

# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 35, Number 12 - December 1992

## Radio rabbits run rampant - Rambler readers regaled!

After one "Bunny Hunt" on October 24, the hares arrived in herds. Hunt #2 was held October 29, hunt #3 on November 14 and hunt #4 will be held on December 5. These are all informal fun events with no entry fees or prizes.

### Another wonderful time had by all??

by Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC

On Thursday October 29, a DF hunt was held from 19:30 to 20:30 in the area bounded by Woodroffe, Baseline, Fisher and Byron. Neil VE3PUE was the coordinator and bunny on VE3TWO. He helped us find him by being "interactive". We could ask him questions and his answers (transmitted on VE3TWO) gave clues to his location as well as an opportunity for the groups to use their DF equipment.

The trick everyone quickly grasped was to locate him on his output frequency. One problem that frustrated me and my partner (Larry VE3WEH) was

that we asked most of the questions! This let the others quickly find the bunny while we were still tuning him in. We missed out by 3 minutes, which brought smug smiles from the others afterwards at the coffee shop. We knew that our efforts had been worthwhile, and with a bit more time we would have found him.

The bunny (Neil hiding in his car) was located at Westgate shopping center. The hunters found him in the following order:

1. Tim VE3USL, Lorna (31 min)
2. Sharon VE3TDW, Duncan VE3BDC, Tom (32 min)
3. Dave VE3TVU (44 min)
4. Mike VE3FFK, Will VE3XMT, Peter (55 min)
5. Larry VE3WEH, Jacques VE3TSC (??) (Thanks Neil!).

Listening in were VE3TYJ, VE3PSK and VE3GHE.

One group had an operator at home with a beam to aid in their search. This can be taken either as a sly move or someone using all available resources. This is something that should be

mentioned for any future hunts.

Anyone wanting to see a human yo-yo should get in with me and Larry in the next event. When he stopped to put a dipole out the window, he left the car in DRIVE. In his excitement, looking at the S-meter he would slightly release the brake pedal and the vehicle would move forward. To stop this motion he would reapply the brake thus having me doing the yo-yo back and forth in the car seat (I'm a paraplegic with no stomach muscle function, so I have no control over my balance).

Be sure to participate in future DF hunts which can be fun and rewarding with proper equipment.

*[And with a good driver! Ed.]*

### Hop-hop, Hop-hop

by Allan Barnes, VE3TYJ

Yes, fellow operators, we were at it again! The November 14, 1992 bunny hunt was a

*See Bunny..... page 9*



Hunt #3 winners

Photo:VE3PUE



The rabbit rustlers

Photo:VE3PUE

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

# RAMBLER

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## **The 1992-1993 OVMRC executive**

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**Past President:** Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 225-7374  
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**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  
**Hysterical:** Neil Herber, VE3PUE, 829-4668  
**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:**  
Roger VE3XRR, Ron VE3UWR, Bob VE3YBC,  
Leo VE3NVL, Larry VE3WLN, Jacques VE3TSC,  
Jerry VE3CDS, Fred VE3BAJ, Mike VE3FFK, Rod  
VE3ROD, Allan VE3TYJ  
Aren't you tired of seeing the same calls here,  
month after month? Get revenge. Get yours in!

## **Circulation:**

Bill Chapman, VE3RWC, Fantastic folder.  
Fred Haire, VE3NJF, Extraordinary exemplar.  
Dave Scobie, VE3BOX, Rapid reproducer.

**We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by Advanced Copy Systems in printing the Rambler.**

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

### **Next general meeting:**

Thursday, December 17, 1992 19:30 local time in the auditorium at the National Museum of Science and Technology. Dr. Antonio (Toni) Salvadori, VE3NXQ, author of "Gemradio" logging program.

### **Next executive meeting:**

Thursday, December 24, 1992 19:30 local time in the loony room at the National Museum of Science and Technology – bring presents and therapist.

### **Deadline for the next issue of the Rambler:**

Thursday, December 17, 1992!!! Early!!!

