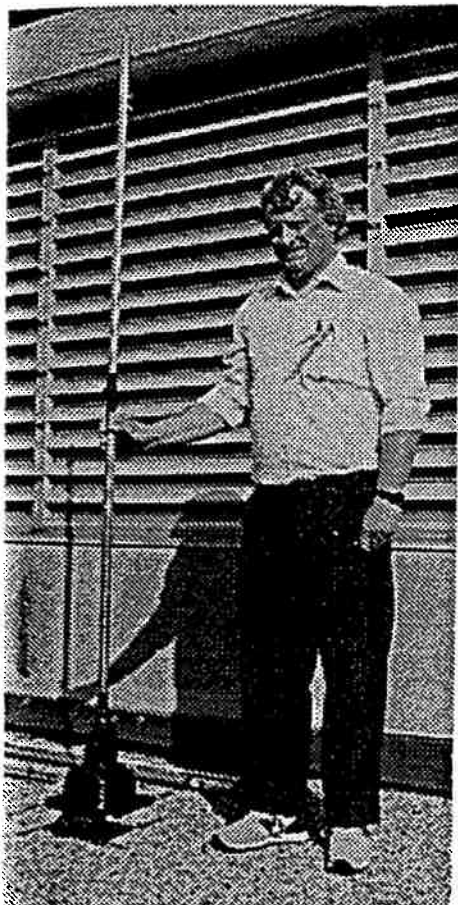


# THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 36, Number 10 - October 1993

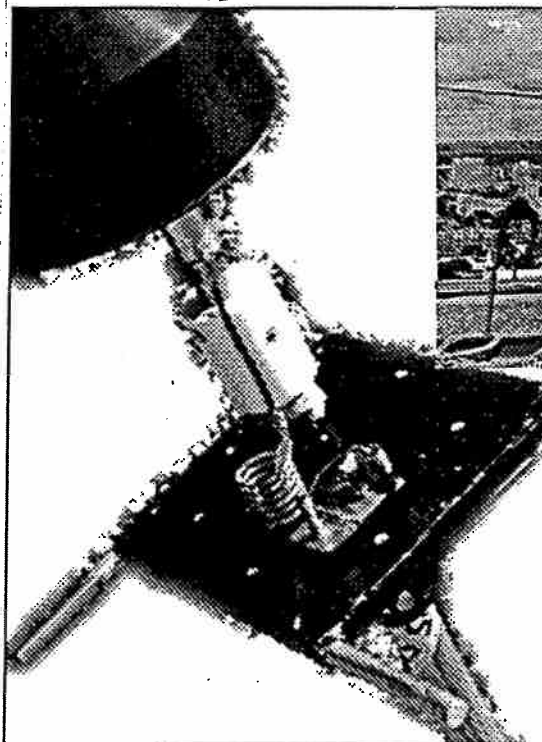
## Welcome to the World of 6 Meters



The designer and builder of the new 6 meter antenna, Doug Bannard, VE3SPF, poses with the new antenna.

by Doug Bannard, VE3SPF

On January 9th, 1993, the 6 meter repeater, VE3RVI, went on the air from the OVMRC repeater site at 580 Booth Street. The antenna installed was a Cushcraft AR-6 (6m Ringo Ranger), which is a half-wave end-fed vertical antenna. The repeater's coverage (about a 35 mile radius from the site) was disappointing. It was decided to do some



The "working" part of the base of the antenna.

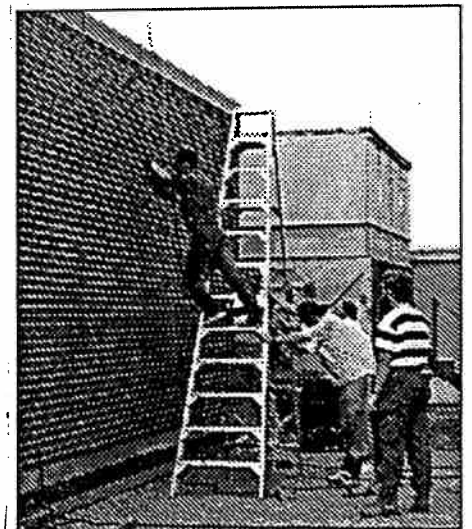
research and experimentation to improve our 6 meter coverage.

