

Field Day frolics – a signal event!

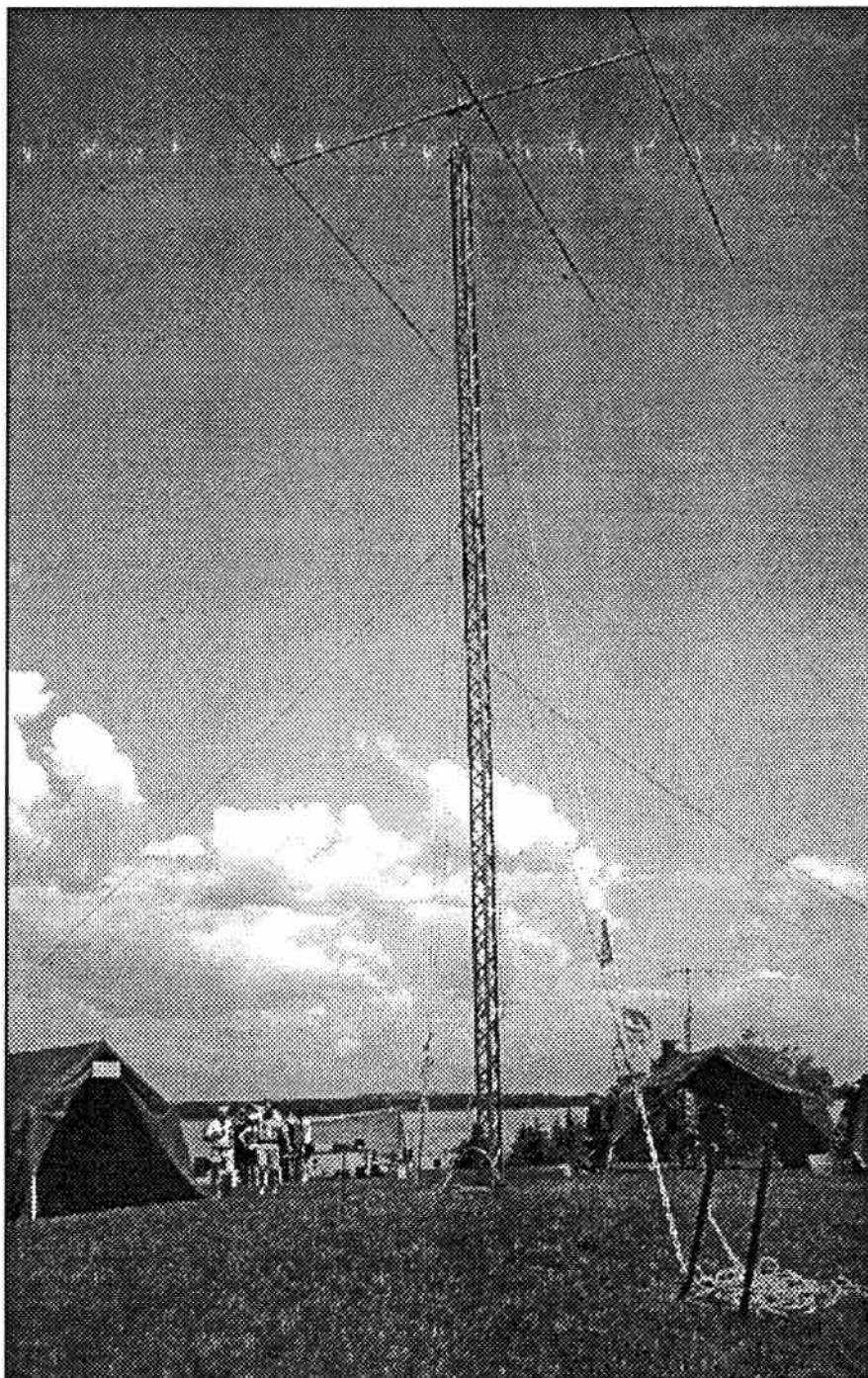
by Vic Bajaj, VE3BSV

Official Field Day results are not available yet. We will publish them as soon as possible. Ed.

As the chairperson of the Field Day committee, I look back on this year's Field Day as an example of the amateur spirit displayed in its highest form by the members of the OVMRC. The hard work and dedication of the committee members, in conjunction with the striking turnout, resulted in a day to remember for all who were present. It gives me great pleasure to share some of the highlights of the activity with you.