## **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., Ridgetown, 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

# Ramblings

Words of wisdom from our President, Bob Sharp, VE3YBC



The score is now Deadline 2, President 0. We did a heck of a job on the "Rattle Me Bones 92" run but the *Rambler* deadline got me again. How do the people who plan these events always manage to set them up for just after the *Rambler* deadline? One of our members, Keith VE3SVQ participated in the event. Kind of a nice touch with hams helping out a ham.

Giving you plenty of notice... Our meeting on Jan 21st 1993 will be a "Home-Brew night" and I don't mean "807's". The rules for the contest are as follows:

1. Entries must have something to do with amateur radio.
2. Entries must be done in accordance with your operating privileges. (Don't make a 10m dipole if you can't legally operate on 10m.)
3. Your project must work, and if asked to you must be able to prove it.
4. Judges' decisions are final.
5. When in doubt, see rule #4.
6. Prizes will be given for the best entry in the following categories:
  - Basic No Code
  - Basic and 5wpm
  - Basic and 12wpm
  - Advanced No code
  - Advanced and 5wpm
  - Advanced and 12wpm
7. You must be a member of the OVMRC to enter.

So put on your thinking caps, check out the junk box and get busy.

On a more serious note, I've heard some complaints from various groups in the club recently and they are starting to bug me just a bit. Remember, we are all in the same club and we all have the same hobby – amateur radio.

## **HF operating (A lost art)**

I heard something strange on 80m the weekend of the CQ World Wide DX contest. It seemed there was no shortage of American stations pleading for a Canadian contact. I answered all I could hear from my truck, but it seemed there were more callers than callees. [*Aren't they dogs? Ed.*] Where were the Canadians? Has the linking system made us forget the basics of our hobby?

This is one thing we can't blame on the new hams – or on the old hams for that matter. I just didn't hear very much VE activity. I personally don't care for contests, but I will listen around to try to grab a new prefix, zone or country and I would definitely give someone a chance to contact a Canadian station.

Is this a sign of the times like with the VE3 plates on cars with no antennas? (Not even scratches on the roof from where a mag mount should of been.) It makes me wonder, but it's true! Check out the parking lot at our next meeting and see for yourself. Now that I've said that, I hope everyone have at least one antenna from now on – just to make me look bad.

With all the new things to try out in amateur radio, it's easy to get "blinded by the light". From the comfort of your living room, using an H/T, it is possible to go

through a linking system and end up talking to a station in Vancouver. That is just fantastic.

However, using an old FT-101 and about 100 feet of copper wire you can also talk to Vancouver. And that my friends is just as fantastic. Some of the prices I saw at the OARC flea market a few weeks ago made me wonder which cost more: the FT-101 or the TH78?

Please don't ignore the old ways because of the new and don't hide from the new ways because it is new.

## **VHF operating (Nothing better???)**

Quite a few new hams have come from the 11m band to join us in amateur radio. To these new hams, VHF is just about the greatest thing since sliced bread. (Don't forget what they are comparing it to.) VHF beats CB to heck and back. With 5 watts on 2m I can talk to Montreal through a repeater or link to just about anywhere in Canada. Using 12W SSB on 11m, I could probably talk to Stittsville.

The first band used by most new hams is 2m. Easy to use, easy to setup, easy to get caught up with and there's this gizmo called an "autopatch". When I took that training course, they mentioned other bands, but how could it get better than this? Believe me it can. VHF has its moments, but the thrill of DX is fantastic.

The smaller cars of today with the smaller amount of metal the manufacturers actually put in car bodies make HF mobiling a serious problem. VHF solves the problem with smaller transceivers, smaller antennas, and reliable communications as long as you can find a repeater.

See *Ramblings*..... page 7

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# Minutes

from the last general meeting, by Larry Woram, VE3WLN

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OVARC General Meeting,  
November 19, 1992

## 1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 by President, Bob VE3YBC. Bob welcomed all members, guests and visitors. Visitors welcomed included Nelson and Gloria Laporte, Dan Bernier, Jim Ellis VE3OAU, Keith VE3IMT, Peter VE1BQP, Michel and Art.

## 2) Help Needed

A number of people sought help in various areas ranging from changing a pilot light in a TS-440 to what was the best antenna for an H/T. Two requests for help were not answered. Doug VE3ATY is looking for someone with experience in investment casting and Michel was looking for someone to act as an Elmer for him. Anyone interested should contact Bob VE3YBC.

