

# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 33, Number 10, November, 1990

## PUTTING JAMMERS OUT OF BUSINESS!

by Ed LeBlanc, VE3VLF

Much has already been written and discussed about the DXpedition to Bouvet Island last December and the terrible on-the-air behaviour that occurred during the time Bouvet was active. What I have to say about such behaviour has probably already been said, but it is important to remind ourselves of some of the basic principles of handling the problem of on-the-air jammers.

Although I did not listen in on the Bouvet Island operation, I have read and heard from others that it proved to be the worst display of ham radio behaviour in recorded history because of the jamming that took place. I have also heard many reports of similar operating practices on the twenty metre phone band, especially around 14.313 MHz, home of the International Maritime Net and a popular rag-chewing frequency for U.S. hams. I decided to spend some time monitoring this frequency to see if these reports of outrageous operating behaviour were true. Unfortunately, I found them to be not only true, but understated.

I have been a ham operator for some sixteen years and I have never heard such horrible operating (if it can be called that) over the airwaves until now. It appears that this frequency, and perhaps others, has become a "soapbox" for jamming,

*Ed LeBlanc, VE3VLF is the Technical Advisor for the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club and a Delegated Examiner for Amateur Radio Licenses*

swearing, hurling insults and name-calling.

Unfortunately, this type of activity is not restricted to our southern neighbours. In fact, some of it has arrived in our city of Ottawa on area repeaters and has been here for sometime. It has appeared in the form of station jamming and repeater jamming by transmitting loud noises or bringing up the autopatch and digiwalker. Such antics usually bring most of us to the boiling point and no wonder. It is heartbreaking to see our long standing reputation for courteous behaviour on the air being

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**" Jammer want recognition and entertainment ... Don't acknowledge their presence!"**

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sullied before our eyes by a handful of unknowns, be they hams or not.

It appears that this situation will get worse unless we determine to do something to discourage these "airway hoodlums." Therefore, it is very important for us to know how to discourage and stop such illegal and disruptive activities on our bands before all control is lost. Here is what you should do when you are being jammed or when you become aware that others are being jammed:

1. **KEEP YOUR COOL** - This is perhaps the hardest thing to do. It is so much easier to get angry with

someone who is trampling over the hobby and rules of the airwaves. Keeping your cool is the hardest thing to do, but it is by far the most effective. If we are to solve this problem, it must be done with a level head. If we let passions drive us, we will find ourselves turning into the very jammer type that we are trying to stop. This is evident on the twenty meter phone band where such passionate "police action" makes it hard sometimes to tell the good guys from the bad guys.

2. **DON'T TALK TO THE JAMMER** - I have heard people try to talk to the jamming station. Such QSOs are usually one way as the jammer never responds verbally. The one being jammed usually threatens him with DF action or notifying the DOC or even telling him what a sub-human he is. This is a major mistake on your part and a major victory for the jammer. A jammer wants only two things - recognition and entertainment. If you start to talk to him, you are giving him what he wants. The more you yell and scream at him, the more he jams. In effect, you become a circus animal, providing him with a fabulous ringside show. Don't let the jammer get under your skin and turn you into a performing seal. Direct all your transmissions only to licensed radio hams who identify themselves and exercise courteous operating practices. There is a good possibility that the jammer is not a licensed amateur and speaking with

*Jammers ... Continued Page 5*



THE  
OVMRC

# RAMBLER

Volume 33 Number 10, November, 1990

## OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1990-1991

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## NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

15 November, 1990

1930 hours

Room #1

Multi-service

Centre

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

## CLUB CALENDAR

### GUEST SPEAKER

15 November  
Chris Bisailion VE3CBK  
Whiskytown Wireless  
Collection

### Executive Meeting

Thursday, 22 Nov

1900 hrs

at Suzanne's VE3SLC  
RAMBLER submissions  
deadline 22 Nov

### YL NIGHT

20 December

### OVMRC FLEA MARKET

21 April, 1991

### Bunny Hunt

May, 1991

## RAMBLER COMMITTEE

### Editorial Committee

Chas. King, VE3PDK

Jerry Wells, VE3CDS

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI

Ken Barry, VE3KJB

### Circulation

Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP

Fred Haire, VE3NJF

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

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

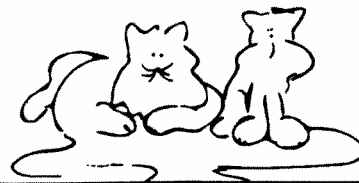
THE WISE OWL NET - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