Field Day is an international radio event organized by the American Radio Relay League. Its purpose is to test the ability of amateurs to provide communications in the event of an emergency. This exercise in emergency preparedness takes the form of a 24-hour race to contact as many stations as possible. Since the emergency conditions are only simulated, Field Day provides an opportunity for a social get-together for club members and their families, and a forum for technical advancement.

The committee chose Andrew Haydon Park as the site for Field Day, since its



Field Day – what a site!

See Field Day..... page 4

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

RAMBLER

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The 1992-1993 OVMRC executive

President: Bob Sharp, VE3YBC, 731-7089
Vice-President: Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 741-????
Past President: Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 225-7374
Treasurer (acting): Judy Taetz, VE3PAB, 822-9037
Secretary: Larry Woram, VE3WLN, 835-2959

Standing committee chairs

Amateur radio exhibit: Cy Webster, VE3SIY, 733-2371
Amateur radio training (acting): Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, 839-5854
Field day: Vic Bajaj, VE3BSV, 726-9270
Flea market: Ken Barry, VE3KJB, 746-4823
Historical (acting): Pat Brewer, VE3KJQ, 825-8721
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Membership: Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, 739-8871
Newsletter: See hysterical (don't ask)
Publicity and programs: Keith Beardsley, VE3SVQ, 731-7912
Radio operations: Ian Kennedy, VE3SNX, 747-8387
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Ramblerites

Contributors to this issue:
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Get your name in here – it's easy!

Circulation:

Fred Haire, VE3NJF
Eric Still, VE3OTT
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Special thanks to:

Chuck King, VE3PDK

Mark Your Calendar!

Next general meeting:

Thursday, September 17, 1992 19:30 local time in the auditorium at the National Museum of Science and Technology. Peter VE3YYY talking about IPARN and linking – with demonstrations!

Next executive meeting:

Thursday, September 24, 1992 19:30 local time in the volunteer room at the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Deadline for the next issue of the Rambler:

Thursday, September 24, 1992.

Affiliated clubs

The OVMRC exchanges bulletins with the following organizations:

Augusta Amateur Radio Association, Augusta, ME
Border City Radio Club, Windsor, ON
CARF, Kingston, ON
CRRL, Arva, ON
Chatham-Kent Amateur Radio Club Inc., Ridgeway, ON
Calgary Amateur Radio Association, Calgary, AB
Halifax Amateur Radio Club, Halifax, NS
Heritage Amateur Radio Club, Cobourg, ON
Kingston ARC, Kingston, ON
London Amateur Radio Club, London, ON
Ottawa Amateur Radio Club, Ottawa, ON
Pioneer Amateur Radio Club, Nepean, ON
Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Scarborough, ON
Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club, Cornwall, ON
Sudbury Amateur Radio Club, Sudbury, ON
Saskatoon Amateur Radio Club, Saskatoon, SK
Thousand Islands Amateur Radio Association, Prescott, ON
West Island Amateur Radio Club Inc., Dorval, PQ

Sponsors

The OVMRC provides bulletins to the following organizations for their past support of our activities:

Bytown Marine, Ottawa, ON
Kenwood Electronics Canada Inc., Mississauga, ON
Seaway Communications Co., Cornwall, ON

We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by Dy-4 Systems in printing the Rambler.

Ramblings

Words of wisdom from our President, Bob Sharp, VE3YBC

Greetings again.

By the time you read this, the summer will have left us – even though most of us are still waiting for it to arrive. This summer has been a busy one, with our club taking on two different communications events. The first was providing communications for the “Cycle for the Kids 92” – a Quebec to Toronto cycle tour which benefits the Christian Children’s Fund (a charitable organization). The OVMRC provided communications on 2m from August 14th to August 16th. Many thanks for those who helped: VE3RM Don, VE3PSK Ian, VE3WDP Wayne, VE3SOF Peter, VE3KJB Ken, VE3PMR Chris, and our esteemed Director of Radio Operations VE3SNX Ian. This was our second year of involvement and I’m sure it won’t be the last.

The second event is a demonstration of “Amateur Radio Field Day” at the National Museum of Science and Technology. Since I am writing this article before the event takes place (it’s held one day after the deadline for the *Rambler*) I hope that all of you have (had) a chance to work VE3JW at least once between August 28th and August 30th. VE3JW will also be the net control station for the Pothole net on Sunday, August 30th. A write-up of the details of this event will appear in the October *Rambler*.