## 3) CARF Bulletin

Dan Holmes, VE3EBI, read the highlights of the latest CARF bulletin. These included a report from Sweden on the effects of exposure of electromagnetic fields. As a result of the study, limits on the amount of exposure have been set. A request was made for amateurs to support their AMSAT organizations. CARF call sign directories are now available, see Dan.

## 4) Treasurer's Report

Dick VE3EIT gave a brief presentation on the financial status of the club. The bottom line is the club is financially stable. A visual presentation will be made at a later meeting.

## 5) Flea Market

Ken VE3KJB announced that this year's flea market would be

held on May 15, 1993 at HMC Carleton Drill Hall at Dow's Lake. Initial contact with Kenwood Canada has confirmed that, once again, they have been kind enough to donate a prize for the fleamarket.

Anyone who purchased a license plate frame and found that it yellowed will be given another. The manufacturer has confirmed that he received a shipment of inferior plastic and our purchase was from that lot. See Ken at the next meeting for information.

## 6) Museum

As Cy VE3SIY was unable to make the meeting, Jerry VE3CDS announced that the senior's group has received a grant of \$6998 from the Minister of State for Seniors. A second application has already been submitted for an additional grant.

## 7) Radio Operations

Ian VE3SNX announced that helpers were still needed for the annual "Speak to Santa" at the Museum of Science and Technology. If interested, get in touch with Ian. On February 13, 1993 volunteers are needed for the NCC 5 and 10km. run held during Winterlude. Speak to Ian. Net controllers are needed for all nets, for the Welcome Mat net see Steve VE3RUU, for the Wise Owl net see Leo VE3NVL and for the Pot Hole net, Ian VE3SNX.

## 8) Rambler

Neil VE3PUE thanked Bill VE3RWC for his help folding, stuffing and mailing the *Rambler* and Dave VE3BOX for donating (and performing) the printing. Bob VE3YBC announced that everyone liked the format, especially the pictures ( I liked all but mine.)

## 9) Technical

John VE3ACI informed the members that with the improvements to VE3TWO (new antenna and feedline) they could expect better coverage. A couple of problems were raised and John will look into them. John was looking for a few good volunteers to move goods and install relay racks at the site.

## 10) Publicity

Keith VE3SVQ announced that the December guest speaker would be Dr. Antonio (Toni) Salvadori, VE3NXQ. Toni wrote the popular logging program "Gemradio" and is the executive secretary for the QSL bureau. January is home brew night (see *Ramblings for details*). Speakers are needed for February, March and April. See Keith.

## 11) Announcements

Moe VE3JTD reported that he had made various inquiries into purchasing club jackets. The price is in the range of \$40. An order of 100 jackets is required. More information to follow.

## 12) New Business

Larry VE3WEH reported on a meeting he attended with John VE3ACI, Ian VE3SNX and members of the 6m Interest Group (6MIG) – VE3INT, VE3SPF and VE3RDZ. The 6MIG offered the club a lease arrangement for one 6m repeater, controller, duplexer and Ringo Ranger antenna for the sum of \$4.00. Any maintenance costs greater than \$200 annually will be the responsibility of the 6MIG. Either party to the agreement can cancel with ninety days notice, however,

See Minutes..... page 6

# From the mailbox

by Larry Woram, VE3WLN



The September issue of the *TIARA Newsletter* arrived somewhat late. However, here is what the members of the Thousand Island Amateur Radio Association are doing. In January they are planning an amateur radio course for prospective amateurs.

The Iroquois repeater is operating on 145.290 - at 2W during the burn-in period. The Christie Lake repeater is on line on 146.640-. Annual dues for TIARA were set at \$20.00 annually, including phone patch.

Further down the river, members of the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club have been busy. They attended the St. Lawrence River Repeater Council meeting held in Ottawa on October 9, 1992, and were assigned two frequency pairs for evaluation, 448.650/443.650 and 449.200/444.200. By the time this is printed, the evaluation should be complete and the frequency chosen.

