of the hull. For lightning protection, all massive metal objects, such as the engine, are bonded to this point by heavy-gauge wire. For galvanic protection, all immersed metal objects in the boat are also bonded to this point. Despite being enclosed in this grounded cage, the antenna had the great advantage of working against the best possible ground --- seawater. Furthermore, this ground extended for a number of wavelengths in every direction, just as important as elevation for a low take-off angle.

The home-base rig, a Kenwood TS-440-SAT, was installed in a standard mobile mount on the overhead above the navigator's desk to port. This rig was chosen because it used a separate 12-volt power supply that could be left behind and because it contained an internal automatic antenna tuner. A length of coax (about 10 ft) was run through a cockpit locker to the feed-point. The Dynaplate had been mounted as close as practical to the feedpoint. Some cleanup of this installation is still required: A weatherproof through-deck fitting for the feedline; better routing of the ground connections; bypass capacitors and/or toroids at strategic points in the 12-volt system.

Paul had arranged a sked at 2000 hrs Ottawa time with VE3LOZ and VE3KKO on 40-, 20- and 15-metre phone frequencies. At our first night's stop, Paul and I lashed up an antenna feed and ground connection. As expected, the match, using an antenna tuner (MFJ 900), was good on 40 and 15 meters but atrocious on 20 meters. We could hear VE3LOZ but couldn't work him.

The feedpoint was high impedance on 20, so I opened up the antenna tuning unit (ATU), slipped a pocket screwdriver into the plates of one of the variable capacitors (*see photo on*

*page 1*) and, voil!, I had an "L" network which matched on 20. A couple of test QSO's reported that our signal was badly distorted. WB8SFF even gave us a playback of our taped signal! So we switched to CW. Still we were getting T1 and T2 reports until Paul noticed the voltmeter on the ship's main panel bouncing up, not down, when I keyed. Lifting the floor hatch to the battery compartment, Paul found loose connections supplying the rig. He tightened them up while I carried on the QSO and our signal was pronounced clean.

We stayed with CW (14060) for the remainder of the skeds. Just as well. Signal reports were not always good and QSB was usually present. On a really good night, the phone QSOs were Q4 at best.

Later, I tidied up the feed and ground connections some and used the ATU internal to the rig. According to published reviews, this ATU is not capable of matching random length wires. However, it matched nicely and quickly on 40 and 20 but not on 15. (Anyway, Paul had churned out some propagation predictions on his computer, using MINIPROP, which showed that the skip on 15 was too long for our path.) I also had a QSO on 30 metres.

### **LICENSING AND OPERATING**

Although Canada and the Bahamas have reciprocal operating privileges, it is still necessary to apply for a Bahamas license. Canada and the US have reciprocal privileges but we tend to forget that the same procedure was also necessary at one time for hams operating across the border. However, Canada and the US have had for some years now an additional agreement which waives the paperwork. If you plan to operate in a country which has reciprocal privileges with Canada, be sure to check whether an application is required --- and do so well in advance. By submitting a copy of my Canadian licence and a fee of US \$6, I was issued, not a Bahamas call sign, but a licence to use VE3EDR/C6A.

*Mobile Marine.....page 6*

The Bahamas prohibits third-party traffic and the maritime nets (14.313 MHz) are very strict about this. Net control will ascertain if you are maritime mobile (*international waters*) or marine mobile (*national waters*) and won't touch you if there is any doubt. This is particularly aimed at phone patches. The Bahamas Telecommunications Company (Batelco) operates the telephone system and issues radio licences. However, I doubt that they have any staff who can read morse and decipher "PSE QSP QTH TO XYL". The third-party restriction is anomalous, given that the marine VHF band is used as a telephone system for local calls in the Bahamas. This band is allocated to ship-ship and ship-shore traffic, but not to shore-shore. Yet businesses, such as Bessie's Bakery, use the marine band and actually advertise the channel they monitor. Furthermore, personal marine H/Ts are carried on belts like pagers. I was waiting in the bar for Dick, my relief crew, to arrive from the airport. Suddenly, I heard him calling "Peregrina" on the marine radio sitting on the bar; he was calling me from the taxi!

