

# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 34 Number 11 – November, 1991

## FAREWELL! PRESIDENT JEFF, VE3RCI

Jeff, VE3RCI, writes his last Ramblings column as he moves on to bigger and better things in a new appointment in Calgary. Although only two months into his term as President, Jeff leaves an impressive record of accomplishments with this Club that spans only three years!

He joined the Club as a student in 1988 and was licensed in the spring of 1989. The ink was hardly dry on his license when he volunteered to organize the Club's Field Day. The success of that year's event is one to be envied. In that same year, he was elected Vice-President and volunteered to write a column for the *Rambler* entitled DX de You. DXers appreciated his views on the great contact opportunities available from around the world. Next, Jeff took on

the job of organizing our annual Flea Market and set a standard that has put subsequent committees to the test. During this time, he was serving as Vice-President as well and, for a time, was on tenderhooks with a job change and a possible relocation. He temporarily relinquished his duties as Veep, but continued to organize our meeting programs. Much of our growth in the last few years is due to the informative and entertaining programs that Jeff has organized. When the job situation was resolved without serious relocation, Jeff came back on the Executive as Vice-President and he continued organizing our programs, writing his DX column and, again this year, took on the Field Day Committee.

This last job change, involving a move to Calgary, was not one that Jeff

sought, but it is not surprising that the head-hunters saw a prize trophy and went after it. Our loss, which is not trivial, is their gain and we hope that they appreciate it. Jeff's contributions to the Club's growth and to the success of its programs over the short span of three years is many times over what most amateurs contribute during their lifetime. It sets an example that is well worth emulating and one which will not be soon forgotten. Because Jeff has a prepaid membership in the Club for another three years, we can expect to hear from him from time to time. The Club wishes Jeff and Linda every success and happiness in their new endeavour and surroundings in Calgary and hope that they will come to visit should their plans ever bring them back to Ottawa.

## Ramblings

by Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI



What a refreshing change to be holding our meetings in the auditorium of the National Museum of Science & Technology. October's meeting saw over 90 members and a few guests turn out to see a couple of videos on Field Day. Despite an initial technical problem with the audio, the VHS video presentations on the large screen were great. Thanks to Fred, VE3PAA and Judy Taetz, VE3PAB, for putting together

their video and photo display of the OVMRC/OARC joint Field Day, which took place at their QTH last June. Great memories were relived by all who were fortunate enough to be there. A visitor from Barrie, Ken VE3MVV, was surprised to see his 1990 Field Day efforts again in the excellent video put together by the Blue Mountain Repeater Society of Collingwood.

Our 1992 Field Day chairperson, Vic, VE3BSV, took the opportunity to put out his first call for volunteers to help plan next June's Field Day. Vic wants to have a "novice" station, set up and operated by our newly licensed Hams, who will be graduating from the OVMRC course this spring. For any newly-licensed amateurs out there, do not miss this

*Ramblings* . . . . . page 3



# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 34, Number 11 - November, 1991

## OVMRC EXECUTIVE 1991-1992

### President

Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI - 833-0638

### Vice-President

Larry Woram, VE3WLN - 835-2959

### Past President

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY - 839-5854

### Treasurer

Judy Taetz, VE3PAB - 822-0937

### Secretary

Ted Paull, VE3KEH - 830-2751

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Amateur Radio Exhibit

Cy Webster, VE3SIY - 733-2371

### Amateur Radio Training

Doug Carswell, VE3ATY - 839-5854

### Field Day

Vic Bajaj, VE3BSV

### Flea Market

Ken Barry, VE3KJB - 746-4823

### Historical

Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ - 825-8721

### Membership

Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP - 739-8871

### Newsletter

Chuck King, VE3PDK - 733-2079

### Publicity and Programmes

Keith Beardsley, VE3SVQ -  
731-7912

### Radio Operations

Jerry Wells, VE3CDS - 225-7374

### Technical

Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ - 738-8924

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## NEXT MEETING OF THE OVMRC

**21 November, 1991  
1930 hours**

**National Museum of  
Science and  
Technology**

**Auditorium**

## CLUB CALENDAR

**21 November  
Programme**

**2-Meter Link**

and more

Next Executive Meeting  
28 November, 1930 hrs  
Meeting place - National  
Museum of Science and  
Technology - Volunteers' Lounge

Deadline for Rambler  
articles  
28 November

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Club Dinner, February

Spring Bunny Hunt

## RAMBLER COMMITTEE

### Editor

Chas. King, VE3PDK

### Contributing Editors

News & Views - Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Ramblings - Jeff Wilson, VE3RCI

DXdeYOU - Keith Beardsley, VE3SVQ

### Circulation

Fred Haire, VE3NJF

Neil Herber, VE3PUE

Eric Still, VE3OTT

Kevin Still

Fred Taetz, VE3PAA

## AMATEUR RADIO NETS

**POT HOLE NET** - Sundays 1000 hrs. 3.760 MHz (includes Swap Net)

**SWAP NET** - (Ed Morgan, VE3GX regular feature of Pot Hole Net and Capital City FM Net. Call Ed 733-1721 for listings and queries.