With the start of the fall comes our regular meetings and a sensational list of special guests and speakers. September’s speaker will be VE3YYY Peter speaking on the Renfrew County Amateur Radio Club linking system and the IPARN network. Do you have an interesting topic to speak about or know an interesting speaker? Give me a call and I’ll try and schedule it for an upcoming meeting.

Another sure sign of fall is the start of another OVMRC amateur radio training course. Our chief instructor Doug VE3ATY has worked very hard on the course and its manual with able assistance provided by John VE3ACI, Pat VE3KJQ, Chuck VE3PDK, and several others whose names escape me. Doug and his team deserve to be commended for their work. Give Doug a call if you can help out – as someone once helped you out. It’s your chance to “mold the amateurs of the future” and also to support your club and your hobby.

Over the summer I have received several requests from different groups and individuals for modifications and additions to VE3TWO. Have you sent in your suggestions yet? All suggestions will be discussed by the club executive and brought to you (the members) with our recommendations for your final decision at a future monthly meeting. This concerns your club repeater and I need your input.

It’s hard to believe that there was not *one* comment (either pro or con) about my remarks in last month’s *Rambler* concerning CW and Field Day. This is a serious problem that must be resolved before Field Day in June 1993.

I took my family to the Ontario Science Center in Toronto as part of our family holidays for the summer. Imagine my shock and embarrassment after dragging my family through the museum to the communications display only to discover that the amateur radio display had been removed *because they could not find the volunteers to staff it*. In an area the size of Metro Toronto they could not get enough hams who care about their hobby to present it to the general public. It seems a shame, and I hope the same fate does befall VE3JW when the station re-opens at the Museum.

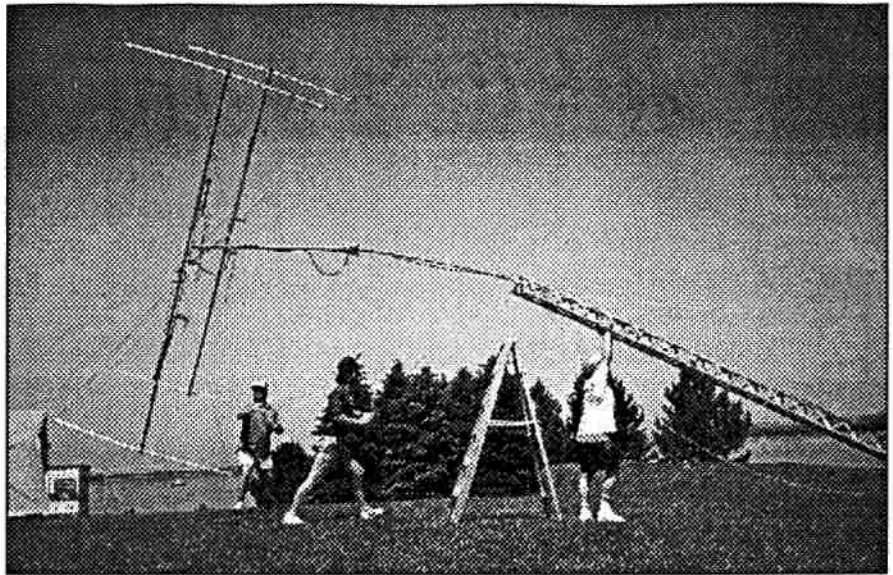
Our Wise Owl net resumes operation in September, so try to keep Friday nights open for our weekly ragchew. Drop in and say “Hello” whenever you can. The Swap Net (run by Ed Morgan, VE3GX) resumes in September on both the Pot Hole net and the Capitol City FM net. Drop in to either net and find out what new toys are available.

That’s it for this month. I hope to see you all at our next monthly meeting on Thursday, September 17th at the Museum.

– 73 de VE3YBC –

Field Day..... from page 1

public waterfront location met the social objectives. Set-up started at about 0800 hrs on Saturday, although I had stayed overnight to look after some equipment. At least 30 people turned out for the set-up, and it was a very smooth operation. Under the expert direction of Harry Splett, VE3HHS, a tower and tri-band beam was assembled and raised. Harry also provided a Kenwood TS-440 for one of the stations. Jeff and Les Hiltz provided a butterfly beam which worked well for the CW station. The more technical aspects of the setup were handled by Marcus, VE3MDL, who was responsible for packet operations. Clare Fowler, VE3NPC, once again provided his satellite station. Generators for the operation were provided by Eric Still, VE3OTT, and Harry Jones, VE3HYS, from CFRA. The OVMRC was once again fortunate enough to get military tents and tables from Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP. Finally, the most important part of the Field Day – the food – was organized by Richard



A new Olympic event – is it beam-lifting or gin-pole vaulting?