### DEVELOPING A DESIGN

I had just purchased a copy of Brian Beezley's (K6STI) AO program, a versatile antenna software program which allows both analysis of antenna design as well as its optimization, so I decided to attempt to design a "gain" antenna for the 6 meter repeater. In order to keep the antenna length reasonable, while making the radiation pattern as flat as possible, my design called for a "two 5/8 wave in phase" antenna fed from one end.



A member of the work crew, Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, getting ready to tune the antenna.



The work crew hard at work drilling through an 18 inch wall to install the anchor for the antenna.

After a number of rejected designs, I finally developed a design which appeared acceptable. It consisted of two sections, separated by a phasing network, and with an overall length of just under 24 feet.

Continued on page 8

The Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club

# RAMBLER

The *Rambler* is published monthly by:

The OVMRC  
Box 5530, Station F  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K2C 3M1

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## **The 1993-1994 OVMRC executive**

**President:** Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, 225-7374  
**Vice-President:** Larry Wilcox, VE3WEH, 747-5565  
**Treasurer:** Richard Adams, VE3EIT, 749-2619  
**Secretary:** Ernie Jury, VE3EJJ 728-3666

## **Standing committee chairs**

**Amateur radio exhibit:** Cy Webster, VE3SIY, 733-2371  
**Amateur radio training:** Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, 737-9443  
**Field day:** Allan Barnes, VE2TYJ, 746-5994  
**Flea market:** Lorraine Boulay, VE3VAT, 228-7111  
**Historical:** Mike Beausoleil, VE3BGP, 739-8871  
**Hysterical:** Neil Herber, VE3PUE, 829-4668  
**Membership:** See hysterical (don't ask)  
**Newsletter:** Dan Doctor, VE3XDD, 745-9214  
**Publicity and programs:** Dave Champagne, VE3QQQ, 567-9233  
**Radio operations:** Steve Middleton, VE3RUU, 731-6749  
**Technical:** John Pope, VE3ACI, 989-3629

## **Ramblerites**

**Contributors to this issue:**

Paul Cooper, VE3JLP  
Doug Bannard, VE3SPF  
John Moffat, VE3NJ

**Circulation:**

**We gratefully acknowledge the support provided by Fulline Office Products in printing the Rambler.**

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

### **Next general meeting:**

Thursday, October 21, 1993, at 1930 hours in the auditorium at the National Museum of Science and Technology. Two guest speakers- Peter DeWolf, VE3YYY, will speak on the link system - what is it and how it works; Gerry King, VE3GK will speak on some of his radio experiences.

### **Next executive meeting:**

Thursday, October 28, 1993, 1900 hours in the volunteer room at the National Museum of Science and Technology.

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

Thursday, October 28th, 1993.

## **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

Wise words from our President, Jerry Wells, VE3CDS



October, the time of year when it is obvious that we have gone through another summer and the cold winds of fall and winter will soon be here. It is also the time for renewed activities on the ham bands as well as other related amateur activities. Why is it that this is the time of year when we all have ideas of putting up new antennas and such? It must be some form of self punishment when you consider that all summer we put off the task of checking over or installing antennas. It takes the first sign of impending foul weather to get the outdoor activities into high gear.

I WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING ABOUT YOUR ANTENNA ACTIVITIES THIS AUTUMN! THE CLUB MEMBERS WOULD ALSO ENJOY HEARING ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES! TALK TO ME ABOUT IT.

I have found that since I retired from active full-time employment my involvement with amateur radio has increased significantly. There is a

lot of club related things in which I am involved leaving me little idle time. Let me ramble a bit on items which are currently on my agenda of things to pursue. First of all the club is off to a very busy and active start to the new club year. We have more members than ever and there are many new members taking the radio course at the museum. Again, I am helping these prospective hams with their CW. The initial stages frighten some but we reassure them that it will come together as the weeks go by.

I was looking at the activities of the club and the topics of conversation heard on the various nets and I realize that there are many different aspects to ham radio. The two meter band, which is probably the one most used by new hams, is loaded with diverse types of individuals, all with different ideas pertaining to ham radio.

I WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING FROM CLUB MEMBERS WHAT THEY ARE DOING ON OTHER BANDS. WHO IS WORKING THE HF DX BANDS? WHO IS ON 15 METERS? WHAT ABOUT 20 METERS? I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT THE WARC BANDS. AND WHAT ABOUT THE 10 MHz BAND? LET'S HEAR ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES AT OUR OCTOBER MEETING. IF YOU HAVE ACTIVE ON ANY OF THE HF BANDS I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT - WRITE ME A NOTE TELLING ME WHAT BANDS YOU'VE BEEN WORKING AND CITE A CONTACT OR TWO.

I will be telling you what my activities have been on these frequencies. I believe

we should be telling one another more about we are doing on the air. Is there anyone on the bands above 2 meters? What about 440 and up? Tell me about it - tell the club members about it. Are there any club members who are low power enthusiasts? What about CW contacts - any where, any band?

Diversity is one of the real pleasures of ham radio. Don't just sit on one band and operate a commercial rig; explore other bands; build an antenna; learn CW. And my friends, if you do not know how to do it, ask for help because there are a lot of experienced amateur who would be pleased to assist you.

I was delighted to hear that Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, has been nominated for Life Membership in the club. Doug has been very much a part of this club and yhas served it well as President and Chief Instructor on the club's Amateur Radio Course for several years. He recently completed a training manual which is published and sold through RAC for the training of new hams. This publication is recognized as one of the best available anywhere. I fully endorse Doug's nomination.

On a point of particular interest to me, I encourage all club members to remember that amateur radio is the finest hobby in the world. The main objective of the hobby is to enjoy the magic of radio, enjoy your participation in your club and be considerate of your fellow ham.

# Minutes

OVMRC GENERAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 1993

## Call to Order

In the absence of President Jerry Wells, Vice President Larry Wilcox called the meeting to order at approximately 2000 hours. There were 13 visitors in attendance, 9 of whom were licensed amateurs and 4 visitors with an interest in the hobby.

Larry reviewed the club's objectives as set out in the bylaws and then introduced the club's executive for 1993-94.

## Committee Reports

OVMRC Radio Course - Bob Shaw, VE3SUY, introduced the other instructors, John Moffat, VE3NJ, Bryce Wightman, VE3EDR, and Jerry Wells, VE3CDS (absent). Bob reported that 37 students have enrolled in the course. He described the curriculum as revised and extended to give participants a more complete understanding of the hobby.

Flea Market - Lorraine Boulay, VE3VAT, reported that HMCS Carleton is no longer available. Alternate locations are being reviewed. Volunteers to assist in this major project will be sought in the near future.

Silent Key - Larry announced that Merv Lemke, VE3CV, had become a "silent key". Merv had served as club President in the late 1970's.

Rambler - Larry thanked Neil, VE3PUE, for his outstanding work in producing a very professional club news letter, the Rambler. Larry announced that Dan Doctor, VE3XDD had volunteered to assume the vacant position of editor of the Rambler.

Life Membership - the club has received a letter signed by 3 club members in good standing, and a member of the club's

executive, nominating Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, for a life membership in the OVMRC. According to the club's bylaws, a secret ballot of the club's membership must be held to ascertain their concurrence. (Editor's Note: Ballots will be distributed to each member in good standing as you register at the door for our next meeting. Please mark your ballot and deposit it in the specially marked box on the dias.)

Museum Station VE3JW - a new vertical R7 Cushcraft antenna has been installed for the radio exhibit at the museum. Operators are required for the museum station for Wednesday evenings and weekends. If you are interested contact Cy Webster, VE3SIY, or Jerry Wells, VE3CDS.

Door Prize - John Pope, VE3ACI, won the door prize of a 1993 ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook which was donated by Bytown Marine. John offered to donate his old handbook to the OVMRC Radio Course.

220-222 MHz - The Department of Industry and Science has prepared a draft paper on frequency allocation in the 30 to 962 MHz spectrum. The Department has opened debate of the possible reallocation of the 220-222 MHz amateur band. Paul Cooper, VE3JLP, was requested to prepare an article for the next edition of the Rambler on this topic.