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

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

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

**MILITARY NET** - Tuesdays 2000 hrs 147.30 MHz.

**CUMBERLAND EMERGENCY NET** - Wednesdays 1930 hrs, 147.03 MHz

**THE WISE OWL NET** - Fridays 2000 hrs. 147.30 MHz

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

**CHAMPLAIN MINI NET** - Daily 1845 hrs 147.06 MHz

The printing support of Dy-4 Systems Inc.  
is gratefully acknowledged.

opportunity to get involved and learn by doing! I remember getting my license in February of 1989 and immediately volunteering to be Field Day coordinator! Why not. I had never experienced Field Day before, but I knew that it would be a great opportunity to learn operating skills, station set up, emergency power use, and most important, to meet most of the active amateurs in both clubs on one weekend. Several good friends were made and great contacts were established, which proved invaluable in helping with several subsequent local amateur radio events. And that is what being a member of an amateur radio club is all about - getting involved and meeting new friends with a common love of radio communications.

Getting involved is not just for the newly-licensed Club members. We need the experience of those who know the hobby well and can help in directing the Club to meet the needs of its ever-increasing membership. Our new Executive structure, put in place this year following our 1991 revision of the OVMRC Bylaws, is working well. Several volunteer committees now allow more members to

be active in directing Club activities. This makes the job of Club President much easier. The President sets the agenda (but not the program content) of the monthly general meetings and the Executive Meetings and makes sure that things move along and don't drag. He or she also handles requests for Club assistance or participation in local, national or international events as the need arises. These requests are then usually delegated to the appropriate committee chair. Most fun of all, you get to wax eloquent, pontificate, or just ramble on in this column each month about what's happening in amateur radio and the Club.

Being president is fun. I enjoy it, but as I hinted last month, I must step down as your President, effective October 24. My head has been successfully hunted so I'm off to Calgary to follow my professional career opportunity in the oil patch. My XYL, Linda, and I will be moving in early December (b-b-brrrr)! So, according to the Bylaws, you have until December 24 to elect a new president. I call upon all experienced OVMRC members, with or without previous OVMRC executive experience, to consider taking on this position for the remainder of the year. Since most of the gears are al-

ready in motion for this year's program, it will be easy for you to come up to speed. Please read your OVMRC Bylaws regarding nomination procedure and call Vice-President Larry, VE3WLN, if you have a valid nomination or would like your name to stand for President.

In closing, since I will be unable to attend any more general meetings, I wish to thank all of the members of OVMRC for allowing me my brief experience as your president. I have made many friends through the Club, and always looked forward to making more at each meeting. Now I will continue to meet you using the radio communications skills I acquired through the OVMRC course and as an active Club member. I plan to keep in touch via the Ottawa-Calgary packet satellite link, while it is available. Look for some Western news items from me for the Rambler. With packet, that will be easy. When the new antenna farm is functional, I'll be looking for you on HF and will be waiting to make a sked with the new VE3JW in the Museum in 1993! Until we meet on the air, . . . . . 73 es gud DX de Jeff, VE3RCI.



**PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES**

**The post of President must be filled by a general vote at the November meeting.  
Nominees for President should be submitted to  
Larry Woram, VE3WLN, at 835-2959 as soon as possible.**

**NEED TO BORROW - IT-28 MANUAL**

**Bought a Heathkit IT-28 Capacitor Checker WITHOUT MANUAL!  
Urgently need to borrow a manual so that I can photocopy.  
Please call if you can help - René, VE3JKR, at 731-8711.**

# Secretary's Minutes

by Ted Paull, VE3KEH



## MINUTES: OVMRC General Meeting, October 17, 1991

QTH: National Museum of Science & Technology

1. **Call to Order.** President Jeff, VE3RCI, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm., and welcomed all (over 90) in attendance. He announced that the door prize would be a 1-year subscription to Radio Fun.

2. **Visitors:** The following visitors were welcomed to the meeting: Rob, VE3SJM, and Ken, VE3MUV.