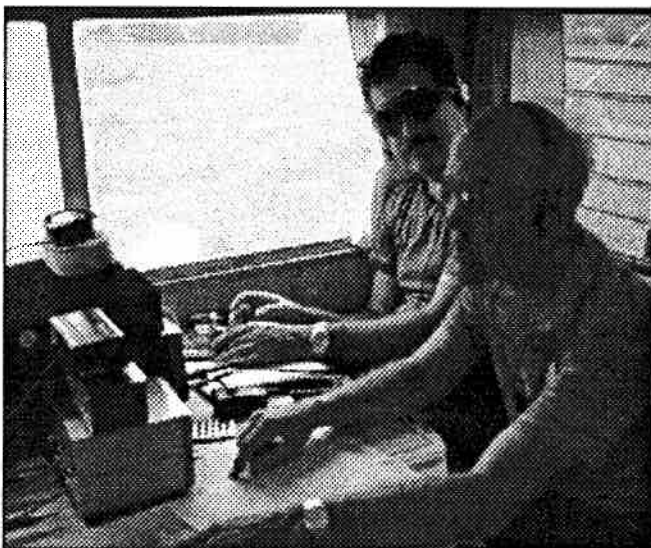
Hagemeyer, VE3UNW.

With SSB, CW, satellite, and packet stations set-up and working, operations commenced at 1400 hrs. It was, for many, a rare opportunity to operated an HF station of that calibre for an extended period of time. The beam worked amazingly well, producing most of our contacts (about 400, unofficially) in the SSB mode.

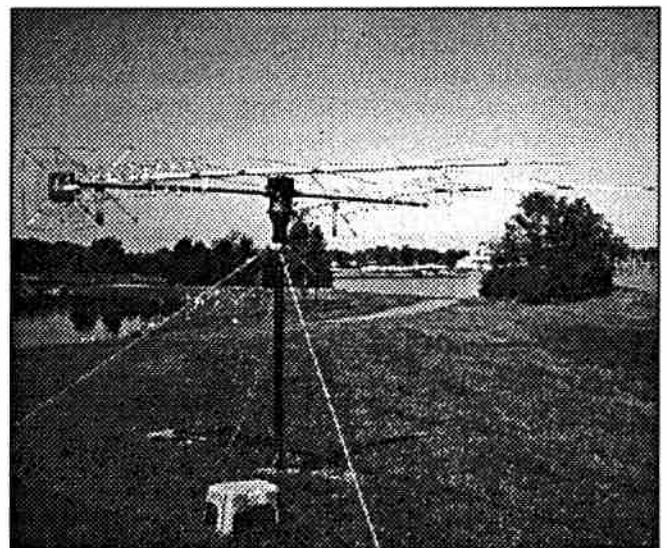
The CW station, as usual, did a fine job under the direction of Brice, VE3EDR, as did all other stations involved in

the activity. Marty, VE3XRV, kindly lent us his TS-440SAT after the rig in the CW station was damaged in a natural power accident. Food and refreshments were provided throughout the entire two days by Richard, VE3UNW, and a group of non-licensed radio enthusiasts who wanted to help out.

About 45 people turned out in total, and their electric enthusiasm resulted in a claimed score of about 3600, in spite of adverse propagation.



The satellite seekers



Looking for a low-orbit satellite



Caught red-handed – the CW operators bashed away into the wee small hours

The excitement lasted well into the night, thanks to the donuts and coffee. It is also important to note that this was the first Field Day for many amateurs.