RAC - Doug Burrill, VE3CDC, spoke of the need for all amateurs to support RAC through membership so that we may be the force required to influence government decisions affecting us. He also indicated that a tentative RAC/Ottawa Advisory Panel is being formed to interface with government entities.

New Business - The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club's flea market will be held on November

6th, 1993, from 900 to 1200 hours at the Cumberland Community Center. Admission is \$4.

Doug Carswell is the new editor of the Canadian Amateur magazine.

Chris Weisner, VE3CUZ, has a new version of Supermorse available.

Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, has volunteered to provide a typing service for those who do not have typing facilities.

Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, demonstrated an HF mobile 40 meter rig which he had mounted on his bicycle. It is powered by portable nicad shoulder pack battery. Mike has also mounted a finger activated CW key on the handle bar.

Trevor Hagan, VE3BMC, reviewed and demonstrated the Tentech 1010 Scout transceiver. It has 50 watt output, full break-in capability and SSB. It uses plug-in modules to cover amateur bands from 160m to 10m.

Field Day Video - the meeting was treated to a video presentation of the OVMRC '93 field day activities. The presentation was produced and edited by Mike Hickey, VE3IPC.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 2145 hours and was followed by coffee and cookies.

## Correction

In the last edition of the Rambler we inadvertently said the Trans-Provincial Net was run with the VE3JF call. That should have read VE3JW. Our apologies to Barry who owns the JF call.

# Auditor's Report

1454 Woodward Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 7W3  
August 23, 1993.

Sir:

Re: Auditor's Report

As requested, the financial statements of the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club Inc. for the fiscal year 1992-93 have been examined by the under-signed.

I am satisfied that these records reflect the financial operations of the club for the fiscal year under review. Bank and ledger entries and balances indicate the normal activities of the club itself and also the Amateur Radio Instruction Course operated by the club.

There is however one item which fails to satisfy final audit requirements. An unidentified sum of \$104.92 appears in each monthly balance between the club records and the bank statement. I recommend that this matter be looked into at the next executive meeting with a view to finding the source of the anomaly and deciding on the action necessary to its removal.

Sincerely,

W. R. Campbell - VE3KLL

Auditor.

President,  
Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, Inc.,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

The statements audited and approved by W. R. Campbell, VE3KLL, his signed report and these statements form part of the club's permanent records. The records are available for examination by any member.

Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club  
BALANCE SHEET Jun 30, 1993

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Bank - Club Acct. 5314075	3,881.73
Bank - Course Acct. 5314075	1,452.86
Petty Cash	0.00
Miscellaneous Receivables	0.00
Repeater Allotment	799.78
Receivable Field Day OARC	0.00
Furniture & Equipment	1,868.75
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>8,003.12</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS**

**8,003.12**  
=====

**LIABILITIES**

**EARNINGS**

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	=====

**EQUITY**

Equity beginning of Year	5,555.18
Current Earnings	1,912.94
Accr. Memberships 1993/4	535.00
Equity to Date	0.00
Field Day Adjustment	0.00
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>8,003.12</b>

<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>8,003.12</b>
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<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>8,003.12</b>
	=====

<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>COME</b>		
Field Income	0.00	
Accrued Memberships for 93	0.00	
Memberships	3,770.00	
Fleamarket Sales	1,280.15	
Fleamarket Raffle	1,185.96	
Equipment Loan Deposit	0.00	
Donations	0.00	
Licence Plate Sales	96.51	
Bank Interest	153.95	
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	
<b>TOTAL CLUB INCOME</b>		<b>6,486.57</b>
Course Registration Fee	3,492.50	
Annual Incomes	998.05	
Miscellaneous Course Income	274.00	
<b>TOTAL COURSE INCOME</b>		<b>4,764.55</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>11,251.12</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		<b>11,251.12</b>