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

Champlain Mini-Net - Daily 1845 hrs 147.06 MHz

# Strays

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY



Our last meeting saw us greeted by a parking lot full of mud, but despite this we had a good turn out. Almost two-thirds of the membership is now showing up at the meetings. They tell me that one of the by-products of repairing the parking lot will be a ramp that provides better access for those in wheelchairs. The evening's topic was Bob's, VE3-Miles-Per-Gallon, sojourn into Czechoslovakia as an English prof. His slides and commentary gave us a glimpse into a country that is suffering. (It looks to me that we need another Harry Truman to get another "Marshal Plan" into place.) It reminds us how fortunate we are. I am sure the experience will be one of those 'benchmarks' that, if you are lucky, you get to have once in your life. Thanks Bob for the presentation.

Looking through the '86 record of the Clubs membership book the other day, I discovered that we use to run a repeater on 444.2 at one time. I am not sure when it went silent. So I have asked Dave, VE3KMV, to look into it and see what needs to be done to restore it to operational status. Does anyone know where the equipment is located? You know, our record keeping when it comes to Club operty is

not as good as it might be. So please give Ed a hand as we try to identify and locate the missing bits and pieces.

Al, VE3LNH, indicated that VE3JW was getting into everything around the house and he is looking into a better location. Note that JW is a packet repeater these days - and Ed, VE3VLF, is looking into making a new type of node. (Must get the details.)

Judy is locating door prizes and she has come up with a complete set for the year. If have or know of one that you would like to donate or is available, let us know.

How is this! One of the founding members of the Club showed up at our last meeting and I saw him taking a membership form. Seeing old members return to the Club is one of the highs I get when from working for the Club. Gerry, VE3AGU told me that he won the competition for the selection of the call letters for VE3RAM - meaning Radio Amateur Mobile. We also talked about the Club history and he indicated that he would dig into some of his dusty files to see if he had anything that might be of interest. Speaking of founding members, I couldn't help noting Gerry VE3GK, at the meeting. Gerry King

has been making a number of contributions to the Rambler in the last while and they are very much appreciated. I think we had almost 100% of our life members out on Thursday evening.

Merv, VE3CV, asked if there were any hams present that have held their license for more than twenty-five years, for if they have they would qualify for the Quarter Century Club. There are some notables in that elite group and if you qualify I am sure it would provide you with some additional enjoyment from the hobby.

Speaking of additional enjoyment from the hobby, what about the joy of helping someone get on the air? It's an opportunity not all amateurs get, but because our Club runs a radio course, we are more fortunate than most. We have thirty-five students who need mentors to introduce them to an amateur radio operations, to explain the station set-up, the priorities in acquiring equipment, and the approximate costs of doing this (see also Novice News). Come out to the next meeting (15 November) to meet this fine group and pair yourself with one in your area and help an amateur get started.



## WHISKEYTOWN WIRELESS COLLECTION

Chris Bisailion VE3 CBK

1324 Old Carp Road

R.R. No. 1

Kanata, Ontario, Canada

K2K 1X7

Tel. (613) 592-2008

SPECIALITY: WS N219

The Whiskeytown Wireless Collection is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration and preservation of wireless radio equipment from World War II. The collection specializes in the Wireless Set No. 19 and its many accessories. The No. 19 set served faithfully in the Canadian Army from 1942 until as late as 1963. Designed primarily for use in tanks and armoured vehicles, it also saw service as a ground station. The No. 19 set was able to provide an impressive variety of radiocommunication functions in

one compact radio: 1. The A-Set for long range communication, 2 MHz to 8 MHz on CW, AM phone and MCW (modulated CW); 2. The B-Set for short range communication between vehicles, 230 MHz to 240 MHz; 3. An intercommunication amplifier to provide communication among crew members in a vehicle; and 4. Control Units to allow re-broadcast facilities.

The collection started quite modestly in 1976 when I obtained my amateur radio certificate. I used the No. 19 set very successfully on the 40 meter amateur band, making DX contacts as far away as Great Britain and the Dominican Republic. These were on the A-Set with about 15 watts fed to a full size 40 meter dipole in the attic!

After moving on to other amateur gear for my main station, I continued to collect No. 19 equipment and I soon realized that there were many accessories that were missing and the search still continues today. The name "Whiskeytown" comes from the location of the collection a crossroad in rural Kanata known as Whiskeytown in the late 1800's, because "... every shebeen had a bottle in the window."

Chris Bisailion has just closed a very successful three month exhibition at the Nepean Museum and speaks to us about his collection on 15 November at the General Meeting.