#### THE RADIO LOG

After delivering the boat to Marsh Harbour, our Bahamas base, Paul flew back to the farm to make hay while the sun shone. Ken, VE3KJB took over as base operator with Paul on the side when it was too wet to hay. We added a sked at 0800 hrs. Ken is an ex-Navy "sparks" and very proficient in traffic handling. He was absolutely reliable, never missed a sked and was key-down right on the CHU time tick. I worked full break-in so Paul could throw in a "P" to indicate his presence and I would usually have at least two QSOs per sked.

In a seven-week period, 106 QSOs were logged. Besides the scheduled QSOs, the log also shows: ES3XV (Soviet prefix coming into use), WA9SQN/K4 (US Virgin Islands), UB4XWB, W2ODC/VE3 (Howard near Perth), OK3TDO and 4X1EL.

Signal reports were 569 to 599. At first, I was not signing "/MM" so that after the sked there were small pileups beginning to form. C6A is about half way down the DX rarity list and MM does not qualify for awards. Thereafter, I always used the full callsign, VE3EDR/C6A/MM, a real handful when you are using a straight key! The keyer and paddle were not aboard because one needs equipment that is both compact and rugged. In a heavy sea, below-decks can become ankle deep in gear that has not been secured. We realized later that 14060 was a QRP frequency, but we were not the only ones. I worked a few QRP stations, including a VE2 who was using one watt.

#### HOMEWARD BOUND WITH THE STUDENT CREW

The second crew, Dick (not a ham), and I cruised around the Abaco group and I kept up the skeds. When Dick left, Dan VE3WCS ("West Coast Sailor") and Gas VE3SDR ("Sailors Drink Rum") arrived as the crew to take the ship back to Florida. I was a little intimidated by having two lieutenant-commanders (RCN) aboard. However, having been brain-washed into believing that the skipper was the boss, they didn't pull rank on me. They were a tremendous resource of knowledge, skill and judgment, as well as regaling us with salty tales of Navy life, so I was able to relax. Dan operated several skeds, especially when his father-in-law, Bob VE7SG, came on frequency. Dan also wouldn't allow anyone else in the galley. He transformed the most mundane canned food one must subsist upon while afloat with no refrigeration (just enough ice for the beer) into haute cuisine dishes. In port we did buy freshly caught grouper and snapper.

The weather was hot (low 90s every day), sunny with variable winds except for a gigantic rain squall, that hit every afternoon. We had to watch for black thunderheads. When one approached, we dropped the mainsail and ran off under #2 Genoa and mizzen alone. Winds in these squalls were about 30 knots, gusting to 40. We underestimated one of these clouds and got caught in the squall with the main up!

We eased the main until it was just flogging and still we were doing over 6.5 knots (maximum possible speed for this hull). Gaston, with the build of a wrestler, was fighting the helm, trying to bear off enough to take the strain off the helm without broaching (capsizing). The squall didn't let up and we were running out of sea room. In the first "lull", I took the helm while Dan and Gas went forward to the mast. They had the main down in a trice. We kept plots of hurricanes "Arthur" (well off) and "Bertha" (only about 400 miles distant but headed away from us).

After each day's sail, we dropped anchor in the shelter of a bay, swam in the sea, and held happy hour in the cockpit followed by one of Dan's five-star dinners. Homeward bound, we anchored at the edge of the Little Bahama Bank. The water on the Banks is only about 6 to 12 feet deep for miles around. ("Bahamas" comes from the Spanish "baja mar", meaning "low sea"). After a hearty supper, we weighed anchor at sunset and headed across the Gulf Stream, trading four-hour watches through the night as before. "Bertha's" skirts gave us some foul winds and the high-water bilge alarm (a Radio Shack 90 dB warbler siren) gave us a few moments of panic when it sounded in the night. All hands turned out, but it was found that the automatic float switch had stuck and the bilges were filling! We over-rode the automatic with the manual switch and pumped the bilges.

Approaching Fort Pierce, Florida, just after dawn, we radioed Ken to notify the XYLs of our safe arrival. Then entering the inlet, we raised our yellow quarantine flag while the skipper went ashore and spent two hours with the bureaucracy making formal entry for the ship and crew. Then off to a marina and the ecstasy of showers, air-conditioning and a seafood supper overlooking the Atlantic.

Now *Peregrina* lies comfortably in her berth awaiting next year's crop of radio operators and crew.