<b>EXPENSE</b>		
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Rambler Supplies	268.28	
Rambler Postage	1,716.31	
Code Telephone	256.48	
Station Licences	69.00	
Station Operation (QSL)	0.00	
Repeater Equipment	1,700.22	
Rent For Meetings	0.00	
Donations	0.00	
Field Day Expense	421.82	
Membership (Awards Etc)	0.00	
Name Tags	175.96	
Insurance	704.00	
Office Supplies	166.28	
Raffle Expense	0.00	
Fleamarket Expense	100.00	
Licence Plate Holders	0.00	
Club Promotional Expense	121.31	
Bank Charges	32.50	
Miscellaneous Expense	166.34	
<b>TOTAL CLUB EXPENSE</b>		<b>5,898.50</b>
Course Supplies	2,456.03	
Course Classroom Rent	0.00	
Instructor Honoraria	890.00	
Manual Expenses	0.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	93.65	
<b>TOTAL COURSE EXPENSE</b>		<b>3,439.68</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>9,338.18</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>9,338.18</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>1,912.94</b>

## Balloting For Life Membership

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, Doug Carswell, VE3ATY, was duly nominated for a life membership in the OVMRC at the September 16th, 1993 meeting. For the information of all members, the club's bylaw governing the granting of life memberships is herewith reproduced.

### 2.2.2 LIFE MEMBER

Life Membership is conferred upon selected licensed Radio Amateurs who have made outstanding contributions to the community or to the Amateur Radio Service through amateur radio activities. Candidates for Life Membership will be considered by the club provided that they have been nominated by at least three full members who have been in good standing for the previous five years plus at least one executive officer. A Motion to confer Life Membership must be published in the club's newsletter, be voted upon by secret ballot at the next regular meeting of the club, and carried by a two-thirds majority. A Life Member is not required to pay dues.

As you register at the club's next meeting on October 21st you will be given a ballot with which you are requested to make your wishes known on this matter. Please mark your ballot and deposit it, unfolded, prior to the start of the meeting, in the specially marked box which will be placed at the front of the meeting room on the stage. PLEASE NOTE - AN "X" OR A CHECK MARK "✓" ARE THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE INDICATORS OF YOUR WISHES ON THE BALLOTS.

# Threat To The 220MHz Band

by Paul Cooper, VE3JLP

I have represented CARF for several years and now serve RAC on the Land, Fixed and Mobile Committee of the Radio Advisory Board of Canada. The Board acts as a clearing house and discussion group for all new proposals from the Department of Industry and Science (formerly DOC) which affect the radio frequency spectrum. New standards, policies, test procedures, frequency allocations, etc. are all first tabled with the appropriate committee of the Board. The Board is comprised of representatives of all users of the radio frequency spectrum. My colleagues on the LM & M Committee include members of National Defence, the RCMP, the railways and a large number of technical people who work for the land mobile manufacturing industry; companies such as Motorola, Ericson and GE to name a few. We also have a liberal number of Department engineers who can explain their new proposals to the group.

The Department periodically reviews the radio frequency spectrum to ensure that it is being used in the most efficient way. The rapid development of electronics, such as cellular phones which will eventually go "digital", and the introduction of High Definition Television are examples of developments which may, in the long term, force changes to the

frequency allocation tables in the VHF and UHF bands.

How does all of this affect the amateur VHF and UHF bands? In July, 1993, the Department issued a document entitled "Proposed Spectrum Allocation and Utilization In The Range 30-960 MHz". Four amateur bands were covered - 50-54, 144-148, 220-225, and 430-450 MHz. For some obscure reason the 902-928 MHz band was not covered although I am advised no changes are planned for this band. The Department recommended no changes in the allocation of these bands except for the 220MHz band.

In the United States, a portion of the 220-222 MHz band has been allocated to land mobile. It is refuted that political pressure from the UPS company to establish a nation-wide communication network for all of its trucks, allegedly forced the FCC to make the reallocation. Ironically, UPS has dropped its plan for a super system on the 220 MHz band and, instead, have opted to use the cellular network. However, several other land mobile companies in the US have made application to operate in this band. They are requesting, through the FCC, that Canada join in the coordination of the affected frequencies to permit users on both sides of the border to operate on an interference free basis.

In view of these requests, the Department has raised a number of very valid questions which the Sub-Committee reviewing the document will have to consider and answer:-

- 1) Is there a clear interest and need for 220-222 MHz to be reallocated to mobile use?
- 2) In the present environment where the 220-222 MHz is not available for amateur service in the USA, what would be the impact on Canadian amateurs if this band was to be reallocated to mobile?
- 3) What measures can be taken to effectively deal with cross border frequency coordination between US land mobile users and Canadian radio amateurs?

