
THE OVMRC RAMBLER

Volume 37, Number 4 - April 1994

Ingenuity Still Exists

Written by Jacques Choquette

The OVMRC's March 17th meeting was quite interesting in that it was Homebrew night featuring a variety of technical and original material. Several members demonstrated that ingenuity still exists in amateur radio. The following are those who received accolades from those present for their handywork:

Howard, VE3OWT - Slim Jim dipole, a vertically polarized 2M antenna with very low SWR, made with copper tubing.

Mike, VE3FFK/**Peter**, VE3EPB - A large heavy metal plate with a hinge to attach an antenna tower, to be used with a car/truck as a anchor of base plate.

Mike, VE3FFK - modifications to his Ten Tec Scout to reduce receive power when he is portable by dimming or disabling the display.

Peter, VE3EPB - an HT portable power pack/heatsink attached to waist, a magnetic mobile antenna mount, a suitcase with antistatic foam cut out to protect his electronic gear.

Andre, VE2CLW - humorous equipment such as a bunsen burner used as a base microphone with its handle attached to butane air lines to make a "hot mike", a pussycat eliminator to get rid of stray felines.

Al, VE2TYJ - a "Ginsu dipole" which was a DF dipole with a knife on one

end, used with great efficiency to slice a tomato.

Duncan, VE3OM - a 14 memory iambic keyer kit which sent code by the paddle breaking an infrared beam.

Ray, VE2SLT - Crown Royal velvet bag used as a protective container for his HT, demonstrated a commcial analog wave meter.

Jake, VE3TQX - a heliax 435 Mhz satellite antenna.

Dave, VA3AE - using various used parts, built and demonstrated a small portable packet station.

Pat, VE3KJQ - a system for emergency use which included an HT, speaker, battery pack, amplifier and various connectors with common plugs.

Maurice-Andre, VE3VIG - an extensible dipole, a 3 element (7db for \$7) yagi, a Handi Finder DF antenna (nicknamed 1-2-3 Bozo Buster) adjustable for tone or carrier output. The winners received the following prizes which were donated by Richard, VE3UNW, Jerry, VE3CDS and Bytown Marine: VE3VIG and VE2TQX - each received a copy of "Hints & Kinks for the Radio Amateur"; VE3OM - precision screwdrivers; VE3EPB - 1994 ARRL Handbook; and VE3OWT - a soldering gun.

RAMBLER

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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, ²⁴⁶⁻⁸⁹²⁴ 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:

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Mark Your Calendar!

Next general meeting:

Thursday, April 21st, 1994, at 1930 hours in the auditorium of the National Museum of Science and Technology. It will be new Amateur Night - come out and meet our new Amateurs.

Next executive meeting:

Thursday, April 28th, 1994, at 1900 hours in the volunteer room at the National Museum of Science and Technology.

Deadline for the next issue of the Rambler:

Thursday, April 28th, 1994.

Affiliated clubs

The OVMRC exchanges bulletins with the following organizations:

Augusta Amateur Radio Association, Augusta, ME
Border City Radio Club, Windsor, 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
RAC, Kingston, 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



April, that time of year when we look forward to warm days and lots of sunshine. Today is one of those days, what a pleasant feeling to enjoy the warmth of the sun and see the snow banks gradually disappear. What's new in the amateur radio field? Well, there are a couple of things that are worth mentioning. Lets start with important club business. This is the time when the Executive must appoint a nominating committee to come up with a slate of officers for the coming year. If you are approached by the committee please give serious consideration to serving the club. If you serve on the nominating committee or are asked to stand for election to one of the executive positions, remember that you, the members, are the radio club! There is a fair amount of commitment required if you stand for office. Unfortunately, in a club the size of the Mobile Club there are a few members who expect to be entertained without putting any personal contribution into the organization. If you fall into this category do everyone a favour and decline the offer to stand for election. On the other hand if you are prepared to work at making the club

an interesting and friendly forum with amateur radio as the bond of association, by all means give consideration to serving the club.