# Secretary's Minutes

Lee Demone, VE3OWD



## MINUTES OF OVMRC GENERAL MEETING - 21 JUN 90

1. President Doug, VE3ATY, opened the meeting, held in the Auditorium of the Museum of Science and Technology, at 1935 hrs, welcoming about 50 members and guests. He recognized the following visitors:

Steve Clarke  
Cherie Gabie  
Don Haig

2. Doug informed the meeting that he had received official notice from the Museum that it would be closing for a year for major renovations. This means we must find a new meeting place for next year. During the last Museum closure we used a room in the Canterbury Recreation Centre, however, it was not quite large enough for our purposes. Also, a new venue will have to be found for the annual Amateur Radio Course. A task for the new Executive Committee.

3. Doug also recognized and congratulated Roxanne, VE3VON, who received her licence last week, another worthy alumnus of the OVMRC course. (Is she a nurse with that call sign suffix??)

4. Doug next called for anyone with technical problems. Craig, VE3KKU, has a problem with a memory keyer he bought at Dayton, Ohio; specifically he needs the spec sheet or info on the 4046 chip. Any help out there??

5. There were no reports/bulletins available from either CARF/CRRL.

6. Doug next called on Craig, VE3KKU, to report on Field Day preparations. Craig reported that planning is going well with setup starting at 0800 hrs, Saturday, 23 June, at Andrew Haydon Park. All volunteers for the work party are welcome. Also additional operators are required, both voice and CW. He would also appreciate the loan of CW memory keyer, and also a voice keyer. Let the

Field Day committee know the numbers coming to the BBQ. (Family members welcome).

7. Doug reported that the Financial Statement published in the last

RAMBLER has been audited and found to be in order. He asked if there were any questions on it; there being none, he called for a motion to accept it as published. So moved by Alan, VE3LNH, and seconded by Leo, VE3NVL. CARRIED.

8. With the proposed 1990/91 Budget published at the same time there is a slight problem so Doug called on Chuck, VE3PDK, to explain. Chuck reported that over the past year we had been getting the RAMBLER published without cost through the generosity of a local business. Needless to say this had proved to be costly to the business concerned with respect to photocopier supplies, etc. To help defray some of the costs it is proposed to pay a fee of 1.5 cents per page, or about \$300 for the year. Even with this outlay, the Club is still receiving a considerable benefit from our supporter.

9. Doug noted that this additional \$300 had not been included in the budget when drawn up, therefore, lacking additional revenue, the proposed budget would result in a small deficit. There followed some discussion on additional sources of revenues, eg, more memberships, better return on current resources, etc. However, in view of the excellent condition of the Club's finances (a surplus), it was moved by Pat, VE3KJQ, and seconded by Merv, VE3CV, that the budget be accepted as amended. CARRIED.

10. Doug enquired if there was any more business prior to getting to the election of new officers.

11. Leo, VE3NVL, rose to express his appreciation for the Executive Vote of Thanks Certificate presented him for his work on behalf of the Club.

12. Judy, VE3PAB, noted that VE3PAW, in Arnprior, has a 68 foot tower for sale at a very good price.

13. Doug next called on Vice President Jerry, VE3CDS, to introduce, on behalf of Fred, VE3BAJ, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, the Committee's recommendations for next year's slate of officers. He noted that the RAMBLER had published thumbnail sketches on the proposed candidates for each office to make the voting procedure easier. He further mentioned that the proposed slate did not preclude nominations from the floor, however, he cautioned that no person should be nominated without having agreed to serve. He then introduced the recommended slate:

**President** Doug Carswell  
VE3ATY  
**Vice President** Jeff Wilson  
VE3RCI  
**Past President** Alan Boyce  
VE3LNH (Non elective)  
**Treasurer** Judy Taetz VE3PAB  
**Secretary** Suzanne Carswell  
VE3SLC  
**Membership** Mike Beausoleil  
VE3BGP  
**Tech Advisor** Ed LeBlanc  
VE3VLF  
**Public Relations** Ed Sieb  
VE3RDZ  
**RAMBLER Editor** Charles King  
VE3PDK

Jerry next called three times for additional nominations for each individual position from the floor. There being none, he declared the slate elected. He then thanked all who agreed to serve and offered his best wishes to the new committee which he expected would do a fine job.