# Secretary's Minutes

Suzanne Lanouette-Carswell, VE3SLC



## MINUTES OF OVMRC GENERAL MEETING -18 OCT 90

1. Pres. Doug, VE3ATY opened the meeting held in Room #1, Multi-service Centre, 1480 Heron Road, at 1930 hrs., welcoming about sixty members and guest.

2. Doug reminded members to sign in to be eligible for the door prize draw and guests for the Rambler.

3. Doug commended Judy, VE3PAB, for her excellent work in obtaining door prizes for our monthly draws. Prizes for tonight's draw included a Repeater Directory, a Call Book

and a wine bottle opener.

4. Doug welcomed four guests. They were:

Helmet Schneider from Vanier, Jerry VE3AGU, Bill James VE3KAT from Parry Sound, Al VE3AND from the West End Ottawa.

5. Pres. Doug enquired if any members had technical problems requiring assistance. Pat, VE3KJQ, reported a problem with the Ham course equipment. He is having trouble impedance matching the Heathkit and Radio Shack oscillators to the course equipment. Suggestions were made to solve the problem.

6. Pat VE3KJQ, reported that all students are doing well with the code segment of the course.

7. Doug tabled several pieces of correspondence that have been received:

a) A letter has been received from David Debrook, KN4N5, who runs a Museum Club similar to ours. Doug has replied to his letter. He would like two people to act as liaisons with David. He suggested that Brice VE3EDR and Bill VE3YK might serve as our ambassadors.

b) A letter was received from Bob VE3KLN concerning the merger of our two clubs, Doug has chosen to

ignore. Both groups will remain separate, but friendly.

c) A letter was sent to Brian Williams of DOC requesting the accreditation of Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ and Gerry Wells, VE3CDS as Delegated Examiners.

d) A letter was sent to the Heart Institute along with a donation in memory of Bob Herbert, VE3PUE. A second letter was sent to Bob's widow and family.

e) A cheque for \$150.00 was sent to the radio defence fund on behalf of the club.

g) The insurance bill in the amount of \$580 for the radio site was received.

8. Doug then called for the reports from the executive.

a) Pat VE3KJQ informed all that RIC 24 is available and he has copies for those interested. RIC 25 is being released on 25 October. He suggested that everyone get a copy, because there are changes on EMI, third party traffic and other things. He also has 10 copies of the current price list of equipment from Atlantic Ham Radio for those interested.

b) Ed VE3VLF inquired about members with club equipment. He is preparing an inventory of Club equipment and needs to know where the equipment is located. All members with club equipment must sign a waiver. The club digipeater is at Al VE3LNL's Qth. It is running and tied into the NAV bulletin Board on 144.91 Mhz.

c) Gerry VE3CDS had an example of a Heathkit 2 metre kit for display at the end of the meeting for those interested.

d) Ed Sieb VE3RDZ informed the meeting that contact has been made with clubs in Montreal, which have done Mall Shows. Further info will be coming. He has two videos from CARF for the club Video Library. He

is currently working on an article about his recent Arctic exploration jaunt.

e) Judy VE3PAB informed us that we are financially healthy (\$6580.00). \$3150 has come from the money collected in course fees and will go to cover the cost of course materials. \$3000 will be left for club operations. Over half of the club membership has been renewed.

f) Brice VE3EDR suggested buying those things that the Club needs before the GST comes into effect.

9. Doug asked the membership if there were any general announcements to be made. They were as follows:

a) Merv VE3Cv appealed for anyone who has been an amateur for 25 years or more to see him. They might be interested in joining the Quarter Century Amateur Radio Club. He announced that there would be a Flea Market on the upcoming Sunday. He reported that there was an error in the Rambler having to do with the location of the upper band. It is 7.3 and not 7.35. *(The error was carried from the CARF Bulletin prior to the publication of RIC-25 which confirms that this band extends from 7.000 MHz to 7.3000 MHz. All recipients of the Rambler are requested to amend the table published in the October issue to reflect this correction. Editor)*

b) Judy VE3PAB informed everyone that she had been actively involved for the last three weeks getting door prizes. She asked that if anyone has things laying around at home that would make a good door prize that all donations would be accepted.

c) Doug announced that one of the course students, Bob Shaw, had

*Continued - Minutes page 9*

# EDITOR'S CORNER

Chas. King, VE3PDK



Have you noticed anything different about our Club lately? Well, there is something dramatically different. It's a new growth of enthusiasm. It has not been an overnight event, but rather a process that has rapidly gained momentum over the past few years. This 'burst' of enthusiasm is evident in the early renewal of memberships, the large number of renewals and enrolments, and the return to the Club of some of the older members -- even some of the founding members. Our meetings reflect this trend in numbers attending, in the excellent presentations, and most of all in the animated socializing that takes place after the meeting adjourns. There have even been occasions (and not a few) when the socializing has migrated to a nearby repository of old radio tubes (807s mostly). Over ninety-five percent of the material published in the Rambler is generated by Club members - and good stuff it is too - good enough to be picked up and republished by other newsletters and by one of our national journals (see the November issue of TCA).