By the time this edition hits the streets we will have quite a number of new amateurs in the club, graduates of our class of '94. We will all have an opportunity to meet these club members at the April meeting. I intend to introduce each of them and I want all of them to attend. We will do our best to get them started in amateur radio with the benefit of the experience of other club members to guide them through the initial stages of getting on the air. This should be an entertaining meeting when we recall some of our early trials and errors in getting on the air. Here is an opportunity to help a new ham get started right. Get involved by offering these new hams the benefit of your experience.

I want to share some of my thoughts with the members of the club regarding the way in which the club serves its members. I have the opportunity to hear comments from many club members both first hand and through others. At times I am amazed at the number of members who have good ideas but do not come forward. I am equally amazed at those members who go to great lengths to knock the efforts of others with criticism that is not justified. I would like to see the club used as a means of doing things in amateur radio which are of interest to members of the club. There is a trend away from club sponsored activities
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Minutes

OVMRC Regular Meeting
17 March, 1994.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry, VE3CDS, at approximately 1945 hours.

Visitors

Eight visiting amateur were welcomed to the meeting - VA3LAR, VE3VFI, WINMZ, VA3EDB, VE3XTU, VE2JLP, VA3WHS, VE3CNN. In addition, two students from the OVMRC radio class, Andre and Steve were in attendance.

Program

The program for the evening was the presentation and demonstration of home built amateur radio related devices. The chief judge was John Pope, VE3ACI, assisted by Jacques Choquette, VE3TSC, and Jerry Wells, VE3CDS. The winners were as follows:

- An ARRL Handbook, donated by Richard Hagemeyer, VE3UNW, was awarded to the most recently licenced radio amateur, Peter Bennet, VE3EPB, for an accessory belt for a completely portable 2 meter station and his antistatic/cushioning packaging material for the transport of electronic radio gear. Peter also assisted Mike Kelly, VE3FFK, in his presentations of a portable tower base, modifications to a 2 meter Ten Tec transceiver to reduce its receive current by 25%. a powerful 3 magnet magmount for a car roof made from unserviceable floppy disc drives.

-A copy of "Hints and Kinks for the Amateur", donated by Bytown Marine, was awarded to Maurice Andre Vigneault, VE3VIG, for his 2

meter open loop "Handi Finder" DF and bunny hunt antenna.

-A copy of "Hints and Kinks for the Amateur", donated by Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, was awarded to Jake Guertin, VE2TQX, for his 12 turn 435 Mhz helical antenna.

-Howie Foell, VE3OWT, was awarded a soldering iron for his 2 meter folded dipole antenna constructed of 1/2 inch copper pipe.

-Duncan McCansh, VE3OM, was awarded a set of screw drivers for his construction of an IR beam keyer.

--Receiving honourable mention for their outstanding efforts were - Andre Pilon, VE3CLW, for his 'hot' mic and the PC-E2 cat zapper; Al Barnes, VE2TYJ, for his Ginsu 2 meter dipole; Dave Scobie, VA3AE, for his portable packet station; Pat Brewer, VE#KJQ, for his EMO "mayday" kit.

New Business

Gordon Dewis, VE3XGD, raised objection to the article on "No Code HF Operating" written by K1VV being reprinted in the Rambler. After considerable discussion, the general consensus was that the content of the Rambler is at the discretion of the Editor, and that it does not necessarily represent the club's policy position.