3. **Help Wanted:** Pres. Jeff asked if any Club members required any technical assistance or 'Elmering.' A question arose regarding credit cards which became demagnetized mysteriously during radio operation, and one member requested help in locating computer control software for the Kenwood TS440 rig. VE3ROD requested some information on the 'poor man's packet TNC' described in the Aug. 91 73 magazine article.

4. **Proposed RIC 25 Regulations:** Bill Wilson, VE3NR, called attention to proposed new RIC 25 regulations which was published in the Canada Gazette on Oct. 12. with a 30-day period allowed for responses from the community. While most of the document remains the same as the earlier provisional regs. the wording of section 5.1 in Pt. 1 has been changed. The new wording implies that amateurs with Basic licenses cannot use 'radio remote control' to control another station. In its broadest sense this would seem to apply to the use of repeaters as well. Bill discussed this interpretation with DOC, and was assured that it was certainly not the intent of the regulation to prevent repeater operation. Bill will draft a letter pointing out the problem with the current wording and will suggest other terminology. A brief discussion of DOC's intent ensued.

5. **Hospitalized Member:** Life member, Merv, VE3CV, who suffered a stroke in mid-September is now home and recovering. He has even been heard checking into the VE3STP Mini-Net on occasion. A card wishing him speedy recovery was passed around and signed by all present.

### 6. Other announcements:

a. Colette Morin of the NMST is looking for a (bilingual and unseen) radio Santa Claus for Sunday December 15 from 1-4pm. to talk to young visitors to the Museum. Leo VE3NVL, who has done this before, volunteered. He requested assistance with transportation to the Museum.

b. Next month: Some of the CYP CWI St. Paul Island DXpedition operators are tentatively scheduled to come to talk at the next meeting.

c. Neil VE3PUE requested that anyone still needing a name tag re-request it of him.

d. New members: **Phil, VE3CUR** and **Marcel, VE3FNG** introduced themselves to the group.

7. **The President's Leaving !:** Jeff VE3RCI announced that he is forced to resign his post due to an upcoming move to Calgary to take on new employment. Club bylaws state that an election must be held within 60 days, to elect a new president.

### 8. Committee Reports:

a. **Training Committee:** Doug VE3ATY announced that the training committee is considering the purchase of a copy of Corel Draw software in order to handle the graphics for the Club Amateur Radio Course books. It was suggested that he look into the possibility of getting a donation or special price directly from Corel.

b. **Field Day Committee:** Vic VE3BSV, the Field Day coordinator, gave a brief presentation to new members, describing the aims and objectives of field day. He announced that

last year the Club came in 2nd place in Canada in the field day contest activities. Goals for this year's field day, which is held in association with the OARC, will include setting up a novice station for new operators, and to increase public awareness of the benefits of ham radio. Anyone interested in participating is requested to contact Vic to lend a hand.

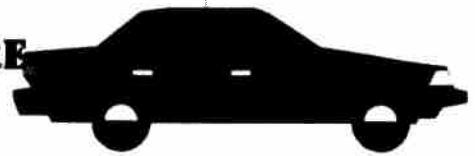
c. **Technical Committee:** Bob VE3YBC, along with other members of the committee is working on setting up a 6-Mtr. repeater and is looking for help from interested Club members. A 6-Mtr. interest group has been formed, with a net on 52.525 MHz. as well as on 2 Mtrs. (VE3TWO, Monday nights at 7:30pm). For further information contact Bob or Ed, VE3RDZ.

d. **Museum Exhibit Committee:** Cy VE3SIY has met with the committee to discuss status of the Museum station VE3JW. A 'wish list' of equipment for the station has been drawn up, and several letters will be sent out, one to magazines to solicit radio artifacts to be put on display, and another which will be sent to ham radio manufacturers to solicit new equipment donations. Some members of the committee also went to the Museum to look at the old and the proposed new site for the station. The present tower has to be relocated from the roof to the ground, and the tower and rotor have to be reconditioned. Denis, VE3JGR and Craig, VE3KKU volunteered to assist with this procedure.

9. **The VE3MPC Link:** A 2-Mtr. link into the TFM Repeater Link system is now available on VE3MPC (147.15 +). Link maps are available and will be published in the next Rambler. Someone knowledgeable about the link will be asked to give a short presentation at the next meeting.

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# NEWS AND VIEWS FROM HERE AND THERE



by Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ

Welcome back to our monthly review of the bulletins of amateur radio clubs from across Canada. Most clubs don't publish in the summer and many don't produce a September bulletin, so there has not been enough material to write this article for several months.