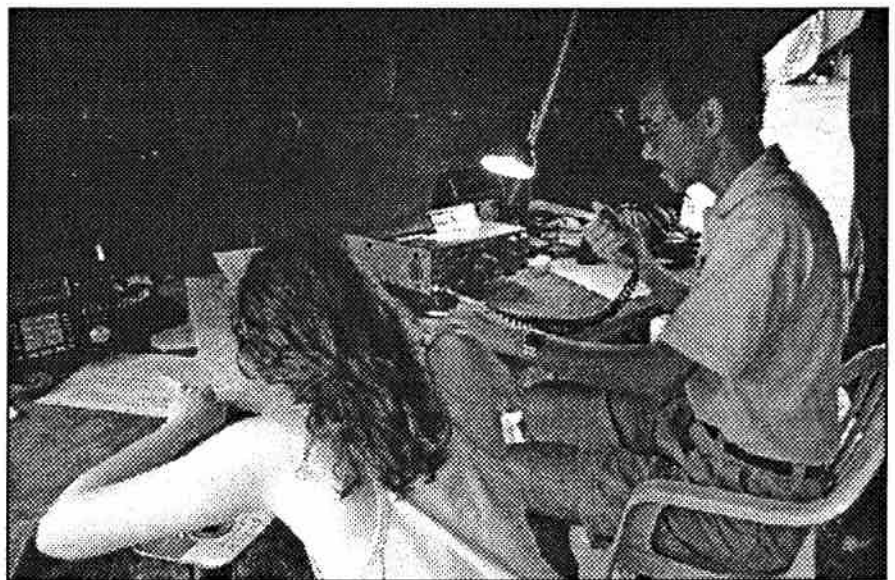
The large number of newly-licensed amateurs and course graduates who attended indicates the vibrant spirit of this event and the OVMRC in general. Those newly-licensed amateurs experienced, first-hand, the intricacies of setting up a station and operating it under emergency or contest conditions. Field Day also presented an opportunity for hams with basic licenses to get a feel for the HF bands.

In conclusion, this year's Field Day was very successful by all measures. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the members on a job well-done. I am looking

forward to conducting a larger and more diverse Field Day next year, and I will require the support of the membership. If you have any ideas or comments, or if you can help

out, please call me at (613) 726-9270. I will be forming the Field Day Committee as soon as possible.

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Teamwork – one operator talks while his partner logs

New reproductive technologies - same old problems

The Blob strikes!

We hope you were duly impressed by the quality of the photos that appeared in the last issue. Unfortunately, a lot of good intentions went down the tubes thanks to the miracle of Xerography.

The kind folks at DY-4 print the *Rambler* for next to nothing on a photocopier that can produce tremendous results. We have about 270 copies made, and as the originals cycle through the machine, they get a bit dog-eared. The photos looked so good on the *Rambler* originals that the operator couldn't bear to run them through the machine and get them scuffed up. So he copied the originals, copied those onto double-sided master pages and made a few sets of masters for good measure.

All photocopiers (at least every one that we've ever seen) increase the contrast of images each time they are copied. So - hey presto! - our wonderful Field Day photo full of beautiful gray tones turned into a black and white blob. (It would be more accurately described as a black OR white photo.)

So, to remedy the situation, on this issue we have supplied two double sided originals to be used as masters - the results should be great. Once again, many thanks to the DY-4 crew for doing the copying and for taking the time to discuss ways of improving the results.

Attack of the killer directories!

I was puzzled the other day when three identical small brown envelopes appeared in my mail slot. Seems that since I am a member of three local clubs, the RMOC has seen fit to send me three copies of the latest *Directory of Amateur Radio Club Members*. I would like to think of them as free, but I'm sure that some of my tax dollars went into their production and mailing.

There is a tremendous amount of work involved in producing the directory - a large portion of it is done by volunteers. It's a shame that some of that work ends up being wasted. Here are four free suggestions for improvement:

1) Publish quickly! The OVMRC was asked for an up-to-date membership list in December 1991. We supplied a list in January 1992 and the directory came out in August 1992. We have had literally dozens of new members join since the list was generated - they don't appear in the book.

2) Get it right! The OVMRC has about 250 members, but only 195 appear in the directory. We were told *not* to include members without calls, although it appears that other clubs did. Also, our president is not Doug VE3ATY. He was president at one time, but since then we have had Jeff VE6RCI and Jerry VE3CDS as president. Our current president is Bob VE3YBC.

3) Save a tree! I only need one copy, not three. Dropping multiple entries for people who are members of several clubs would save 18 pages. Having separate duplicate listings by name and by call is crazy! List everyone by name with full address info and provide a cross reference in call order that gives only the person's name. That would drop about twenty pages.

4) Keep the small page size (it fits in a glove compartment) but use more of the white space on the pages. That would reduce the introductory section by about 8 pages.

Picky points?

I don't think so. The directory uses about 30 full 8.5 x 11 inch sheets. At least 270 copies (1100 listings - 830 people) were duplicate mailings which wasted 8100 sheets (270 x 30). All of the page saving ideas above would reduce the size by 10 full sheets, or 8300 sheets (830 copies x 10 sheets). That's a grand total of 16 400 sheets! That is more paper than we use for the *Rambler* in a year.