14. President Doug thanked Jerry for his confidence. He also noted that Charles, VE3PDK, deserves a special vote of thanks for continuing the excellent work he has done on the  
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# NOVICE NEWS

by Ken Barry, VE3KJB

I passed my Amateur Radio examinations and Morse code tests in February, 1990 and was licensed shortly thereafter. Of course, I had a big advantage -- from 1942 to 1945, I was a wireless operator in the navy. At the time, I was good for 25 words per minute in plain language and cipher. To my amazement, I discovered I could still copy 15 wpm when I started the Amateur Radio Course. I have been on the air since March, 1990 and have gone through the rigors of getting started in Ham action. While there are thousands of Amateurs with far more experience than me, my experience in getting through the course and getting on the air is still fresh in my mind. and I would like to pass on some of the things I have learned in the last five months. Like a big brother, I am not yet full fledged, but my knowledge is slightly ahead of the amateur who is just getting started. My first tip is "don't get discouraged." Treat the course like a school subject. If you put in enough study, you cannot fail. For those of you who have opted not to take morse code, I urge you to reconsider. Five wpm is not a difficult goal to achieve.

Again, if you put in enough study, you will not fail. According to the new regulations, an amateur licensee with 5 wpm morse code is permitted to transmit and receive on all HF bands. While there is lots of fun to be had on 2-meters, the really good stuff happens between 2 Mhz and 30 Mhz. So it is to your benefit to put in the extra work required to learn morse code. Enjoyment of the hobby will be increased ten-fold.

This column will appear monthly throughout the course to air your views, offer advice and help to solve students' problems. Give us your comments and any questions you may have concerning the course and the hobby in general. Please call me at any time during the daylight hours at 746-4823 with your comments, questions, beefs or kudos.

*Ken, VE3KJB is a graduate of the 1989/90 OVMRC Amateur Radio Course who has agreed to pass on his student experiences, frustrations, and advice to the students of the 1990/91 programme.*

## *Minutes Continued from page 7*

*Rambler*, which after all, is the VOICE of the Club.

15. Bill, VE3YK, moved a vote of thanks to the Nominating Committee for its work, which was seconded by Merv, VE3CV. CARRIED.

16. Bob, VE3KLLK, rose and pointed out that to Doug that, as outgoing President, he had been remiss in not presenting the Key to the Executive Washroom to the incoming President, whereupon Doug promptly retrieved this exalted artifact and presented it to himself to a round of applause. Doug also noted that the Club owed a vote of thanks to Bob who presented it, as well as a gavel, to the Club.

17. Doug then expressed some general thoughts on where he thought the Club should be going in the coming year. The first priority is to get more members active, particularly on committees, such as the RAMBLER Editorial Board, Promotion of Amateur Radio Committee, Technical Committee, in support of the Pot-Hole Net and in support of the Club course. The excellent results of the lat-

ter is very evident in the group of new Hams in attendance tonight.

18. Vice President Jeff, VE3RCI, appealed for help from members in suggesting potential guest speakers for the coming year. He also asked for any expression of interest in holding a Club BBQ later in the summer. There was a considerable show of support. Details to follow in next RAMBLER.

19. Membership Pat, VE3KJQ, remarked on the fact that 3 of the 9 members of the new slate of officers are OVMRC course graduates. How's that for self-perpetuation?? He also noted that he is relinquishing his position as membership chairman after 6 years (plus another 2 years in other executive positions) to devote more time to the important task of parenting. Finally, he made avail-

able a data base run of Club membership since 1985 for perusal, noting that the membership data was being converted from an Apple based system to an IBM one.

20. President Doug noted that the next Executive Meeting would be held at his QTH at 1930 hrs, 5 July, during

which duties will be transferred from out-going to incoming officers.

21. He also reminded members to get their memberships in early to beat the GST.

22. Archie, VE3NJY, raised the possibility of selling the Club membership list as a means of raising revenues to defray the possible deficit. There was little support for this action.

23. Craig, VE3KKU, enquired if there existed a list of Club assets. President Doug informed him that Tech Advisor Ed, VE3VLF, was working on an updated one.

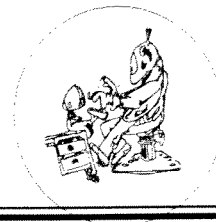
24. One member noted that the ARRL insurance on ham radio gear is not available in Canada. Some discussion followed during which it was noted that CARF had tried to float a similar plan in Canada but it failed due to lack of sufficient interest.