Evidence of this renewed enthusiasm was also apparent in our Flea Market of last April. Large numbers attended and it was later heard described on the air as the "finest in this area." Our performance on Field Day, despite inclement weather, still earned recognition of the joint effort by ourselves and the Ottawa Amateur Radio Club. The Museum of Science and Technology publicly commended the OVMRC, at a recent dinner for volunteers, for the support we have given the Museum and stated they are anxious to get the Amateur Radio Display operating again.

Our Amateur Radio Course is the largest it has ever been with thirty-five students, and the prospects for a large number of graduates has never been better.

If there ever was a time to get behind this fast moving Club and keep the momentum going, it is now. And this is what you can do to make this the best Amateur Radio Club in Eastern Ontario. Be part of a winning team by taking on one of the following tasks:

**Flea Market Coordinator** to start work on next April's event. There will be lots of help available from both the Executive and the Membership and there is an outline of what needs to be done starting now! The date has been set for 21 April, 1991 and we want to book space and commercial vendors early as well as prepare advertisements to all area newsletters to ensure maximum amateur participation.

**Field Day Coordinator** to start planning with the OARC for the June event. Past coordinators are available to help in the planning and other members will come forward to form a Field Day Committee. Liaison with the OARC should start soon and commitments for equipment and space will need to be arranged.

**Be a Mentor.** Pair up with one of the students to help them succeed in getting their license - (see also Novice News and Strays).

We've overcome the inertia of apathy, we've got the ball rolling with enthusiasm, so let's get behind it and give it one more push!

## THINKING OF IMPORTING FROM THE U.S.A.?

by Larry Woram, VE3WLN

I have recently noticed an increased interest by amateurs in importing equipment from the United States. To assist those of you who may be interested, I have listed the following tariffs items and rates of duty for the more popular items.

**8525.20.10** Transmission apparatus incorporating reception apparatus for use on the amateur bands. - FREE

**8527.39.10** Receivers designed for use on the amateur bands. FREE

**8529.90.10** Parts suitable for use solely or principally with the above items. FREE

**8529.10.90** Aerials and aerial reflectors of all

kinds; parts suitable for use therewith 5.7% 3.8% (after Jan. 1/91)

**8471.91.00** Digital processing units, whether or not presented with the rest of a system which may contain in the same housing one or two of the following types of unit: storage units, input units, output units. (FREE if made in USA) (3.9% other countries)

**8471.93.10** Storage units whether or not presented with the rest of a system (disk drives) FREE.

The previous tariff item, 445341, included a broader range of goods. The Tariff Board, in the conversion from the former Tariff to the present Harmonized System established that transverters, converters, linear amplifiers, etc. are components and qualify as duty free under **8525.20.10** and **8527.39.10**. All of the above items presently attract Federal Sales Tax of 13.5%. The passage of the Goods and Services Tax (scheduled for January 1, 1991) will rescind the Federal Sales Tax and replace it with

a 7% tax, making these goods more attractive to those importing from the United States and hopefully for those purchasing goods in Canada. Clearing goods through Canada Customs is not a difficult task, especially if you arrive prepared. Customs will ask you for the receipt, which will be converted into Canadian dollars and the duty (if applicable) and tax calculated on that sum. Do not attempt to save a little money by undervaluing your goods or not making a full declaration. The penalties far outweigh any financial gain. Should you require any further Customs information you can reach them from 0800 to 1700 hours Monday through Friday at 993-0534.

Larry Woram is currently employed with Revenue Canada in Customs and Excise. His advice can be taken as current and factual. Editor

# NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HERE AND THERE



by Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Amateur radio clubs across the country are up and running again for this club year. We were short a couple of bulletins last month, but they are all coming in again. We'll start in the West. The **Calgary Amateur Radio Association** is running a theory only course this year. They had the DOC at their September meeting to explain the new regulations. A number of area amateurs provided communications during the NATO Reserve Congress in June. They used callsign CI6OR. CARA will be running a demonstration station at the Hobby Show at the Stampede Grounds this month.