We will start out as usual with the **Halifax Amateur Radio Club** and their bulletin *The Reflector*. Their club is also running a course and have thirty seven people registered, a record for them. There was lots of activity in the amateur station aboard the museum ship C.S.S. Acadia. Among the visitors to the station, VE0MMA, was Marconi's granddaughter. When the Viking ship arrived in Halifax they averaged 4000 visitors a day to the museum. During Radio Days in July and August 175 children sent their names in Morse code. Bus tours brought lady CW operators from both the RAF and the Luftwaffe.

From the local **Pioneer ARC** bulletin *TelePARC* comes news that the group has received a \$7000 New Horizons grant to build an ATV (amateur television) repeater. The project will take about a year and a half to complete. Larry VE3PAZ has been working on a remote control HF station. It is now operational. No details were provided.

In September members of our club were busy writing articles for the **Ottawa ARC** *Groundwave*. Jeff VE3RCI wrote two and Doug VE3ATY wrote one. Their September speaker was Henry VE2VQ on amateur satellites. There are now 13 in orbit including those of Russia, Europe and Japan. In 1992 a 400 kg satellite will be launched into a high elliptical orbit with a 17 hour period. The packet group will be meeting on November 28 at the Museum of Science and Technology.

The **Sudbury ARC** *SARCommunicator* has a new editor,

but has been fortunate to find someone who could maintain the high standards the former editor set. It is sad though to see such a bulletin coming from a club that attracted only 14 people to the July meeting (mind you it was in the middle of the summer). Like our club the Sudbury club is going to produce club name tags and QSL cards. Did you know that the amateur radio OSCAR satellites scored several firsts in space. The first multiple access communications satellite was OSCAR 3; the first satellite communications between the USA and the USSR was over OSCAR 4; and the emergency locator system to locate downed aircraft was pioneered through AMSAT-OSCAR 6.

From the bulletin of the **London ARC** comes news that they too are looking into building a club HF station accessed via two metres. There is also a humorous article from the *Southern Counties ARA Bulletin* regarding the care and feeding of your pet Ham. "Your pet Ham should have a private area (where it will) spend many happy hours alone there with its collection of treasures (boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, paper, plastic, etc.). Most pet Hams can be changed to respond to a few simple commands. The easiest to teach are sit and speak. Your pet Ham will sometimes practice them on its own for hours at a time."

You may recall that the **Chatham-Kent ARC** holds bingos and then donates the money to charities. The latest donation reported in *CLEAR-SIGNALS* is for \$5000 to the Maple City Centre for Senior Citizens. The club ran another Fox Hunt in October. This one was at night for added difficulty.

Here are a few items from the *GROUNDWAVES* the bulletin of the **Windsor ARC**. A pilot project in which amateur radio licensing was

used as a part of a communications course led to seven new young amateur radio operators. There is now at least one other school in the Windsor area setting up a similar program. This club runs a Retirees net once a week on the club repeater. It sounds like a good idea.

Moving out west we come to the **Saskatoon ARC** *Feedline*. The club has started Tinker Night to run twice a night. Members are invited to come out and "tinker, design, build, learn to solder, use a meter, or just generally screw-up a circuit!" Another group, Ham Help, assists other hams with antenna construction and station set up. The Glacier-Watertown Hamfest held in East Glacier Park, Montana seems to be quite an event. This year it attracted 500 persons in 200 camping units; tents to 40 ft. motorhomes. It appears that a number of Canadians attend from across the prairies. There were lots of prizes, food, and fellowship. A highlight was the "Beer Bottle" auction. This single bottle of beer (still unopened) has been auctioned yearly at the Hamfest since 1938.

Finally we end up with *Key Klix*, the bulletin of the **Calgary Amateur Radio Association**. This club claims to be the largest in Canada with over 300 members. They also had enough people register for their amateur radio course to force them to run two parallel courses. The Pioneer branch of the club (CARATELS) was quite interested to hear of the success of our local Pioneer club in getting a New Horizons grant. Their own request was denied in 1986. CARA has obtained the private use of a local public pool for one evening this month. There will also be light refreshments after. Sounds like fun!

See you next month for another trip across the country.



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## NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

*submitted by Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ*

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There is now a new DOC office in Hull, serving the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. The address is:

975 St. Joseph Blvd., Room 222,  
and their phone number is 953-1324.

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The DOC will be shortly releasing a new version of RIC-24, Information on the Amateur

Operator's Certificate Examination. This version is new only in that the diagrams required for the theory examinations are included.

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The DOC has created three new Basic Level examinations numbered 4, 5 and 6. These will replace examinations numbered 1, 2 and 3. The new examinations are based on the Question Bank, which was released in June, 1991.