My role on the Sub-Committee is to make as strong a case as I can for our continued use of the 220-222MHz band. While I have already presented a paper to the members of the Committee, I fully expect to be given further "ammunition" from the Canadian amateur community. I need all the help I can get so we amateurs can maintain this 2 MHz segment of the UHF spectrum. If you have any strong arguments about this proposed reallocation please pass them along to me. I can be reached by telephone at (613) 821-2167

## From Our Election '93 File

News media representatives accompanying Liberal candidates on their campaign buses are travelling in style. It seems the buses are equipped with work tables and table lamps - and here is the kicker - the buses also have cellular phones so the scribes can file their stories well before their deadlines. We wonder how long it will be before the buses acquire fax and some of the advanced electronic equipment just becoming available. And for those members with a computer link to the FREENET, the network has started a special election '93 information service that includes debates and outlines of candidates and party platforms. The net is two-way, allowing voters to post messages and ask questions of the candidates.

# Solving the 9-1-1 Problem

There has been considerable confusion recently concerning the use of the telephone patching system to contact the 911 emergency service. In order to resolve this problem we contacted and spoke with Larry Abbott, the Ottawa-Carleton Emergency Measures Regional Coordinator, who is responsible for the 911 service.

Mr. Abbott pointed out that when persons call 911, and there are several hundred calls every day, the telephone number of the phone being used automatically appears on their computer screen. This serves as a source to identify the caller. However, he said, when an amateur radio operator calls 911 using the telephone patching system no identifying telephone number appears on the computer screen which causes confusion with the 911 operator and results in a delay in referring calls to the proper service agency.

We asked Mr. Abbott how amateur radio operator can

assist the 911 operators avoid confusion when they try to report an emergency ?

Mr. Abbott suggested we observe the following procedure when using 911 :

- 1) Immediately identify yourself as an amateur radio operator, give your call sign, and explain you are using a radio telephone which only allows one person to speak at a time.
- 2) Advise the operator of your location - i.e. I am east bound on the Queensway just beyond the St. Laurent exit.
- 3) State the reason for your call - i.e. I want to report a two car accident. The operator will connect you with the Ontario Provincial Police.
- 4) Again, you must go through steps 1, 2, and 3 above. However, the Police dispatcher will want to know - "Are there any injuries ?" Is gasoline leaking from either of the damaged cars ?" In other words, is an ambulance or fire fighting

equipment required at the accident scene.

Mr. Abbott was quick to acknowledge that in most instances the person reporting an accident does not observe the total accident scene. He said it does help the authorities and the accident victims if callers can provide the police with as much information as possible. Persons reporting an accident must be careful not to endanger themselves in collecting information, he said. Also, once an accident has been reported to the police it is their responsibility to call for any additional assistance they require such as ambulance or fire fighting equipment.

"Amateur radio operators provide a very helpful service in reporting emergency situations through 911," he said. "Practising the universal procedures our operators are trained use will eliminate any problems and frustrations on both ends of the phone".

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## The World of 6 Meters

Continued from page 1

### THE ANTENNA PARTS

Now that an acceptable design had been developed it was time to start acquiring the parts and materials to build it. Aluminum tubing with 0.0625" wall thickness was chosen for the antenna, starting with 1.0" diameter at the base and tapering to 0.625" in the second last section. The final top section consisted of a 102" CB whip. To protect the antenna and ensure it would not buckle in the wind, the tubing was reinforced by pouring it full of marine epoxy. The matching network necessary to match the vertical radiator to a 50 ohm line was mounted in the base of the antenna in a weatherproof enclosure made from an inverted plastic funnel with the spout removed. The four radials used were also attached to this base.

### CHECKING IT OUT

The completed antenna tuned up well while standing on a tripod in my driveway, with an SWR reading of 1.2:1 at the transmit frequency. I left the antenna set up in my driveway for approximately four months, checking its performance periodically. I then had enough confidence in its capabilities to recommend its installation at the repeater site on Booth Street.