**Saskatchewan** amateurs are busy linking up on packet radio. At present, Saskatoon, Swift Current, and Medicine Hat and five other areas are linked. Plans are in the works to link to Regina in early 1991 and eventually to add in other provinces. The **Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club** is setting aside \$500 to purchase a Field Day kit to contain all the equipment needed for Field Day or other communications events. This from the *SARC Green Sheet*. This points out that Field Day is a TEST of our emergency preparedness and not just a CONTEST. How ready would we be in a real emergency? The *OVMRC Rambler* was one of the first bulletins to go "all computer" and now I note that virtually all bulletins are produced using some kind of desk top publishing. Among those doing the conversion is the **Chatham Kent ARC**. The assistant editor of *Clear Signals* uses terms such as @?\*&\*\$^ to describe the process. Perhaps Chuck VE3PDK is familiar with the term. They have also noted an increase in the number of students in

their amateur radio course this year. Did you know that one bolt of lightning can generate as much as 300,000 amperes of current? Perhaps you should check your grounding system. The **London ARC Bulletin** contains some good news and some bad news about emergency communications. First the bad news. Someone, without identifying, used the autopatch on the Club repeater to dial 911. They said they urgently needed help and then shut off the patch. Using the enhanced 911 the police traced the call to the repeater owner's house and not getting any answer at the door, they broke in. The amateur was eventually located and returned home to a broken door and several disenchanted policemen. As there was a band opening that night the call could have come from anywhere within several hundred miles. If the call was not a prank it points out a very good reason for identifying before using the patch. This is also a legal requirement. The **CANWARN Severe Weather Spotters** got a real workout on August 28, 1990 when tornados hit the London area. The report from Bruce McCoy VE3GDZ (of QSL fame) makes for very exciting reading. The advanced warning from the amateurs is credited with saving many lives. The reports allowed a twenty minute warning to be issued. One amateur, Carl VE3ZCO, was caught in the midst of it all. "His van began rocking, trees came down across the road in front of him, the air was full of flying objects and for a time Carl was pinned down." He continued to stay on the air throughout. At the weather office the phones and the radar went down, but the amateur station continued to operate on

emergency power. A few notes from the local *Pioneer Club Teleparc*. Doug VE3CDC now has six volunteers to help restore the radio equipment at the War Museum. Neil Herber has taken over his father's call (VE3PUE) and his job as membership chairman. He joined our Club at the last meeting. Eric Still VE3OTT's article *Volunteers and the Boss* was reproduced from the *Rambler*. Notice on an Acapulco motel menu: "The manager has personally passed all the water served here." Bill VE3EKA lists a total of 16 amateurs either active or would be fast scan TV operators. The *Reflector* of the **Halifax ARC** contains a lot of short items on organizations described only by their initials, SARA, WGSR, CSSAcadia, RUG, NSARA and JOTA. It must be real confusing for newcomers. People like me that have been reading their bulletin for a few years however, are in the know. HARC treats JOTA (Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air) like it was Field Day. They set up three stations this year, used emergency power and operated for 15 hours. HARC held a transmitter hunt in October with \$100 in prizes for the winners. I'm running out of space so here is a news brief. You will recall that I mentioned that there seemed to be some problems in Windsor. Well now there are two clubs where there once was only one. The new one is the **Border City Radio Club** where membership is by invitation only and the Club promotes "mutual respect and harmony". The original club is the **Windsor Amateur Radio Club**. The **Sudbury** bulletin was very late arriving so we'll pick up the news from the north and much more next month.

# DX de YOU

by 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 833-0638 or send me your loggings via Packet Radio to VE3RCI @ VE3KYT or @ VE3NAV. This column will only work if you support it. Let's hear who you've been working.

## ON THE HF BANDS

### From Alan, VE3LNH

Alan fired up his rig on October 2, the last day of the two Germanys. Several never-to-be-heard-again East German callsigns were there to be worked. I'm sure these ops had very strong and mixed emotions as they called CQ DX using their callsigns for the last time prior to the German reunification: (all SSB)

Y34K 1221Z 21.226;  
Y51TO 1303Z 21.213;  
Y54VA 1306Z 21.277;  
Y54UI 2330Z 14.181; and  
Y33UL 2338Z 14.178.

Those QSLs will have a little bit of history. Well done AL.