The SVARC have also volunteered to host a future meeting of the St. Lawrence River Repeater Council. The club is growing and presently has 71 paid members. Club President Jacques VE3VIA attended the Monitoring Times Convention. Short wave listeners from Canada, US, South America and as far away as Australia

attended the three-day event. Seminars covered topics as RTTY, Deciphering Digital, trunk busting basics, aero monitoring, surveillance and TVRO. The December meeting of the SVARC will be a dinner meeting, site to be announced.

Going back up the river the October meeting of the Kingston Amateur Radio Club featured a presentation and video by Doug Smith VE3KXA on Optical Communications. The KARC Saturday morning breakfast is still popular with 30 members attending, (breakfast was ham and eggs). The Christmas party is scheduled for December 10.

A motion was presented at their last meeting to look into installing autopatch capabilities on repeater VE3KER. Steve VE3GRS is considering hold an information session on packet radio BBS procedures if there is enough interest.

The *Kingston Amateur News* featured two 8.5 x 11 in. photos, one of Cliff Ireland VE3HTN accepting his prize of a 2m H/T at the flea market and the other entitled, "Hamming It Up" from a skit at the CARF annual dinner.

Moving all little west the *Heritage Amateur Radio Club Bulletin*, a spasmodic publication of the Heritage ARC. in Coburg, reports that they are pleased to be receiving the OVMRC *Rambler* describing it as "a very professionally done newsletter" and extending their congratulations to our editor, Neil VE3PUE.

The Marmora repeater has moved and now can be found on 145.410- while the Lindsay repeater will be operational soon on 147.195+. The HARC has sponsored the 401 Road Watch or

Storm Watch for over ten years. During bad weather, amateurs stand by on repeater VE3RTR (145.150-) 24 hours a day, or as long as the storm lasts. Information on road conditions, weather along the 401 and nearby areas or road help is available. They ask anyone traveling through the area during a storm to check in and update the operator on latest conditions. The club passed on their condolences on the passing of Steve Znidercic VE3AMM after a short battle with cancer.

Moving further west, the London Amateur Radio Club *LARC Bulletin* reports that the October meeting featured guest speaker Dave VE3GYQ and an excellent talk on astronomy. Ron VE3JRN and Doug VE3IDT reviewed two software programs purchased at the LARC flea market, *Hamlist* by Haruteq and *Canadian Callsign Database* by Mark Bramwell VE3PZR. *Hamlist* (\$20) allows you to search by callsign, name, city, province or any keyword. The searches were said to be slow (VE1 took 39 seconds). Files were updated April 1992.

The *Canadian Callsign Database* (\$10) was supplied on a 1.44MB disk with its own install program. It runs in color or mono and allows searches by callsign or keyword. Searches were said to be fast. The callsigns that took 39 seconds in the *Hamlist* test were found in less than 2 seconds. The last update was August 27, 1992. The *Canadian Callsign Database* received two thumbs up from Ron and Doug.

The October issue of the Calgary Amateur Radio Association's newsletter, *Key Klix*,

See Mailbox..... page 6

Minutes..... from page 4

the club has the option of purchasing the equipment from the 6MIG at fair-market value. As it was the consensus of the technical committee that the lease benefited the club at virtually no cost, the agreement was entered into. Ed VE3RDZ gave a short presentation on the advantages of 6m operation saying that it was one of the up-and-coming bands.

### 13) Guest Speaker

The guest speaker for the evening was Joe MacPherson, VE3CAT. Joe spoke to the members in his capacity as Emergency Planning Officer - Communications for the Ottawa Carleton Emergency

Measures Unit. Joe gave a presentation of the role of EMRG dating from its inception in 1980 to present, with emphasis on the role played by amateurs. Joe explained that greater stress is being placed on the training



VE3BAJ & VE3CAT Photo:VE3PUE

aspect of volunteers, and that there is a place for all volunteers. Joe presented on behalf of EMRG the first Certificate of Appreciation to Fred VE3BAJ. The second recipient was Merv VE3CV and Joe will be make the presentation to him personally.

### 14) Door Prizes

The door prize was drawn, or rather "darted" by Joe VE3CAT. The winner of a set of technical books, donated by Neil VE3PUE, was Jacques VE3TSC.