Neil Herber, VE3PUE, the membership chairman, pointed out that the club's name badges cost the club \$6 each. He suggested that in future new members should pay for their own name badge with the

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Ramblings

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to those that are non-club activities. What is the problem in doing these activities within the club? Is it the organization of the club which scares members away from getting an activity going? I don't think so but I would be the first to agree that it may appear easier to do something on your own and invite others to participate with you. Do we need to regularly remind members that what we do is what the members want to do. The key is for those members that are interested in a particular activity to initiate and carry out their project whatever it might be. There are only a few activities in which the club participates each year, like field day and classes for new hams and operation of the club nets to name a few. It serves little purpose to complain that the club should do this or that project. If the members get together and decide that they want to do some sort of club project, just do it! Greater participation within the club will do a lot to improve the club. The purpose of the club is to promote an interest in amateur radio. Every member should make some contribution. Think about it. What category do you fall into....

Minutes

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exception of those joining between January 1 and the end of the membership year, June 30, as there is no reduction in the membership fee. It was agreed that this policy be

instituted immediately.

Technical Report

John Pope, VE3ACI, reported that he is experiencing difficulty getting the 70 cm slave for VE3TWO commissioned. Information on older units is very difficult to find.

It was moved by Al Barnes, VE2TYJ, seconded by Gordon Dewis, VE3XGD, that the club purchase a new 70 cm unit. Following discussion, Wray Jacques, VE2FLT, moved an amendment, seconded by Howie Foell, VE3OWT, that the club executive look into the purchase of a 70 cm repeater and options and report back to the membership at the next regular meeting. The amended motion was carried.

Eight flea market raffle tickets were given out as door prizes as well as 12 entry tickets to the forthcoming ComTech Show.

Ed Sieb, VE3RDZ, reminded the members that the annual coax buy is coming up in May and asked that anyone interested in ordering coax see him.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2205 hours for coffee and cookies

Nominating Committee Volunteers Required

Volunteers are required for the Nominating Committee. The Committee's responsibilities include the provision prior to May 31 of a slate of candidates for Executive offices for 1994-95. The Committee must also call for nominations from the floor and conduct the election. Please contact Jerry Wells, VE3CDS, to volunteer.

Are VE Licence Plates An Invite To A Breakin ?

From RAC Bulletin

According to VE3XAG, loss of mobile amateur radio equipment isn't uncommon when vehicles are marked with VE licence plates. He has recently had radios stolen from his car in a parking lot in the middle of the day. He says he has spoken to others with similar experiences who share one thing in common, VE plates. Radios were recently stolen from vehicles parked in the front parking lot at the Museum of Science and Technology.

VE3XAG suggests that if you have VE licence plates, get rid of them. Also recommended is a car alarm, and the removal of radio equipment from your vehicle when you are not in it.

Hams are reminded to be suspicious of anyone with a number of used radios for sale, often incomplete, without antennas, accessories or manuals.

RFI and Your Car Potentially Fatal

Almost all modern motor vehicles now contain high use of electronic components, even basic models. Mitsubishi advises that for an output of 10 watts the following special installation requirements are necessary as a minimum:

Never run the antenna lead parallel to any of the vehicle's wiring

harnesses; leads should cross at 90 degrees. Antenna lead must have good quality shielded cable and be properly grounded. The radio installation should be stand-alone with its own harness. Do not integrate radio wiring with vehicle wiring. Install radio unit as far away from electronic control units as possible. The antenna, the radio itself and the cable should be firmly grounded to the vehicle body.

This advice followed a fatal RFI problem with a 1992 Toyota Camry.

We're Growing by Leaps and Bounds

A year ago, the ham radio operator census in the United States stood at 587,657 individual operators. It is now up around 635,000 (estimate) - a gain of about 8%. Before the arrival of the no-code technician class ticket, ham radio was growing at a much lesser rate. During the mid-1980s it was not growing at all. All figures are from the FCC's licencing division in Gettysburg, Pa.

The world amateur population is some 24 million, with an annual growth rate of 7%.

Industry Canada estimates the Canadian amateur population at 41,014 as of October, 1993. Between April, 1990 and October, 1993, 15,787 new licences were issued in Canada.

Always be tolerant of those who disagree with you. They have a right to their ridiculous opinions.
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