A final point: have pity on the old codgers who make up the majority of most clubs. The directory needs bigger type (or a magnifying glass). If it is really intended for use under emergency conditions, it should be easily legible. Besides, we've got 16 400 extra pages to use now!

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Class of '92

by Ron Clément, VE3UWR & Roger Rose, VE3XRR

No name by any other name is a welcome mat

First they change the name of the column. Then they change the name of the net. See if you can keep up with the Class of '92. Ed.

Summer is coming to an end – whatever there was of it. There is already talk of starting the next course. They say that time flies when we're having fun. We must of been swamped with 'fun'.

As you can see, the IMI is no longer. It's not that we don't need to ask questions anymore. There will always be questions to ask in the amateur world. Rather, you might say that we are dealing with a beneficial identity crisis. The decision to rename this column "Class of '92" stems from the realization that something wonderful is taking place and it seemed important to place the blame on the people involved.

When we took the course, a few of us met and there were a few groups hanging together. Generally, the so-called class spirit wasn't in evidence. We suppose that this was due to the reason everyone was there, which was to get that certificate. You know the deal – concentrate, concentrate, do not

socialize, get that ticket, etc...

Now, after a few months have passed (!), we hear some very good things *about* and *from* the students of the Class of '92. To recap briefly, most students got their certificate and the great majority of them have picked up their licences and hit the airwaves. The bulk of QSOs take place on 2m but we hear more and more of a few students operating on HF (we can't ignore Jeff VE3WWH here – he has basically gone around the world). Yours truly have also made a few contacts on 20m, 40m and 80m on both phone and CW as well as checking in to the Sandbox net. Of course, not having your own equipment makes it difficult, but we'll get there one of these days.

Many of the students also participated in Field Day. They gained some experience in the set up of a field station, the installation of antennas, and the operation of both phone and CW. They are already looking forward to next year. Others volunteered their services to provide communications at community events and other projects. Some have

assisted ham operators in fixing problems here and there.

We must also mention our acclaimed club vice-president, Larry VE3WEH, who, it seems, is always on the air, passing on information, giving directions or simply chewing the fat. When do you sleep Larry?

Oh ya, and how can we forget the "No Name" net now renamed the "Welcome Mat" net. Of course we didn't forget. What a success this net has been. It has given many operators the opportunity to try their hand at controlling a net.

And who is to blame for all this? Well, the students of the class of '92. (You will probably understand now why we chose this name.) Keep up the good work and we'll keep writing about your achievements. As we said, most of what we write about is usually picked up on the net or at meetings with other hams, so if you have something special you want to pass on, give us a call and we'll be glad to accommodate. We only hope that more and more of you will start working HF.

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Class of '92



These guys never give up – here's yet another logo (remember IMI?)

Letters to the Editor

Please note that letters are edited to correct spelling, punctuation and grammar. Length constraints and copyright regulations may restrict what we can include. Ed.

Communications Security

This is a note I'm writing to all sorts of hams out there – be they new, old, antique, experienced, code/no-code, digital, etc. I'm a new licensee as of this year, *but* I have been listening to SW/public band frequencies for eons. I'm amazed at the level of garbage one hears regarding what you are or are not allowed to say. Somehow, the regulations get slightly distorted for each person's purposes. As far as I know (and I have talked to the Department of Communications about this) we are not allowed to use the amateur radio waves for consumer advertising. We can compare our own sets to others but should not mention pricing. That is not selling but reporting.

I got "told-off" over the air because I mentioned where one could get a certain make of equipment. I didn't tell prices but just gave info on location and items sold. This we are allowed to do and it is not *selling*. Call the store and let them do the public relations.

Another problem I've encountered is from neighbors who are offended that my scanner can receive their cordless and cellular phone conversations. As long as I keep quiet about what I listen to, this is perfectly legal.

The letter from James E.

Hall of Corpus Christi, Texas that appeared in the August 1992 edition of *Popular Communications* explained the matter very nicely. He noted that a previous writer had complained about violations of what he felt was his constitutional right to privacy on his cordless and cellular phone calls. Jim Hall pointed out that you should always assume that someone is listening in. He felt that if someone was so careless as to broadcast a message that should not be broadcast, then they should take responsibility for the results.

Basically it comes down to this – Big Brother is always listening and what comes out of your mouth is *your* problem, not someone else's.