### 11) Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 21:20 and was followed by coffee and ragchew.

-73-

Mailbox..... from page 5

reports that Radio Shack loaned them two HTX202 2m H/Ts for evaluation purposes. First impressions were good and a full review comes next month. The September meeting of the CARA DX club featured Ted VE3AMR who gave a talk on, "Getting Started in HF for the New Amateur." The talk was aimed at the new amateur but was also a refresher for the older amateurs.

While leafing through the pages of *Key Klix* I often note the call VE6RCI. Now why does that sound so familiar? The Southern Alberta Repeater Association held their annual flea market on November 14, admission 50¢ or half a loonie.

*Key Klix* published the report of the Calgary Stampede station, CJ6CEXS. Over 800 person hours went into the planning, set up and operation of the station. One hundred and fifty volunteers ran the radios and they made over 700 contacts. The best DX was ZA1A and a VE6 in 3D2. Packet attracted a lot of interest from the public. They also featured ATV, and impromptu

interviews were fun for both the visitors and people working the grounds.

CARA provided communications for the Somali Starvation Banquet held to raise money and awareness of the Somalian problem. They raised \$3271.75 from the 750 people attending.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club *Reflector* featured the first part of a three-part article on the Sable Island DXpedition report. The group consisted of Wayne VE1CBK, Ken VE1RU, Martha VE1LE and Gary VE1???. The report is from the eyes of Gary and told of his experiences as the CW operator. After attending several planning meetings and getting the logistics out of the way the group was ready to head for Sable Island. Transportation was by a twin-engine six-seater known as an "Islander." The total allowable weight for the group was 1100 pounds and after deducting body weight they were each allowed 90 lbs., including food. The CW station consisted of a TenTec Omni D, Bencher paddle, MFJ keyer, transmatch and a balanced-center-fed Zepp with fifty feet of RG-58. The

HARC annual Ham breakfast is scheduled for January 30, 1993.

The November issue of the *Augustan* published by the Augusta (Maine) Amateur Radio Association carried an article of great interest. For the past months, amateurs in the southern part of Maine have experienced deliberate interference on a number of repeaters. The interfering station used DTMF codes to activate repeater functions, brought up the phone patch to call police departments, transmitted profanities via CW and transmitted DTMF tones while others were using the repeater. Several local amateurs used their skills gained from bunny hunts to pinpoint the offender. The offender was a Novice class amateur, who admitted to causing the interference when confronted. The group's findings were turned over to the FCC for action. Well done.

That's it for this month mail. One other item did come in - a coupon from KFC. By coincidence, that's where I'm picking up dinner tonight!

-73-

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# Class of '92

by Ron Clément, VE3UWR & Roger Rose, VE3XRR

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## Ron and Rog' return – regular reading resumes...

Where-oh-where was last month's *Class of '92*? No, the Editor did not lose it. We thought that since the Class of '92 had all graduated, we didn't need an article in the *Rambler*. Wrong, wrong, wrong. We were hoping to see an article from the Class of '93, but they must all be so busy concentrating on their studies that they haven't got the time to tell us what they are doing in class.

We did read Jerry's article about the class. It's great news to hear that quite a few of them got their 5wpm. Fantastic, keep it up. Believe it or not, 12wpm is just around the corner.

What happened to the Class of '92? A lot of us were very active with various events in the club. The Welcome Mat net is off and running and we both like to check in every Wednesday at 19:00. Unfortunately, we can't stay on because we are both very busy at Scout Headquarters at that time.

A big thank you to the net organizers. Without the net, a lot of amateur radio operators out here would not have had a chance to participate effectively on 2m. The Welcome Mat net has brought a lot of hams out of the post graduation blues. The net gave them that extra confidence needed to key the mike. Again, thanks guys.

Lorraine (VE3VAT) has volunteered to organize a reunion dinner for the Class of '92. Since the majority of the class graduated in April, maybe we should have the dinner sometime in April '93. Think about it. When she calls you with the details, answer "Yes". We think it would be great to get together and find out what everyone from the course has done since graduation.