25. There being no further business except coffee and good fellowship, President Doug called for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Suzanne, VE3SLC, and seconded by Chuck, VE3PAP. Meeting adjourned at 2045 hrs.



# EDITOR'S CORNER

Charles King, VE3PDK



I must say that putting **this month's issue** together has been a lot of fun. Brice, VE3EDR's three-page article with a photo, which he had produced at his own expense, was the "spoonful of sugar that made the medicine go down."

**Presenting our newest and youngest member to the Club** was also a pleasant task. Here's hoping that Vic VE3BSV will be amongs us for many many years.

**Then there is a new column starting this month** devoted to our Amateur Radio Course Students. If Ken gets the needed feedback and support for his *Novice News*, it

should be a very worthwhile endeavour. Do you have an operating tip that students may find useful? Pass it on to Ken for inclusion in one of his future columns.

*DX de YOU* and *News and Views from Here and There* will be back next month as the activity increases in the Clubs across the country.

Some special messages this month include a **call for all Club equipment** that may be out on loan. Ed, VE3VLF is trying to complete our inventory of equipment and needs your help in establishing where some of these items are. If you have anything on loan from the Club, please give

Ed a call so that he can record its location.

Final plans for the **guest speaker for this month's meeting** are still being worked out. It is hoped to have a representative from DOC give us the latest news on restructuring and on the new RCIs being published by that Department. New amateurs will be especially interested in what he has to say.

**Make a point of identifying the new members**, many of whom will be students, and offer them our usual warm welcome to the Amateur community and to our Club.

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## BISHOP SHEAN GETS TURNED OFF

by Gerry King, VE3GK

Some of you may remember the late Bishop Fulton J. Shean and his one-way talk show of the 1960s. He had a large TV audience who usually hung on to his every word. Well, it was my first or second shift at CJOH and my job was to monitor the show.

The audio from on-the-air monitor seemed a bit low so I thought I would adjust the audio input to the pre-driver stage to the FM transmitters. The audio gain control was in the form of a step attenuator, so I turned it "up" a couple

of notches. Still seemed low so I turned it "up" some more.

Everybody knows that when you turn something up you turn it clockwise, right? So, I turned it "up" again and the audio was still too low. Well, I finally realized that this dumb control turned up counter-clockwise. Can you imagine someone designing anything like that?

Visualize, if you will, every avid viewer getting up to crank up his set volume again and again in order to hear what the good Bishop was

saying. (Remember, there was a time when TVs did not have remote controls.)

When I realized my error, I cranked the control back to its original position counter-clockwise, bringing Bishop Shean booming out of every TV speaker! Then everyone had to get up again and lower the volume control. I was sufficiently embarrassed that I didn't tell anyone for years. I call this experience 'exercising the CJOH viewers.'

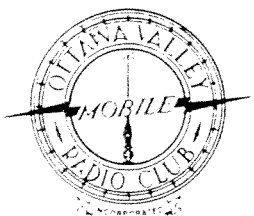
# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

September is the last month for membership renewals to avoid a lapse in membership and disruption of the Rambler.

If you have taken the opportunity to renew your membership in one of the earlier appeals, use the form below to share the benefits of your Club with friend. A trial membership will convince him or her of the value of belonging.

Nowhere today can you find such value for \$1.25 a month, most of which is returned in direct member services such as name tags and the Rambler.

**Renew today and invite a friend to enroll with you.**



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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

Radio Call Sign

Date: SEP. 20, 1990

Family Name <u>WILCOX</u>		Given Name & Initials <u>L. J.</u>		Preferred Radio Name	
Address - Apartment, House Number, Street <u>565 EASTWAKE DRIVE</u>				Home Phone <u>741-2450</u>	
City/Town <u>GLoucester</u>		Province <u>ONT.</u>	Postal Code <u>K1J 6Z4</u>	Business Phone <u>995-0173</u>	

New Member     Membership Renewal

Association Memberships

CARF     CRRL

OARC     Other

For Office Use

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

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

Total: \$ 15.00 Enclosed  Cheque  Cash

Given Names

Membership Number
Membership Registered
Receipt Issued
Card(s) Issued
Subscription Registered

\* Includes subscription to *The Rambler*