Jacques, VE3TSC
Ottawa, ON

CARF + CRRL = RAC?

Attached are copies of two nearly-identical letters that I have sent to CARF and CRRL. Several of the points made in these letters may be of some interest to our OVMRC members.

I sincerely hope that the directors of the new Radio Amateurs of Canada organization will consistently provide more open and less self-serving leadership to Canadian amateurs than CRRL and CARF have at times.

Martin, VE3OAT
Greely, ON

The text from the letter to CARF follows. Ed.

Editor, The Canadian Amateur
Canadian Amateur Radio
Federation

Dear Sir,

I was so disappointed and disgusted that CARF and CRRL could not agree on a suitable Canadian delegate to represent Canadian amateur radio operators at the WARC conference last winter, that I decided not to renew my membership in either organization until things improved demonstrably or the new merged organization, RAC, was in full operation. My CARF membership has already expired.

I have been a member of both CARF and CRRL since the very early eighties, several years before I earned my licence. I have found both to be fine organizations, offering many advantages to Canadian amateurs, and complementing each other in qualities and services. CARF has always seemed youthful and energetic, with many innovative ideas and services, and an apparent "Let's try it and see" attitude. So what if not all of these ideas were well thought out at first and if the proofreading of TCA and other publications has sometimes left a lot to be desired. CRRL, on the other hand, has been a polished and "professional" representative of Canadian amateurs, presenting carefully-considered arguments with high quality technical background.

See Letters page 9

More members!

The OVMRC grows even bigger! Make sure to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

David Scott, VE3ZZU
 Judy McKay, VE3KJM
 Chris Wiesner, VE3CUV
 Yurek Krol, VE3SNZ

And a big welcome to all the members of the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club, Cornwall, ON – our newest affiliate club.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed. Now it seems that some folks get confused if we publish a list of members who have renewed between two given dates. So here is the simple secret: the expiry date of your membership is in the upper right corner of your mailing label. To make it even simpler, we are only mailing the *Rambler* to paid up members (payment was due at the end of June).

If you are not receiving the *Rambler*, it means your address is wrong or your payment arrived after 92.08.27 (the *Rambler* deadline) or your payment was lost in the mail or you are a genuine deadbeat. (We use the word deadbeat only in the very finest sense of the word.)

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Top notch courses on tap

Looking for a radio course? Be sure to check out the upcoming OVMRC offering. For valley folk, the Champlain Regional Repeater Association (CRRA) gives a course in conjunction with the Renfrew County Board of Education.

The OVMRC course features sessions on operations, theory, and regulations. The course fee includes a comprehensive manual and a membership in the OVMRC. It starts on September 15th. Classes are held Tuesdays from 1900 to 2200

hrs at the National Museum of Science and Technology. Contact Doug VE3ATY (839-5854) for more info.

The CRRA course starts on September 29th. Classes are held Tuesdays from 1900 to 2100 hrs. Register on September 21st at Arnprior & District High School. Contact Pete VE3YYY (623-5914) for more info.

Both groups give DOC approved exams at the course conclusion.

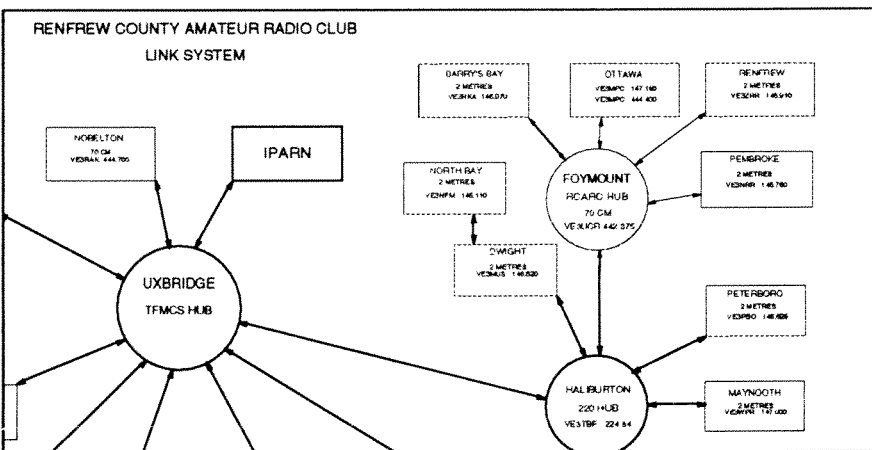
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Link map mayhem – where to now?