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## TO LINK OR NOT TO LINK

*by Bill Balke, VE3NPG*

The link system described in the facing diagram is a very simple one. Common sense and courtesy are the most important rules. **Please! DO NOT give the codes out over the air!** This will prevent local unauthorized repeater use from spreading to the link system.

Always listen to each repeater as you turn it on to see if it is in use. If you can make the desired link without using a local 2-metre repeater, do so.

All repeaters in the system, except Foymount and Ottawa, follow a basic pattern. Each step in the system sends its own ID in CW when it is linked into the system. Ottawa and Foymount are different in that Foymount is not a Hub in the same way as Haliburton, but is a direct link. It does not send the ID when turned on as the hubs do. The other repeaters accessed from Foymount turn on and off in the usual way. Ottawa, for the moment, is a one-way street in that you can access Foymount and the rest of the system from Ottawa, but people calling into the link from other locations cannot turn Ottawa on. Note: Your tones must be

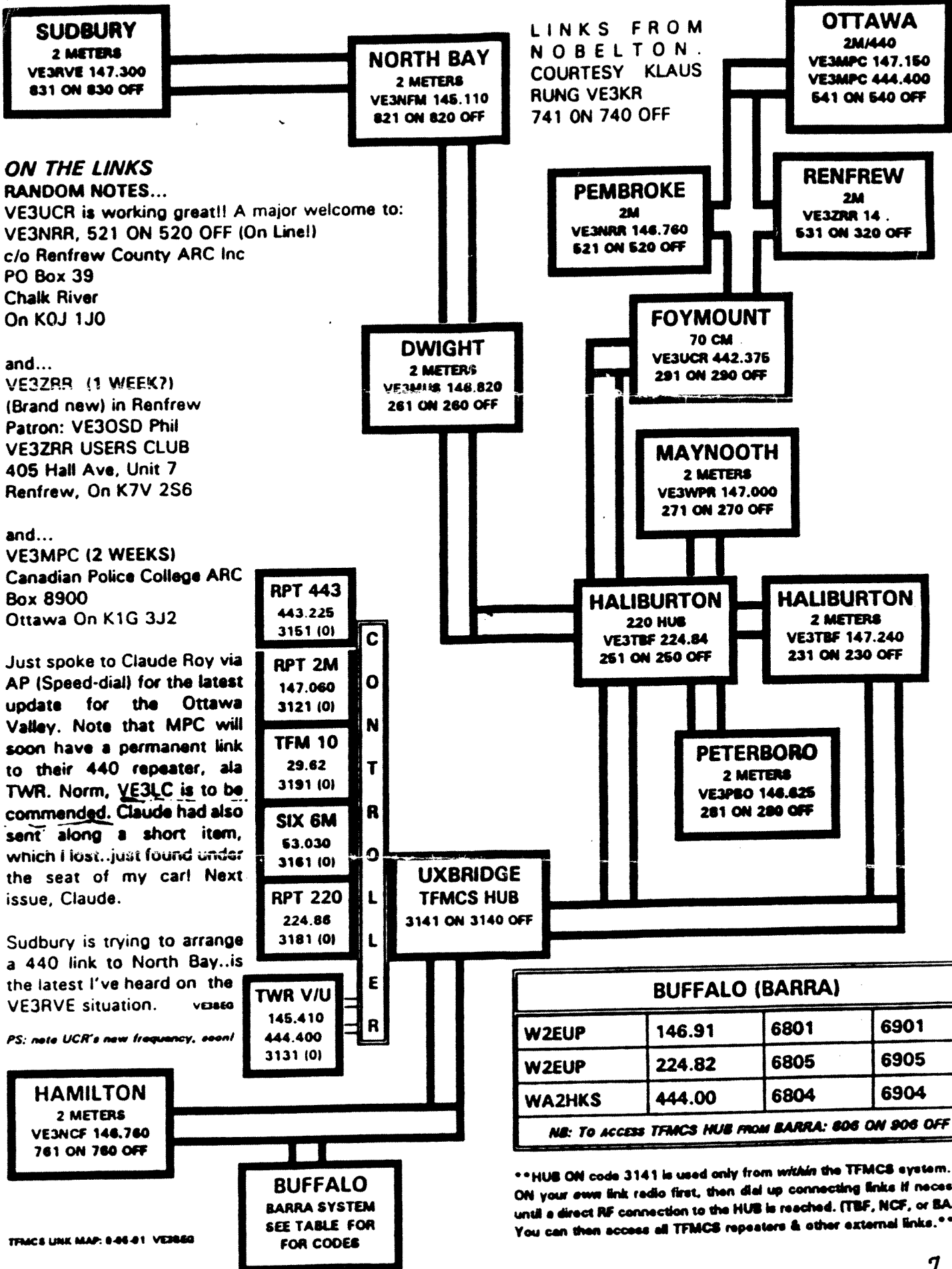
very clear and accurate to use the link. With the exception of the Uxbridge controller, the repeaters do not regenerate your tones.