### From Les, VE3REX

Les sought me out at the OARC Fleamarket, because he can't make it out to the meetings, to give me this great list of DX catches. Last time I saw Les was at the OVMRC Fleamarket last April. Les worked these between September 1 and 26 all on 10 meters SSB (such a great

band these days) Next time he'll give me the times in UTC that he worked these:

EA6BE (Balearic Is.);  
Y06OBH (Romania) 28.505;  
JH8BEE (Japan) 28.460;  
SV2UA (Greece) 28.460;  
D44BC (Cape Verde Is.) 28.516;  
FO0IGS (French Polynesia) 28.533;

FT4XG (Kerguelan Is.!) 28.480 - That's about as near to the opposite side of the planet from Ottawa (antipodal position?) as you can get!;

S01A (Western Sahara) 28.505;  
A22AA (Botswana) 28.482;  
9J2FR (Zambia) 28.503;  
EA8AGO (Canary Is.) 28.480;  
RH4HW (Turkmen S.S.R. or Turkmanistan);  
FR5DX (Reunion Is.) 28.498;  
UC2OHD (Byelorussian S.S.R.) 28.508;

7Q7KG (Malawi) 28.474.

Whew! What a list. Well for you novices to DXing on the 10 meter band, Les has just given you a valuable lesson - Keep your ears peeled between 28.480 and 28.540 during the daytime and the world will come to you when the band is open!

### From Gerry, VE3GK

At the last club meeting Gerry gave me this goodie to prove that you don't need a tower and beam antenna to work good DX on 20 meter SSB. In early October, while parked in an elevated spot, Gerry as VE3GK/mobile worked BY1QH (Beijing, China) around 10 am local (1400Z) 14.175. Of course, being

mobile has its advantages. Gerry was told that BY1QH was on 20 meters by Herb, VE3KHT while they were chatting on 2 meters.

### From Me, VE3RCI

Yes, I'm finally back on the air thanks to a HF6V butternut vertical I picked up on the swap net. At my QTH, the antenna works great when it's raining, but it's awfully noisy otherwise. Anyway, I tried it out on most of the bands, enjoying my new advanced SSB privileges:

CQ5AHU (Portugal - Iberia/America contest special prefix) 2136Z 28.519;

HK0AZW (San Andres Is.) 0201Z 14.160;

RQ9W (Riga, Latvia) 1311Z 28.410;

YU4CBC (Yugoslavia) 0128Z 7.053;

RA9YA (Western Siberia - Asian R.S.F.S.R.) 0156 14.212;

JA7TI (Japan) 0308 28.511 - 10 meters to Japan at 11 pm local time!;

GU4XGG (Guernsey) 1349Z 21.278;

UI2A/UA4ACP (Tashkent, Uzbek S.S.R.) 1411Z 21.258; T77C and

T77T (San Marino) 1603Z 28.483;

LX/PA3DLM (YL Tiny in Luxembourg) 1616Z 28.520;

HI8WDP (Dominican Republic) 1643Z 18.110; and

ZM1BSG (New Zealand - contest prefix) 0124Z 21.026 CW - just to let you all know I still work CW.

**ERRATUM - Please correct the error published in the October issue of the Rambler in the table on page 5 - FREQUENCY ALLOCATION AND BANDWIDTHS third line of text to read 7.000 MHz - 7.3000 MHz.**

# The Last Word

Letters to the Editor etc.

Aboard DubheFla. U.S.A. Oct 5, 1990

Dear Mr. King,

I was surprised that the editorial staff of the OVMRC Rambler published Brice Wightman's letter without an editorial comment. Mr. Wightman's statement "The Bahamas prohibits third party traffic ... However, I doubt that they have any staff who can read morse and decipher 'PSE QSP QTH TO XYL.'" Such a transmission is still illegal. I would also like to address a couple of comments to Mr. Wightman.

My husband and I have enjoyed many years sailing in the Bahamas and have used amateur radio to keep in contact with our family and would not like to have that privilege put in jeopardy by other amateurs' illegal use of the radio. Most of the managers of the Family Islands telephone offices are quite capable of doing 40 W.P.M. in code and used that means of communications before the Bahamian government updated, to the state of the art, their telecommunication system. Next time Mr. Wightman is in Marsh Harbour, maybe he'd like to introduce himself to Mr. Cash, who is head of BATELCO there. Mr. Cash sends and receives code at 40 W.P.M. He is very knowledgeable about radio equipment and has had a C6A license.

Please, Mr. Wightman, enjoy the Bahamas while obeying their laws and don't presume that the Bahamians can't "read morse and decipher PSE QSP QTH TO XYL." A number of them can!