Have there been any reunion dinners from other graduating classes? It would probably be really expensive for some of the instructors who have taught for a

few years. When was the first OVMRC class? Who were the graduates? Will they identify themselves? Maybe some of this historical data could be printed in a future issue of the *Rambler*.

*[We are pleased to see that Roger and Ron have volunteered to do another article. Ed.]*

Now on to the matter of code. Some students continue having cold feet hamming it up on CW. We wouldn't mind setting up a CW net on 80m, Wednesday night, at around 20:30 local time. (We will decide on a frequency later.) This might give a break to new graduates who wish to practice but feel uncomfortable because they don't know who is at the other end. Please pass on your comments, we'd like to see how much interest there is. Remember, *we* are still learning, so don't worry about your code. The point is we will all be practicing.

–73–

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### Ramblings..... from page 3

And then there is the car-cosmetic factor. A 2m quarter-wave antenna is quite a bit smaller than the usual HF mobile antenna. Most people don't want an overgrown fishing pole attached to their car.

VHF/UHF is only one part of our fantastic hobby. I hope you will take the time to try others.

### In Conclusion

Whether you are an old or new ham, please remember that we share the same love – the love of amateur radio. To the old hams:

Take a new ham into your shack and teach them. Show them how to talk to the world on a wire antenna. Show them how to load up and operate an FT-101 or a TS-520 or even your cherished set of twins. It is a lot different from turning on the 440 and keying up.

To the newer ham: Repay the favor. Take an old ham to your shack and show them how you work the world on OSCAR. Show them how to Digipeat all over on packet. And show them how to program that TH78 they bought a while ago. We all have so much to offer each other and our

hobby. Please do it...

(By now you have probably figured out why this column is called "Ramblings".)

If you don't make it to the December meeting I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. If you plan to be there in December please don't forget the donation for the Ottawa Food Bank.

Start working on your homebrew project for January and I hope to see you on Dec 17th.

– 73 de VE3YBC –

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## Rod's amateur adventure – a case for CW

by Rod Pike, VE3ROD

Although the summer tends to be a slow time for me and amateur radio, I did manage to do my fair share of antenna building. I even got on the air every now and then. I thought I would pass on a humorous story hoping it might spark fellow hams to relate some of their funnier moments.

I am fairly new to the hobby and one of the new things I did this summer was to work a little HF portable. Several friends had invited us to their cottages on different weekends and I seized the opportunity to bring along a radio. You never know when you might need amateur radio to come to the rescue. That was my excuse for bringing along the radio – but we haven't been invited back since.

Equipped with my HF rig, battery, dipole and so on, I made a few good contacts with Europe – much to the surprise of my friends.

One weekend I had arranged a sked with my father-in-law in Newfoundland. About 100 km north of Ottawa, I discovered I'd

forgotten my microphone. I thought I'd been doing well when I remembered the antenna.

Not to be outdone by my predicament, I first analyzed my situation. I had no mike and no key. I had my 2m rig with a headset and of course I had brought some headphones for those late-night-under-the-covers-after-everyone's-gone-to-bed-let's-tune-around-the-dial-until-the-sun-comes-up evenings.

My HF rig has VOX so I considered rigging up a microphone using my 2m headset. But I hadn't brought my manual and didn't know the mic connector pinout. Maybe I could hit an Ottawa repeater from here. I could find someone with a manual and get the pinout!

I went out to the car and put the mag mount on the roof to get the best propagation. The only repeater I could pick up was VE3MPC, but the measly 5W I could coax out of my handheld just wouldn't cut it. (So much for that idea.) It was getting late so I called it an evening and settled for a few games of cards and general socializing.

I tackled my problem again

next morning. The sked time was an hour away, and I was still determined not to miss it. My headphones had a stereo to mono adapter on it and I had managed to find some solid copper wire. I stuck the wire into the adapter and the adapter into the key connector on my rig. By touching the free end of the wire to one of the screws on the rig, I was able to key it. Finally I was getting somewhere!

I listened on 14.140 for a while until I heard VE3BPU. Harry had helped me in the past to make contact with my father-in-law ...