Many of the system's repeaters have phone-patch facilities. The use of the patches is restricted to the members of each local repeater. Most repeaters recognize a link call and the phone-patch is disabled.

When leaving the link, you must remember to remove repeaters from the system in the reverse order to which they were added. As you remove a repeater from the link, it sends a tone and either the letters O F F or a partial call sign in CW. If you forget to remove each repeater in turn, timers will disconnect them after a defined period of inactivity. If you dial the OFF code for the Uxbridge controller (3140) it will disconnect all repeaters connected directly to it.

I hope this will be of help. Happy linking. VE3 NPG -  
Member TFMCS & OVMRC

REALLY LAST MINUTE NEWS: LOOK FOR VE3RAK 444.700 ON THE



**ON THE LINKS  
RANDOM NOTES...**

VE3UCR is working great!! A major welcome to:  
VE3NRR, 521 ON 520 OFF (On Line!)  
c/o Renfrew County ARC Inc  
PO Box 39  
Chalk River  
On K0J 1J0

and...  
VE3ZRR (1 WEEK?)  
(Brand new) in Renfrew  
Patron: VE3OSD Phil  
VE3ZRR USERS CLUB  
405 Hall Ave, Unit 7  
Renfrew, On K7V 2S6

and...  
VE3MPC (2 WEEKS)  
Canadian Police College ARC  
Box 8900  
Ottawa On K1G 3J2

Just spoke to Claude Roy via AP (Speed-dial) for the latest update for the Ottawa Valley. Note that MPC will soon have a permanent link to their 440 repeater, ala TWR. Norm, VE3LC is to be commended. Claude had also sent along a short item, which I lost..just found under the seat of my car! Next issue, Claude.

Sudbury is trying to arrange a 440 link to North Bay..is the latest I've heard on the VE3RVE situation. VE3860

PS: note UCR's new frequency, soon!

BUFFALO (BARRA)			
W2EUP	146.91	6801	6901
W2EUP	224.82	6805	6905
WA2HKS	444.00	6804	6904
NB: To access TFMCS HUB FROM BARRA: 806 ON 906 OFF			

\*\*HUB ON code 3141 is used only from within the TFMCS system. Turn ON your own link radio first, then dial up connecting links if necessary, until a direct RF connection to the HUB is reached. (TBF, NCF, or BARRA) You can then access all TFMCS repeaters & other external links.\*\*

# MORE MUSINGS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S DESK

by Neil Herber, VE3PUE

"Not again!", you cry. Yes it's me again. But I'm not here to berate you for unpaid dues. (It would be pointless since we've dropped everyone who had not paid as of the mailing date.) No, this time my task is much more pleasant. I would like to welcome all of the new members who have joined the club since September, 1991. That's actually a whole batch of welcomes, but here goes. Welcome to (in the order in which they joined):

Bill Dyer (VO1PD),  
Jim Johnson (VE3GLJ),  
Tom Tsangarakis,  
Duncan McCansh Jr.,  
George Forester (VE3ZEZ),  
Bill Rothwell (VE3FGW),  
Gordon Phillips,  
Ron Hachey (VE3NWU),  
Peter Noel (VE3DPN),  
Sharon Liff (VE3TDW),  
John MacSteven (VE3BRP),  
Mike Kelly (VE3FFK),  
Joe Walcot (VE3PDS),  
Jerry Floyd Everett (VE1DE),  
Marty Ingram (VE3XR V),  
Phil Robinson (VE3CUR),  
Anna Fleming (VE2CPA) and  
Marcel Lemay (VE3FNG).

But that's not all! Welcome to all of our new student members:

Robert Calver,  
Francis Flowers,  
Kevin Jones,  
David Fletcher,  
Lise Quesnel,  
David Dufeu,  
Richard Dufeu,  
Ron Clement,  
Darren Tooke,  
Roger Rose,  
Ron Georgeadis,  
Denis Levesque,  
Steve Middleton,  
Louis Theoret,  
David Morphy,  
Margaret Armstrong,  
Leon Constantinou,  
Christopher Grace,  
David Mayes,  
Michael Kostiuik,  
Robert Kenna,  
Bryan Hutton,  
Jeff Hiltz,  
Alan Doherty,  
Pierre Cyr, Daren Bryk,  
William Carr,  
Beverly Cameron,  
Allan Barnes,  
Patrick Murphy,

Mike Shaikh,  
Jim Robinson and  
Lorraine Boulay.