### INSTALLATION

On August 28, 1993, a work crew consisting of VE3's EPB, FFK, SJU, SPF, WEH, and XDD installed the new antenna. Anchoring the antenna through an 18 inch thick concrete and brick wall was a grueling task but once completed erecting the antenna went smoothly.

The new antenna works well, having extended the normal coverage of the 6 meter repeater to greater than a 50 mile radius. We will have to monitor the antenna to ascertain how well it will withstand the freezing rain and snow this winter. The most important aspect of the entire project was the enjoyment and knowledge I've gained in designing and building the antenna.

### 6 METER NET

A cordial invitation is extended to all club members interested in, or finding more about the 6 meter band to join in the 6 meter Interest Group Net every Monday evening at 1930 hours on the club's repeater, VE3TWO.



# Potpourri

A sampling of news and comments from newsletters and newspapers from across the country - written by Jacques Choquette.

West Island, Montreal, Rockland Star.....  
The Department of Science and Industry are standing up in public and asserting their legislative prerogative.

This story is about two separate complaints levied by "friendly neighbours" about amateur radio transmissions which caused interference in their television sets, stereos and telephones.

Case number one involves a 75 foot tower owned by John Bartlett, Autumn Ridge Drive in Orleans. Seems John's neighbours presented Gloucester Council with a petition demanding the removal of the tower which emits signals that interfere with their television sets, stereos and telephone equipment.

When Gloucester Council researched the complaint they were advised by Gerard Piette, an Inspector with Industry and Science, that the problem lies in "cheap electronic consumer equipment that doesn't have suppressors to eliminate radio interference."

Needless to say the neighbours are not too happy with the government's response. Gloucester Council, anxious to appease the neighbours, say they will continue their study of the matter. And John...well he continues to enjoy his hobby.

Case number two involves a 40 foot tower in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Again, "friendly neighbours" lodged a formal noise complaint about radio signals causing interference in their TV, stereos and telephones. However, in this instance an additional charge of "criminal mischief" was added to the melee. After Industry and Science stated that low-level electronic home equipment was to blame, the charges levied against the amateur radio operator were acquitted. DOC legal counsels managed the "acquittal" because a

withdrawal of the charges could have resulted in similar charges being levied again in the future.

Lambton County (Sarnia, Ontario).....  
Two members have been approached by a representative of the CNIB concerning some of their youths wanting to become amateur radio operators. The CNIB assists their members who become hams by subsidizing the purchase of equipment for them.

Sudbury.....  
It seems you can protect your solid state equipment when connected backwards to a DC power supply by installing a safety diode in series or parallel (shunt).

Augusta.....  
Twenty-seven amateur radio operators lent their time and equipment for communications during a three-day "Trek Across Maine" bicycle rally. Nearly 700 bikers travelled 180 miles (290 km). And Mike on the bike, VE3FFK, where were you ?

TelePARC, Pioneers, Ottawa.....  
Here is a piece of advice for those using computer/modems and who experience data loss. It could be that if you have call waiting and someone calls you - it will cause loss of the phone line.

West Island, Montreal....  
Mention was made of the hurricane nets and their frequencies for the southern US and Caribbean. Sheldon Harvey wrote an article giving sources for propagation information. One recommended book was "The Shortwave Propagation Handbook" (CQ Technical Series publication) by George Jacobs and Theodore Cohen.

Saskatoon.....  
Excellent article explaining the Inter Provincial Amateur Radio Net (IPARN). This system is a satellite link-up of Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. Plans are in process to include

Nova Scotia in the system. IPARN can be used for nets, traffic, packet, cross country QSO's and better emergency communications. It costs \$36 a year for amateurs to join and membership gets you the access codes, a newsletter and BBS use. The mailing address is - IPARN, P.O. Box 3156, Langley, British Columbia, V3A 4R5.

With the advent of a new season, several clubs are starting radio training courses. Now that the US Coast Guard is no longer listening for CW distress signals you would think that CW was in its dying stages. Not so ! Several CW programs are being put together - KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK !

And now a parting thought-  
I am a new member of your radio club,  
I see you at our meetings but you never say hello, you're busy all the time you're there, with those you already know,  
I sit amongst the members and yet I'm a lonesome guy,  
The new ones are as strange as I but you old members pass us by,  
But, darn it, you folks asked us in and talk of fellowship,  
You could just step across the room but you never made the trip.  
Why can't you nod and say hello or stop and shake my hand  
Then go and sit amongst your friends, now that I understand.  
I'll be at your next meeting, perhaps a nicer time to spend,  
But do you think you could introduce yourself because I want to be your friend.  
written by Anonymous

# This 'N That

## SURPRISE, SURPRISE

Efforts are underway to ascertain the feasibility of broadcasting our regular meetings on the club's repeater VE3TWO. The idea is to provide a service to shut-ins and others who cannot attend regular meetings.

## NET CONTROLLER, ANYONE ?

While the club has a short list of members who have volunteered to be Net Controllers for the Wednesday night Welcome Mat Net and the Friday evening Wise Owl Net - there is still room for additional volunteers. And Ladies please don't be shy - you are particularly welcome as Net Controllers. Volunteers will be provided with any and all assistance in the process of controlling the net. And by the way, Net Controller with HF privileges are required for the Sunday morning net. Welcome Mat and HF net volunteers please contact Steve, VE3RUU, at 731-6749, while Wise Owl Net volunteers are asked to contact Leo, VE3NVL, at 225-0902.

## LINK QUESTIONNAIRE

A reminder to one and all - please complete and submit the Link system questionnaire distributed with the last issue of the Rambler at our October meeting.

## OARC FLEA MARKET

Circle this date on your calendar - Saturday, November 6th, 1993. The Ottawa Amateur Radio Club will be holding its flea market at the Cumberland Community Centre from 900 to 1200 hours. Tables are still available by contacting Peter Hafichuk, VE3LBW, at 745-0608. Admission is \$4 and entitles you to a chance on a "major" door prize.

## RAC NEED YOU

Radio Amateurs of Canada's new President, Farrell Hopwood, speaking recently at the Saskatchewan Hamfest '93 said, "There are no free rides. Either RAC gets the membership support it deserves or Canadian Amateurs are unlikely to ever seriously influence the outcome of the crucial issues rising up before them." He pointed out that ARRL runs on a \$12 million budget annually with 187,000 members. RAC, on the other hand, will operate on an estimated budget of \$350,000 with 8,500 members. With its present support, Canadian results are predictable. RAC deserves our full support !

## VE3QDM - WHERE WERE YOU ?

It seems a number of club members were questioning the whereabouts of Doug, VE3QDM, after the September club meeting. The explanation for his absence is that Doug has joined another club - called matrimonial bliss ! We all extend to Doug and his bride our most hearty congratulations.

## THE RUMOUR MILL

The rumour mill is churning, again. Making the rounds is the news that DOC is contemplating changing its requirement qualifications for advanced standing. Rumour has it that an amateur with a basic licence and 5 words CW will be granted "grandfather" status and full amateur privileges. However, a check with "top" policy advisors at DOC have flatly denied the rumour. They said that although CW requirements have been relaxed in a number of countries, Canada is definitely not thinking of relaxing its CW requirements for full basic or full advance licencing.

## OVMRC JACKETS

Moe, VE3CTD and Leonard

VE3LPH, have advised that they still have a number of jackets on hand which have to be picked up. If you ordered a jacket and have not picked it up yet, please either see Moe at our next meeting or contact him.

## RADIO COURSE UNDERWAY

Thirty-eight aspiring amateurs are enrolled in the OVMRC's Amateur Radio Course. The first class was held September 14th and will continue each week until the end of March, 1994, when exams will be held. The course curriculum is the best to date with a balanced blend of technical aspects, operating practices and procedures, CW and several practical topics such as establishing a station, the type of equipment to purchase, home brew construction, etc. One of the features of the course is the general help and individual tutoring which will be available to successful course participants following the March exams. This extra help is designed to help further the new amateur's competence, both technically and CW, so they can attain Full amateur privileges. Students on the Radio Course are extended a most cordial invitation to attend the OVMRC regular meetings which are held the third Thursday evening of every month at the Museum of Science and Technology.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

There is still time to enroll in the Advanced Amateur Course held each week in room 2260, MacKenzie Building, Carleton University. The course instructots are Mike Kelly and Richard Hagemeyer. By the way, the price is right - there is no registration or course fees.