Now let me back up a bit. I don't want to get into the old code versus no-code debate. I don't really have a view one way or the other. I am old fashioned and I like Morse code, but I am not very good at it. With my other interests in the hobby, I find that I don't have time to use CW that often although I keep promising myself that I will start listening and getting my speed and proficiency up again. Someday I will, but I digress...

*Conclusion next month .....*

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## General calls out amateur troops!

by Bob Sharp, VE3YBC

It seems any time we're asked to do public service events it's on short notice. This time it was to provide communications for the Ottawa General Hospital's "Rattle me Bones 92" 6/10k fun run. To get the job done on short notice, members from three local radio clubs were pressed into service. The event ran from 08:30 to 10:30 on Sunday October 26, 1992. We used repeater VE2CRA (2m) for communications.

The run went through the Elmvale Acres area of Ottawa. The operators who gave up their Sunday morning were: VE3YBC, VE3FFK, VE3LPH, VE3UMC, VE3OTT, VE3USL, VE3TSC, VE3BUP, VE3KIZ, VE3AVI and VE3SJK. The event went well with no mishaps to either the participants or the communications crew. A hearty "Well done and thank you" to those who assisted.

-73-

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## ONTARS ages

by Bob Sharp, VE3YBC

As this is the last *Rambler* for 1992, I'd better mention this before it's too late. The Ontario Amateur Radio Service net (ONTARS) will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on Friday January 8, 1993. ONTARS runs daily from 07:00 to 18:00 on 3.755 (LSB) in the 80m band. Join me in wishing them a very happy 20th and many more to come.

-73-



# Geezer gang grabs government grant!



by Jerry VE3CDS

As most of you are aware, we have formed a group within the OVMRC which has taken the title "The Senior Operators". This particular group of amateurs are those who are over the age of 60 and have retired from the active work force. There are a few exceptions but this statement applies to most of the group. I believe the term most often heard on the air is "Professional Loafers". Well, this group has set out to improve the activity schedule of the OVMRC.

Earlier this year, one of our club members (who is active on the committee for the redesign and recommissioning of VE3JW at the Museum of Science and Technology) came up with a

bright idea. I refer of course to Cy Webster VE3SIY. He suggested we apply for a grant to assist in re-equipping the museum station. The existing equipment is quite old although it is in good working order. The museum is planning a new communications display and we are providing input concerning the content and ultimate operation of VE3JW. We felt we had a reasonable chance of receiving a grant from the Department of Health and Welfare through their "New Horizons Program". Everything happened just the way we hoped it would - we have received a grant of \$6998 to buy new equipment for eventual installation at VE3JW.

We have set the wheels in motion to acquire the equipment we described in our grant submission. We are also setting up our organization (The Senior Operators) to comply with the relatively simple conditions attached to the New Horizons grant.

We will be operating at the museum in temporary quarters until the new communications display is ready in the latter part

of 1993. We have had several meetings with the museum staff concerning this interim stage and discussions are continuing. We hope to be on the air early in 1993.

## **Important requirement!**

We must receive an indication from senior club members when they would like to operate the station. As in the past with VE3JW, it is recommended that at least two operators share the operating time slots. We are planning weekend operation on both Saturday and Sunday along with weekday operation.

Introductory training will be provided for all those wishing to operate the station - more on that in January.

I hope that there will be lots of participation. We will keep you all informed through the *Rambler*, on the nets and at the club meetings. If you want to participate please contact me, Jerry VE3CDS, at a club meeting, on the air or by phone (225-7374). The best time to call is 18:00. Let's have your input!

-73-

## **Bunny ..... from page 1**

success with nine teams participating. The bunny was a little more difficult to find this time due to reflections. But it couldn't have been too hard since the first team broke the previous record of 23 minutes. A total of 5 teams found the bunny:

1. Steve VE3USM and Dave VE3KIU (21 min) using a 4-element beam thru the sun roof
2. Duncan VE3BDC, Sharon VE3TDW and a friend (30 min) starting from St-Laurent Blvd.
3. Neil VE3PUE (alias Mr. Ed) (1hr 5min) who looked happy to find the bunny

4. Tim VE3USL and his wife (1hr 10min)
5. Will VE3XMT and Anne Jeffrey in one vehicle and Mike VE3FFK with Peter in another



**Bunny bagged by beam** Photo:VE3PUE

The bunny was located in the lower parking lot of Vincent Massey Park. Organizers for this chase were VE3TYJ, VE3PSK, and VE3RUU.