Comes the spring, we should be able to reprint this list with call signs attached. If you are a new member and I've left you out, please let me know. I have discovered that I am not perfect (this was a terrible blow) and that there are errors in the database. Several people have pointed out that they had paid -- even though the infallible database said they hadn't. Sincere apologies are due to Brian Santor (VE3SJU). After accusing the poor guy of being a deadbeat, I discovered that he had paid *and I had accepted his check!!* Hmm. For my next act ... PS: Please don't badger me about the badge you don't have yet. If you need one, I'll give you a small form to fill out at the next meeting. All we need to know is your call and the exact spelling of the name you want on the badge. Badges ordered at one meeting can be picked up at the next one. The Club foots the bill for your first badge. Extra badges, for those with more than one shirt, are available at our cost, currently about \$6.

*Closing note: The definition of a handi-talkie? A carrying case for dead batteries.*

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**10. Video Presentations:** The main event for the evening was a pair of video presentations. The first was a short presentation of the OVMRC/OARC 1991 Field Day activities which were held at the home of Fred, VE3PAA and Judy, VE3PAB. This included a segment showing the

local television media coverage of the event. (At the back of the auditorium there was also a display of photographs taken at the Field Day site.) The second video was produced by the Blue Mountain Repeater Group, showing their Field Day activities at a site on the shores of Georgian Bay. This video was very professionally done and was of great interest to the audience.

**11. Adjournment:** There being no other business, moved by Neil, VE3PUE, seconded by Chuck, VE3PDK that the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. followed by coffee, cookies and the usual eyeball QSO.

de Ted VE3KEH





# FROM THE JUNK-BOX

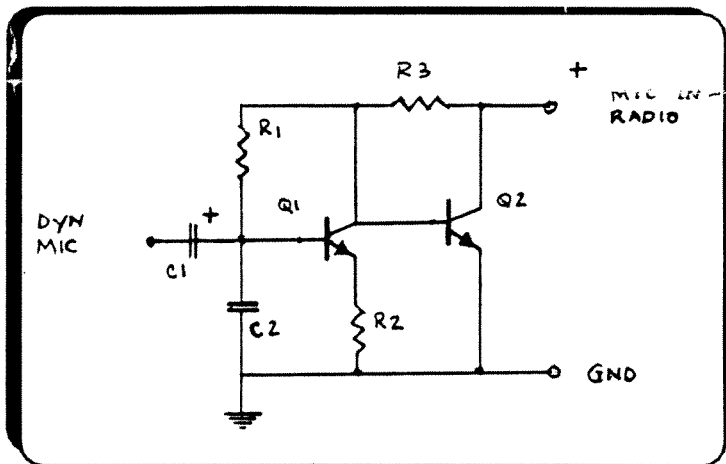
by Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ

With solutions to technical problems and ideas on building a better electronic "mouse-trap"

## A SIMPLE MIC PREAMP-INTERFACE CIRCUIT FOR SURPLUS COMMERCIAL FM RADIOS

From time to time, surplus commercial VHF and UHF FM radios appear in the amateur market place. These excellent radios from such manufacturers as Motorola, General Electric, Midland, etc., have always provided a cheap and easy way for amateurs to get on the air on VHF or UHF, voice or packet.

Very often, these radios come without microphones, speakers and other accessories. Simply hooking up a typical LO-Z (500 $\Omega$ ) mic won't work with these rigs, because the radios require a high level mic input. Early FM two-way radios used a carbon mic, which got its DC bias right from the mic circuit. Later radios replaced the original carbon mic with a "carbon replacement" dynamic mic which was fully interchangeable with the original. This "modern" dynamic mic had a small preamp in the mic housing which got its DC bias from the rig, just like the original carbon mic. Today, all modern commercial FM radios still provide this DC bias down the mic line, and still require the high "carbon" level drive.