The link maps that Ian VE3SNX prepared in conjunction with Pete VE3YYY will be available

at the next meeting. Here is a preview of what you will see.

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Link map segment – see it all this fall at the OVMRC meeting

Letters from page 8

So what if they sometimes seemed to be conservative to the point of stuffiness and evidently suffered at times from the "not invented here" syndrome.

I have been glad to be a member of both CARF and CRRL, but when the parochial, protectionist and self-serving stubbornness of both prevented

agreement on something as simple and fundamental as a Canadian representative at WARC, then I found my tolerance to have been exceeded. I believe Canadian amateurs deserved much better from both CARF and CRRL.

It was a shame indeed that this small but significant disagreement apparently brought out the worst in both

organizations. I can only hope that the officials responsible for it will be properly cast out when the merger takes place, and that the new RAC will be free of such pettiness and lack of regard for the greater good.

Yours truly,
 Martin VE3OAT

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The Wise Owl net – it's a real hoot

*by the Wise Owl himself,
Leo Desjardins, VE3NVL*

The Wise Owl net is an informal net where you can meet new and old friends. The Wise Owl Net operates every Friday evening at 2000 hrs local time on repeater VE3TWO (147.30 MHz+). Club announcements, CARF and CRRL bulletins and subjects of interest to the amateur radio community can be heard.

Operation for the 91-92 season began on September 6, 1991. The net was in operation until June 26, 1992. During that period a total of 115 hams checked in for a total of 793 QNI. There were 40 nets that ran for a total net time of 2018 minutes (33.63 hours). A special net was run and controlled by Sydney VE3GVI on December 25, 1991. Thanks Sydney.

From January 17, 1992 to March 27, 1992, eleven qualifying nets were run for class A

and class B Wise Owl certificates. There were 14 recipients of class A and 5 recipients of class B certificates.

The recipients of class A certificates were: George VE3ZEZ, Joe VE2JHT, Chuck VE3PAP, Steve VE3SKP, Herb VE3HRB, Jerry VE3CDS, Henry VE3OMU, Doug VE3SPF, Gerben VE3SUV, Fred VE3BAJ, Bob VE3YBC, Pat VE3KJQ, Mike VE3FFK and Jim VE3GJY.

The recipients of class B certificates were: Paul VE3NPD, John VE3ACI, Ed VE3VLF, Ian VE3SNX and Neil VE3PUE.

I hope everyone who participated enjoyed themselves as much as I did managing and controlling the net.

The Wise Owl net was off the air for July and August, but it resumed operation on Friday September 4, 1992 at 2000 hrs. This is your net – together, lets make it bigger and better.

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Promoting practical practices

*by special inductee,
Fred Noble, VE3BAJ*

I was interested to learn of the coax soldering exercise for the new amateurs in the Spring. In order to entice this group to continue with the practical aspects of our hobby, I will give a "coil form" to the first 30 amateurs who ask for one at the September meeting.

RF coils are used in many aspects of radio, and they are an interesting introduction to experimenting.

Recent issues of QST have discussed coils – April 1992, page 76 and July 1992, page 75. A formula for the approximate value of inductance is:

$$L = \frac{a^2 n^2}{9a + 10b}$$

where:

- L = inductance in μH
- n = number of turns
- a = coil radius in inches
- b = coil length in inches

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OVMRC saves PARC's bacon

*by special sock her correspondent,
Judy McKay, VE3KJM*

This year, the Gloucester Soccer Club ran its 12th International Soccer Tournament July 17-19. The Tournament was held in the Gloucester-Orleans area with the main playing fields at Hornet's Nest on Bearbrook Road in Blackburn Hamlet. There were eight satellite locations in and around the Gloucester/Orleans area. This year, there were over 90 teams from Ontario, Quebec and New

York State. In past years, there have been teams from Scotland and France as well as the southern and mid-west US. The player's ages ranged from 10 to 18 years and there were some mixed teams.

The Pioneer Amateur Radio Club (PARC) has provided the communications for this event in past years. PARC has five or six operators who volunteer faithfully each year to work this tournament. These operators have worked this tournament for so long that they now have

their favorite fields.

This year, coming to up to the last days before the tournament, I had the organizer's nightmare of a shortage of operators. So I looked outside PARC for help. Without fail, the OVMRC came to our rescue again. This year, Bob VE3YBC and Neil VE3PUE were two of the rescuing personnel. Thank you very much for your support and help at the last minute. I hope to see you out again next year.

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