Yours truly,

de VE3PVF Gladys Taylor.

**Brice replies on behalf of the Editor**

Dear Mrs. Taylor:

Your letter of October 5, 1990, to the Editor of the Rambler regarding my article in the September issue has been forwarded to me for reply. I take full responsibility for the content of this article.

Your letter raises two points to which I now respond: First, I apologize for my presumptuous slur on the Morse competence of the Batelco staff. Mr. Cash's ability is impressive. I will apologize to him in person the next time I am in Marsh Harbour. Not to justify my remark, but I can only suggest that I must have been overly influenced by the phasing out of Morse in the Commercial and Military services and the continuing predictions of "The Death of Morse" in Amateur publications. Second, on rereading my article, I realize, with regret, that my comments on the prevalence of violations on the Marine VHF band might be construed as incitement to commit violations on the Amateur bands, and that detection would be unlikely if CW were used. This was not my intention nor my practice. CW was used because three of the operators involved were recent graduates of our Club's training course and their licences did not permit voice operation.

Having lectured these students on Morse and operating procedures, it was my duty to set a good example by complying with the regulations. The regulations regarding foreign licensing, the applicability of home and foreign regulations, the operation of another amateur's station, etc. were explained to them at the outset. In effect, this was an internship in amateur radio.

I hope the foregoing comments will allay your concerns. I always try to "leave a clean wake". Hope to meet you on the air or on the water some day.

73, Brice A. Wightman, VE3EDR

August 29, 1990 President, OVMRC,

Dear Doug,

Thanks for your recent letter acknowledging receipt of my 'ramblings.' I enjoy the Rambler as I have some roots in the Club. I also thought I would pass on an idea that's been bugging me, especially every time I get gasoline and have to explain my call letter plates. I would like to see the Club create a one page flyer that: explains call letter plates explains the services amateur radio provides tells about the fun of ham radio and indicates how to become a ham! I could have used this flyer many times. In fact if I had it, I would pass them out when I get gas rather than wait for the question. All I need is one copy (original) and I will make copies for my car. This could be used to promote the hobby ... at least everytime we get gasoline. How many members have call letter plates? Maybe this has already been done? I sure would find it useful. 73 Mike Graham VE3KMG

Is there any interest in such a card by Club members? If so, the Editor will develop something in credit card size that can be cut out of the Rambler and used for the purpose described by Mike Graham. Voice your opinion at the Meeting or by mail and if there is sufficient interest, a cut-out explaining call sign plates will appear in the December issue of the Rambler. Editor



him contravenes the Radio Act, so don't talk to him.3. DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE HIS PRESENCE - A jammer loves to know that he is succeeding in bothering someone. When he knows he is disrupting your communications, he will continue to do so. An effective way of preventing this is to give him the impression that he is not being heard. Remember, a jammer can't hear how well he is jamming. He needs feedback from his victims. DON'T GIVE IT TO HIM. Frequently, when two stations are engaged in a QSO and someone starts jamming, their conversation quickly turns to the severity of the interference and the IQ level of the one doing the jamming. Unfortunately, this plays right into the jammer's hands. Don't give him the satisfaction of knowing that he is succeeding. Ignore him completely. In fact, don't even acknowledge that you are experienc-

ing any interference. Carry on with your QSO as if everything was Q5. If you miss some portions of the transmission from the station you are talking to, don't ask him to repeat it. This only tells the jammer how effective his work is. A complete lack of feedback conveys the message that he is not getting through. The jammer will think that he is wasting his time and move on to easier and more entertaining prey. If we all did this, the number of jamming incidents would drop off sharply.4. TRACK DOWN AND REPORT PERSISTENT JAMMERS - If a jammer just won't quit, record as much information as possible on his techniques, operating times, operating frequencies, signal strength as well as "direction finding" his signal to determine his location. Notify the DOC and supply them with all available information in the form of audio tapes and written records. Such action, with DOC help, has worked in the past to halt illegal operations and it can work in the future. The CARF News Service Bulletin of 15 October, 1990, reports

on two cases of jamming and illegal operations. Charges have been laid against a Vancouver man and an amateur in the State of Maine has been fined \$1,000. In the Vancouver incident, it is regrettable that "Some licensed Amateurs appeared to be condoning this lawlessness by QSOing with Dewayne Burditt, knowing he was not licensed, in contravention of the Radio Act." Perhaps a co-operative effort, in the form of a jammer task force, could be put together if the need ever arose. Be sure not to advertise this to the jammer as this will only give him more satisfaction. He rarely takes threats seriously, especially when they are not followed through. We can contain the jammer menace, but it can only be accomplished by personal on-the-air discipline. We must not unintentionally 'feed the fire' by acknowledging the interference or by reacting to it. This will only serve to make a bad situation worse, making us losers and the jammer a happy winner. LETS MAKE JAMMERS THE LOSERS THEY REALLY ARE.