We would like to thank Dave VE3TVU for his loop tape and voice which annoyed most bunny hunters after the first 30 minutes. Oh yeah, a special mention to Maurice-Andre VE3VIG for demonstrating the cheapest antenna - a single paper clip. We hope to see you on December 5, 1992 at 09:00 for the Christmas Bunny Hunt. Merry Christmas!

-73-

## Upcoming Events, Help Wanted

### Help!!

The Training Committee is looking for someone with lost wax or investment casting experience. For further info contact Doug VE3ATY at 839-5854.

Contributed by VE3ATY

### Toot Sweet

Net controllers needed for several nets to help relieve the regulars. The Wise Owl net, the Pot Hole net, the Welcome Mat net etc., etc. No experience necessary. We provide training with full pay. Do a good job and we'll pay you twice as much next year! Contact Ian VE3SNX at 747-8387.

Contributed by VE3SNX

### December 13, 1992

Talk to Santa event sponsored by the OVMRC at the Museum. Contact Ian VE3SNX at 747-8387. Bilingual operators with 2m handies needed.

Contributed by VE3PUE

### December 25, 1992

Special Christmas day net. Net controller will be Sydney Moorcroft, VE3GVI. Beginning at 09:30 on repeater VE3TWO, 147.300+.

Contributed by VE3NVL

### January 15, 1993 to March 26, 1993

Wise Owl Qualifying Nets  
From January 15, 1993 to March 26, 1993 anyone checking-in on The Wise Owl net will qualify to be a class "A" or class "B" Wise Owl. During that period, you must check-in ten times or more to receive a class "A" certificate. Check-in seven times or more for a class "B" certificate. Certificates are awarded at the May OVMRC club meeting.

Contributed by VE3NVL

### May 15, 1993

OVMRC flea market. Canadian Forces Reserve Barracks, Dow's Lake, Ottawa, Ontario. Free admission. Doors open to vendors at 08:00, to the public at 09:00. Tables (\$20 for commercial vendors and \$10 for all others) can be reserved by contacting Ken Barry, VE3KJB at 746-4823. Wheelchair accessible. Refreshments. Talk-in on VE3TWO, 147.300+.

Contributed by VE3NVL

To put a notice in here,  
call Leo VE3NVL  
at 225-0902.

## Fred's fabulous formulas



by Fred Noble, VE3BAJ

An interesting formula for amateurs is the relationship of inductance to capacitance to frequency:

$$LC = 25330 / f^2$$

(L in  $\mu\text{H}$ , C in pF, f in MHz)

Knowing any two, the third measure can be calculated. If you lack a computer, a slide rule is quite adequate. Also, remember long division? For example, given a frequency of 3.6 MHz:

$$LC = 25330 / 3.6^2$$
$$= 25330 / 12.96 = 1954$$

For a capacitance of 200 pF, the inductance should be 9.77  $\mu\text{H}$  or so.

-73-

## VE3TWO gets new antenna

by Mike Kelly, VE3FFK

On Saturday October 31, after the OARC flea market, a work party consisting of John VE3ACI, Mike VE3FFK, Larry VE3WEH and Steve VE3RUU installed a Diamond X500 HNA repeater antenna on VE3TWO, raising the antenna about seven feet in the process.

This work involved the usual problems with missing bolts, wrong connectors and too little

time. At least the weather was better than usual for the last day of October. The feedline, previously a mix of various types with several adapters, was replaced with a single, short run of RG-213. The new antenna and feedline combined with the extra height should provide an improvement of about 6dB.

While early reports indicate that range has increased, adjustments to the squelch and receiver front end may still be

required. Those adjustments, however, can be done without facing winter weather on the top of a 24 story building.

Thanks to all those who provided signal reports that weekend. Thanks also to those who volunteered their services (even if it was just to get a look at the spectacular view from up there. Sorry, but access is still controlled.) Watch for the video, coming soon to a screen near you.

-73-