*Mic pre-amp interface circuit.*

So, what to do if you've got a nice shiny surplus FM rig and no matching mic? Here's a simple circuit that will allow you to use any 500  $\Omega$  dynamic mic with that surplus rig. Here are the parts you will need to make up the circuit:

C1 - 1 $\mu$ F/16V, C2 - .001 $\mu$ F, R1 - 180k $\Omega$ , R2 - 270 $\Omega$ , R3 - 470 $\Omega$ , Q1/Q2 - 2N2222

For higher gain, use an ECG199 for Q1

## YET ANOTHER CHEAT AND EASY ANTENNA FOR 6 METERS!

*Another technical tip from Ed's bag of tricks.*

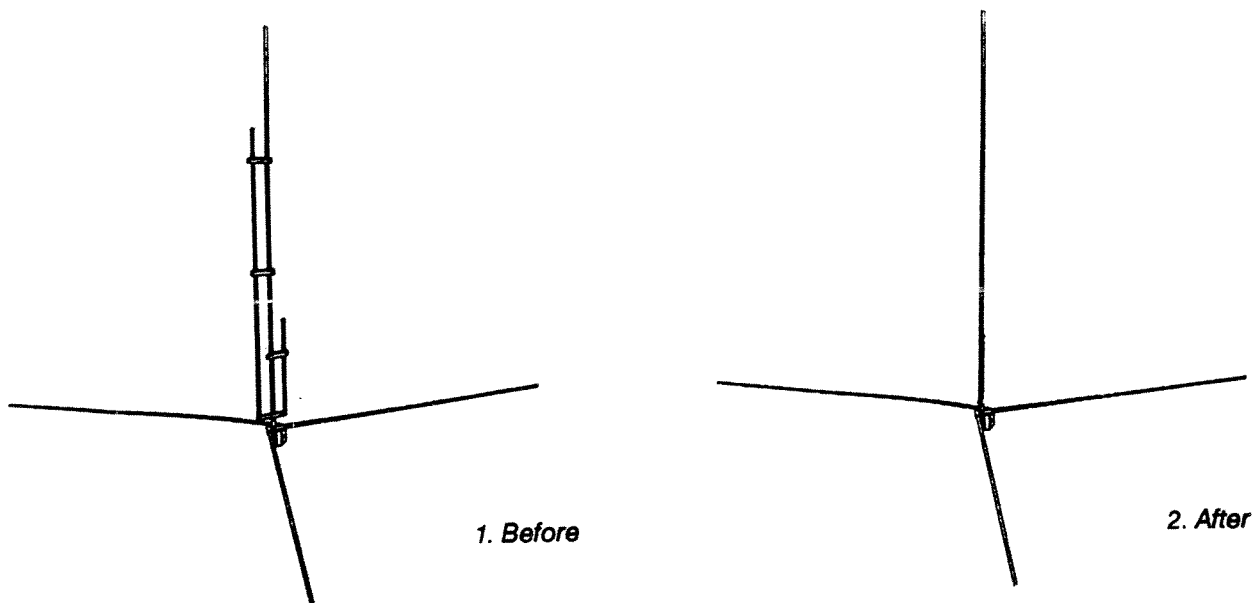
There are now quite a few local amateurs using 6 meters in the Ottawa area. Most of the antennas are home brew affairs due to the scarcity and high cost of 6-meter antennas.

Diamond Antenna has just released a new Base station vertical 6 dB gain antenna, and it is excellent. It is the typical high quality product one has come to expect from Diamond. Unfortunately, the cost is commensurate with quality -- between \$150 and \$200 in the Canadian market.

Here is an alternative that's cheaper, and provides extra left-over parts for other antenna projects...

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Radio Shack offers something called the "All-Band Base Antenna" for scanners. (Catalog # 20-014) This antenna is basically a  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave groundplane for three bands - 30-50 MHz, 140-170 MHz and 420-470MHz. It uses three vertical elements in parallel, (see figure 1). For six meter use only, you really don't need the other two shorter elements and they need not be installed. They also contribute an unnecessary wind load too. When I assembled my antenna, I simply left off those two elements and only installed the "lo-band", 54" element. (Fig 2). The elements come slightly longer than  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave at 52 Mhz so, you may wish to trim slightly to get the SWR down.



The end result is a neat, simple and cheap (under \$50.) antenna for 6 metres, and lots of spare aluminum tubing for your other antenna projects!

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Do you have a technical problem? Do you know of a better way to build a mousetrap? Have you tried a new approach to a problem that worked well for you? Why not share your hints and ideas with the rest of us. All questions will be answered. All problems will be researched and answered if possible. All hints are welcome and will be considered for publication in this column.

All are invited to submit questions relating to technical problems concerning amateur radio. Whether you're homebrewing, rebuilding, or attempting to repair a sick rig, the OVMRC Technical Committee probably has the answer you need. Through the facilities of an extensive technical library of radio books and component catalogues, we can probably find any schematic plan or formula. Building a rig? We should be able to find the exact source of that widget you need. Written request preferred; just mail them or hand them to any Executive (the ones with blue badges) at the monthly meeting. The most interesting questions and answers will be published in the *Rambler*.