Minutes from page 4

given him a flier with information for the purchase of antennas. He read out the flier.

Jeff VE3RCI announced that he needs help with the DXDU column and interested people could call him at home.

He informed us that the Whiskey Town Wireless Collection will be at next month's meeting and an article will be in the Rambler about it.

Doug Burrill may also be here for the next meeting. He is currently involved in the refurbishing of the

War Museum radio artifacts - specifically #19 sets.

10. Next Jeff VE3RCI introduced the first guest speaker Dick VE3JBO/VE3RDA Atkinson. Dick spoke about the proposed plan for those people in apartments or with miserable neighbours with their antenna problems. He needs help from people interested in the project and received a few volunteers. More help is needed and interested people can contact him.

11. The CARF representative, Dan VE3EBI read out the important news items from the most recent CARF bulletin.

12. The third guest speaker of the night was introduced, Bob Bailargeon, VE3MPG/OK8AIO. Bob gave a very interesting talk and

slide presentation about his recent six-month stay in Czechoslovakia where he has been teaching English as a second language to University students in the town of Kosice, 700 km west of Prague. It was extremely interesting to learn about this former communist country and the hardships the citizens have and are enduring.

13. The door prizes were drawn and won by VE3JKR, Rene and VE3AGU Gerry.

14. There being no further business Doug called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. So moved by VE2JHT, Joe and VE3LNH, Al.

# NOVICE NEWS

by Ken Barry, VE3KJB

By this time, you have a good idea that you are going to complete the course and become a licensed amateur. So, it's time to take a few more steps towards that goal. We are now going to talk about mentors.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, a mentor is "an inexperienced person's advisor" -- one you can turn to when things get tough or when you run into something you don't understand (like those \*@#%&! transistors). I strongly advise you to make contact with one of these fellows. It will make life a lot easier for you if you have someone you can talk to when things get out of hand.

Here are some things you can learn from a mentor at this point in your training. He or she can show you an amateur station, antenna system and ground system. You can get a rough idea what it will cost you to set up your own station and learn the priorities for acquiring equipment if you cannot get everything at once. You will get a chance to

operate the equipment under supervision and actually make on-the-air contacts. You don't have to be a licensed amateur to do this -- you only have to have a licensed amateur present to supervise the operation. You will see the different modes of operation and observe the procedures to use on the air both in Morse code and phone. Then, when you finally get on the air yourself, you will be able to do so confidently and avoid the risk of making serious operating errors.

There are approximately 150 members in the OVMRC. Few, if any, of these amateurs got on the air without help from someone. The only way they can repay that help is to pass it on to someone else, like yourselves, who are trying to get licensed. Most of the Club members are experienced hams who have a lot to offer in the way of guidance to a novice and they are anxious to share this knowledge.

Now, here's the plan. At the next monthly meeting of the

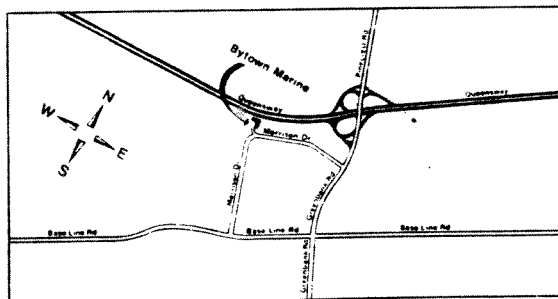
OVMRC (15 November) the President, Doug, VE3ATY, will call on members to pair themselves as mentors with the students. He will try to find someone in your part of the City so that you can more easily make contact when the need arises. You, of course, should plan to attend this meeting so that you can meet the prospective mentors and make mutually agreeable plans for continued contact. When the process is completed, everyone in the class who wants a mentor should have one and be that much closer to success as an amateur.

I will leave you with this thought passed on by another "old mentor" - Bob, VE3KLLK, who was referring to those times in the course when you think you finally understand something. Bob says, "Remember, there is always a good chance that the light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming express train!"

## IN APPRECIATION

The OVMRC expresses sincere appreciation to the following individuals and firms for their support.

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DICK ATKINSON, VE3JBO